

# THE NETWORK News

HAPPY SUMMER



AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting cultures through friendship*

## AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, June 7, 21 July 5 August 16	<b>AWN Coffee &amp; Speaker Series</b> 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Khalidiya Palace Hotel
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 13	<b>Newcomers Coffee</b> 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 27	<b>Avasa Indian Restaurant</b> 7 p.m.

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays, June 3, 10	<b>Social Bridge</b> 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. The Club
Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, 25	<b>Art Club</b> 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. National Theater Studio
Monday, June 25	<b>Book Club</b> 1-3 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.
Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, 25	<b>Golf Clinic</b> 9 a.m. Abu Dhabi City Golf Club
Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27	<b>Golf Clinic</b> 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Abu Dhabi Golf Club
Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20	<b>Mahjong</b> 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 the many activities we have planned throughout the year.

Birgitt and I have a few changes to the AWN board to share with you. We would like to welcome **Kimberly Goad** to the board as our new Treasurer, and **Sara Healey** as our new Membership Services Chair. Thank you Kimberly and Sara for volunteering your time at AWN. Learn more about Kimberly and Sara on page 3 of the newsletter.

**Susan Foster** was voted in as Honorary Chair to the board and will be working closely with our other honorary chair, **Mary Corrado**. We are pleased to have them both as our ambassadors for AWN.

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.

Birgitt Adams and Carolyn Neubauer  
AWN Co-Presidents

## SUMMER 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 **June 7** we once again welcome **Bill Bragin**, **founding executive artistic director of The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)**, a "game-changer" (*The National*) in the UAE since it began its programs in 2015 on Saadiyat Island. He is back again to share their new exciting programme for 2018/2019 season with our AWN members!

Bragin is a co-founder of the not-for-profit world music festival and service organization globalFEST, 2018 winner of the William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming by the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. As "Acidophilus", he has djed internationally as part of GlobeSonic Sound System.

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Please note the following dates in your calendars:

**JUNE 21:** Coffee Morning WITHOUT A SPEAKER

**JULY 5:** Coffee Morning with a MOVIE

**JULY 9:** NO COFFEE MORNING

**AUGUST 2:** NO COFFEE MORNING

**August 16:** Welcome Back Coffee Morning WITHOUT A SPEAKER



**SHUKRAN!**

Shukran to **Fatima HP Al Yafei** for sharing some wonderful stories of her experiences here in the UAE thus giving us an insight into the **Emirati Culture** and other topics of interest. Arriving in Abu Dhabi over 27 years ago, Fatima, a native of New Jersey, integrated into the inner circles and lives of her Emirati friends, co-workers and family. We are delighted to have Fatima as an AWN member and look forward to inviting her as a speaker again sometime in the future!



Shukran to **Haritini Kyriakou - Senior Manager Delegation Experience Special Olympics 2019**, for providing us with a glimpse into the past MENA Games which were held last March and for giving us an insight into the enormous task that lies ahead as the organisation committee prepares for the Special Olympics World Games scheduled for March 2019. Abu Dhabi will be the host with more than 7,000 athletes from over 170 nations competing in 24 different sports. This event needs a lot of helping hands, and the Organizing Committee is looking for the support from 20,000 volunteers to execute this event for people with intellectual disabilities. For more information please visit [www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics](http://www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics) or see under "volunteer" section.

**MAY NEWCOMERS COFFEE**

We welcomed eight wonderful ladies in May for our last Newcomers Coffee morning this term. We enjoyed getting to know one another and sharing more about our interests and what AWN has to offer. Our next Newcomers Coffee Morning will take place on September 13. Please email Sara Healey at [membershipawn@gmail.com](mailto:membershipawn@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.



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

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Thursday, September 27, at 7 p.m.** we have a group reservation at **Avasa**, a fabulous Indian restaurant at the Collection at the St. Regis Saadiyat. They have prepared a special menu for this AWN event which is limited to 30 couples. The cost of the meal is 275 AED per person and includes several tantalizing courses and soft beverages. Alcohol is available on a cash basis. Indian attire is optional, but highly encouraged!

**Signups will held at the September 6 and 20 meetings.**

## MEET THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



**Sara Healey**

As a young woman, I always dreamed of traveling and seeing the world. However, I never dreamed that I would leave my country to live abroad as I have for 30 of the last 32 years! My husband and I have lived in Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London and now Abu Dhabi. Our two daughters were raised in London, where one still resides. My second daughter is now in San Francisco.

Moving to so many new countries has taught me the importance of getting connected to other women as soon as possible! The first thing I did when I arrived was look into women's groups and quickly found AWN. I will never forget the sheer joy I felt, after weeks of not knowing anyone, as I walked into a meeting full of warm, friendly women! I

signed up for everything I could! I am now very happy to be a part of this amazing group as the new membership chair!

## MEET THE TREASURER

**Kimberly Goad**

Hello! My name is Kimberly and I am looking forward to filling the position of treasurer for AWN. I am both honored and excited for the opportunity to give back to an organization which has provided me with so many fun-filled activities, informational meetings, and amazing friendships.

Although my husband has been here for over three years, I have been living with one foot in Abu Dhabi with my husband and the other in the US with our three kids for the past 2+ years. Our oldest daughter is going to make this back and forth easier on me with her accepting a teaching position here next school year. Our son lives in Florida, and our youngest daughter is a junior in college.

I am a former teacher and enjoy getting my "kiddo fix" by subbing periodically. I love being outside (when it isn't too terribly hot) and am currently taking tennis lessons, swimming, and walking regularly with friends. I also enjoy playing Mahjong with other ladies from AWN. My husband works as an advisor and is an avid motorcycle rider. We love travelling and appreciate the opportunity provided by living in Abu Dhabi.



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## EXPLORERS

On **May 8, 2018**, a group of 20 AWN explorers visited the **Zayed Heritage Museum and Centre** which is nestled in the larger Zayed Centre for Studies and Research complex. The museum has an eclectic collection chronicling the development of ADCO, the development of Emirates Post, and also the personal effects of Sheikh Zayed. It was a stroll through the history of the the United Arab Emirates.

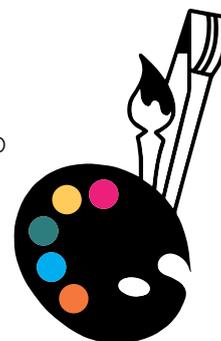


We saw the tools used by early UAE postal workers, also the timeline by which oil was discovered and how ADCO, which is now so much a part of the fabric of Abu Dhabi, came to be. In the large room, we saw the gifts presented to Sheikh Zayed by countries from around the world and images of him with world leaders, even recognizing some faces from our home countries. This museum is worth visiting.

## ART CLUB

We will continue meeting at the National Theater Studio Marsam Al Hor from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. during the Ramadan and the summer months from June thru August. However, there will be no demos or workshops during these period. 20 AED per visit for the use of the facilities.

We are happy to announce that we are open to ladies who would like to try painting during the summer months. Please contact any of the coordinators (Julia, Marty, Dania) at [artclubawn@gmail.com](mailto:artclubawn@gmail.com)



## SOCIAL BRIDGE



The Social Bridge Club meets every Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Suite, located below the Vista restaurant at the British Club. We welcome Bridge players of all levels.

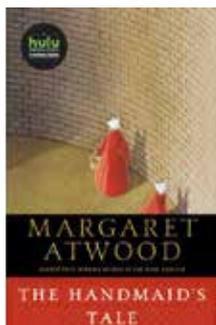
We will continue to meet throughout Ramadan. Our last meeting before summer break will be Sunday, June 10, after which we will reconvene in early September (dates to be determined later).

Bridge lessons are offered periodically. If you are interested in learning to play, please contact the bridge coordinator at [bridgeawn@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeawn@gmail.com) or sign up at a coffee meeting.

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## BOOK CLUB



The book selection for **Monday, June 25, 2018** is *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the years before, when she lived and made love with her husband, Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now.... (Anchor Books)

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](mailto:bookclubawn@gmail.com).

## GOLF

The American athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias once said, "Golf is a game of coordination, rhythm and grace; women have these to a high degree." It's a wonderful description but a tricky little combination for any golfer (be they a beginner or an experienced player) to execute consistently on the golf course.

Happily, AWN ladies have access to excellent instruction and guidance in our twice weekly golf clinics. Scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays there are a range of options to help us improve that include:

- Group instruction utilising the Academy facilities in addition to on-course learning
- 9 holes of play
- Fun competitions open to players of all levels

It's an incredibly supportive environment in which to learn and play as well as a lovely opportunity to make friends and have fun.

Summertime in the UAE means that the weather is increasingly challenging but for the truly hardy, clinics will continue to be



offered for as long as we have a minimum of four per clinic. We'll keep you informed of any changes via our weekly emails – if you have a query, please contact us via [awngolf@gmail.com](mailto:awngolf@gmail.com).

Once again, thank you to our enthusiastic, patient and knowledgeable coaches – Dave Taylor and Simon Westney at Abu Dhabi City Golf Club and Nick Cork and Grant Smith at Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

### 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).

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## KNITTING GROUP

Knitting group will be taking a break during Ramadan and the summer months, meetings will resume early September.

This doesn't mean we've stopped knitting, several of our members are taking part in the **Rags to Riches Knit-A-Thon** (see below), which means they will be helping to break a world record, while also providing warmth and comfort to needy people around the world.

If you would like further information about AWN Knitting Group please send an email to [knitawn@gmail.com](mailto:knitawn@gmail.com).



### Women in the UAE are attempting to stitch the worlds largest blanket.

Rags to Riches Knit-A-Thon 2018 is open to all knitters across the UAE.

You can help by knitting a small square measuring 15cm x 15cm or if you fancy a challenge knit a full blanket at 100cm x 100cm. To claim the world record the blanket needs to be over 3,133 sq meters. The finished blanket will be cut into appropriate sizes and distributed to needy people across the world.

For more information: <https://mailchi.mp/6192aaad1407/rags-to-riches-uae-knit-a-thon-2018>

## 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](mailto:mahjongawn@gmail.com).

*There will be no Mahjong between end of June to end of August. Our last Mahjong session will be on Wednesday, June 20. We then take a break for summer and will resume again from Wednesday, August 29, 2018. Have a good summer everyone.*

## TENNIS

As we wrap up our tennis season, a huge thank you to all our AWN tennis players and a special shout out to Mo and his amazing team of coaches at Beach Rotana. We hope everyone had fun, made new friends and improved their game. Our next session will begin in October. Look for tennis updates in the AWN September newsletter.

For more information, please email [tennisawn@gmail.com](mailto:tennisawn@gmail.com).



## YOGA



The Yoga Club will not meet during the summer months. Please check the September newsletter for more information.

For inquiries, email [yogaawn@gmail.com](mailto:yogaawn@gmail.com).

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## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOLUNTEER FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2019!

After the big success of the MENA Games this March, Special Olympics goes into the next round: Abu Dhabi will be the host of the World Games in March 2019 with more than 7,000 athletes from over 170 nations competing in 24 different sports.

This event needs a lot of helping hands, and the Organizing Committee is looking for the support from 20,000 volunteers to execute this event for people with intellectual disabilities.

Join them for up to two weeks of a lot of fun, making friends from all over the world!

There are positions for everyone who wants to help.

Please check and sign up here: [www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics](http://www.volunteers.ae/specialolympics)

## VOLUNTEERING WITH AWN

Interested in finding out more about our organization and how it works? We host “Friends of AWN,” an informative talk twice a year. We provide an overview of our organization and discuss what opportunities we have available. It’s the perfect way to give back.

Our next event will be in the fall, after we are back from our summer breaks. We will have sign ups at our coffee morning and speaker series, or you can contact us at [awngeneral@gmail.com](mailto:awngeneral@gmail.com) if you have a specific area of interest.

## HAPPENINGS IN ABU DHABI

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S GROUP

#### ★ SUHOOR

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018 | 9:45 p.m.**

**Venue:** Four Seasons Hotel

**Cost:** Members & Non-members: AED 150

Kindly RSVP your attendance no later than June 3, 2018 to: [administrator@ibwgabudhabi.org](mailto:administrator@ibwgabudhabi.org)

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