



# American Women's Group

P.O. Box 393

Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos 115, Muscat

## Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone's holidays have gone well and I wish you all a happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year. I would like to thank the board and the volunteers for all the hard work they have done for AWG from the summer until now. Thank you to Sandra Schmierer, our Honorary President, for such wonderful support and for opening your home to us. Thank you Margaret for our general meetings (and for so many other things), Rani for being our treasurer, Katie for putting together such great events, Janette for the newcomers' meetings and the Meet the Chefs, Michele for many of the details that keep an organization together, Charlynn for our newsletters and mailings, Payal for our PR/marketing, Jillian for all the work involved in the Membership and the Halloween Party. Also, thank you to Diane who resigned as a board member, but who's work on the website we are all still enjoying. And most especially, thank you to Revati Sanzagiri (and her husband Nirmal and son) for all the hard work that went into the Holiday Bazaar. It was a wonderful event with lots of great raffle and lucky dip prizes from our sponsors whose help we are also very grateful for. I would also like

to thank the rest of the Holiday Bazaar Committee members: Natasha Rummelhoff (whose husband, Devon, was a great help as well), Debbie Sullivan who coordinated vendor arrivals and set-up, Rose Groeneweg (and her husband Robert), Debbie Green, and all the others who helped that day. It is through the help of volunteers that we are able to have such wonderful events and activities. Please everyone try to put a little time into volunteering for AWG in 2010. Everything from hosting a neighborhood coffee or activity or hosting an interest group to helping with a larger event helps AWG to meet our goals of fostering friendship, cultural understanding, and raising money for charity. Please remember, AWG is all of us, it is not just the board members. The board welcomes your input and involvement. Our First Vice President, Margaret Haas Hurtado, has worked hard to put together the January and February general meetings, details in this newsletter, and I hope to see you there. Let's have a great 2010!

Cindy Lundberg  
AWG President

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## AWG Notice!

The AWG website is currently outdated and will be updated as soon as a new webmaster is available. Unfortunately, the website aspect of the group has been difficult to maintain due to lack of personnel and software issues. We hope to renew the website in the next month after which we will be able to include a classified section and member business section. In the meantime, these types of advertisements will be distributed on a case-by-case basis and as time and space allows in weekly e-mails.

Thank you for your support!

## Upcoming Events

### January 17: AWG General Meeting

Cluttons Real Estate Hosts Breakfast

Qurum Beach Resort hotel

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cluttons Real Estate Group will host the AWG January meeting on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Cluttons will provide breakfast brunch for all AWG members and give us an overview of real estate options available in the Muscat metro area. We will also have a few charity organizations come speak to us; PETRA, the therapeutic riding center and The Center for Childhood Early Intervention.

Please RSVP with a quick email to [awg1stvp@gmail.com](mailto:awg1stvp@gmail.com) to Margaret Hurtado. This is no cost to members.

New membership sign-up will take place at this meeting if you have friends waiting to join.

**Beginning January 18:** Essence Spa will conduct a 4-week massage class for 60RO. Please contact [secondvp@awgoman.com](mailto:secondvp@awgoman.com) for more info or to reserve your space as soon as possible.

### Beginning January 24: Neighborhood Coffees

Are you interested in getting to know the ladies in/around your neighborhood? Please join us for the first neighborhood coffee and sign up to host/co-host in your home (rotating basis). Please contact the coordinator in your area and she will send you a map to her home. Hope to see you then.

### January 24: Homeopathic Talk

Wasat Al Balad Restaurant in Ghubrah

10 AM-11:30 AM

Directions will be sent to those who RSVP to [secondvp@awgoman.com](mailto:secondvp@awgoman.com) NLT 19 Jan 10. Members can purchase Arabic breakfast, pies and pastries along with coffee and juice at 10% discount.

### January 31: Evening Newcomer's Meeting and Tour

Bait Muzna Art Gallery

5:30-7 pm

RSVP to Janette at [newcomers@awgoman.com](mailto:newcomers@awgoman.com)

### February 14<sup>th</sup>, Sunday:

#### Botanical Gardens of Oman

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

We resume our second Sunday of the month meeting schedule in February on the 14<sup>th</sup>. AWG members will be hosted by the Botanical Gardens of Oman. Groups of 20 will be escorted through the Gardens with a guide. We can host as many members as desired; the groups of 20 will be simultaneous tours. Afterwards the Gardens staff will provide coffee and refreshments.

Please RSVP to [awg1stvp@gmail.com](mailto:awg1stvp@gmail.com) to Margaret Hurtado so she can provide the Botanic Gardens a head count. This is a free event to members.

## NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

BEGINNING JANUARY 24 IN YOUR AREA



AZAIBA AND AL GUBRAH - JANETTE AT  
[JANETTE.GILL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JANETTE.GILL@GMAIL.COM)

THE WAVE AND SEEB AREA - VERONICA AT  
[VBREIDER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VBREIDER@GMAIL.COM)

SHATTI-MICHELE AT [MICHELE.LAVIGNE@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:MICHELE.LAVIGNE@HOTMAIL.COM)

QURUM AND PDO - LENA AT  
[LENASARIHILL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LENASARIHILL@YAHOO.COM)

MQ AND AL ALAM - ADRIANA AT  
[ADRI\\_VARGAS007@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ADRI_VARGAS007@YAHOO.COM)

## AWG GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2010

10:00 AM - 12:00PM

QURUM BEACH RESORT HOTEL



PLEASE RSVP WITH A QUICK EMAIL TO [AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM) TO MARGARET HURTADO. SHE WILL NEED TO SUBMIT A HEAD COUNT TO CLUTTONS FOR THE BREAKFAST BRUNCH. THIS IS NO COST TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS MEETING IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS WAITING TO JOIN.

## AWG GENERAL MEETING!

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

BOTANICAL GARDENS



PLEASE RSVP WITH A QUICK EMAIL TO [AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AWG1STVP@GMAIL.COM) TO MARGARET HURTADO. SHE WILL NEED TO SUBMIT A HEAD COUNT TO THE GARDENS.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT TO MEMBERS

# WHAT WE ARE UP TO!

## Meet the Chef at NHI



Meet the Chef at NHI  
(Top: AWG Chef)  
(Bottom: Class Instruction)

Over 25 ladies enjoyed a fun morning of cooking and lunching at the National Hospitality Institute (NHI) in November. The knowledgeable instructors at NHI demonstrated how to make a festive holiday meal of roasted turkey with stuffing, gravy, and an apple crumble tart with custard sauce. The ladies then enjoyed a delicious sit-down Christmas meal served by the students at NHI. Thank you NHI for donating door prizes and a wonderful morning of food & fun to get us in the holiday mood! If you are interested in joining one of the many leisure courses available at NHI (from pasty to wine appreciation), please contact them at [businesscentre@nhioman.com](mailto:businesscentre@nhioman.com) or see their website at [www.nhioman.com](http://www.nhioman.com) . AWG

members receive 10% discount off lunch at NHI.



Christmas Decorations



Door Prize Winners

## 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<br>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)

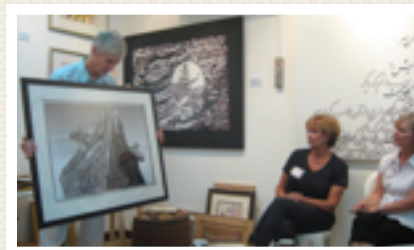
## Grand Mosque Tour

Monday, November 2, a group of ladies from The American Woman's Group participated in a private tour of The Grand Mosque. The women who participated in the tour learned a lot about the vast architectural beauty and the traditions behind The Grand Mosque. The stunning interior of the mosque was a great focus of the tour. It provided the women not only great photo opportunities but a wonderful backdrop to ask the very knowledgeable tour guide many questions. The AWG women had a wonderful time and walked away from the tour with a wealth of knowledge about The Grand Mosque.



## Newcomers Meeting

Over 30 ladies, new to Muscat, met in the home of Margaret Hurtado and Medina Art Gallery to meet new friends and learn more about life in our beautiful host country. The ladies also received a welcome gift bag filled with good information about Oman that was generously provided by the Ministry of Tourism. A big thank you also to Margaret for hosting our gathering in October. And our gratitude also goes out to Richard, owner of the art gallery, for speaking to us about "the art of framing." Don't forget that AWG members receive 10% off framing at Medina Art Gallery.



Do you know how to cook the perfect omelette? Now over 15 AWG members know how, thanks to the recent cooking demonstration by celebrity chef, Shannon Bennett of Vue at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel. After the very informative cooking demonstration by Shannon & head chef, Josh, the ladies enjoyed a wonderful lunch of mushroom omelette, roasted chicken & vegetables, and a caramel fruit tart. Following lunch, Shannon Bennett graciously signed his cookbooks and accepted an AWG Photography Charity Calendar as a token of our appreciation. We hope you can join us for the next Meet the Chef event soon.



## WHAT WE ARE UP TO! (CONT)



### AWG Luncheon and Donation to Library

The ladies of AWG gathered on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sandy Schmierer, wife of the U.S. Ambassador, to celebrate the holiday season. Featured guest speakers were Mrs. Eloise Bosch and her son, David Bosch, who presented a retelling of Dr. Donald and Eloise Bosch's medical missionary work in Oman since the 1950s. Through personal photographs, David Bosch, told the family story, but also provided a glimpse into the history of development in Oman. AWG attendees were fascinated by the oral history and accompanying photographs, and by the dedication of the Bosch family's lifelong commitment to the improvement of health care in Oman.

Also included in the day's events was a presentation of a check from AWG to the Children's Public Library fund in the amount of 2000 OMR. Ms. Shaika Tawqi was on hand to receive the check. The American Women's Group pledged this donation in conjunction with funds raised from its November Holiday Bazaar.

Despite the threat of rain, the lunch was held in the garden of the U.S. Ambassador's Residence before which the AWG members were treated to a viewing of the recent installation of art on loan from various Omani artists.

### Amouage Tour

Twenty-five women attended the Amouage Perfumery tour on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Upon our arrival we were treated with tea while we browsed around the showroom. We were then joined by our very informative guide who explained each fragrance informing us about the wide variety of natural ingredients in each. They had many of these ingredients in glass canisters which we could see and smell. We then went into the factory where she explained the process of making Amouage fragrances. Most interesting was the room where people were hand-bottling and making finishes touches on each product. After the tour we sampled the women's fragrances and had a hard time deciding which ones we wanted to purchase. They also carry a large line of men's fragrances and home products. Each lady left with a generous gift bag of samples from Amouage.

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# The AWG Holiday Bazaar!

The American Women's Group held its annual Holiday Bazaar on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Al Noor Hall in the Madina Plaza in Madinat Al Sultan Quaboos. Over ninety vendors and hundreds of participants attended. On display were many gift options of jewelry, clothing, perfumes, stationary, carpets, cosmetics, handbags, books, museum treasures, handicrafts, as well as charity organizations.

"AWG organizes the holiday bazaar for our members and the general community to come and shop for local Omani products to send to family members around the world. Our members are always happy to see the variety of goods available not only for the holiday season, but for use and enjoyment throughout the year," said Margaret Hurtado, AWG First Vice President. "We also depend on the great support of the sponsors who have so willingly and generously joined us this year."

Major sponsors of the event were Qatar Airlines, Oman Modern Electrics Company, Damas Jewelry, Golden Pearl Jewelry, My Jewelry, Family Jewelry, Grand Hyatt, Bahwan Holidays, Al Besat Furniture, Kazerooni Carpets, Sharp, Al Nahda Resort & Spa, Pane Caldo, and Al Maya International and Coca-Cola.

Raffle proceeds (2000 RO) were donated to the Children's Wing of the anticipated public library. Proceeds from the bazaar will be donated to local charities at the end of the AWG annual social season. "All of our efforts, which rely on our many volunteers, are intended to benefit local charities. We are grateful to the many hours and talents donated by our general membership and the board of directors who are the key to AWG's success," said Hurtado.

The American Women's Group is a non-profit, social organization. Memberships are available to women residents of Oman. Across the world, branches of the American Women's Group (AWG) promote friendship, goodwill, and introduce members to local cultures. In 1975, Mimmi Wolle, the US Ambassador's wife, brought 20 American women together, forming the nucleus of what was to become the American Women's Group (AWG) in Oman. Five years after its formation, membership was opened to all women residents in Oman. Today, the AWG has 700 members from 59 different countries. Membership enrollment will continue January, 17, 2010, at the AWG general meeting held at the Qurum Beach Resort. You are always welcome to join us, and learn more about us at [www.awgoman.com](http://www.awgoman.com).



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### A Note from Jillian



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the AWG members! I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season where ever

you celebrated it!!! Welcome to 2010. The next membership sign up will be on January 17 at the Qurum beach resort in Shatti between 10am-12pm. For people that may work during the day and can't make it please tell them to visit the website [awgmuscat@gmail.com](mailto:awgmuscat@gmail.com) and look for the membership link which is [membership@awgoman.com](mailto:membership@awgoman.com).

There are still a few members that are not receiving mail and not responding to communications that I've sent them. If you know of anyone not receiving weekly emails/news please tell them to get in touch with the above e-mail address. Looking forward to an exciting 2010 -dates for new member sign-ups will be announced shortly.

Jillian

### Attention to AWG Members Regarding the Use of the Membership Card for Discounts:

Because a minority of AWG members have lent their cards to non-member family members and/or friends for use of the discount, Kargeens Restaurant in MQ is canceling the use of the AWG discount at its establishment. The AWG Board has tried to rectify the situation with Kargeens, but they are not renewing with us. The AWG Board is disappointed not to be able to regain the agreement since we work hard to secure these vendors as members.

Please remember that your membership card is not transferable to secure discounts for family members or friends. This practice has cost us a favorite Discount Partner. We are happy to extend these company discounts to our members and expect that the discount practice is employed properly.

## 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!**

### AWG Bazaar

Gisele Futata  
Fernada Futata  
Joana Serqueira  
Luis Filipe  
Robert Groeneweg  
Fabio Costa  
Maria Francisca Guimares  
Montenegro  
Yara Avila  
Rosana Benzarini  
Rasha  
Darlene Wilson  
Kathy Mathis  
Katrina Hoffman  
Michele La Vigne  
Janette Gill  
Nina Khani  
Kate Pattarini  
Dimple Barnes  
Coreen Remedios  
Monica Ens  
Veronica  
Heidi Natasson  
Devin(husband Natasha)  
Rani  
Katty Mac  
Isabella Avila  
Ana Luiza Barezani  
Isabela Montenegro  
Debbie Sullivan  
Natash Rummelhof  
Jose Dias  
ABA Student Volunteers  
TAISM Student Volunteers  
Ricco  
Basheer  
Heidi

### Chocolate Hazelnut Torte Recipe (AWG luncheon)

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ¾ cup unsalted butter, plus more or pan                 | (240 ml)          |
| Unsweetened cocoa powder for pan and dusting            |                   |
| 1 cup currants (optional)                               | (300 ml or 113 g) |
| ½ cup hot water   | (160 ml)          |
| 1 and 1/3 cups heavy cream                              | (400 ml)          |
| 16 oz. (1 lb. or 2 cups) bittersweet chocolate, chopped | (454 g)           |
| 6 large eggs  |                   |
| 1 cup sugar   | (300ml)           |
| ¼ teaspoon salt   | (2.4 g)           |
| 1 ½ cups finely chopped hazelnuts (6 ½ ounces)          | (700 ml)          |

Preheat oven to 225 degrees F. Butter an 8 ½ inch spring form pan, sprinkle with cocoa, and tap out excess. In a small bowl let currants soak in the hot water for 10 minutes, drain.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring cream and butter almost to a boil, making sure all butter is melted. Place chocolate in medium heatproof bowl, and pour the cream over to cover. Whisk until chocolate is melted and combined.

In a medium bowl whisk together eggs, sugar, and salt. Whisk into chocolate mixture and stir in nuts and currants. Pour mixture into prepared pan.

Bake until edges are set and center is still a little soft to the touch, about 2 hours. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Cover with plastic wrap and chill overnight in the refrigerator. When ready to serve, remove from refrigerator, dust with cocoa powder, remove from pan and cut thin slices. Wipe blade between cuts and maybe coat with a small amount of vegetable oil to avoid tearing the torte while slicing.