

# THE NETWORK News



AMERICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ABU DHABI

*Connecting  
cultures  
through  
friendship*

## SEEKING NEWSLETTER EDITOR

AWN is seeking an editor/designer for our monthly newsletter which contains the latest news and events.

### SKILLS NEEDED:

- Personal computing skills
- Production / design in page layout software AND/OR MailChimp
- Editing skills

If you would be interested in volunteering with AWN, please contact [marketingawn@gmail.com](mailto:marketingawn@gmail.com).

## Follow us on Social Media



AWN - American Women's  
Network of Abu Dhabi



@awnabudhabi



## WELCOME FROM AWN CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome to our June AWN newsletter. Wherever you are at this time, we hope you are keeping safe and well.

As we continue to self-isolate, we are trying to imagine what life in Abu Dhabi will look like going forward. We hope that shortly restrictions will ease and we can gather socially again, although we expect it to be in a modified format. We miss seeing all of you!

In the meantime, Culture Club and our Explorers team have provided some more exciting opportunities to explore online. Our Community Outreach team has also identified ways we can help those in need in our community. Please also have a look at the bios of our fantastic Activity leaders, featured this month.

In June, we say goodbye to two amazing women. Susan Foster, who served as AWN president, is repatriating to Fort Collins, Colorado. Susan has been a key member of our board for a long time. We will miss her friendship, her positivity and wisdom.

We also say goodbye this summer to Kim Cottin who is moving to Myanmar. Kim served on our AWN board as Communications Chair for many years and after, continued on faithfully producing our newsletter each month. Kim has been wise, warm and supportive and we will miss her!

We will be taking a short break over the summer, so our next newsletter will be in September. In the meantime, please check our social media pages for any updates. When we are able to meet again, your activity leader will be in touch with you directly.

AWN is committed to connecting women of all nationalities through friendship, activities, and cultural exchange.

*- Sara Healey and Mimi Prendergast  
AWN Co-Presidents*



## MEMBERSHIP

AWN is a vibrant and active social group for women living in Abu Dhabi. We provide a variety of activities, events and community outreach through volunteer programs. Our members represent many nationalities, broad range of ages, interests and backgrounds. If you are new or moving to Abu Dhabi, AWN can help you find ways to settle and introduce you to new friends and worthwhile experiences. If you are a long time resident, we can help you broaden your horizons through opportunities for personal enrichment and connection to the community. Any questions about membership please email [membershipawn@gmail.com](mailto:membershipawn@gmail.com), we will be more than happy to connect with you.

We are looking forward to the time when we can meet again and welcome our members, in the meantime please stay safe and well. For our AWN friends that are leaving Abu Dhabi during the summer best wishes on their new beginnings!

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Most of our activities have been suspended until further notice. For our newcomers, here is a list of what we normally have each week: Art Club, Book Club, Social Bridge, Golf, Mahjong, Tennis and Yoga.

## ACTIVITIES' COORDINATOR PROFILES

Being new to Abu Dhabi, joining AWN was the perfect way to get involved and make lasting connections with other expats. AWN has many activities coordinated by members that anyone can join. This is a great chance to try something new such as Tennis or Mahjong and all levels are welcome. The activity coordinators dedicate a lot of time and effort for these activities and we celebrate them. Thank you activity coordinators for everything you do to provide all members a way to connect with others and for keeping us all active, you do an amazing job!



### Kate Wright - Tennis

Kate was born in England and also holds an Irish passport thanks to both her parents.

Home is the beautiful cathedral city of Salisbury. However, her husband's career means she can no longer remember how many times she has moved house and countries. This is her second tour in Abu Dhabi.

Kate qualified as a social worker over 30 years ago and she finally retired when she and her husband moved back to the UAE in 2016. Now that she is no longer working, she can spend more time doing the things she enjoys, including reading, playing tennis and walking.

### Pauline Olson - Mahjong

Pauline is one of the Mahjong coordinators, together with Pam Lightfoot Sullivan. Pauline has spent over 20 years in the Gulf region, residing in Bahrain, Oman, Dubai and now in Abu Dhabi. Pauline enjoys the life in this city and the culture it offers. She particularly loves being a member of the Louvre which she regularly visits and the Club where she attends exercise classes and where Mahjong is held. She is looking forward to the day when the Wednesday Mahjong group can begin again. She herself learnt to play Mahjong through the AWN group and encourages anyone who is interested to sign up to join when it is possible to do so. We have Mahjong players of all nationalities and it is a diverse group.

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

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### **Pamela Lightfoot Sullivan - Mahjong and Book Club**

Pamela has been residing in AD for four years after a brief stint in Kuwait. She loves to read, to dance, to make memories with family, and to socialize with friends. Since moving to AD and joining AWN, she has learned and come to love playing Mahjong and Bridge. Thank you, AWN for the friendships.



### **Shivani Wanchoo - Social Bridge**

Shivani grew up in India. She has lived in Dubai and Hong Kong before arriving in Abu Dhabi in 2001.

With a Masters in History from University of Delhi, she has worked in Marketing Research and taught in elementary schools here in Abu Dhabi. She has two sons who live in New York.

She is an active member of AWN and appreciates the friendships that AWN provides. She was the Mahjong Coordinator before becoming the Bridge Club coordinator. She also serves on the AWN Board.



### **Karen Magill - Yoga**

Karen has been in Abu Dhabi for a couple of years having lived previously in Singapore, the UK and New Zealand. Previously in Hampshire, England, she was School Business Manager heading up a large team of staff who took on the non-teaching roles in a significantly sized secondary school. Whilst in Singapore she took the training to become a volunteer Guide for the National Museum and delighted in the learning and then the passing on of knowledge in this role. She is passionate about her work on the Explorer Team but also enjoys her yoga. Her love of admin and interacting with people means that being Activity Head of Yoga brings her joy!



### **Aimee Simon - Golf**

Aimee has lived in Abu Dhabi with her husband, Jeff, for three years. After having spent 25 years as an Army wife, life in Abu Dhabi has been a wonderful change. I started to play golf here as a "reluctant golfer", learning to play because my husband is an avid golfer and he really wanted me to learn. It took a very long while, but now I really do enjoy it. I have made many friends from all over the world here in Abu Dhabi and I look forward to our weekly clinics and rounds. I also love to play tennis. Just being outdoors suits me. Although I'm a native New Yorker, I prefer the warm weather. Savannah, Georgia has been our home on and off for over 20 years. Jeff and I have two daughters, 22 and 25, currently in Savannah.

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### Dania Malki - Art Club

Dania was born and raised in Damascus, Syria and moved to California with her family where she earned her BA in Fine Arts and became a US citizen. She moved to Abu Dhabi in 2004 and worked in graphic design in advertising and later in marketing and public relations in hospitality. Dania felt she was drifting away from art so when she got married 7 years ago, she decided to pursue her long-time passion in painting and joined the Art Club in 2017 and 2 months later Dania joined the team and now coordinating the art club. The Art Club opened great opportunities in meeting lovely talented ladies on a weekly basis and in meeting professional artists based here in Abu Dhabi.



### Ti Seymour - Art Club

Ti is an accredited Rug Hooking and Oxford Punch Teacher. Currently she is undertaking a College Diploma in Fiber Arts specializing in Rug Hooking. Ti is an admin for UAE Rugmakers on FB and Instagram. She joined AWN Art Club to further her knowledge in color & design and enjoy the company of like-minded creative friends. Ti loves the AWN Art Club and notes that it is open to all abilities and offers a diverse range of classes from time to time. Ti has lived in Abu Dhabi for 9 years but took a 5-year hiatus to Montreal and now has returned for nearly 3 years.

## GET READY CLOTHING DRIVE FOR WHEN WE MEET AGAIN

Thank you for everything you are doing to support each other and people in the UAE who are experiencing hardship during these difficult times. During Ramadan, AWN members provided over 200 boxes of fresh food for workers in Musaffah through Basiligo.

You can continue to support the Emirates Red Crescent which is delivering groceries and necessities to families in need across the country. If you want to sponsor a food box, click here [https://www.rcuae.ae/en/donate.aspx?don\\_id=85](https://www.rcuae.ae/en/donate.aspx?don_id=85). You can make a donation for any amount.

When we meet again, we will be organizing a clothing (shoes, clothes, bags) drive for Make-A-Wish and Operation Smile. As you clean out your cupboards, please set aside gently used apparel for the drive.



In her capacity as a board member of Make-A-Wish, **Mary Corrado**, presented **Cindy Dodge** with a certificate of appreciation for the all the amazing support she has provided to the organization, while doing all they could to practice social distancing.

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## FAREWELL TO IZABELLA

In July we are saying farewell to our dear Izabella Sluzek, who is repatriating with her husband to Warsaw, Poland. Izabella has been an active member of AWN for the past 5 years, starting as an invited Speaker in 2015. She has led the Culture Club since then and has become an invaluable member of the Explorers' Team over the last two years. We are very grateful for the wealth of knowledge she has contributed to AWN. We will miss her dearly and wish her the best in her new chapter!

- M. Cristina Guzman, Explorers Chair

## CULTURE CLUB

The Culture Club continues to offer our members virtual presentations, created and recorded by our own Izabella Sluzek! Izabella shares the knowledge she acquired over many years as a docent in three of Singapore's oldest museums. We hope you enjoy them!

### VIRTUAL CULTURE CLUB PRESENTATIONS

The following PowerPoint presentations are only for AWN members' educational purposes (download in your computer if you don't have a Dropbox account).

#### Silk Roads: Ceramics at the Louvre AD

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wp2vdl4yokwaalv/Silk%20Road%20Ceramics.ppsx?dl=0>

Izabella Sluzek will guide you through a glimpse of the history of the ceramic trade between China and the Middle East through the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection. This trade was originally established in about 2200 BCE and lasted until the early 1600s CE. This presentation will also explore older trade routes, such as one linking the Gulf region and Mesopotamia 7000 years ago and the famous ones of the Frankincense Road. The Louvre AD collection has the original ceramic vessels from China in addition to their skillful imitations, produced by Islamic potters since the 9th century.

#### From Zeus to Buddha by Izabella Sluzek

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/63rtvi36wy65y8k/From%20Zeus%20to%20Buddha.ppsx?dl=0>

This presentation is about Buddhist art and its evolution, as shown by the Louvre Abu Dhabi. It will be a virtual walk-through of the museum galleries focused on the Buddhist collection. After the first few centuries of aniconic Buddhist art, the earliest image of the Buddha emerged in Gandhara, Central Asia, due to its Hellenistic heritage. From there Buddhism quickly spread to India, and the rest of Asia. In each region, Buddha's facial features resembled those of the people who adopted the new religion. To recognize if an image is that of the Buddha or Bodhisattva, or where it was made, we will discuss some common characteristics distinguishing different styles from one another

## EXPLORERS

*The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.*

- Ellen Parr

The Explorers Team has updated the virtual outings and included new online resources for you to enjoy. We hope you are staying safe and healthy! Enjoy your summer!

### Exploring from Home

#### UAE / REGIONAL EXPLORATIONS

##### From Rags to Riches: A Story of Abu Dhabi - Lecture by Mohammed Al Fahim

Author of "From Rags to Riches: An Abu Dhabi Story" (London Center for Arab Studies)

New York University Abu Dhabi Institute - This autobiography charts the life of Mohammed Al Fahim, who grew up barefoot and in poverty before witnessing the years when oil wealth changed his country forever,

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transforming a Bedouin society into a modern nation with astronomical per capita income. In this talk, the author speaks about his life and role in that remarkable history.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOO7kpGTGh8&list=PLlIcEmxDQIMp7ykVuWk\\_XAS5bRs8oUjna&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOO7kpGTGh8&list=PLlIcEmxDQIMp7ykVuWk_XAS5bRs8oUjna&index=7)

### **The Submerged World of the Arabian Gulf**

Lecture by Richard Cuttler, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Department, Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT), New York University Abu Dhabi Institute. The seabed around the world has proven to be an archaeological treasure trove, consistently yielding items that are rewriting history books and filling museums.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eq-Jyb4bPw&feature=youtu.be>

### **Literary Conversations Across Borders**

A compelling new digital project featuring high-level live debate between prominent Emiratis and top writers and thinkers from around the world on the topics that matter in the world today. Organised by the Office of Public and Cultural Diplomacy and the Emirates Literature Foundation, the eight-part Literary Conversations Across Borders programme aims to discuss some of the pressing issues facing the world today in the wake of the pandemic.

<https://www.elfdubai.org/en/literary-conversations-across-borders>

## **MUSEUM EXPLORATIONS**

### **Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford, UK**

Britain's first public museum and the world's first university museum (founded in 1682)

The Young Rembrandt Exhibition - Spanning the years 1624 to 1634, it traces how a young and unremarkable artist from Leiden became the superstar of 17th-century Amsterdam and one of the greatest artists of all time.

<https://ashmolean.web.ox.ac.uk/youngrembrandt>

#### **Selected Treasures**

An online selection of the Ashmolean's most treasured objects, chosen by the museum's curators (selected by material, geography, period or department)

<https://ashmolean.web.ox.ac.uk/treasures>

#### **Jigsaw Puzzles**

The museum has turned some of their treasures into online jigsaw puzzles for all levels.

<https://www.ashmolean.org/jigsaws>

### **British Museum, London, UK**

(founded in 1753)

#### **Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum**

Presented by Bettany Hughes and Peter Snow. First broadcast in cinemas, Pompeii Live transports you back to AD 79 to discover how life was transformed in just 24 hours, when these two cities in the Bay of Naples, southern Italy, were buried by a catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/pompeii-live>

#### **Fictional Travel Guides to Ancient Cities**

Go back in time to visit these famous cities. Sections on topics such as how to get there, what to see, what to eat and local forms of entertainment offer introductions to the world's greatest cities, as seen through the British Museum's collection.

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Tokyo (early 19th century), Rome (1st century AD) and Nineveh (7th century BC)

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/museum-stories/>

### 13 Landscapes to Lose Yourself In

Need a change of scenery? Join the British Museum as they set off around the world to take in a baker's dozen of delightful landscapes.

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/13-landscapes-to-lose-yourself-in/>

## PHILOSOPHY EXPLORATION

### History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps

Peter Adamson, Professor of Philosophy at the LMU in Munich and at King's College London, takes listeners through the history of philosophy, "without any gaps." The series looks at the ideas, lives and historical context of the major philosophers as well as the lesser-known figures of the tradition.

<https://historyofphilosophy.net/>

## FESTIVAL EXPLORATIONS

### Stratford Festival, Ontario, Canada

This annual summer theatre festival was one of the first art festivals in Canada and continues to be one of its most prominent. It is recognized worldwide for its productions of Shakespearean plays. Their vision is to foster active exploration of big ideas by engaging with the classics, reimagined for contemporary audiences.

<https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/AtHome>

### Hay Festival of Literature and Arts, Wales, UK

Hay Festival brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

### Hay Festival Podcasts

Each Thursday they will be releasing remixed conversations with the world's greatest writers and thinkers from Hay festivals around the world. Ex. The historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari looks at the secrets of our success and explores the themes of his bestselling debut *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* in conversation with Rosie Boycott at Hay Festival Cartagena in January 2016.

<https://www.hayfestival.com/podcast>

### Hay Festival Digital (May 22 - 31, 2020)

The conversations will be available on Hay Player after the live events have taken place. Hay Player contains thousands of audio and video recordings from Hay Festivals from 1995 to the present day. Each year hundreds of new events are added from Hay Festivals around the globe, giving you front row access to the world's great writers and artists. Annual subscription to Hay Player: £10.00

<https://www.hayfestival.com/hayplayer/>

## THEATRE EXPLORATION

### National Theatre, London, UK

Under the banner of 'National Theatre at Home', they are releasing a new play on YouTube every Thursday (7pm GMT), each recorded as part of their NT cinema live programme. Each play will be available to watch for one week - including bonus content such as post-stream talks and Q&As. Previous performances shown include *One Man, Two Guvnors* and *Jane Eyre*.

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

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**ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION****Hay Festival Trans.MISSION**

Hay Festival and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) have joined forces to create Trans. MISSION, a new project pairing leading scientists with award-winning artists to communicate cutting edge science. Each pair has produced an original piece of work launched in a series of public events at Hay Festival 2018.

<https://www.hayfestival.com/green-hay/hay-festival-transmission>

**ASTRONOMY EXPLORATION****Figures in the Sky**

Discover how cultures across the world have seen their myths and legends in the stars.

<http://www.datasketch.es/may/code/nadieh/>

**ARCHITECTURE EXPLORATION****Discover the Unique Architecture of Antoni Gaudí**

The Barcelona-based Spanish architect is known as the greatest exponent of Catalan Modernism (La Sagrada Família, Park Güell, Casa Milà, etc.) and as the most famous Spanish architect. Most of his buildings can be found in Barcelona and seven of his projects are declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/discover-the-unique-architecture-of-antoni-gaudi/iQLiJvHIVcEzlw>

**RESOURCE FOR CHILDREN****The Ickabog**

The Harry Potter author JK Rowling is releasing a new fairy tale free of charge for children in lockdown to enjoy. The Ickabog will be released chapter by chapter, online, every weekday between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, July 10.

<https://www.theickabog.com/>

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