

THE NETWORK News



Explorers:
Louvre Abu Dhabi

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AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting
cultures
through
friendship*

AWN COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday,
January 9, 23
AWN Coffee &
Speaker Series
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Radisson Blu Hotel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday,
January 12
Explorers
10 a.m.
Louvre Abu Dhabi

Tuesday,
January 21
Explorers
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Al Ain Tour

Monday,
January 27
Explorers
10:30 a.m.
Body Worlds Exhibit

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays,
January
12, 19, 26
Social Bridge
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
The Meeting Room,
The Club

Sundays,
January
12, 19, 26
Tennis
8:45 a.m.
Beach Rotana Hotel

Mondays,
January
6, 13, 20, 27
Art Club
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cultural Foundation

Mondays,
January
6, 13, 20, 27
Golf Clinic
8:30 a.m.
Abu Dhabi City Golf Club

Mondays,
January
6, 13, 20, 27
Knitting Group
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
L'eto Caffe, Galleria Mall

Monday,
January 27
Book Club
2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesdays,
January
14, 21, 28
Tennis
8:45 a.m.
Beach Rotana Hotel

Wednesdays,
January
8, 15, 22, 29
Golf Clinic
9 a.m. / 10:45 a.m.
Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Wednesdays,
January
15, 22, 29
Mahjong
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Slipway Bar, The Club

WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our new and current members as we kick off 2020! AWN is committed to connecting women of all nationalities through friendship, activities and cultural exchange. We hope you will join us at one of our upcoming coffee mornings or at one of the many activities we have planned.

At our December meeting, we recognized **Birgitt Adams**, who has stepped down from her role as Co-President. Birgitt has been a devoted leader at AWN in many and varied roles, including Tennis Coordinator, Social Chair, Membership Chair, and Co-President. Her professionalism, wisdom, generosity, and warmth have been a great inspiration to me as I have had the privilege to work beside her for the past year. Moreover, Birgitt has been an amazing friend and I will miss her as she will be repatriating at the end of the school year. Thank you Birgitt for your service to AWN.

I am also very excited to announce that **Mimi Prendergast** has been elected as our new Co-President. Mimi has done an outstanding job as Membership Chair and most recently as Vice-President. I look forward to working with Mimi this year! See you soon!

– Sara Healey
AWN Co-President

GOODBYE FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENT

Congratulations to **Mimi** on becoming the new AWN co-chair! Mimi is a lovely, talented woman who will be wonderful in her new role.

It has been an honor to serve as co-chair. AWN has been a blessing to me and has made my time in Abu Dhabi more rewarding. I met some of my dearest friends at my first AWN meeting and have enjoyed the coffee mornings, learning and playing bridge, the tennis, the outings. Abu Dhabi is more special to me because of AWN. Thank you.

The AWN board is an extraordinary group of women. They are extremely dedicated to our organization and we all benefit from their willingness to share of their time and talent. I will miss working with these wonderful ladies.

I am not departing until June, so I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.

– Birgitt Adams

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COFFEE & SPEAKER SERIES

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

**JAN
9**

Rawan Ghunaim – Saluki Interntaional

In our first meeting of 2020 we are excited to welcome Rawan Ghunaim, Director of SIR, who will share her world of rescuing Salukis and subsequent search to place them in foster families in Abu Dhabi while searching for adoption families locally or internationally.

**JAN
23**

January 23rd Coffee & Speaker Series

Awaiting confirmation for our speaker for this date. Please check our Mid-Month Update to find more information closer to the date.

SHUKRAN!



Christmas Magic – December 12th

Thank you to all who were able to attend AWN Christmas Magic at the Radisson Blu. The magic began with a great video celebrating 25 years of AWN presented by Kimberly Goad, followed by member ornament making. Donations under the tree for The Red Crescent were plentiful and many “bear buddies” were purchased for Operation Smile recipients. Make a Wish foundation volunteers were also present and collected many generous donations.

From CEO Hani AlZubaidi, Make-A-Wish foundation UAE: *“We are delighted to continue to have support from the American Women’s Network. Your help enables our foundation*

to reach out to more children with critical illnesses and grant their wishes.” Wishing you all the best for the holiday season and New Year.



From Morag Cromey-Hawke, Operation Smile: *You will be glad to know that thanks to the AWN ladies we now have 40 cuddly teddies ready to be given to another 40 patients... Now that’s the real festive spirit of giving!*

SHUKRAN

AWN thanks the Radisson Blu for hosting our Thursday morning coffees. We greatly appreciate its welcoming atmosphere, and its dedication in meeting our needs and expectations.

There is a cost for valet parking at the Radisson Blu. However, there is a parking lot for guests behind the hotel that is free of charge. The parking lot entrance is off Al Ankhama, the street on the east side of the hotel.

Lunch will be available at La Terraza at noon, after our coffee mornings, for a very special rate of 59 AED per person for the full buffet. Please plan on joining us for lunch whenever you are able. We look forward to seeing you!!

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

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EXPLORERS

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 12 – Cultural Adventure: Tour of 1,000 Years of Luxury Exhibition at Louvre Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island

Time: 10 a.m. // Cost: Free if you are a member of the Louvre AD or can go as a guest on someone else's membership ticket. Otherwise the admission charge of 63 AED applies.

Let's get together for this exclusive exhibition that celebrates a world history of the lavish and the luxurious through 350 extraordinary objects: fashion, jewelry, art, furniture, design and many more. Marvel at the ways in which luxury has been interpreted by diverse cultures. Discover how different cultures have defined luxury and the impact of such excess on the evolution of society.

People who register will receive an email with the event's final details a few days before the outing.

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



Tuesday, January 21 – Historical Adventure: Al Ain Tour

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. // Cost: 90 AED (includes transportation, lunch not included)

This is a call to AWN Adventurers who would like to spend a full day in the Garden City, as Al Ain is also known. We will explore the Al Ain Oasis, an extensive system of pathways that wind through some 147,000 date palms and have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011. We will also spend time at two famous forts and have the chance to see a permanent exhibition of the work of British adventurer Sir Wilfred Thesiger and his 1940s crossings of the Rub Al Khali (The Empty Quarter) desert. If you are interested in history and would like to learn more about the place you live in, join us for this exciting trip!

Please note that your reservation is not confirmed until payment is made. People who registered will receive an email with the event's final details a few days before the outing.

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



Monday, January 27 – Tour of Body Worlds Exhibit and Body Museum, Khalifa University

bodyworlds.ku.ac.ae // Time: 10:30 a.m. // Cost: Free of charge for AWN Members

The Body Museum was founded in 2019 as part of the newly formed College of Medicine and Health Sciences, which is the first medical school in the capital city of Abu Dhabi. For the first time in the Middle East, Body Worlds at Body Museum is an unprecedented opportunity for everyone to learn about our bodies and be inspired to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

This exhibit offers a unique opportunity to explore the amazing biology and physiology of human health and the dramatic effects of disease. From organs to muscles to the nervous system and to skeletal structures, Body Worlds gives an unprecedented look inside the most sophisticated mechanism in the world, the human body.

The specimens on display show impressive comparisons and contrasts between healthy bodies and organs and those stricken with disease. Particular emphasis is put on some of the most common ailments such as back pain, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases like arteriosclerosis and heart infarctions, dementia, and more.

People who register will receive an email with the event's details a few days before the outing.

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



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CULTURE CLUB

Upcoming Event led by Izabella Sluzek

Topic: From Zeus to Buddha

On Sunday, February 16th at 10 a.m. AWN Culture Club will meet again to discuss Buddhist art and its evolution, as presented by the Louvre Abu Dhabi. It will be a virtual walk-through of the museum galleries focused on Buddhist collection. If you are passionate about Buddhist art, feel free to contribute by sharing what you know about a particular object or a place you visited that you have fallen in love with. Your short presentation may take 5 minutes or less, but please do not forget to bring a picture of the object you want to talk about. Venue: TBA - Cost: Free

People who register will receive an email with the event's final details a few days before the meeting.

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



Explorers Past Events

Private Tour of Cultural Foundation - December 9th, 2019

It's amazing what fun you can have for free! Fatima, our guide, greeted a group of a dozen or so and then took us on an in-depth tour of the newly opened Cultural Foundation. The first section was all about one of the UAE's most renowned artist, Najit Makki, who loves to paint in bright colors with floral patterns and rather likes to underline the importance of the role of women by popping her into the center of her pieces of work. The colors and creative way of displaying couldn't help but bring a smile to our faces.

Our next focus was the wonderful Children's Library, which was breathtaking and we felt we wanted to bring our children and grandchildren to join in the fun. In the meantime, however, we sought the inner child in each of us and joined in making pop art pictures! The library is divided into age groups and has imaginative play for the little ones on one floor with great activities such as watching a chosen story projected on the ceiling, while they lay back and relax on the Arabic cushions. The older age groups are well catered for in a different part of the library using technology and film to work with alongside the conventional books.

Fatima then led us to the studios where our AWN friends were receiving a talk from an invited artist. The facilities are quite stunning and I defy anyone not to find a class they would like to give a go. The UAE's much loved Calligrapher Mohammed Mandi, who has designed the artwork on the paper currency, has an office in the Foundation and he generously gave us his time, showing us round his studio and then proceeding to scribe each of our names in Arabic on cards for us to take away.

The Amphitheatre will be opening soon as the weather cools and it's certainly worth keeping an eye out for what's happening in the upcoming program.

- Karen Magill, AWN Explorers Team Member and Yoga Coordinator



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Desert Walk at Sunset – December 10th, 2019

One could say that a group of women spent an afternoon walking in the desert, did a bit of yoga and returned home again. Which would of course be true but it would not convey the great time we all had.

Led by Karen and Holly, we set off on a minibus promptly at 2 p.m. bound for a walk in the desert sands around Al Wathba. As is the case with AWN activities, a group of

women from different nations were soon getting to know each other and having fun.

Arriving at our destination we were met by our guides Kirsty and Anna. They did an excellent job of

taking us on a gentle hike through the dunes, sharing stories of hiking and camping, pointing out the local flora and talking about the wildlife.

The weather was perfect for walking and the views were dramatic. After a couple of hours hiking up and down the dunes we arrived back at base in time for a drink of tea before taking part in a session of sunset yoga. It was a great location to watch the sun set and the moon rise.

Finally, it was time to depart. We boarded the bus expecting to arrive back at Mushrif Mall an hour or so later. Having been on the bus for about half an hour, two thoughts occurred – either Karen had scheduled an evening excursion around the Al Wathba camel track as a surprise treat for us all or we were lost. We were lost. Lost and stuck in the sand. So, we did what we had to do. Using walking sticks we dug out the sand from under the wheels of the bus and then with the driver at the steering wheel we pushed the bus back onto safe terrain. A little while later we discovered that there was a car park ahead of us and found a security guard on duty who gave us directions back to the Abu Dhabi road.

It was a great afternoon and one we will all probably never forget. Thanks to Karen and Holly for organizing the outing.

– Kate Wright – AWN Member and Tennis Coordinator



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MEMBERSHIP

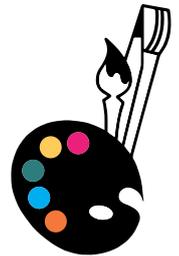
The membership team were so pleased to welcome new members at our festive coffee morning on December 12th. The talk on the history of the AWN made for a great introduction to the group and hopefully some new friendships were formed over the Christmas decorations activity.

There will be a Newcomers coffee morning in February. This event will be for new members who have registered online since September 1, 2019. More details will be sent out nearer the date and an RSVP will be required. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to get to know other newcomers to Abu Dhabi.

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. Just bring along a photograph with details or printed advert to pin to the board.

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 our 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 advice on how to start.

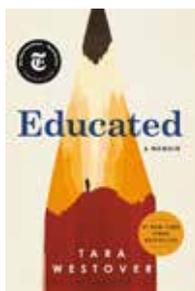


When membership reaches the maximum number (50), newcomers will automatically be placed on a waiting list.

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



Happy New Year! AWN's Book Club will meet Monday, January 27th from 2 - 4 p.m. This month's read is *Educated* by Tara Westover. 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

Bridge will resume from Sunday, January 12th, 2020 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at The Meeting Room, The Club.

For any queries, please email the Bridge Coordinators at bridgeawn@gmail.com.

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GOLF

AWN Golf ended the year by having a fun Christmas themed Texas Scramble hosted by the Abu Dhabi City Golf Club. Congratulations to Kelly Cunnion, Loreen Gordan, Susan Tucciarone and Vickie Henderson, who finished in first place.

If you have never golfed before, please join us, as we host beginner and intermediate/advanced clinics at both Abu Dhabi City Golf Club (Mondays 8:30 a.m.) and Abu Dhabi Golf Club (Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.). This is a great way to learn the sport for reduced rates and enjoy coffee and conversation with the ladies afterwards. The hour-long clinics range from 115-120 AED, with the option to pay to play 9 holes immediately after (additional 105 AED).

We are looking forward to resuming clinics on Monday, January 6th, 2020, at the Abu Dhabi City Golf Club and Wednesday, January 8th, 2020, at Abu Dhabi Golf Club. More fun events will be planned for 2020 so join us in the fun.

If you are not already on our mailing list, please email us at awngolf@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you on the course!



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 and join us to work on your latest project. Some of us are knitting for charity, others 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 January 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.



Fusun and Tina with their Guinness World Record certificates, for their participation in knitting the worlds biggest blanket.

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MAHJONG



AWN's Mahjong will resume Wednesday, January 15th 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 (35 AED for Club members), covers your entrance to The Club, snacks, tea, coffee and water. Beginners are always welcome.

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

TENNIS

Interested in learning how to play tennis or improving your game? AWN Tennis offers 4-week sessions to those interested in tennis, meeting new players and having outdoor fun.

The next sessions will begin on Sunday, January 12th and Tuesday January 14th.

For more information contact tennisawn@gmail.com.



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. AWN Yoga is taking a festive break until the week commencing January 12th.

We are delighted to let you know that we have some exciting new additions to the schedule and a couple of these might appeal to those of you who like an afternoon or evening class. Every week an email will be sent giving you the offer for the following week, but in general you can currently expect to see a schedule something like this:

Sundays

9:00 a.m. -
Hatha Hip Openers Yoga
5:00 p.m. -
Ashtanga Flow

Mondays

9:00 a.m. -
Vinyasa Foundation

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. - Hatha Vinyasa
5:30 p.m. - Vinyasa Flow

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. - Hatha Yoga

Saturdays

6:00 p.m. -
Vinyasa Foundation
6:30 p.m. -
Anti-Gravity Fitness

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!



VOLUNTEER CORNER

AWN is looking for a volunteer skilled in the use of MailChimp and/or page layout software (InDesign, etc.) to help create and design the monthly newsletter. If you think this might be for you, please email us at presidentawn@gmail.com.

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HAPPENINGS IN ABU DHABI

AMCHAM ABU DHABI

★ DISCUSSION: "SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST" WITH PETER HARRIS

January 16 | 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Venue: AmCham Abu Dhabi

Join us for an insightful morning discussion with Peter Harris, International Sustainability Director, UPS as he addresses and highlights the importance of Environmental Sustainability with a focus on the following topics:

What does it mean for a company to be sustainable?

What expectations lie behind this in Europe? Which of these expectations are applicable in the Middle East?

What are the commercial drivers? Are they sufficiently powerful to make action worthwhile?

What solutions are available to us now? And what else do we need?

Cost: Free for AmCham Abu Dhabi Members; AED 125* for Non-Members

RSVP: No later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 15, 2020

<https://amchamabudhabi.org/client/event/roster/eventRosterDetails.html?productId=10794&eventRosterId=7>

*Price is inclusive of a Value Added Tax (VAT) rate of 5%.

The event fee includes light breakfast.

This is a pre-pay event, your place will not be confirmed until payment is received.

CINEMASPACE

★ FILM: LITTLE WOMEN (1994)

Saturday, January 11 | 4 - 6 p.m.

Synopsis: Winona Ryder (in an Oscar nominated role) and Academy Award winner Susan Sarandon star in this "affectionate, superbly acted" (Los Angeles Times) family favorite. With her husband off at war, Marmee (Sarandon) is left alone to raise their four daughters, her LITTLE WOMEN. There is the spirited Jo (Ryder); conservative Meg (Trini Alvarado); fragile Beth (Claire Danes); and romantic Amy (played at different ages by Kristen Dunst and Samantha Mathis). As the years pass, the sisters share some of the most cherished and painful memories of self-discovery, as Marmee and Aunt March (Mary Wickes) guide them through issues of independence, romance and virtue. Gabriel Byrne, Eric Stoltz and Christian Bale co-star in this "handcrafted valentine" (Newsweek) of a film.

RSVP Opens Jan. 6: cinemaspace-abudhabi.splashthat.com/

NYU ABU DHABI

★ PERFORMANCE: BARZAKH FESTIVAL

Friday, January 31 | 6 p.m.

Venue: NYU Abu Dhabi

There's a place in the sea where salt and sweet water meet and coexist, but don't dilute one another...barzakh. Newly reinvisioned to present artists on three stages all in the same night, Barzakh Festival draws inspiration from this idea to create a meeting place of musical streams that crosses diverse cultures. Global-minded musicians reflecting varied influences and identities, bring together the contemporary and the traditional into a boundary-shattering line-up that will be filled with musical revelations.

This festival is open for all ages.

The Lineup:

AMMAR 808 — UAE Debut

BCUC — Middle East Debut

Bokante — Middle East Debut

La Dame Blanche

NOON — Play Umm Kulthum — world premiere commissioned by The Arts Center

Sofiane Saidi & Mazalda — UAE Debut

Tickets: https://www.nyuad-artscenter.org/en_US/events/2020/barzakh-festival/

WAREHOUSE 421

★ KHAYAL SERIES: BOOK READING FOR CHILDREN

Saturday, January 25 | 3 -5 p.m.

Cost: Free

The Khayal series returns this season with a session titled "Tales of Arabian Nights" is a majlis style retelling of Arabian folktales and stories followed by an arts and crafts session. Participants will be making mosaics of the Arabian desert and sharing stories.

About the series:

The Khayal series, in collaboration with Early Starters aims to provide emerging writers with a platform to share their work and young readers with an introduction to literature.

About the instructor:

Yasmine Badran is the proprietor of Early Starters, an Emirati educational platform and distributor.

She grew up surrounded by books as her father worked in the publishing industry and her lifelong dream has always been to open her own independent community bookstore.

In partnership with Early Starters

https://www.warehouse421.ae/en/whats-on/khayal-series-book-reading-for-children_1_1/

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