

THE NETWORK News



» VIEWING OF PRIVATE DRESS COLLECTION OF DR. REEM EL MUTWALLI

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AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

Connecting cultures through friendship

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, January 18
AWN Coffee & Speaker Series
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Khalidiya Palace Hotel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 17
Viewing of Private Dress Collection of Dr. Reem El Mutwalli
 3-6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23
Sunset Dune Walk
 3:15-7 p.m.

Thursday, January 25
Newcomers Coffee

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 14, 21, 28
Social Bridge
 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 The Sports Bar Lounge, The Club

Sundays January 21, 28 February 4, 11
Tennis
 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
 Beach Rotana

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29
Art Club
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 National Theater Studio

Monday, January 22
Book Club
 1-3 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29
Knitting Group
 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Bee's Knees Cafe

Tuesdays January 23, 30 February 6, 13
Tennis
 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
 Beach Rotana

Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Golf Clinic & Lessons
 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 Abu Dhabi Golf Club
 Sas Al Nakhl

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31
Mah Jong
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Slipway Bar, The Club

WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy New Year! Welcome to our new and current members. Please join us at one of our AWN Coffee and Speakers Series or one of our many activities we have planned throughout the year.

AWN is committed to connecting women of all nationalities through friendship, activities and cultural exchange. Make sure to explore our newsletter and visit our website often for our latest activities, outings and other interesting avenues of support.

Susan Foster and Carolyn Neubauer
 AWN Co-Presidents

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Coffee & Speaker series mornings are held on the first and third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at Khalidiya Palace Hotel.



On **Thursday, January 18th**, we kick off the new year with our guest speaker, **Yvette Campbell, Consultant to the Founder, Strategic Business Development, for The Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF).**

ADMAF seeks to nurture the arts, education, culture and creativity for the benefit of society and the advancement of Abu Dhabi's cultural vision through the many events offered to the public throughout the year.

Established in 1996 by Her Excellency Hoda Al Khamis Kanoo, ADMAF Founder, the Foundation is a not-for-profit organization under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, ADMAF Patron and President.

Join us and find out what amazing events are coming to Abu Dhabi in 2018!

EXPLORERS

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 17: View Select Gold Dresses from Dr. Reem El Mutwalli's Private Collection



Time: 3-6 p.m. | Venue: Villa 18, Str. 4, Meadows 7

Dr. Reem El Mutwalli invites you to an open house to view select gold dresses from her private collection.

Please RSVP to 056 724 2154 or laetitia@tishtash.com.

Contact explorers team for any questions: explorers@awnabudhabi.com.

MEET THE TENNIS COORDINATOR



Tish Dahlby

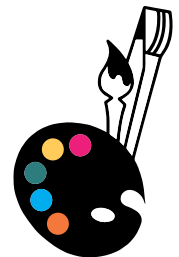
Happy New Year everyone! I'm the crazy loving tennis player who tries to get everyone on the court to fall in love with the game. I started playing tennis regularly about ten years ago, after I decided I was getting too old to safely play soccer, (those 20 year olds are brutal on the soccer field) and I have never looked back! Tennis gives me an opportunity to be outside and enjoy the amazing Abu Dhabi weather. Along with a great workout, tennis is such a social activity; I've made many terrific friends here in Abu Dhabi playing the game. As the AWN Tennis Coordinator, I'm always thrilled to help someone find a place and people to play with. Whether you're a beginner, advanced or someone who has played in the past and is looking to start back up, come join us for the fun.

As my husband Gregg and I begin our fourth year here in Abu Dhabi, I'm thankful for the opportunity to connect with all the wonderful ladies at AWN. My suggestion to everyone is to explore and join the activities AWN has to offer. It's an awesome way to enjoy your time in Abu Dhabi.

ART CLUB

The art club will resume meeting Monday, January 8 at the National Theater. Regular meetings are Mondays from 10 a.m. till noon. There's a 20 AED fee per person each session for the usage of studio.

And also we are open for the new members. Contact Julia at artclub@awnabudhabi.com.

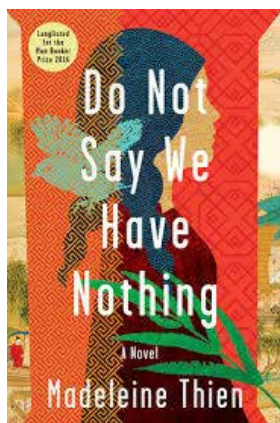


SOCIAL BRIDGE

Social bridge meetings will resume on January 14. We play on Sundays from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at The Club. All levels are welcome.

Please email bridge@awnabudhabi.com for details, to be added to the mailing list, or for information on lessons.

BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **January 22, 2018** is ***Do Not Say We Have Nothing*** by Madeleine Thien.

Master storyteller Madeleine Thien takes us inside an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations – those who lived through Mao's Cultural Revolution and their children, who became the students protesting in Tiananmen Square. At the center of this epic story are two young women, Marie and Ai-Ming. Through their relationship Marie strives to piece together the tale of her fractured family in present-day Vancouver, seeking answers in the fragile layers of their collective story. Her quest will unveil how Kai, her enigmatic father, a talented pianist, and Ai-Ming's father, the shy and brilliant composer, Sparrow, along with the violin prodigy Zhuli were forced to reimagine their artistic and private selves during China's political campaigns and how their fates reverberate through the years with lasting consequences.

With maturity and sophistication, humor and beauty, Thien has crafted a novel that is at once intimate and grandly political, rooted in the details of life inside China yet transcendent in its universality. (W.W. Norton and Co.)

We meet on the 4th Monday of the month in various locations, coffee shop/host's flat. We have two meeting times. Afternoon group meets 1 - 3 p.m., and Evening group meets 7 - 9 p.m. You can sign up at the AWN Coffee Morning or by email at bookclub@awnabudhabi.com.

GOLF



Join the AWN lady golfers every Wednesday morning at Abu Dhabi Golf Club, Sas El Nakhl. Intermediate lessons begin at 9 a.m. for one hour followed by a round of play on the 9-hole Garden Course (cost 210 AED). Beginner lessons are held at 10:45 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED).

You can sign up at the regular AWN Coffee Mornings or by email at golf@awnabudhabi.com.

KNITTING GROUP

AWN knits for a good cause!

Knitting connects people. Why not join our knitting group and turn a solitary activity into a very social one? We're a very friendly group who love to share ideas and different knitting skills. All knitters will be made very welcome. You just need to bring your needles, yarn and lots of enthusiasm.

This month we will meet every Monday starting January 8, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Bee's Knees Cafe, Nation Towers.

To receive further information please email knit@awnabudhabi.com.



MAH JONG

The Mahjong group enjoyed a fun, competitive morning where the Queen of Mahjong for 2017 was crowned!

Thank you ladies for participating and making our last meeting for the year so much fun!

The Mahjong Group will resume their regular meetings on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

The Mahjong group meets at the Slipway Bar, The Club, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We welcome players of all levels, so even if you

haven't played before just come! We would love to teach you.

The 45 AED fee covers the entrance to The Club, sandwiches, fruit salad, cookies, coffee, tea and water. Parking is available either inside or outside The Club. If you want to be included on our list please send an email to mahjong@awnabudhabi.com.

TENNIS

The next AWN Tennis session will begin the week of January 21 at the Beach Rotana tennis courts. Classes will be available Sundays and Tuesdays; 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. Beginner and advance lessons will be offered.



The session consists of 4 lessons at a reduced rate of 340 AED. This includes your weekly lesson, along with complimentary use of locker facilities, court time immediately following your lesson and use of the swimming pool (following your lesson). Sunday classes will run Jan 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11. Tuesday classes will run Jan 23, 30 and Feb 6, 13.

Class sizes are limited, email tennis@awnabudhabi.com to sign up or for more information.

SHUKRAN!

Cheers and many thanks to **Voices of Harmony**, the all-women's barbershop choir for entertaining and bringing a bit of Christmas joy to the ladies of AWN for our final General Meeting of the year on **December 7**. To learn more about this talented, dynamic local group visit: www.voicesofharmony.com or check them out on **Facebook: Voices of Harmony Abu Dhabi**.

As always, AWN wishes to thank **Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana** for hosting our Thursday morning coffees. We greatly appreciate its welcoming atmosphere, and its dedication in meeting our needs and expectations.

Members please remember that Khalidiya Palace offers 20% discounts in their restaurants following our coffee gatherings.

ACTIVITIES TEAM CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On **December 7** the Activities Team enjoyed a festive lunch in Khalidiya Palace Hotel. Thank you ladies for participating. I love spending time with all of you! – Cleo



AWN IS ALL ABOUT MAKING GIRLFRIENDS!



Newcomers Coffees

Over 20 new AWN ladies enjoyed a special coffee morning together in November. A big part of AWN mission is to welcome new ladies into our community. We are a friendly group of women who connect and enjoy many activities and events together.

The next Newcomers Coffee will be on **Thursday, January 25th**. The Newcomers Coffees are smaller events and offer the opportunity to meet the leadership of AWN and other Newcomers to Abu Dhabi. At the Newcomers Coffee we introduce all that AWN has to offer and share some insights into life in this exciting city. If you would like to receive an invitation with the time and location of the Newcomers Coffee on January 25th, please send an email to Linda Nagle at membership@awnabudhabi.com.

Newcomers Tables

Don't worry about walking into a room of strangers at our regular Coffee Morning and Speaker Series because we have designated Newcomers tables. Seated at the Newcomers table is a host called a *Sadeeqa*, which is the Arabic word for a female friend. That is exactly what AWN is all about - making girlfriends!

The information in this newsletter is provided by the American Women's Network of Abu Dhabi as a service to its members. AWN takes no responsibility for the information provided. Please confirm all details with any of the organizations and contacts listed.

awn@awnabudhabi.com www.awnabudhabi.com

NOTE CARD PHOTO CONTEST

We have concluded our **2017 Photo Contest** and have 12 gorgeous notecards on sale as a result! Thank you to everyone who sent in such beautiful photos of their experiences in the UAE; they all remind me of just how lucky we are to call this wonderful and fascinating place home. Sets of the 12 assorted notecards are now available for purchase (60 AED for 1; 150 AED for 3), so be sure to bring cash to the next AWN Coffee Morning! They are truly beautiful cards and all the proceeds go to our UAE registered AWN charities, Operation Smile and Make a Wish.

Congratulations to our photo contest winners: The Falconer, **Meg Clarke**; Al Jabbarah Fort, **Chris Thompson**; Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, **Carolyn Neubauer**; Herd of Camels, **Marta Rodriguez**; Liwa Dunes, **Aude Lecoq**; Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, **Christine Burdett**; Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, **Carol Hammer**; Camels at sunset, **Theresa Jackson**; Arabian Oryx, **Tara Sampson**; Fishing Boat, **Roz Leslie**; Louvre Abu Dhabi, **Linda Nagle**; Etihad Towers, **Holly Buckley**.

To view the winning images, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmbF7Tao>.

CHARITIES VISIT

We were honored to have both **Melanie Raymer, Marketing and Communications Manager of Make a Wish UAE**, and **Morag Comes-Hawke, Executive Director of Operation Smile UAE**, at our December 7 meeting. Both shared timely and heart-warming information and video clips about the tremendous work they are doing here in the UAE. AWN donations were presented and warmly received.

On behalf of AWN and these charities we support, a big thank you to those who participated in the "For a Cause" events and who purchased notecards this year. The videos we saw on the 7th reminded us of why we've chosen to support these amazing charities, and the difference our contributions make.

SUNSET DUNE WALK AND MEDITATION FOR A CAUSE



On **Tuesday, January 23**, **Amy Subaey**, founder of **UAE Trekkers**, will be leading us on a late afternoon walk through the beautiful desert dunes less than an hour away from Abu Dhabi! We will walk through this breathtaking and unique landscape for a bit over an hour, then return to our starting point and spend some time stretching and meditating, guided by **Randa El Zein, Life Coach and Founder fo Be You International**, as the sun sets over the dunes. Bring your own water, and light snacks will be provided.

We will be meeting at al Wathba Cycle Track (found on Google Maps) at 3:15 p.m., or alternatively those wanting to carpool can meet at Spinneys Khalidiya at 2:15 p.m. We plan to be back home by approximately 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Cost is 100 AED, 100% of which goes to Operation Smile and Make a Wish! Hope you can join us for this very special outing. You can sign up (or if you would like further information) by emailing philanthropyAWN@gmail.com or at the January 18th Coffee Morning.

VOLUNTEER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ABU DHABI

Did you know that Abu Dhabi will be hosting the 2018 Special Olympics MENA Games and the 2019 Special Olympics World Games? You can be a volunteer!

The Abu Dhabi Special Olympics is overseen by a Higher Committee chaired by HE Mohamad Abdulla Al Junaibi, Executive Director of Protocol at the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics benefits not only the athletes taking part, but their families and the community, leaving a legacy of acceptance and understanding of those with intellectual disability.

There are a variety of volunteer roles in all different areas, from technology to operations, events and sports. Volunteers are asked to commit themselves to 5 shifts across the games from 15th-23rd March, 2018 (dates depend on the specific roles) and transport from key locations and food/drink will be provided.

Divisions:

Delegation Services – perfect for speakers of other languages and those with VIP experience. Potentially the hardest roles of all, as it does require a lot of commitment and you will be the face of the games for our VIPs.

Operations – ensuring the Games run smoothly and solve any problems; our very own superheroes! Roles include announcers, stage managers and logistics support.

Medical – medical screening and assistance for the volunteers. For this, we need nurses, optometrists, audiologists and other clinicians, plus anyone with an interest in medical care.

Guest Services – the friendly face of the games; meeting and greeting, registration and providing general advice during the games.

Events – our special events throughout the Games include the Torch Run and Award Ceremonies. Everyone can get involved here!

Communications – a great opportunity for journalists, videographers, animators, designers and illustrators to get their name published locally and internationally

Sport – with 16 sports in the MENA Games and 24 in the World Games, individuals with a sporting background would be beneficial, but we can train most people in the basics

Technology – network, application and desktop support.

Volunteers can sign up by going to www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics, sign in as a new user and follow instructions. Please make sure to upload copies of your passport, visa, Emirates ID and passport photo as every volunteer will be security checked.

HAPPENINGS IN ABU DHABI

AMCHAM ABU DHABI

★ NEW YEARS STRICTLY SOCIAL AT TORO TORO

January 16, 2018

Venue: Toro Toro

www.amchamabudhabi.org/site/events

★ ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND 18TH ANNUAL CHARITY GALA

Friday, January 26, 2018

Venue: Rosewood Abu Dhabi

Time: 7 p.m. - Midnight

Cost: 700 AED for AmCham Abu Dhabi Members and Guests or discounted rate of 6,000 AED for a table of 10.

Dress Code: Black Tie or National Dress

Applaud the achievements of best-in-class American and Emirati organizations. There will be entertainment, exquisite cuisine, fabulous prizes, live and silent auctions, dancing and more!

Proceeds raised from this event will go to deserving local charities and organizations. Join us in celebrating excellence.w

RSVP: No later than noon, Tuesday, January 23, 2018. To register, please email admin@amchamabudhabi.org

SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE

★ EXHIBITION: MEMORIES OF A JOURNEY HAJJ

Through March 19, 2018

Venue: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Minister, and Minister of Presidential Affairs, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Center (SZGMC) and Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) organise the Hajj: Memories of a Journey exhibition at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. The exhibition explores the holy journey of Hajj, one of the five fundamental pillars and practices in Islam.

Drawing on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's own Hajj journey in 1979, the exhibition also highlights the experiences of Emirati pilgrims over the years. Through a showcase of artefacts, historic photographs, multi-media displays, and commissioned contemporary installations, the exhibition unfolds a rich and engaging narrative charting the history and cultural context for this spiritual pilgrimage.

Contact: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority: 02 4191919
<https://abudhabievents.ae/en/Pages/memories-of.aspx>

WOMEN'S TREKKING TRIP

★ THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING!

March 24 - April 7, 2018

Julie Lewis of Mountain High is looking for women to trek to Everest Base Camp in March 2018. If you have ever dreamed of hiking in the Himalaya's and experiencing the magic of Nepal and it's people this is the perfect trip for you. The trek is open to women with a good general level of fitness who can commit to the trip dates of March 24 - April 7, 2018.

Julie will be leading the trip and will be running training sessions in the New Year along with advice of clothing and how to prepare for the trip.

The trip supports the educational and vocational training of disadvantaged women in Nepal and two newly qualified female Nepali Mountain Guides will accompany the group.

2018 is the 65th Anniversary of Everest, the 15th anniversary for Mountain High and the "Year of Zayed " so a great year to make modern day adventure history by joining the Trek Team!

For full details click here: <http://www.mountainhighme.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/EBC-2018-.pdf>

Contact: jules@mountainhighme.com | 050 6595536

BOUDHIEB INTERNATIONAL ENDURANCE VILLAGE

★ HORSE ENDURANCE: INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE DESERT TRUCKS OF ABU DHABI

Tour 3: HH The UAE President Endurance Ride

One of the biggest equestrian events of the year, which is an international competition for the riders from all over the world.

WED 10 JAN 2018 – 40 & 80 km Qualifiers

THU 11 JAN 2018 – CEN 100 km Ladies

FRI 12 JAN 2018 – CEI 2* 120 km JYR – CEN 100 km PVT Owners 20 km for BREA

The race starts around 6:15 a.m. The races are over by 2-3 p.m. The awarding ceremonies are scheduled around 4:30 p.m.

Tour 4 – HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan Endurance Festival

The biggest endurance event of the year. The festival welcomes international top riders from over the world. Composed of an international conference on endurance sport (Her Highness Princess Haya of Jordan has visited the event in 2016). HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan is assisting to the festival in person. The members of royal family are giving away the rewards. A special VIP ride for royalties is organized.

WED 14 FEB 2018 – International Endurance Conference 2018

THU 15 FEB 2018 – Day 1 CEI 3* 240 km / 80 – CEN 100 km Ladies

FRI 16 FEB 2018 – Day 2 CEI 3* 240 km / 160 – CEI 2* 120 km JYR 10 km for BDEA

SAT 17 FEB 2018 – Day 3 CEI 3* 240 km / 240 – CEN 120 km P.O. 20 km for BDEA

10 MAR 2018 – 40 km Qualifier

11 MAR 2018 – 80 km Qualifier

The race starts around 6:15 a.m. The races are over by 2-3 p.m. The awarding ceremonies are scheduled around 4:30 p.m.

www.boudheib.ae