

THE NETWORK News



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AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting
cultures
through
friendship*

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

**Thursday,
March 1, 15** **AWN Coffee &
Speaker Series**
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Khalidiya Palace Hotel

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday,
March 6** **Explorers:
Sir Bani Yas Island**
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Thursday,
April 19** **Third Annual Quiz Night**
7 p.m.
The Club

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**Sundays,
March
4, 11, 18, 25** **Social Bridge**
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
The Club

**Sundays
March
4, 11, 18, 25** **Tennis**
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
Beach Rotana

**Mondays,
March
5, 12, 19, 26** **Art Club**
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
National Theater Studio

**Monday,
March 19** **Book Club**
1-3 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.

**Mondays,
March
5, 12, 19, 26** **Golf Clinic**
9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

**Mondays,
March
5, 12, 19, 26** **Knitting Group**
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Bee's Knees Cafe

**Tuesdays
March
6, 13, 20, 27** **Tennis**
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
Beach Rotana

**Wednesdays,
March
7, 14, 21, 28** **Golf Clinic**
9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Abu Dhabi Golf Club

**Wednesdays,
March
7, 14, 21, 28** **Mahjong**
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Club

WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENTS

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

MARCH 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.

**MAR
1**

The Coffee & Speaker Series will host a talk on **Sir Bani Yas Island, Thursday, March 1**. Our guest speaker and adventure guide, **Kate Cooper** will share the many wonders of this island and tempt us to

go and experience Sir Bani Yas firsthand. A part of the Al Gharbia region of the United Arab Emirates, Sir Bani Yas Island is home to many exotic animal species, including the Arabian oryx, Somali ostrich, gazelle, deer, cheetahs, giraffes, dolphins, sea turtles and over one-hundred species of wild birds. The history of the island is equally impressive and includes remnants of the Late Stone Age, early Islamic structures, ruins of an ancient Christian monastery and other archeological finds. Beaches, kayaking and luxury hotels also grace the island. **The AWN Explorers Club will host a day trip to Sir Bani Yas Island on March 6**, come and get a preview of this amazing island and all it has to offer.

**MAR
15**

On **Thursday, March 15** we are welcoming **Maitha Al Mazrui, Corporate Communications Manager for Ewaa Shelters for victims of Human Trafficking**.

Ewaa shelters are non-profitable establishments working in co-operation with the UAE National Committee to

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Combat Human Trafficking which considers human trafficking as a crime. The shelters, one for women and children and another that opened years later for male victims have been established to provide safe refuge and support to victims of human trafficking through providing temporary safe shelters, and preventing human trafficking in the UAE by raising awareness in the society. www.shwc.ae

SHUKRAN!



Shukran to **Holly Dickins, Volunteer Recruitment Manager for the Special Olympics IX Mena Games Abu Dhabi 2018 and the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019**. At our February 1st AWN Coffee and Speaker Series, Holly presented an overview of the inspirational events and numerous volunteer opportunities for the upcoming games in Abu Dhabi. Visit www.abudhabi2019.org to find out how you can support these amazing athletes of determination and be a part of one of the world's largest humanitarian events.

An enthusiastic thank you to our February 15 Coffee & Speaker Series guest, **Hanadi Al Hashmi**. Hanadi wowed and inspired us with her tales of adventures and her passion for climbing some of the world's highest mountains. Best wishes Hanadi, we wish you great success in your future endeavors and climbs.

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.



SOCIAL EVENTS



We held our first couples golf outing on Saturday, February 24th. Twelve couples met for golf and a delicious barbecue at the beautiful Abu Dhabi Golf Club. Prizes were given for closest to the pin and Best Stableford for both men and women. Ladies' closest to the pin was won by **Leena Nadkarni; Jim Collins**



won the gentlemen's. **Sid Nadkarni** won for men's Best Stableford and **Birgitt Adams** won the ladies'. Due to the success of this event, we'd like to offer this again in the fall! A big thank you goes to Lynn McNair for planning such a wonderful event!



Our next big evening event is the **Third Annual Quiz Night**. This year the Quiz Night will be held on **Thursday, April 19** at 7 p.m. at The Club. The cost is 150 AED per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and the Quiz (a cash bar will be available). We will begin the sign ups at the next coffee morning, Thursday, March 1st or for additional information email socialevents@awnabudhabi.com.

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EXPLORERS

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 6: Discover Sir Bani Yas Island

Time: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. // Cost: 600 AED

Bus departs Mushrif Mall at 7 a.m. Boat Crossing at 10 a.m.

Nature & Wildlife Drive at 11 a.m.

As a working and constantly developing wildlife sanctuary, Sir Bani Yas Island provides exciting encounters with unique environments and endangered animals. Watch elegant gazelles make their way through the savannah. Gaze at the rare Arabian Oryx, one of the world's most endangered Oryx species.

Most of the Nature & Wildlife Drive routes are along dirt tracks, adding to the authenticity of the wilderness experience. Throughout the journey, you'll be able to get up-close to the animals, allowing for plenty of photo opportunities. All the while you'll be under the expert guidance of our guides, whose knowledge of the flora and fauna on Sir Bani Yas Island will help make this a truly memorable experience.

Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Culture & History Tour at 2 p.m.

Take the opportunity to learn about the rich history of Sir Bani Yas Island and experience the local culture and hospitality. On this tour you will follow Sheikh Zayed's legacy of protecting nature by adopting and planting a mangrove tree on Sir Bani Yas Island.

Boat Crossing at 4 p.m.

Sign up at the Explorers desk at the next coffee morning or email explorers@awnabudhabi.com.

Explorers Event: Neighborhood Walk in Al Bateen

On Tuesday, January 30, a group of over 42 ladies met at Tasha's Restaurant car park for a walk round the Al Bateen area. It was a perfect day to be outdoors, the sun was shining and the temperatures were just right.

We started with a 5-minute walk towards the Central Bank, where I pointed out the UAE Currency Museum. The next area we discovered was the trendy contemporary cafes and restaurants, all looking tempting.

The Bateen Marina has numerous boats in every size imaginable, making you feel you are on holiday. There are apartments overlooking this marina and a hotel being built, making it very popular for locals and general public to visit.

The next place to visit was the Zayed Gallery and a library, where we were pleasantly given a brief outline of the books stored by a member of staff who was most excited to see a large group of expats. The Gallery is a must place to visit, however time was moving quickly and we made our way towards Tasha's Restaurant for a delicious, well-earned lunch. The restaurant was a great place to enjoy lunch, there was certainly a wonderful atmosphere felt by all. We even saw a prominent guest with his entourage having lunch. There was excitement and royalty present.

All our AWN members enjoyed the day and I am sure they will revisit Al Bateen again.

- Rubina Haider, Explorers Chair



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EXPLORERS



Explorers Event: Louvre Guided Tour

On Tuesday, February 6, a group of 22 women participated in a two-hour guided tour through the 12 galleries of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

After surveying the beautifully designed museum's 12 rooms, each representing a chapter of humanity, we arrived at the culminating exhibition: Ai Weiwei's 2016 Fountain of Light. The oeuvre, appearing at first glance to be a crooked chandelier for giants, and quite at odds with the rest of the museum's ancient and practical pieces, is reminiscent of depictions of the Tower of Babel. Indeed, it was the artist's intention to remind the observer of the story in Genesis, whereby God divides humankind by imparting upon them

different and mutually unintelligible spoken languages, in order to prevent them from cooperating to reach His kingdom. As the twenty-some women gathered around the piece in awe and contemplation, I could not help but feel a kind of hope in the potential that AWN seems to be realizing.

Naturally, native English speakers are preponderant in the American Women's Network; yet, women of all backgrounds and all levels of English language come to AWN meetings and clubs week after week. Surrounded by these women, Ai Weiwei's crystal fountain symbolizes the power of women coming together from all ends of the world to share their knowledge, passions, experiences, and ambitions.

The women who were able to spend a morning exploring the "universal museum," with its tribute to ancient villages, great powers, empires and civilizations, universal religions, cross cultural trade routes, and development of today's modern world, were able to equip themselves with tools to analyze objects around them, and the empathy to imagine life in another time and space.

Our tour guide Josephine was the perfect mediator who shared her wealth of knowledge effortlessly, we all enjoyed the experience and would certainly recommend it to others.

– Julieta

Explorers Event: UAE Central Bank Currency Museum

On Tuesday, February 20, thirty ladies attended the UAE Central Bank currency museum guided tour. We all met at the bank reception and were taken by Ms. Mariam Ghalloum inside the currency museum.

Opened in late 2013 to mark 40 years of the UAE Central Bank, the currency museum occupies a section of the ground floor in Central Bank's headquarters building in the Al Bateen area. Containing a wide range of exhibits that date to long before the Union of the UAE, the museum has a variety of paper notes, gold and silver coins that include historic Indian rupees, as well as Saudi Arabian and Qatari riyals.

This intriguing exhibition explains the history of currency in the region with fascinating insights into the introduction of the dirham in 1973 as the official national currency and the issuance of the first series of notes in 1976.



The museum also includes a part of the Central Bank's collections of currency notes, currency coins, commemorative coins, gifts and samples of issues of UAE currency notes and coins and currency of other countries, in addition to cash counting and sorting machines used by the Central Bank in the past.

A few ladies went after to Tasha's restaurant for a well deserved bite and coffee.

– Carmen, Explorers team

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MEET THE ART CLUB COORDINATORS



Julia Kim

I am originally from Korea but lived in Chicago long enough to be able to call it my hometown. I went to the U.S. to study at the University of Wisconsin and met my husband there. After many years, my husband retired and we arrived in Abu Dhabi in the middle of the summer

of 2016. I have two grown children with two beautiful granddaughters.

I checked out all the different women's clubs in Abu Dhabi before I left Chicago and I decided that the AWN was a club I wanted to explore further. Within the first week of my arrival, I found it was the right choice for me. There were many activities within AWN, but I felt that something was missing: an art club.

I believe that everyone is born with an innate creativeness and that anyone can enjoy the process of creating something. I also believe that painting can be an excellent hobby especially as one gets older. Painting can be enjoyed both individually and as a group, at any time. Although I had a passion for art during my youth, I started painting at much later age. I was eager to share my painting experiences with others. So I created the AWN Art Club in January 2017 with some experience as the president of an art league back in the States. Now, I have two great co-coordinators who help me lead the club smoothly and who handle the continuously expanding membership.

My intention of creating this club is not as an institution but as a social gathering place where people who have the same interests can meet, learn, and teach each other. I hope all the art club members gain positive experiences from this club and learn more about painting.

Marty Holm

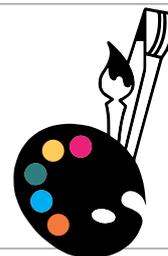
Hi, I am from the United States, and have been enjoying Abu Dhabi since December 2015. I have been a part of the AWN Art Club since its inception in January 2017. My background is in finance. So, though I love observing people at work in a creative way, that does not come naturally to me. I am in awe of the talent of our club members, and every single week I learn a valuable takeaway from them.

One of the neatest aspects of the club is that it is medium-neutral. Members are introduced to various mediums, such as graphite, watercolor, acrylics, and oil; affording us the luxury of discovering where our artistic niche may lie. Conversely, many established artists in town generously give us their time and wisdom, simply to enrich our experience with art. It is a pleasure to contribute, in a small way, to a group that gives so much back!

ART CLUB

The Art Club meets Mondays at the National Theater from 10 a.m. till noon. There's a 20 AED fee per person each session for the usage of studio.

We are currently closed for new membership. Contact Julia at artclub@awnabudhabi.com.



SOCIAL BRIDGE

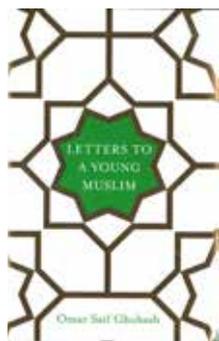
Social Bridge takes place on Sundays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Water Front Suite (below The Vista restaurant) at The Club. All levels are welcome. The 45 AED fee covers the entrance to The Club, sandwiches, fruit salad, cookies, coffee, tea and water. Parking is available either inside or outside The Club. Please email bridge@awnabudhabi.com to sign up for play and to receive full details.

Bridge lessons are offered periodically. If you are interested, please contact us at the email address above or speak to a bridge representative at a coffee morning.

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BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **March 19, 2018** is ***Letters to a Young Muslim*** by Omar Ghobash.

From the Ambassador of the UAE to Russia comes a bold and intimate exploration of what it means to be a Muslim in the twenty-first century.

In a series of personal letters to his sons, Omar Saif Ghobash offers a short and highly readable manifesto that tackles our current global crisis with the training of an experienced diplomat and the personal responsibility of a father. Today's young Muslims will be tomorrow's leaders, and yet too many are vulnerable to extremist propaganda that seems omnipresent in our technological age. The burning question, Ghobash argues, is how moderate Muslims can unite to find a voice that is true to Islam while actively and productively engaging in the modern world. What does it mean to be a good Muslim?

What is the concept of a good life? And is it acceptable to stand up and openly condemn those who take the Islamic faith and twist it to suit their own misguided political agendas? In taking a hard look at these seemingly simple questions, Ghobash encourages his sons to face issues others insist are not relevant, not applicable, or may even be Islamophobic. These letters serve as a clear-eyed inspiration for the next generation of Muslims to understand how to be faithful to their religion and still navigate through the complexities of today's world. They also reveal an intimate glimpse into a world many are unfamiliar with and offer to provide an understanding of the everyday struggles Muslims face around the globe. (Picador)

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.

CULTURE CLUB



On Sunday, February 4, several ladies met to discuss another cross-cultural topic: "Makeup, tattoos, body art - undying human obsession." Our three presenters tackled different aspects of traditional beautification and body-art methods across different times and communities. Izabella gave a short introduction to what beauty has historically meant for different

people. Ping gave us an overview of the Beijing Opera painted faces and their significance. Whereas Wendy introduced us into the world of Maori warriors' carved facial tattoos called *ta moko*. She also described the significance of the *hei tiki* pendant that can be found in the Louvre AD. We tried to better understand what makes people modify their bodies. In the end, although we may not have appreciated all the body-art practices discussed, we agreed that the motivations behind them were universal - to be attractive, to fit in, to be protected, to express one's spirituality, etc. Overall, we spent a very enjoyable and thought-provoking morning that undoubtedly also broadened our horizons.

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GOLF

The Ladies Golf group are delighted to report the increasing number of golfers in our Monday clinics in Abu Dhabi City Golf Club. We are very pleased to receive golf coaching and encouragement from the inspiring Golf Pros in both Abu Dhabi City Golf Club and Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

We are looking forward to a fun morning of Golf on Wednesday, February 28 in Abu Dhabi Golf Club in honor of Patty Hubbard, our cherished AWN Golf coordinator, who is leaving the UAE in March. Details of this golf event will be sent to all our AWN Lady Golfers ASAP.

Now offering two clinics per week! Join the AWN lady golfers every **Monday morning at Abu Dhabi City Golf Club**, on 19th Street. Intermediate lessons begin at 9

a.m. for one hour followed by a round of play on the 9-hole course (cost 210 AED plus VAT). Beginner lessons are held at 10:45 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED plus VAT).

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 plus VAT). Beginner lessons are held at 10:45 a.m. for one hour (cost 110 AED plus VAT). You can sign up at the regular AWN Coffee Mornings or by email at golf@awnabudhabi.com.



KNITTING GROUP



Joanne modelling her latest creation, a beautiful squiggle/caterpillar scarf

Knit away stress!

The repetitive action of knitting can induce a relaxed state like that of yoga, its a great way to unwind and reduce stress. Knitting is the perfect antidote to life in the hurried and harried world.

AWN Knitting Group meets every Monday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Bee's Knees Cafe, Nation Towers. All Knitters will be made very welcome.

If you plan to attend or would like further information please send an email to knit@awnabudhabi.com.



MAHJONG



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

Looking to learn or improve your tennis game? Join us for AWN Tennis Lessons offered through the Beach Rotana. Classes are held on Sundays or Tuesdays from 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.

To learn more or sign up for tennis lessons, please contact tennisawn@gmail.com.



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THANK YOU KNITTING CLUB!



A big thank you to Füsün Tuzcu and the AWN Knitting Club who worked tirelessly for months to create over 100 of the most beautiful baby blankets. A representative from Red Crescent joined the February 1st AWN Coffee Morning and was thrilled and very thankful to collect the blankets. Red Crescent will be distributing them to families in need.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Operation Smile UAE

1. The Operation Smile semi-annual Big Book sale will be held at Al Wahda Mall from March 29-31. AWN is looking for 20 volunteers to help sell books on Thursday, March 29th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. It's a 4-hour shift, snacks are provided, and it's a lot of fun!! Sign up at the March 1st AWN coffee morning or by emailing philanthropyawn@gmail.com. Further, Operation Smile is accepting donations of books in good condition (no text books, no books previously written in); if you have books to donate, please bring them to the March 1st AWN coffee morning.
2. Operation Smile will be losing two of their very valuable volunteers at the end of March, and is therefore looking for their replacements. If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Morag Cromey-Hawke, Executive Director OS UAE, on 02 658 4790 or by email morag.cromey-hawke@operationsmile.org for more information.

Accountant: Required to spend approximately 3 hours per week at the office. System is all set up. Should be familiar with Quickbooks. (If not Operation Smile can arrange for HQ to provide instruction). Quarterly reports and end of year reports have to be submitted to HQ in the States.

Recycle Coordinator: 1-2 days per week at the office. Check the monthly reports from the recycle company. Send thank you letters to each company/school who participates by hosting a recycle bin. Inform them of the funds raised.

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VOLUNTEER CORNER, CONT.

Be an English Language Facilitator

This is a fantastic chance to meet and discuss topics with women from all over the world and a wonderful venue for cultural exchange.

We are looking for women who are native English speakers to help facilitate an English Conversation Group, and also at least one woman who would be willing to organize the group. You do not need to have a teaching qualification. All you need is a good grasp of English, a love of conversation, an interest in topics from current events, women's issues, children, parenting, history culture and much more. And the love of a good chat!

When: Sundays 9 - 11:30 a.m. (we do not meet on school holidays or in the summer)

Where: Abu Dhabi Country Club

About the group: The English conversation group has been a part of Women in Abu Dhabi - WIAD - (for over 20 years if not more). Originally WIAD was run by British/English speaking women, however the demographic has changed over the last few years, and the group has become much more diverse. Thus, finding English speakers to run the English Conversation group is becoming more challenging, and we are therefore reaching out to AWN!

If you are interested please contact Joan Grant at 050 121 3659 or joanbgrant@gmail.com

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