



# American Women's Group

P.O. Box 393

Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos 115, Muscat

## Welcome! Honorary AWG President Sandy Schmierer



Hello, I am Sandy! I am new to the country, arriving with my husband, the new U.S. ambassador, about a month and a half ago from Washington, DC. We have been in the Foreign Service for almost 30 years and have spent most of our time overseas in Germany and Saudi Arabia. I have worked for the State Department for 12 years

and am currently on leave from my job in the Consular Affairs Bureau. I have a background in education and library information science. We have three grown children - two sons and a married daughter - who live in the U.S. and are planning to visit. Thanks to all of you for the wonderful welcome!

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Dear members,

It's been a very active start of the year for AWG! It's been great to see everyone and meet so many of the new members. I've already gotten to enjoy the Arabic etiquette class and luncheon, Meet the Chef at Vue by Shannon Bennett, the cooking group, a couple of newcomers meetings and our Halloween Party! Jillian did a great job on the Halloween Party - thank you Jillian and our sponsors: OAU, The Grand Hyatt, Vue by Shannon Bennett, and Silk Route. Congratulations to the prize winners! I hope many of you get to enjoy our upcoming activities and events for November and December. More on the Holiday Bazaar and our December luncheon in the rest of the newsletter! Thank you again to those who have been volunteering their time! As always, please keep your eye on the calendar at the AWG website for events/activities. Diane, our webmaster, has put a lot of time in making it easy for all of you to find out what is going on, and all the board members and interest group leaders email addresses, as well as all the ads/promotions from our members and business partners in the classifieds section of the website.. I also want to wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving, Eid Mubarak, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year! Cindy, AWG President

## Upcoming Events

### November 7, 2009: AWG Grand Spa Day!

RSVP to the Spa (Al Ghoubra) at 24613453. Free lunch is served for participants.

### November 13, 2009: Holiday Bazaar Al Noor Hall from 1-5 pm

(above Tavola Home Store and Silk Route, in Medina Plaza in MQ)

### December 2, 2009: Newcomers Meeting Al Madina Art Gallery at 10:00 am.

Are you new to Muscat? Please join us for a newcomers coffee morning hosted by Al Madina Art Gallery from 10am-12pm. Please RSVP to [Newcomers@awgoman.com](mailto:Newcomers@awgoman.com) as space is limited to the first 15 ladies.

### December 9, 2009: Amouage (perfume) Tour Amouage at 9:30am (approx 1 hr tour)

Amouage had released two new lines and would love to share them with the AWG. Tour followed by complimentary traditional Omani coffee and dates, and shopping, of course! This event is limited to 25! To reserve your spot, contact [secondvp@awgoman.com](mailto:secondvp@awgoman.com)

### December 13, 2009: Christmas Luncheon US Ambassadors Home at 10:00 am

The AWG December General Meeting will convene Sunday, December 13, at the home of Mrs. Sandy Schmierer, Honorary AWG President and wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Oman. The morning will feature Mrs. Eloise Bosch and her son, David Bosch, who will provide a slide show presentation (Power Point) of the past 50 years that Dr. and Mrs. Bosch have spent in Oman with their medical mission service. Not only does this presentation tell a personal story of commitment to health care in Oman, it is also a visual record of Omani growth and development over the years. This is a very interesting historical and cultural overview of a remarkable couple who were granted Omani citizenship in gratitude for their work here.

The meeting and presentation will also include a Christmas luncheon in the house garden. Menu will include: Poached Chicken Breast in Orange Cream Sauce, Shrimp Napoleon, Pasta Primavera, Rice Pilaf, Garden Salad, Fruit Salad, Chocolate Torte Cake and Take-Away Christmas Cookies. Cost: 8 OMR, AWG Members and their out-of town guests Only. Advance ticket purchase is required. Attendance is limited to 60 members. Purchase tickets for the December luncheon at the AWG November Holiday Bazaar, Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 p.m. at the Al Noor Hall in Madina Plaza in MQ above the Tavola home store. Look for the AWG table near the front stage. We look forward to a jolly start of the Christmas season with the AWG Christmas Luncheon. Plan on joining us!

### January 17, 2010: AWG General Meeting

Tentative plans are to have a variety of Muscat's charitable organizations come speak to AWG members and explain the nature of their charities and what projects they support to assist the needy in Oman. It would be helpful for members to attend this meeting as the membership will decide which charities to support with our year-end funds. Details on time and place will follow on the AWG website calendar.



*Annual Holiday Bazaar 2009*

1pm - 5pm  
13 November 2009  
Al Noor Hall  
Madinat Qabod

Members 2.000 RO  
Non-Members 3.000 RO  
Under 12's FREE

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 13, 2009 FROM  
1PM-5PM  
AL NOOR HALL - MQ

REVATI SANZAGIRI AND HER TEAM  
HAVE PUT TOGETHER AN  
AMAZING EVENT. YOU WON'T  
WANT TO MISS IT. ENTRY TICKETS  
AND RAFFLE TICKETS ARE  
AVAILABLE SOON



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

DECEMBER 13, 2009  
10:00 AM  
US AMBASSADORS HOME

FEATURE PRESENTATION BY ELOISE  
AND DAVID BOSCH, FOLLOWED BY  
A LUNCHEON IN THE HOUSE  
GARDEN. COST: 8 OMR,  
AWG MEMBERS AND THEIR OUT-OF-  
TOWN GUESTS ONLY.



## AWG GRAND SPA DAY!

November 7, 2009  
Grand Spa (Ghoubra)

10-20 % DISCOUNT ON MANY  
SERVICES. CALL NOW TO  
SCHEDULE! DON'T MISS OUT ON  
THIS, OFFER FROM AN AWG  
SPONSOR!

FREE LUNCH FOR PARTICIPANTS.

# WHAT WE ARE UP TO!

## Meet the Chef



Meet the Chef at Vue Restaurant  
(Top: Fish Tour with Josh)  
(Bottom: 2nd Class at Vue)

"Meet the Chef" cooking classes at VUE by Shannon Bennett in the Al Bustan Palace Hotel was a huge success! Over 30 ladies spent the day touring the fish market, learning how to scale & fillet their own fish, meeting new ladies, and of course eating a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies & the great chefs at Vue. A big thank you to Chef Josh and Dominique Lemercier, Manager, for a wonderful experience.

## Cooking Club

The cooking group had a wonderful time at their first meeting in October. They had a fantastic demonstration about cooking with sardines by one of the return members from last year. This is a lively group of women from different nationalities, so it looks

like a lot of fun to be had in the kitchen this year. The group meets once a month in the mornings at different members houses. One member does the cooking demo while another is the hostess. Everyone has a good time, eats, and gets to take home with them a new recipe and a full tummy. They will meet again on November 15th in the AM if anyone is interested in joining.



Cooking Group members work together

## AWG INTEREST GROUPS

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

# WHAT WE ARE UP TO! (CONT)

## Book Lovers' Group

A group of ladies have just started an evening book lovers' group, meeting once a month on a Sunday evening. The ladies take turns hosting each month and will be making the book list for the next six months at our meeting on 8 November. Each member nominates a book and whoever's book it is that month also hosts the meeting. The book lovers' group is a great way to meet new people, read different books and have a lively discussion with everyone's viewpoint. Everyone also gets a chance to talk about their lives and experiences in Oman. It is a lot of fun and good friendships are formed. Please contact AWG if you are interested in joining.

## Story Boarding

What is Story Boarding?  
Using your imagination and

intuition to create a picture of your future! Here we are selecting the pictures to place on the boards and later



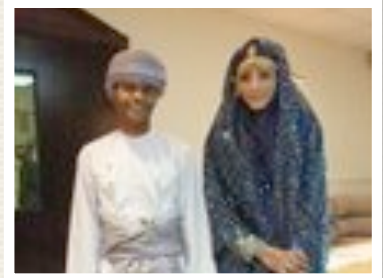
we each shared the story the pictures told. Be sure to come to a session to find out more!

## Arabic Etiquette Class/ Luncheon

We had more than 20 ladies come to the Arabic Etiquette class at the National Hospitality Institute (NHI). Toufiq Mohamed Al Ajmi gave a wonderful presentation and freely answered any and all questions asked of him. He explained the Arabic alphabet and helped members spell their names in Arabic and

answered many questions about attire, women's role in Omani society, marriage, and several other topics. We then had a delicious buffet of assorted Arabic foods in the lovely setting of NHI's dining room. They also gave everyone a souvenir picture and packet of classes available at NHI.

## ARABIC ETIQUETTE CLASS



## Mantra Boutique

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the AWG Exclusive Mantra Boutique Opening. Those who attended said it was a fabulous shop and had a wonderful time. Many enjoyed the exclusivity of shopping with only a few other customers and having things tailored to their specifications. Mantra is now open regular business hours on the first floor of the Fantastic Furniture bldg.

## AWG Photography Club

The AWG Photography Club is proud to present the 2010 AWG Charity Calendar. This desk-size calendar is printed in both English and Arabic with the week starting on Saturday, making it the perfect calendar for your desk at home or at the office. It is also the ideal gift for

family and friends this holiday season, as it is compact and great for mailing or carrying overseas. Not only is this calendar full of attractive Omani scenes taken by the AWG Photography Club, but all proceeds benefit charities in Oman. What a great way to give back to this beautiful country! Be sure to pick up your copy at the Al Madina Art Gallery, Turtles Bookstore, Family Bookshop, and the AWG Holiday Bazaar.



# WHAT WE ARE UP TO! (CONT)



Newcomers Meeting, Sept 09



Newcomers Meeting, Getting to know one another



Myca talks about life in Oman



Bait Zubair Entrance



Our tour guide discusses Oman at Bait Zubair Museum

## FACTS ABOUT OMAN

1. GEOGRAPHY: 309,500 SQ/KM - 70TH IN WORLD
2. HIGHEST POINT: JABAL SHAMS AT 2,980 M
3. POPULATION: 3,418,085 (INCLUDES 577,293 EX-PATS)
4. LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH: 74.16 YRS
5. MEDIAN AGE: 18.8 YRS
6. AIRPORTS: OMAN HAS 128, ONLY 10 PAVED
7. PIPELINES: GAS (4,126 KM), OIL (3,558KM)
8. ROADWAYS: 42,300 KM (16,500 KM PAVED)
9. INFLATION RATE: 12.5% (174TH IN WORLD) (2008)

### Newcomer's Meetings

Over 20 ladies attended the 1st AWG Newcomers Coffee morning on September 16 at Michele LaVigne's home. Fun was had by all as we introduced ourselves and got to know each other over a hot cup of coffee. Our speaker, Myca Craven, from the US Embassy, gave us helpful advice about the expat life in Muscat. We hope you can join us for the next Newcomers Coffee Morning on Wednesday, December 2 from 10am-12pm at Al Madina Art Gallery.

### October General Meeting Bait Zubair

We had a fabulous time at the beautiful Bait Zubair Museum and Coffee Shop. Over 45 women took the time to come out and meet Mrs. Schmierer, our honorary AWG president, enjoy coffee and sandwiches, and learn about this beautiful country of Oman. It was a wonderful event and we are grateful to all of those who hosted us at Bait Zubair. Be sure to make this a stop during your stay in Oman if you have not yet visited.

# The AWG Halloween Party!

Well, a good night was had by all that attended the AWG Halloween party on Thursday, October 28, 2009. I would like to pass along several "thank you" words to those who helped to make the evening a great success. So, THANK YOU to Kellie for the design of the tickets and flyers, Benny and staff at the Dolphin for great service, the hall and food, The DJ Capital F for fab music that kept us on the dance floor, Ajoy at OAU for donating 200 OMR worth of drink, which went down exceptionally well, Mary-Ann for helping sell tickets and her time on Thursday morning (with an added helper her Husband Richard), Billye for also helping to decorate the hall, Monica for her cookies, and Carol for brownies, cakes, sweets etc. All of your efforts were key to the wonderful time we all had!

Our Best Costume Contest was a huge success! 1st prize went to the Wizard of Oz couple, Dorothy and scarecrow, this couple won an overnight stay in the Grand Hyatt. 2nd prize went to Abba who won a meal for two at Vue by Shannon Bennett at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel, and 3rd prize went to Hugh Hefner and his bunny girl who were rewarded with a family meal at Silk Route. A big thanks to the businesses who provided the donations for the amazing prizes.

Cindy, thanks for selling tickets and thanks for giving me the opportunity to organize the party, I thoroughly enjoyed doing it, except for the hangover!!!!...roll on next year!!!!

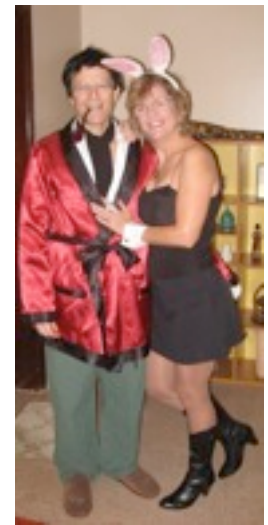
Jillian



1st Prize



2nd Prize



3rd Prize

Other great costumes!



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### A Note from Jillian



Hi everyone, I hope you are all enjoying the weather as it starts to cool down. I know my visitors from the UK loved Oman and the weather! I have now entered all members details into the data base, and I must say this was a lot harder than I thought it would be and a big learning curve for me. My computer skills are very limited and without the help of Diane our webmaster, I would not have had a clue. I would like to apologize to many of our members for not getting their details into the data base until recently.

If you know of a friend or neighbor that have still not began receiving e-mail, please tell them to e-mail me at [membership@awgoman.com](mailto:membership@awgoman.com) with their membership number and first and last name and e-mail address and I will correct it, there were alot I could not make out due to the handwriting and I will have made some errors.



Signing up a new member at Bait Zubair

### New Membership Sign-up

The next sign up date is at the Holiday Bazaar on the 13th of November, there will be sign-ups from 1pm-3pm at the door beside the admission table and the AWG table. I will not be able to be there, so if anyone can volunteer an hour or so I would really appreciate it.

Another sign up date will be scheduled in January after the Christmas holidays.  
(Date, time, and place TBA)

Enjoy the holidays!!!

Jillian

"We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend" –  
Robert Lewis Stevenson



## AWG VOLUNTEERS

# Thank You

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

### Bait Zubair General Meeting

Sylvie Martel

Ratna Cook

Judith Breckenridge

Lynn Shen

### Volunteers Needed! Holiday Bazaar

AWG needs you! We need to have some volunteers for the Holiday Bazaar (1 - 5pm on Nov. 13 - Al Noor Hall, MQ). We will need quite a few to do some of the following tasks: helping check in vendors in the morning (beginning at 10:30 am), taking admission, stamping hands, checking stamps (as attendees go in and out), selling AWG membership (from 1 - 3 only), selling raffle tickets, working at the AWG table selling items and admission to the December 13 luncheon and signing up members for other activities. Student volunteers are most welcome (for community service hours) and will be working alongside an adult volunteer. It will be fun and more convenient this year with the location in MQ. Rosie Groeneweg will be coordinating the volunteers - so please send her an email at [robnrose@hotmail.com](mailto:robnrose@hotmail.com) to let her know what time(s) you are available to help. Please email her by Sunday morning, Nov. 8 so we can be sure we have enough volunteers. (Several of you have already sent in an email saying you could help (thank you!), but please confirm this by emailing Rosie.)

Thank you in advance!

### NEEDED! AWG Website Designer!!!

Please contact Cindy at [awgmuscat@gmail.com](mailto:awgmuscat@gmail.com) for details!