

THE NETWORK

News

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, April 5, 19
AWN Coffee & Speaker Series
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Khalidiya Palace Hotel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 11
Explorers: Discover Masdar City
 11 a.m.

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

Thursday, May 10
Newcomers Coffee
 10 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays, April 22, 29
Yoga
 8:30 a.m.
 The Studio

Sundays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Social Bridge
 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 The Club

Sundays, April 8, 15, 22, 29
Tennis
 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
 Beach Rotana

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Art Club
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 National Theater Studio

Monday, April 23
Book Club
 1-3 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Golf Clinic
 9 a.m.
 Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Knitting Group
 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Cafe de la Paix

Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1
Tennis
 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
 Beach Rotana

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25
Golf Clinic
 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25
Mahjong
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 The Club



NEW AWN
 ACTIVITY: YOGA
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DON'T MISS IT:
 THIRD ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT
 PAGE 3



AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

Connecting cultures through friendship

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.

We have a few changes to the AWN board to share with you. **Linda Nagle**, our **Membership Services Chair**, will be leaving AWN and the UAE in early April. She is often the first person you meet when becoming a member of AWN. We thank her for many years of service; she will be missed. We would like to welcome **Sara Healey** as our new Membership Services Chair. Sara has been our bridge teacher and coordinator over the last year, and is eager to take on this new role. Please say hello to Sara at our next meeting. She will be introducing us to our new members on April 5th.

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

APRIL 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.

APR 5

Join us on **April 5th**, as we welcome **Mike McGrath**, **General Manager of The Club** (formerly known as The British Club). The Club was founded by a group of pioneering expatriates in 1962 and holds a rich history of the expat life here in Abu Dhabi that spans

over the past 55 years. Situated on land kindly donated by the late H.H. The President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, The Club has and continues to provide a home away from home hospitality to expats from all around the world.

APR 19

On **April 19th** the AWN Coffee & Speaker Series continues. Join old friends and meet new friends for coffee and conversation. Remember to check out our mid-monthly update for speaker/activity announcements for this date.

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awn@awnabudhabi.com www.awnabudhabi.com

SHUKRAN!

Shukran to our March 1st, Coffee & Speaker Series fabulous speaker, **Kate Cooper, Adventure Guide for Sir Bani Yas Island**. Kate thrilled us with her talk about this exquisite island in Abu Dhabi and inspired the AWN ladies to go and explore the island for themselves. To find out more about this amazing place visit www.sirbaniyaisland.com or email Kate Cooper directly at activitiesdirs@anantara.com.

Our gratitude to **Maitha Al Mazrui, Corporate Communications Manager for Ewaa Shelters**, a safe space for victims of Human

Trafficking. Maitha, informed and illustrated the ongoing efforts and dedication of Ewaa to protect and assist our most vulnerable population here in the UAE. Thank you Maitha for being our March 15th Coffee & Speaker Series speaker and inspiring us to make a difference. To learn more about how you can help, visit www.shwc.ae.



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.

MARCH 8 NEWCOMERS COFFEE: EVERYTHING'S BETTER WITH A GIRLFRIEND

Dismay in grocery stores, interest in golf, passion for crafting and quilting, addiction to books, isolation in homes, curiosity about local culture, decisions about elderly parents, and patience that it will all work out eventually ... these are some of the challenges and hopes facing the newest members of AWN's expat women. Can you relate?

The most recent Newcomer's coffee morning, generously hosted by Birgitt Adams and graciously moderated by Linda Nagle, offered a more intimate setting for the 20 or so women to begin opening themselves up to new friendships

and connections.

Serendipitously, this meeting held on March 8 coincided not only with Marta Rodriguez's birthday, but also with International Women's Day. Let us not fail to see the symbolism behind this coincidence – a houseful of women gathered together to find networks of support, entertainment, purpose, and engagement among each other. Women who have time, stability, intellect, drive and opportunity, not to mention powerful passports. Women who, united and have the power to accomplish and create anything

they desire, met on March 8 to begin this journey together. What powerful innovations and transformations can we imagine together? How can we uplift each other?

Dear women of AWN, you were advised by experienced members above all to be patient; to follow your passions; to develop yourself by trying something new, something scary, something exciting; to grieve your past in peace in order to accept the privilege of your present; to explore beyond the limits of your stifling comfort, even when you think you don't want to; and above all, to do so with a fellow woman, a friend.

The next Newcomer Coffee will be on Thursday, May 10th. If you are interested in attending, please email Sara at membershipawn@gmail.com.

– Julieta Guzman

Smile! Photos are taken at our events and coffee mornings to be used in our newsletter and website.

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SOCIAL EVENTS

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. Attendees will play in teams and the quiz questions will be reflective of an international crowd. The cost is 150 AED per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and the Quiz (a cash bar will be available). Please sign up at the next coffee morning, Thursday, April 5 or for additional information email socialeventsawn@gmail.com.



MEET THE BOOK CLUB COORDINATOR



Tracy Jones

Hi Everyone! I moved to Abu Dhabi almost four years ago from the US. Before I left, I Googled "book group Abu Dhabi" and found the AWN group, thinking, "I'll be OK then." The next year, I became AWN Book Group Coordinator.

I enjoy discussing varied book topics with group members.

Together we are able to discuss different issues in more depth than through casual conversation. This year we have traveled through words to Ghana, small-town USA, Hong Kong, UK, China, Canada, Egypt, and the UAE. We've explored topics including African oral

storytelling, economic disparity in the US, Raj orphans, the cultural revolution in China, conditions in Egypt prior to the Arab Spring, and a basic view of Islam. Some of these more serious topics were approached in fictional stories making them more readily accessible for casual reading. As you can see, there is almost something for everyone, or if not, you can suggest another book!

Reading gives me the opportunity to explore other worlds and lives different to my own, also allows an outlet for stress. My go-to books for comfort reading are usually travel-type books, but I also like nonfiction, science fiction, and plenty of fiction.

I am excited to have my multi-cultural book group friends both old and new bringing their experiences to our talks.

EXPLORERS

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 11: Discover Masdar City

Time: 11 a.m. // Cost: 50 AED // www.masdar.ae

Masdar is the Emirate's pioneering vision of a futuristic city. With the goal of becoming the world's most sustainable eco-city, Masdar is leading the way by developing a "greenprint" for how cities can accommodate rapid urbanization and dramatically reduce energy, water and waste.

Masdar City Tour - 11 a.m.: Take a walk through the Masdar Institute neighborhood and learn about one of the most modern, sustainable communities and an emerging technology cluster. It combines traditional Arabic architectural techniques with current technology to create a cool and pedestrian-friendly environment where people live, work and learn.

A visit to the Siemens Ingenuity Visitor Centre will introduce us to the company's founder and pioneer, Werner von Siemens, and some of his earliest innovations and inventions. We will walk through the Visitor Information area, which includes the masterplan of Masdar City and the models of Masdar's clean energy projects. We will also experience the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), first of its kind driverless vehicle.

Lunch - 12:30 p.m.: We will meet for lunch at Skinny Genie in Masdar City. The cost is 50 AED, to be paid at our coffee morning on April 5th. Sign up at the Explorers desk at the next coffee morning or email explorersawn@gmail.com.



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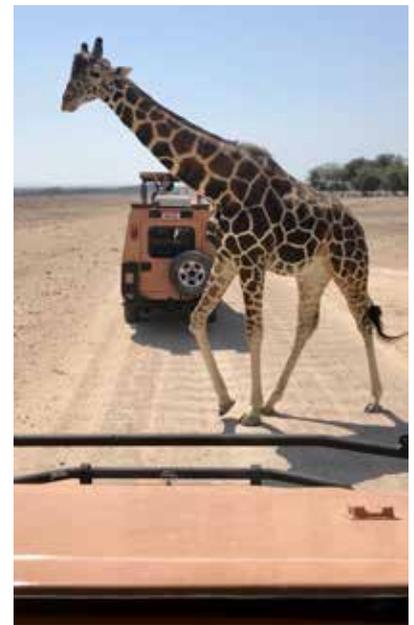
Explorers Event: Sir Bani Yas Island

On Tuesday March 6, our AWN Explorers met at Mushrif Mall at 7 a.m. and headed by bus to Sir Bani Yas Island.

During the day we took two tours, a 90-minute wildlife tour and a 90-minute culture and history tour. The wildlife tour was first and breathtaking. We watched as male reticulated giraffes crossed the road in front of us, as Indian blackbuck antelopes pranced around to show dominance. We even saw the three male cheetahs lounging less than 25 meters from the vehicle. As we drove by, the cheetahs perked up for a moment before resuming their lounging. After lunch, we took the culture and history tour during which we visited a stand of date palms planted by the Sir Bani Yas tribe, a Nestorian Christian monastery which dates back to 600 AD, and delved into Sheikh Zayed's vision in developing Sir Bani Yas as a wildlife reserve. Thanks to the two tours, we learned about the important role Sir Bani Yas island plays in the conservation and re-population effort for regional wildlife and about the historical significance of this beautiful island.

Throughout the day, the Anantara hotel provided us with refreshments. Lunch was a delicious cold and hot buffet served in a private restaurant overlooking the sea. In this tranquil oasis, the explorers spent a leisurely lunch getting to know each other.

A heartfelt thank you to Anantara Resorts for providing for all of our needs, from transportation onto and within the island to the food and refreshments. Most of the participants are hoping to make a return journey.



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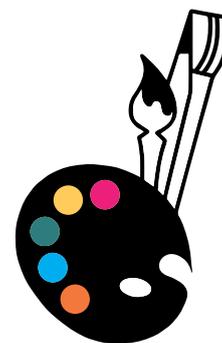
ART CLUB

The Art Club would like to welcome Dania Malki as new co-coordinator.

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.

During Ramadan, and the summer session from June through August, we will not have agenda but will meet continuously at the National Theater.

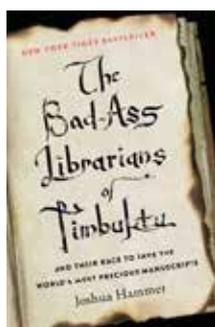
We are currently closed for new membership. Contact Julia Kim for further information at artclubawn@gmail.com.



SOCIAL BRIDGE

The Bridge Club meets every Sundays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Suites (below The Vista restaurant) at The Club. All levels are welcome. The 45 AED fee (payable to us) covers the use of the room, snacks and coffee, tea and water. Parking is available either inside or outside The Club. You must bring your Emirates ID to enter The Club. Also, it is essential that you RSVP so that you can be included on the list for play on the day. To sign up or for more information, contact bridgeawn@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **Monday, April 23, 2018** is *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer.

To save precious centuries-old Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians in Timbuktu pulls off a brazen heist worthy of Ocean's Eleven. In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River, tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* tells the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world's greatest and most brazen smugglers. In 2012, thousands of Al Qaeda militants from northwest Africa seized control of most of Mali, including Timbuktu. They imposed Sharia law, chopped off the hands of accused thieves, stoned to death unmarried couples, and threatened to destroy the great manuscripts. As the militants tightened their control over Timbuktu, Haidara organized a dangerous operation to sneak all 350,000 volumes out of the city to the safety of southern Mali. (Simon & Schuster)

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 Mornings or by email at bookclubawn@gmail.com.



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GOLF

On February 28, a large number of lady golfers played in an event at Abu Dhabi Golf Club, organized by the two golf coaches, Grant Smith and Nick Cork, for Patty Hubbard in honor of her service to the AWN Ladies Golf Program. We played in teams of 4 in a scramble format with a shotgun start.

Afterwards we all met in a private room in the clubhouse for mocktails and sandwiches and prize-giving. We all agreed it was a fun way to have players of all levels play together on the course. The two coaches said coaching the AWN Ladies was the highlight of their week! (*we refused to acknowledge they may say that to every group, so instead, enjoyed the compliment!*) The icing on the cake was that Patty's team claimed a prize on the day!

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 225 AED including VAT). Beginner lessons are held at 9 a.m. (new earlier time) for one hour, followed by a complimentary cup of tea/coffee (cost 120 AED including 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 awngolf@gmail.com.



KNITTING GROUP



AWN Knits for Fun

Why sit home and knit alone?

Come join us to work on your latest project and make new friends while enjoying a refreshing beverage or tasty snack. We're a very friendly group who love to share creative ideas. You just need to bring your needles, yarn and lots of enthusiasm.

AWN Knitting Group meets every Monday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Cafe De La Paix, Nation Towers.

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

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MAHJONG



The Mahjong group meets every Wednesday 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 mahjongawn@gmail.com.

TENNIS

We will kick off the next AWN Tennis Session (the last session until October) in April. The schedule for lessons are as follows:

Sunday Session: April 8, 15, 22, 29

Tuesday Session: April 10, 17, 24, May 1

The sessions are open to Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner Players. The 45-minute lessons start promptly at 8:45 and end at 9:30 a.m. Immediately following the lessons, players are welcome to one-hour of complimentary court time (pending availability) and the use of the Beach Rotana pool and locker facilities. The cost per session is 340 AED + VAT. Please note, because we pay the tennis pros to attend the entire session, there are no refunds for missed lessons. For more information, please email tennisawn@gmail.com.



YOGA



We are thrilled to announce that AWN Activities is launching a new Yoga Class!

The Yoga Club will meet on Sundays, 8:30 a.m., beginning April 22, at The Studio on the Corniche, in the Khalidiya area (just a few steps away from Third Place Café.) Enjoy an hour of yoga with the special price of 50 AED for AWN members only. Spaces will be limited so those interested please send an email to yogaawn@gmail.com as soon as possible. This will be a pay-as-you-go plan!

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SHUKRAN AWN KNITTERS!



We are so very proud of our **AWN Knitting Club!** These beautiful blankets were made with lots of love and enthusiasm by our committed members. The blankets were proudly presented to Red Crescent, to be distributed to needy families, at our February 1st AWN Coffee Morning. Fusun Tuzcu and Tina Outterside were the inspiration and the driving force behind this project and AWN would like to congratulate them for their worthy effort. Thank you Fusun and Tina!



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Operation Smile UAE

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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HAPPENINGS IN ABU DHABI

AMCHAM ABU DHABI

★ JOINT BUSINESS GROUP DINNER WITH H.E. SHEIKH NAHAYAN MABARAK AL NAHAYAN, CABINET MEMBER AND MINISTER OF TOLERANCE

“How Human Tolerance Benefits International Business”

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 | 6:45 - 9 p.m.

Venue: Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi

Cost: AED 280* for AmCham Abu Dhabi Members, AED 380* for Non-Members or AED 2800* for a corporate table of 10. Inclusive of three-course plated dinner with house beverages.

AmCham Abu Dhabi cordially invites you for a dinner at which we are delighted to welcome H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance as our guest of honor. H.E. Sheikh Nahayan will be sharing his expertise and discussing how human tolerance benefits international business.

RSVP: amcham.olasoft.com

No later than noon on Monday, April 2, 2018.

Please note that space is limited. All payments must be completed no later than two days prior to the event.

*Prices are inclusive of a Value Added Tax (VAT) rate of 5%

BODYTREE YOGA STUDIO

★ YOGA: LIVE DRUMMING & CHAKRA BALANCING YOGA WITH NATALIA

Friday April 20 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Bodytree Yoga Studio

Cost: 100 AED including Nectar Juice

This grounding Vinyasa flow will be accompanied with live drumming! Rhythm and drumming can help connect a person to the experience of mindful movement, breathing, creating an awareness of how rhythm drives the body. The asana sequence of this class is designed to get in touch with your energy centers and channel more creativity, confidence and joy into your life.

FAIRMONT BAB AL BAHR

★ ART EXHIBITION

April 12 - May 20, 2018

Venue: Fairmont Bab Al Bahr Exhibition Gallery & Fairmont Gold Lounge

Opening Night, Thursday, April 12, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Featuring the works of artists: Annabelle Smith Bigno, Tala Hammoud Atrouni and Karine Roche. We are a group of three experienced French, Scottish and Palestinian artists who have lived and exhibited art in the UAE and abroad for several years. Our art is represented in galleries and private collections in the UAE and various different countries. Our group and the unique art we produce is a fusion of three cultures and three different visions within Abu-Dhabi, itself a reflection of many different nationalities and cultural identities.

Preview examples of our work:
annabellesmithbigno.com
www.karine-roche.com
www.atrouni.com

NSO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

★ PERFORMANCE: A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES ... THE FINAL CURTAIN

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. | Matinee: 4:30 p.m.

The NSO Symphony Orchestra is closing the season with “A Night at the Movies... The Final Curtain,” performing its last public concert ever, at the Emirates Palace Hotel Auditorium on Abu Dhabi Corniche.

Music Director Andrew Berryman will conduct the orchestra and chorus in a gala that will feature some of the most exciting orchestral music ever written for film: the iconic *Star Wars* title theme, the swashbuckling *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Offenbach's toe-tapping Can-Can from *Moulin Rouge*, the tear-jerker *Ladies in Lavender* theme, Strauss' hilarious Die Fledermaus opera overture used in *Tom & Jerry's A Night at the Hollywood Bowl*, Orff's epic O Fortuna from *Carmina Burana*, and the piece that made Tchaikovsky a household name – the magnificent and powerful 1812 Overture.

Matinee: Platinum AED250; Gold AED200; Silver AED150; Balcony AED100.

Gala: Platinum AED350; Gold AED250; Silver AED175; Balcony AED125.

NYU ABU DHABI

★ PERFORMANCE: AN EVENING WITH ALANA BARRAJ

Thursday, April 12, 2018 | 8 p.m.

Venue: The Blue Hall, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Best known for her powerful vocals (both in song and everyday life), Alana Barraja reprises some of her favorite moments with Abu Dhabi Choral Group (ADCG), original works, and folk and pop hits rounded off with some of her infamous banter.

The Arts Center's own and Abu Dhabi long-time resident and frequent performer, Alana Barraja is best known for her roles in Abu Dhabi Choral Group's (ADCG) semi-annual productions which have included playing Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* the Musical and Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family Musical*. Come prepared for a special, one-of-a-kind, entertaining evening full of songs from Broadway classics, legendary animated features, folk and pop legends, and original works. The evening also features guest singers Caitlin Rose and Caroline Kelly.

Tickets: www.nyuad-artscenter.org/en_US/events/2018/an-evening-with-alana-barraja/

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