

THE NETWORK News



» Explorers: Global Village Dubai
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AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting
cultures
through
friendship*

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday,
November 7, 21 **AWN Coffee &
Speaker Series**
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Radisson Blu Hotel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday,
November 5 **Explorers**
2-10 p.m.
Global Village, Dubai

Tuesday,
November 12 **Culture Club**
10:30 a.m.

Thursday,
November 21 **Explorers**
2:30 p.m.
Abu Dhabi Art Fair

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays,
November
3, 17, 24 **Social Bridge**
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Room, The Club

Sundays,
November
3, 10, 17 **Tennis**
8:45 a.m.
Beach Rotana Hotel

Mondays,
November
4, 11, 18, 25 **Art Club**
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cultural Foundation

Monday,
November 25 **Book Club**
2-4 p.m.

Mondays,
November
4, 11, 18, 25 **Golf Clinic**
8:30 a.m.
Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

Mondays,
November
4, 11, 18, 25 **Knitting Group**
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
L'eto Caffe, Galleria Mall

Tuesdays,
November
5, 12, 19 **Tennis**
8:45 a.m.
Beach Rotana Hotel

Wednesdays,
November
6, 13, 20, 27 **Golf Clinic**
9 a.m. / 10:45 a.m.
Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Wednesdays,
November
6, 13, 20, 27 **Mahjong**
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Slipway Bar, The Club

Sundays,
Mondays,
Wednesdays,
Thursdays **Yoga**
9 a.m.
The Studio

WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome new and current members! Please join us soon at one of our AWN Coffee & Speakers Series events or one of the many activities we have planned throughout the year.

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

Sara and I have a change to the AWN Board to share with you. Our lovely Membership Services Chair, Mimi Prendergast, was elected Vice President at our last Board meeting. She will be supporting the presidents in her new role. Please join me in congratulating Mimi!

We hope to see you all at one of our coffee mornings or activities!

Birgitt Adams and Sara Healey
AWN Co-Presidents

COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

AWN Coffee & Speaker Series are held twice a month on Thursdays from 10am until noon at the Radisson Blu on the Corniche. Please check in our Newsletter or Mid-Monthly Update e-mails for exact dates.

**NOV
7**

Joanna Barakat – Palestinian Embroidery

Tatreez, or Palestinian embroidery, has always been a means of expressing identity and history. Join us as AWN welcomes artist and teacher Joanna Barakat, cofounder of The Tatreez Circle, a community focused on the preservation and promotion of this beautiful and important art form. Joanna's work in Palestinian embroidery, as well as other mediums including painting and photography, have helped to promote the exploration and appreciation of Palestinian culture.

**NOV
21**

Dr. Faraj Al Mehairbi – Emirates Red Crescent

Take advantage of this special opportunity to hear from Dr. Faraj Al Mehairbi, Volunteer Section Head at the Emirates Red Crescent. The Emirates Red Crescent

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awngeneral@gmail.com

www.awnabudhabi.com



AWN - American Women's Network of Abu Dhabi

works on humanitarian projects within the country and internationally, focused around a central mission of “mobilizing the Human power to support the vulnerable.” Not only does the Red Crescent address social needs, but it also strives to promote the spirit and culture of volunteerism in the country. Come learn more about this impactful organization.

SHUKRAN!



A huge thank you to Katie Ford, founder of Freedom For All, for her eye-opening presentation on October 3rd. Katie brought to life the stories behind the statistics of human trafficking, showing a rapt AWN audience how men, women and children, with the

right support, are able to overcome even the most dire situations. It was inspiring to hear how Freedom For All, with its partner groups, is able to change the trajectory of people's lives, giving us hope in the fight against human trafficking and motivating everyone in the room to ask the question, “How can we help?”

Katie Ford has been working on getting trafficked women back to Uganda. Freedom For All will use some of the donations to buy air tickets. If you would like to help, the funds will be used to send survivors home to their families.

The link to the DONATE page is below:
www.freedomforall.org/donation

AWN also thanks Michelle Farrell, Programme Head at the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi, for speaking to us last month about Abu Dhabi Art and the upcoming signature Art Fair. This eagerly anticipated event takes place Thursday, November 21 to Saturday, November 23 at the Manarat Al Saadiyat, and will appeal to everyone from the art newcomer to the experienced collector. Thank you, Michelle, for adding to the richness of the art scene here in the Middle East.



SHUKRAN RADISSON BLU



A perfect setting for an amazing day! Swimming pools, warm ocean temperatures, sunshine and yummy foods were all made possible through the generosity of Radisson Blu's complimentary day pass at the beginning of October. Several AWN members took advantage of the gym while others basked in the sun nibbling on lunch. We look forward to more exciting days ahead with this newly formed friendship in one of Abu Dhabi's best resorts!

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EXPLORERS

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 5th: Global Shopping Adventure: Global Village Dubai

Time: 2 – 10 p.m. // Transportation: Bus will depart from/arrive to Mushrif Mall // Cost: 90 AED (includes transportation, 15 AED entrance fee not included)

The Explorers Team is excited to organize another fall trip to Global Village Dubai. We will put a temporary hold on our intellectual and educational trips to focus on the global shopping experience, which is a cultural adventure in itself as we search for unique treasures from different countries.

Global Village also offers an array of festivals and entertainment in an open-air theme park. Open from November through April, Global Village hosts over 70 participating countries presented in over 36 pavilions, with 26 restaurants offering food from around the world. This is a great opportunity to find holiday gifts to take home from the UAE. **Wear comfortable shoes and feel free to bring your shopping carts! Cash is recommended for your purchases.**



There are still some openings. People who registered will receive an email with the trip's details four days before the outing. Please note that your reservation is not confirmed until payment is made.

To reserve your place please sign up at the coffee morning or email explorersawn@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 21st – Modern and Contemporary Art Adventure: Private Tour of the Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2019

Location: Manarat Al Saadiyat, Saadiyat Island // Time: 2:30 p.m. // Cost: Free

Following Michelle Farrell's AWN presentation on October 17th, the Explorers Team is thrilled to offer a private tour of the biggest art event in Abu Dhabi. This year, 49 leading and emerging galleries will present their art in Manarat Al Saadiyat and other venues around the city. Abu Dhabi Art Beyond is also presenting exhibitions in historical sites in Al Ain, and we are already organizing a visit for the end of January 2020. On November 21st we will get to explore, admire and learn about many diverse local and international artists and their art. The program also offers performances, talks, hands-on workshops and kid's activities. Join us for this annual cultural event! Space is limited.



To reserve your place please sign up at the coffee morning or email explorersawn@gmail.com.

CULTURE CLUB

Upcoming Event

On Tuesday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m. the Culture Club will reconvene after the summer break. This time around, our topic will focus on traditional Emirati and Omani jewelry. We will learn why it is worn and how traditional Arab jewelry differs from what has been fashionable in the Gulf in modern times. We will also gain an understanding of what adornment is appropriate for women and men, and on what occasions. If you are interested in jewelry in general and would like to hear more about local tradition in particular, please don't hesitate to join us! If you have a piece of your own (not necessarily of Arab workmanship) that you would be willing to share and discuss, you are most welcome to do so. Venue TBA.

Currently the event is fully booked, but you can sign-up to our waiting list.

Cancellations usually happen closer to the date of the event.

To reserve your place please sign up at the Explorer's Table during AWN Coffee Mornings or email cultureclubawn@gmail.com.



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EXPLORERS PAST OUTINGS

Contemporary Art Adventure: "Speculative Landscapes" Exhibition

On a warm afternoon on September 30th, a group of AWN Explorers enjoyed a fantastic tour of the NYU AD Art Gallery fall exhibition. Led by Maya Allison, Chief Curator, a group of about 18 women discovered and learned about the unique installations of four rising, locally-based artists commissioned for this exhibition. The artists, who found their artistic identity living in Dubai and Sharjah, used elements from their daily lives in the UAE to create different landscapes. We were immersed in a futuristic world of color, music, sounds and lights trying to discover the artists perspectives. The works spans from installations of dried upside down plants sprouting under LED light, red rubber domes to yoga equipment and hot pink synthetic sand that triggered a screech at every step. It was a short but thought-provoking tour. Thank you, Maya for helping us to interpret art with an open mind!



Old Dubai Adventure: Tour of Mawaheb from Beautiful People and Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood

The AWN Explorers group had a great day exploring Old Dubai on October 14th to learn more about Emirati heritage and history. Al-Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, in the Dubai Creek area, is a key heritage site which has preserved much of the original infrastructure of Emirati lifestyle from the past as well as become a home to many art galleries.

We arrived at the Mawaheb From Beautiful People Art Studio for adult people of determination and were warmly greeted with cappuccinos and lattes made by the students. Wemmy de Maaker, founder of Mawaheb, introduced us to the students and gave us an overview of the facility. Time was spent engaging with the students, listening to them talk about their artistic inspirations, watching them create masterpieces and singing along with a beautiful young lady who created a wonderful song about her determination. The volunteer staff is so encouraging to the students and it is truly a place of inspiration, kindness and love, thank you Wemmy!

At the Diwan Mosque, our female Emirati guide was informative and welcomed questions.

Next we went the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding for delicious Arabic coffee in a beautiful traditional Arabic majlis. Here we sampled delicious coffee, dates and ligamat with date sauce.

Then off to the Dagger Museum where many beautiful antique daggers are displayed. We were told that in the Emirates there is only one style of dagger whereby in the rest of the Gulf States, there are many different designs.

Lunch was at the XVA Art Hotel Gallery. We ate in their beautiful, open-air courtyard surrounded by artwork from the various local galleries. We had free time after lunch to explore the various souks in the sikkas as well as re-visit Mawaheb Art Studio for some more shopping.

What a great experience to learn about Emirati heritage and culture.

– Tari Carlson, AWN Member



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MEMBERSHIP

It was great to meet more new members at our coffee mornings in October, and we look forward to seeing you again at the November meetings! Our lovely Newcomers Coffee brought together 16 new friends as we enjoyed getting to know each other over coffee and snacks. Thank you to Sara Healey for opening her beautiful and spacious home for the event.

For those of you who would like to get more involved with AWN there will be a Friends of AWN coffee on November 14th. Further information will be available at the AWN coffee morning at the Radisson Blu on November 7th.

Please remember we have a noticeboard where you can advertise items for sale. Those leaving Abu Dhabi often have things they don't want to take with them and newcomers may be searching for items for their new homes so this is a useful resource.



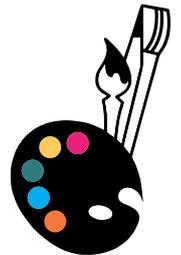
ART CLUB

The AWN Art Club is not a formal class, but a group of people who have a common interest in drawing and painting. We meet on a weekly basis to share their passion for art, regardless of skill level or ability. The aim of this group is to meet in a relaxed environment, developing our artistic talents through interaction and support from fellow members. If you are a beginner, and need guidance, please come along and ask questions, as other members will be able to offer advise on how to start.

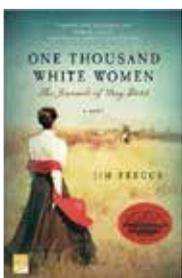
When membership reaches the maximum number (50), newcomers will automatically be placed on a waiting list.

We meet at the Cultural Foundation Studio, on the second floor every Monday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. There's a 20 AED fee every time you attend. This is a fee for the use of studio. Bring your own materials.

If you have questions, please contact us artclubawn@gmail.com.



BOOK CLUB



Mark your calendar! AWN's Book Club will meet Monday, November 25th from 2 to 4 p.m.

This month's read is *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus. Meeting location details will be shared with members who reply to the email requesting RSVPs.

For more information, please email bookclubawn@gmail.com.

SOCIAL BRIDGE

AWN Bridge plays every Sunday at the Meeting Room, next to the Reception, The Club from 1:30 - 4.30 p.m. For any queries, please contact the Bridge Coordinators at bridgeawn@gmail.com.

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GOLF

We have had a busy start to the AWN Golf season and would like to welcome all the newcomers to our clinics. We have had a few issues with our email system but hope it is resolved.

We have clinics on Mondays in Abu Dhabi City Golf Club at 8:30 a.m. for Beginners and Intermediate players.

Our clinics in Abu Dhabi Golf Club take place on Wednesdays, Beginners at 10:45 a.m. and Intermediates at 9 a.m. If you would like to join us please contact us at awngolf@gmail.com.

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



KNITTING GROUP

Our meetings offer every knitter the chance to improve their knitting skills and learn new techniques. If you love to knit then come join us to work on your latest project. Some of us are knitting for charity, others are knitting for fun. We're a very social group and all knitters will be made to feel very welcome. You can enjoy a tasty snack and refreshing drink while making new friends.

During November meetings will take place every Monday, at L'eto Caffè, level 1, The Galleria, Maryah Island, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend please send an email to: knitawn@gmail.com.



MAHJONG



AWN's Mahjong is held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Slipway Bar, The Club (www.the-club.com).

The fee of 45 AED, payable to us (35 AED for Club members), covers your entrance to The Club, snacks, tea, coffee and water. Beginners are always welcomed.

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

TENNIS

We will kick off the next AWN Tennis session beginning Sunday, October 27th and Tuesday, October 29th.

Below is information regarding the upcoming session.

- Each session consists of 4 lessons (one lesson a week)
- Lessons are open to Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner Players.
- Lessons are women only.
- The 45-minute lessons are held at the Beach Rotana (near Abu Dhabi Mall) and start promptly at 8:45 AM. 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 340AED + VAT, payable at first lesson of the session.
- Please note, because we pay the tennis pros to attend the entire session, there are no refunds for missed lessons.



Please register early to guarantee your spot.

For registration or more information, please email tennisawn@gmail.com.

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YOGA



AWN Yoga meets at The Studio on the Corniche, in the Khalidiya area (just a few steps away from Third Place Café and Café de la Paix.) Enjoy an hour of yoga with the special price of 50 AED for AWN members only, no walk-ins.

Every week an email will be sent giving you the offer for the following week, but in general you can expect to see a schedule like this:

Sundays: 9 a.m. – Hatha Hip Openers Yoga

Mondays: 9 a.m. – Vinyasa Foundation

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. - Vinyasa Flow

Thursdays: 9 a.m. – Hatha Yoga

Spaces will be limited in the regular yoga classes, so those interested, please send an email to yogaawn@gmail.com as soon as possible. This will be a pay-as-you-go plan!

FOOD EXPLORATIONS

AWN member Sonal Tarneja guides us on a culinary field trip with details of her local restaurant adventures with fellow AWN food enthusiasts.



Spread over two floors, and currently considered the best seafood restaurant in Abu Dhabi by many, **Dampa Seafood Grill** is an American/Philipino seafood shack. It has a variety of seafood, including crab, lobster, shrimp, and calamari, prepared in different ways – baked, grilled or fried, and served with Cajun sauce, or a thermidor preparation, amongst others. We ordered a couple of the seafeast dumps, a delicious mix of seafood and corn marinated in a sauce of your choice, and served on a bed of rice, and mocktails. On my second visit, at 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday night, the place was completely full, despite being massive. The Cajun sauce has an unexpected sweet tinge to it, but is delicious nevertheless, and the seafood very fresh. The staff were extremely attentive and friendly. The place is cash only, and food is served on a lined table top, with no cutlery, just gloves. Great place to get your hands dirty!

Also very popular, **Hankook Korean Restaurant** is a spacious restaurant, with traditional and modern seating. The traditional floor seating, with Korean scenery on the walls, made us feel like we were in Korea. We went largely pescatarian for this meal, ordering a variety of dishes like the seafood pancake, the fried seafood noodles, and the heamul zige (the spicy seafood and vegetable stew). My favorites were the dolsoot bibimbab, which we got in chicken instead of beef, and the sweet and spicy shrimps, which were super delicious and had perfect balance of sweetness and spice, from a sprinkling of gochugaru (Korean chilli powder).

Dampa - Fatima Bint Mubarak St, Beside Trianon Hotel, Opposite Al Mariah Mall, Al Markaziyah, Abu Dhabi

Hankook - Haza Bin Zayed the 1st Street (Defence Road), Beside Center Villa Hotel, Opposite Central Bus Station, Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi



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HAPPENINGS IN ABU DHABI**AMCHAM ABU DHABI****★ US-UAE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PRESENTS LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC & BEACH BBQ****November 21 | 7-10 p.m.****Venue:** Beach Garden, Beach Rotana Abu Dhabi**Cost:** AED 399 per person (inclusive of 5% VAT)**Entertainment:** Live Country Music by "Down Home" band

Get ready for real American country music, barbecue food, dancing, drinks and more.

The event will feature live country music by the UAE-based "Down Home" band presented by Mike & Adam. Down Home means warm, familiar, and simple. Back in the American midwest, folks would refer to Grandma's Sunday roast as "down home" cooking or they might say that their host showed some genuine "down home" hospitality.

What's country music without American barbeque food? Beach Rotana culinary team will be preparing the best chicken, ribs and beef in the area on live stations.

RSVP: No later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 20**Tickets:** <https://amcham.olasoftware.com/viewEvent.html?productId=10748>For more information, email us at events@amchamabudhabi.org.**NYU ABU DHABI****★ EXHIBITION: NYUAD OPEN STUDIOS****November 11 | 6-10 p.m.****Venue:** The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

An interdisciplinary celebration of the arts featuring over 60 exhibitions, installations, screenings, performances, talks, demonstrations, and works-in-progress.

Meet students and faculty working in Visual Arts, Interactive Media, Art History, Music, Film, Creative Writing, and Theater and get a behind-the-scenes look at the NYU Abu Dhabi arts studios, workshops, and labs.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

<https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/events/2019/november/nyuad-open-studios.html>**★ SCREENING: THE SEAGULL****November 14 | 6:30-8 p.m.****Venue:** NYUAD Campus, Conference Center

Based on the play of the same name by Anton Chekhov, an aging actress named Irina Arkadina pays summer visits to her brother Pjotr Nikolayevich Sorin and her son Konstantin at a country estate. On one occasion she brings her lover Boris Trigorin, a successful novelist. Nina, a free and innocent girl on a neighboring estate who is in a relationship with Konstantin, falls in love with Boris.

Screening followed by Q&A with the film director Michael Mayer

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

<https://nyuadi.secure.force.com/Events/>**WAREHOUSE 421****★ PHOTO WALK: DOCUMENTING KHALIDIYA****November 9****Cost:** AED 295

Established in the 1970's, Khalidiya Garden is one of the oldest public spaces in the city of Abu Dhabi. As a result, the park's changing amenities, aesthetic details and patterns of use provide a unique window into the past and present of Abu Dhabi's urban environment.

By examining the built forms that make up the park, including street furniture, mosques and other facilities mostly designed by the local Municipality, we can plot a history of design for public spaces in Abu Dhabi. In this way, the park functions as a repository of information and a living record of the decisions that ultimately created a cohesive aesthetic identity for the UAE capital.

During our Photo Walk we will consider:

- How the design of the park influences the movement and activity that occurs within and around it.
- What the activities that occur in the park, and the rules and regulations that govern them, reveal about Abu Dhabi's evolving demographics, society and culture.
- The varying aesthetic approaches displayed throughout the park, the potential elements of a cohesive design language, and the evidence of changing visual trends over time.
- Ultimately, how photography can be a powerful tool to explore these types of questions and to present findings in a compelling way.

This workshop assumes no prior photographic experience and is open to all. However, participants who have previously attended the Photography Level 1 and/or Photography Level 2 workshops offered by GPP will have the opportunity to put into practice some of the photographic techniques covered in those earlier workshops.

Please also note that this photo walk is conducted entirely on foot and comfortable footwear is recommended.

To register, please visit <https://gulphotoplus.com/workshops/147/Photo-Walk-Documenting-Khalidiya>

Age: 18+

Instructor: Finn Murray-Jones

★ WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY: DIWANI**November 24****Cost:** AED 200

This workshop will introduce participants to the history and development of Arabic calligraphy, including different styles and examples of canonical artworks through the ages. Participants will progress from making a few basic strokes to learning a basic form of Diwani.

Age: 18+

Instructor: Majid Alyousef, Wissam Shawkat

https://www.warehouse421.ae/en/whats-on/introduction-to-arabic-calligraphy-diwani_1/

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