



American Women's Group

P.O. Box 393

Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos 115, Muscat

A Note from the AWG President

Dear Members,

January and February have been very busy with AWG as March will be! Margaret has arranged a wonderful speaker for our March general meeting (more details later – please note the date change!), and there are lots of activities as well as two new interest groups beginning. We really have had more volunteer help this year and I believe we are all reaping the benefits with more and varied activities. AWG needs five more ladies to step forward to offer to serve on the board for next year. We are looking for nominees for: President, First Vice President, Treasurer, Welcoming and Volunteers and Business Coordinator. The rest of board is offering to return in their current positions and that is amazing! They have already proven themselves to be hard working and wonderful to work with. Several ladies have also offered to provide support to the board, but due to travel and other commitments, they cannot accept a board position. All this experienced help can really make everything run very smoothly next year. Work has already begun with tentative agenda planning and reserving of venues. While serving on the board does involve some work, it is a wonderful way to meet new people within AWG and the business/charity/social communities, maintain “work skills”, and have a lot of fun! I have enjoyed this year and working with all the ladies on the board has truly been a pleasure. I highly recommend it!

Cindy Lundberg

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AWG Notice!

The AWG website is UP TO DATE! Be sure to regularly check www.awgoman.com for events, local activities and promotions. You may also submit classifieds through the website. Thank you so much to Rukhsana for managing this wonderful site to communicate with AWG members.



Upcoming Events

March 7: AWG General Meeting

The Jewel of Muscat Voyage to Singapore
Omani Women's Association
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

AWG will hold its March General Meeting a week early to accommodate a marvelous speaker. Archeologist and Maritime Specialist, **Dr. Tom Vosmer**, will share with AWG a photo power point presentation of the *Jewel of Muscat* sailing ship, a replica of the 17th century sailing vessels made in Oman. Dr. Vosmer was the Project Director of the boat's construction and is overseeing the voyage between Muscat and Singapore, where the *Jewel of Muscat* will reside at the end of its journey as a gift to Singapore. Please RSVP to Margaret Hurtado, 1st Vice President, at awg1stvp@gmail.com so she can estimate catering services. We will hold this General Meeting at the Omani Women's Association headquarters (first left past the Al Khargeah St. Round-about in Qurum. This is the same round-about exit to continue to the Children's Museum and Mumtaz Mahal restaurant). Cost: 3 OMR at the door.

March 25: AWG Charity Dinner

US Ambassador's Residence
Ticket information to follow. For AWG members and guests.

AWG will present an evening of entertainment with The Muscat Amateur Theatre Group. All proceeds will go to the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs. Members will remember that this charity spoke at the January AWG General Meeting. Space will be limited to 105 attendees. RSVP to AWG Treasurer, Rani Rozario, at rozariorani@hotmail.com. Mark your calendar to attend this special event.

April: AWG General Meeting

Due to the varying school spring breaks, AWG will not hold an April General Meeting. Safe travels to those who will be on family holidays, and to those staying in and around town.

May 1-5, Sunday: "Diptychs in Oman" An exhibition by the AWG Photography Club. See pg 7 for information

May 9, Sunday: AWG General Meeting Mother's Day Lunch Tuscany Restaurant, Hyatt Hotel

Mark your calendars for our final General Meeting of the season with a Mother's Day lunch, Sunday May 9, 10a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel. We will be distributing our charitable donations, enjoy a delicious lunch at Tuscany with their new chef Fabrizio Valdetara. More details to follow. Please RSVP to Margaret Hurtado, 1st Vice President, at awg1stvp@gmail.com.



AWG GENERAL MEETING

JEWEL OF MUSCAT JOURNEY TO SINGAPORE

MARCH 7, 2010

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOCATION: OMANI WOMENS ASSOCIATION

ARCHEOLOGIST AND MARINE SPECIALIST, DR. TOM VOSMER, WILL SHARE WITH AWG A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE SAILING SHIP. PLEASE RSVP WITH A QUICK EMAIL TO AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM TO MARGARET HURTADO.



muscat amateur theatre

AWG CHARITY DINNER

MARCH 25, 2010

7:00 PM

US AMBASSADOR RESIDENCE

PLEASE RSVP TO RANI ROZARIO AT ROZARIORANI@HOTMAIL.COM



AWG GENERAL MEETING! MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

MAY 9, 2010

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

TUSCANY, GRAND HYATT

PLEASE RSVP WITH A QUICK EMAIL TO AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM TO MARGARET HURTADO.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

WHAT WE ARE UP TO!

Photography Club presents "Diptychs in Oman"



AWG Photography Club 2009



Bait Muzna Newcomers Coffee

Thanks to the very generous support of the Al Madina Art Gallery, the AWG Photography Club is proud to announce its second photography exhibition entitled "Diptychs in Oman". What is a diptych? A diptych is a photograph that uses two different or identical images side by side to form one single artistic statement. The two images can literally be in contact with each other or separated by a border or frame. Why diptychs? Richard Woodhead, curator of the gallery, was so impressed by our group exhibition in 2009 he wanted to give the members of the Photography Club a new challenge. The members are ready to rise to the occasion with cameras, lenses, filters, and tripods in tow.

The AWG would like to encourage all members to visit the exhibition and perhaps be inspired by this type of art form. While at the gallery, all members can vote for their favorite diptych. At the final Photography Club meeting on May 5th, a "People's Choice" award will be presented to the photographer whose diptych receives the most votes from members of the public like you!

The Al Madina Art Gallery is located in Villa 145/6, Al Inshirah Street in MQ. Please call 2469-1380 for more detailed directions. Hope to see you there!

Bait Muzna Newcomers Coffee

Thank you Bait Muzna Art Gallery for hosting a coffee evening for AWG Newcomers last month! The ladies enjoyed a talk and tour of the newly renovated gallery, refreshments and newcomer information from the Ministry of Tourism. Please note that all AWG members receive a 10% discount on framing at Bait Muzna.

AWG INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Group	Coordinator	E-mail	When	Where
Arts	Sunita	sunita.rajvanshi@gmail.com	Every 3rd Wed	
Story Board	Benita	benita@coachbenita.com		
Book Lovers	Veronica	vkurak@hotmail.com	Sat, once a month	
Cooking	Sakina	framboise79@gmail.com	Sun, once a month	
Meet the Chef	Janette	janette.gill@gmail.com	monthly	various
Mahjong	Monika	monikaenns@hotmail.com	Tue, 9am-2pm	MEA
Photography	Angela	amoclick@me.com	monthly	various
Scrapbooking	Alice	fuzzclark8@hotmail.com	1st Wed 10am-1pm 3rd Mon, 10am-1pm	MEA
Singles in Oman	Valerie	v_balboa@hotmail.com	Every 2nd Wed	

WHAT WE ARE UP TO! (CONT)

Neighborhood Coffee

Do you know your neighbors?

Now many AWG ladies know their neighbors thanks to the new AWG Neighborhood Coffees that took place in January throughout Muscat. Thank you to the hostess last month and we all look forward to the next Neighborhood Coffee that will take place in February. Contact the following coordinators to inquire about the next coffee in your area:

Azaiba and Al Gubrah - Janette at janette.gill@gmail.com

The Wave and Seeb Area - Veronica at vbreider@gmail.com

Shatti - Michele at michele.lavigne@hotmail.com

Qurum and PDO - Lena at lenasarihill@yahoo.com

MQ and Al Ilam - Adriana at adri_vargas007@yahoo.com

Al Khuwair - Kelly Gilreath at kellygilreath@hotmail.com (beginning in April)



Floral Design Class

A group of creative ladies enjoyed learning about floral design, a special hands-on floral arrangement class followed by a delicious lunch at the Al Bustan earlier this month. A special thank you to our instructor, Liza and Helma from the Al Bustan and Leslie Bosch for organizing this lovely event for AWG!



Wine Tasting at Al Bustan Hotel

Do you know the difference between Old and New World wines? Thanks to the wine & food pairing evening held at Vue Restaurant in January, over 13 couples now know the answer to this question. A great night was had by all and we can't wait to put our new knowledge to good use!



WHAT WE ARE UP TO! (CONT)



Oman Botanic Gardens

This marvelous project, begun in 2006 is a Diwan Royal Court project under direction of the Office of Conservation of the Environment. Sarah Kneebone, Director of Education and Interpretation for the OBG, offered an overview of the current construction, operations and future buildings which will include a field research center, library, Heritage Village and biospheres displaying all species of plants across Oman. Over 4 million square meters are dedicated to recreating an environmental sanctuary for indigenous plant species. The visitors were told by staff member Dareen Mehdi that Oman is considered one of 35 threatened hot spots in the world where there is a danger of losing native plants. Eighty per cent of the plant species that are native to Oman and grow only here.

The OBG is divided into three environmental zones: the northern mountains, the central sand dunes and the southern lush greenery. The southern greenery zone will be enclosed in buildings that will simulate a three season weather change in the annual growth cycle. This will be the first environmental sanctuary in the world to replicate a changing growing season.

Research is presently conducted on the site by gathering seeds from native plants across the country, recording species into a seed bank, and propagating native plants in nurseries to be planted throughout the finished Garden area. Since most plants have flourished in the wild, the OBG staff is the first to document the growing conditions of Omani plant life. Many plant species are being saved from extinction because this effort.

Heritage Village which will be interactive center for visitors wanting to learn more about the traditional and historic use of plants not only for food and fodder but weaving, medicinal needs, dyes, perfumes and a herbarium. In the final stages of development the site will contain restaurants, gift shops, an outdoor amphitheater, camping and picnic sites, walking and hiking trails and a children's play area. Local schools will be able to visit to learn of the ecological sustainability of the natural environment. All of this has an anticipated operational date of 2012-2013.

After an overview presentation, the AWG members toured the nurseries and were shown the stages of plant development from seed harvest to final product ready for permanent implantation after construction is complete. For more information on the he Oman Botanical Gardens, visit the website at www.oman-botanic-garden.org .

P.E.T.R.A



Paralympic Equestrian & Therapeutic Riding Association

The Para Equestrian and Therapeutic Riding Association is the first of its kind in Oman.

To create the Arab horse, God spoke to the south wind:

"I will create from you a being which will be a happiness to the good....Happiness shall be on its forehead, bounty on its back and joy in the possessor".

(Early Arab saying)

PETRA is dedicated to provide a peaceful facility with happy horses and well trained staff. Presently we operate from Al Sawahil Riding School on Mondays. We endeavor to expand our services to centers all over Oman.



Thank you to Mrs. Yoshiko Morimoto, spouse of HE Seiji Morimoto, the Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman, for hosting the AWG at her home for the the Hinamatsuri, Doll's Festival, and a Tea Ceremony. All the ladies had a enjoyable time and we are all grateful for the wonderful hospitality. Stay tuned for more pictures and full details in the next AWG newsletter!

AWG VOLUNTEERS

Thank You

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who have helped during our recent AWG events. Your time helped to make these events a huge success!

Thank you to all who contributed photographs and articles to this edition of the AWG Newsletter. If you have any events you would like to write about or photographs to submit for future editions, please submit to communications@awgoman.com.

MEMBERSHIP

A Note from Jillian:

If you know of anyone that still needs to join or is new to Oman and would like a membership, please ask them to contact me on membership@awgoman.com where I can arrange to meet with them.

Thanks!
Jillian
(Membership Coordinator)

Just in! A few tickets are still available for the Dhow cruise on March 10. Contact Katie McManus at secondvp@awgoman.com for more details and to purchase tickets!