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From the Director's Desk

A Spring of Changes

The WSB Board of Directors would like to thank Lisa Ouazzani for her service as WSB Director. Lisa is stepping down from the Directorship, but will remain involved with the WSB in the capacity of a Board member.



The WSB Board extends a warm welcome to our newly appointed Director, Arsh Rizvi. In 2010, Arsh left Atlanta, GA, USA and moved to Riyadh. With her two children in tow, Arsh was apprehensive to move from the city in which she was born and raised. Nevertheless, keeping the family unit together was a priority for her and her husband - no matter where. When Arsh first arrived in Riyadh, adjusting her two sons - four years old and eighteen months, to their new home was her

main focus. However as time passed and they became full time students, Arsh searched for ways to channel her efforts into causes outside of her family.

Initially, Arsh used her time in Riyadh to develop herself personally. She has discovered a renewed passion for personal health and fitness. Also, while living in the Middle East, Arsh and her family travelled extensively in the Arab region and the world at large. Riyadh, serving as a central home-base, they have taken many road trips as far north as Jordan and as far south as Oman. When asked about why travelling is so important to her, Arsh said, "We enrich our mind and spirit when we expose ourselves to different cultures."

Arsh, a graduate from a Women's college has always believed in promoting women's empowerment and opportunity. Before moving from Atlanta, Arsh worked for a leading US healthcare company and later volunteered extensively in a community service-based capacity. Arsh recently completed the certification to teach English as a foreign language to university students. Given Arsh's background and professional experience, she was thrilled to accept the offer of WSB Director.

"Supporting women and helping them advance in any positive capacity is a cause that is close to my heart," Arsh said when asked about her new role. "During my time in Riyadh, I have attended WSB events.

..... Continued on next page

I have long admired the WSB's commitment to the Riyadh expat community. I am excited and privileged to work for this organization."

Arsh's main goals for 2014 include:

- Incorporate more skill building workshops for the WSB community
- Fine tune the WSB website to be more effective and efficient
- Identify and advertise volunteer activities for the WSB community
- Help provide a better understanding of the ever-changing sponsorship laws and regulations

Feel free to contact Arsh on director@wsb-ksa.com.

Arsh Rizvi
WSB Director

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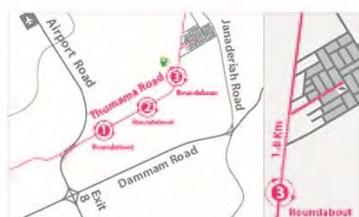
ادكس كمباوند

Adding More to life

Welcome to Adex Compound, an exclusive 80 units gated complex strategically located on Riyadh's new growth corridor close to the intersection between Airport road and Thumama exit road. Adex Compound is a vibrant community enjoying superb features and services. Exquisite Riviera style town houses and apartments are arranged amid landscaped gardens and the emphasis is on living in a location which overflows with pleasant surroundings.

Designed as a master planned community, Adex Compound will offer exclusive amenities for residents which include landscaped swimming pools and decks, gymnasiums, mini sports courts, indoor and outdoor kids play areas, day care, 24 hour secured community, on-site maintenance, restaurant and banquets halls, shisha lounge and coffe shop, shopping areas, parks with walkways.

Combining luxury living with Western lifestyle and comfort, Adex Compound will provide the perfect answer to the needs of both families and working professionals.



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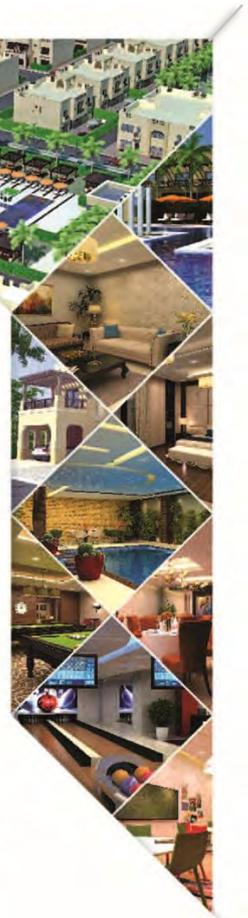
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Register and Prepay for the WSB Skills Building Workshop at the upcoming Kingdom Coffee Morning

WSB invites you to our

Women's Professional Skills Building Workshop

**Anna-Marie Watson,
a Certified International Coach will
conduct a workshop to hone your skills
in**

**Effective Networking
CV Improving
Optimizing your use of Social Media**

On Wednesday, April 16, 2014
9:30am – 12pm

Registration starts at 9:15am

Prepayment: 60SR

Pay at Door: 80SR

To reserve your space, email events@wsb-ksa.com by
April 10th.

Please bring a copy of your CV to the workshop. For more
information about Anna-Marie Watson, please visit

moreisinyou.org

Breakfast will be catered by Crepe Cart

From one Family Tree to Another

Written by Marjory Woodfield

"It would be a whole lot less confusing," the woman beside me said to the others of our compound book group, "if every second person wasn't called either Henry or Elizabeth." I had to agree with her. We were looking at a Wikipedia print-out of a family tree for the York and Lancaster families, linked to the English War of the Roses (1455 - 1485). The family tree, with all its Henrys, Elizabeths as well as a large number of Richards, was critical to our study of Josephine Tey's novel, *Daughter of Time*. In this book the main character, a detective called Alan Grant, decides to investigate Richard III and the murder of the two young princes in the Tower of London.

It set me thinking about the Saudi monarchy. If the family tree in front of me was confusing, how much more must be the Saudi royal family line. I remember visiting Janadriya a couple of years ago and coming across an Al Saud family tree.



You realize the difficulty of creating something like this when you consider the extent of the Al Saud family. Muhammad bin Saud (1744 – 66) is considered the founder of the Al Saud dynasty, so I suppose he'd be at the very top. A little further down would be King Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud, the first monarch of the modern state of Saudi Arabia. He ruled from 1932 to 1953 and it's estimated that he had at

least 22 wives and 45 sons. King Saud, his oldest son who succeeded him, ruled from 1953 to 1964. He's reported to have had 53 sons and at least 54 daughters. Consequently the royal family now numbers in the thousands, with the majority of power being held by just a small proportion of this group.

So on one hand, it's easy to see that the sheer size of the Al Saud family makes pictorial representation difficult. And on the other, there's the challenge of the different titles and names given to Saudi royalty. When I first arrived and heard mention of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, I was totally mystified. Now I know that this replaces the title 'His Majesty' and the two mosques are Al-Masjid al-Haram at Mecca and Al-Masjid al-Nabawi at Medina. Then there's the fact that the title, His or Her Royal Highness, is only given to children and grandchildren of King Abdulaziz, while all other descendants of Muhammad bin Saud or his brothers with the surname Al Saud, may be referred to as His or Her Highness.

And just to keep you still on your toes, thinking wise, the line of succession here is nothing like the English royal family tree, where I began my writing. Before he died, King Abdulaziz established an order of succession which has seen the throne passing from one son to the next oldest. So the five kings who have held power since his death, up to the present day King Abdullah, have all been his sons. There's an obvious consequence of such an order; most of King Abdulaziz's surviving sons are now in their eighties so there will be a point in time when a third generation of the Al Saud family takes power.

Ironically, as I delved deeper into the Saudi dynasty, I discovered that the same names kept cropping up. But this time it wasn't Henry or Elizabeth or Richard. It was names like Abdullah or Abdulaziz. Same confusion; different dynasty.

Because much of this is very dry and hard to get one's head around, I'm going to make a suggestion. Al-Musmak fort is the spot where King Abdulaziz took control of Riyadh in 1903, eventually ousting the Rashid family. The story of his conquests and bravery are told inside. It's history made visible. It's worth a walk through.

History is much more palatable when it can be seen and experienced.



“Out of Mall” Retail Review

Written by Jan Thompson



NAME Taif Orphan Welfare Charity
ADDRESS Al-Hashem Street, Khalidiya district - JEDDAH

Go west along Rawdah St, between Prince Sultan and King's Roads. Take the second turn right after Danube supermarket, just in front of Al-Badriya Towers. Go to the end of the road and the villa will be in front of you. It has a blue sign in Arabic

GENRE Thrift shoppers and good Samaritans

SUIT People who want to support a wonderful Charity and who are interesting in getting a bargain.

In 2000 a local Saudi woman was troubled by the circumstances of poor people in Jeddah and felt compelled to help. She believed they needed real assistance; her vision was not just to give money but to provide goods and services. Through the generosity of friends the Thrift shop began its good work and over time has helped more than 4,000 orphans. This may be recycling but it is the glamorous end of the business.

Fast-forward to today, the shop has moved location a few times and its current home is a 2 level villa with different rooms containing a range of goods. For example the downstairs lounge room contains furniture and lounge items, next door might be filled with just arrived Persian carpets, further along the hall are books, children's toys and men's clothing.

There is a bargain basement, and a mid range department where a quality shirt might cost SAR 10. The ladies only second floor was my destination where behind a locked door were designer icons designed to make your wallet spring open.

Hanging, draped and arranged was a wonderland of original designer merchandise. Sunflower yellow Dior shoes, Jimmy Choo's strappy sandals, Valentino stilettos in fawn, Fendi, Gucci and Valentino bags in amazing condition all window dressed into a tempting display of luxury. Armani overcoats, Lacroix silk shirts, ball gowns that screamed Hollywood, even designer abayas just waiting for that must have purchaser.

Sadly none of the shoes fitted me. My weakness is bags and I saw lots of them. I did pass on the Valentino at SAR 500; I do still think about it though. But I am consoled by a gorgeous Fendi bag.

Customers are mainly women; some visit daily looking for that special bargain or that luxury treasure. For me I will visit again when I am next in Jeddah and be happy knowing I can contribute to making someone's life better.

Hours	Sat to Thur	0900 to 2000
	Fri	1600 to 2000

Job Opportunities

Please click the job title below for the official job posting.

More opportunities can be found on the job board located on the WSB website.

[Gallery Manager & Curatorial Assistant](#)

[Associate Copywriter English/Arabic](#)

[German to English Translator](#)

[Accounting Assistant](#)

[Girl Scout Troop Leader](#)

Inspiring women: Kay Danes

Written by Leanne Mills



Name: Kay Danes

Nationality: Australian

Lived in KSA: Married with three adult children (21, 25, 27) and one grandson

Moved to KSA: 2012

On 23 December 2000, Security Manager Kerry Danes and his wife Kay Danes were abducted in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Spirited away to one of the world's then most secret prisons, they were detained alongside scores of forgotten political prisoners. During 11 months of unlawful detention, Kerry and Kay were subjected to torture, mock executions and a wrongful conviction, and were caged in sub-human conditions, until eventually they were released through high-level diplomatic Government intervention. Since that ordeal, Kay Danes has become one of Australia's best known human rights and social justice advocates.

In March 2014, Kay was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through promoting social justice and human rights. She is an exceptional volunteer; dedicating her life to humanitarian endeavours, cultural awareness and harmony, human rights and social justice. She is committed to improving the human condition through life-saving projects aimed to alleviate suffering, while supporting and contributing to the basic human dignity of bridging communities through cultural and ethnic awareness. She assists a number of non-profit groups throughout Australia, the Middle East and SE Asia, to further the focus on community development, health, education and poverty eradication. Before moving to Riyadh, Kay was the Australian Liaison for the Childlight Foundation for Afghan Children for over five years.

Kay is the bestselling author of three highly acclaimed books: *Families Behind Bars* (2008 & second edition 2011), *Standing Ground* (2009) and *Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa* (2010). She is currently completing her Masters in Human Rights (International Affairs) through distance education with Curtin University (Western Australia).

What brought you here to the Kingdom?

My husband's work brought me to Saudi Arabia; he works with an Australian group in business administration. We were initially contracted for only two years but decided to extend for a third year. The decision to come to the Kingdom was an easy one for us, but it was difficult to leave family and friends behind.

How are you occupying your time while in Riyadh? Are you applying your humanitarian work experience within the Kingdom?

Since coming to Riyadh, I've had a wonderful time simply exploring the city and sights, getting to know the people, the language, customs and culture. I've undertaken some amazing trips throughout the country and in the region. It's been a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand how life actually is here, as opposed to the varying perceptions formed from outsiders who have never visited the Kingdom.

My time here has been most enjoyable and I feel truly grateful for the opportunity of living here. Everyone I've met has been welcoming and willing to share their experiences.

I've also been fortunate to have visited many historical sites in the region thanks to Salwa at Haya Tours; the railway of Lawrence of Arabia and the archaeological site of Al-Hijr (Madâin Sâlih) were high on my list of favourite places to visit

in Saudi.

I'm learning a great deal about the relevance of Human Rights development in Saudi Arabia. Many westerners are surprised to learn that the Kingdom actually has a Saudi Human Rights Commission. This was founded on 27 June 2012, in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As an academic and a woman, I find it quite exciting to observe the ongoing discourse between the Human Rights Council and the Saudi Government. There seems to be a real willingness to exchange ideas and, particularly in the last five years, there have been modest reforms that have impacted on women's rights.

In May 2013, a Saudi woman became the first woman in her country to climb Mount Everest. And early this year (2014), the Government granted permission for the very first Saudi woman law firm, to represent Saudi women on issues relating to labor cases and business disputes. I personally feel encouraged that such conversations are taking place, and are being conducted peacefully.

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Inspiring women: Kay Danes

Written by Leanne Mills

What do you most enjoy about living/working in Riyadh?

Given the large expatriate community in Riyadh it's easy to get very busy with work, study or social networking. I do a great deal of my humanitarian work online and, with less distractions than I would face back home in Australia, I've also been completing my Masters degree. This 'time out' period in Riyadh has enabled me to update my academic qualifications to match my life/work experiences. There are many opportunities here if you apply yourself and certainly if you have skills then you can take advantage of those opportunities or create new ones, whether in employment or through volunteerism.

For me, I still like the excitement that comes with aid work, and since Saudi is centrally located, I'm not that far from any humanitarian work that I might undertake either in the Kingdom or elsewhere.

What are you reading at the moment?

I was recently sent a signed copy of Irish political leader Gerry Adam's biography *Hope and Peace*. It's an interesting read on how the peace process began in Ireland. There is much we can learn from history. I find myself drawn to the real lives and adventures of people so I'm more of a non-fiction girl. I love to read anything that inspires.

What have been the challenges you have faced here?

I suppose the main challenge for me is being away from family and friends but technology (skype/VOIP) and social media (facebook) ease communication to some degree. It is somewhat more challenging to keep up-to-date with all the local news back home, since most of the news here is regionally focused, but I can't really say that there's been anything challenging about living in Saudi. I've always viewed life as an adventure. I think it helps if you have an open mind and a willingness to learn new things. Working around prayer times can be unfamiliar but this is the life here and you just have to be a bit more prepared when you want to go somewhere or do something. It is what it is.

It is International Women's Day on 8th March. How will you spend the day?

UN Women will release a new song, "One Woman" that was especially created to commemorate this year's International Women's Day. In the digital age, we can click and share and make a valuable contribution to gender equality, no matter where we are in the world. So aside from participating in the IWD celebrations online, I also intend to participate in ensuring my support to UN Women by sharing the link: song.unwomen.org. Tweet to spread the word about the "One Woman" song at #OneWoman.

What are you working on at the moment?

I am currently involved in a number of online campaigns, outside my academic study. I am helping to create awareness to improve Indigenous literacy across Australia, one community at a time, through the "Wall of Hands Campaign". This is

an important initiative to help Indigenous kids learn to read and write. I do this through the Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation.

I also have a campaign that creates awareness to support the education of Sierra Leone girls through the "Do It In a Dress Campaign". It's an initiative that aims to help change the lives of the 60 million girls who aren't in school in Sierra Leone.

This year, I am planning a 'Blankets & Books' online campaign to raise funds to provide some basic necessities to orphaned Jordanian children.

And given that I have many friends in the Australian Defence Force, I am also campaigning for the 'Soldier On' charity that provides direct assistance to the Australian men and women who have been wounded, physically or mentally, in the service of their country.

What are your personal / professional goals over the next 12 months?

Over the next twelve months I am focused on completing my Masters degree which I hope will expand my knowledge of International Affairs in the region; and celebrating Saudi Women, their challenges and achievements. This is my main priority at the moment. But I also hope to travel more and see as much of the Kingdom as I can before finally returning home to Australia.

What's the one bit of advice that someone has given you that you've realized was priceless?

I have so many friends who have given me advice over many years. Many of whom are themselves, empowered and inspiring women. But my friend and fellow author, Karen Phillips, did something amazing that I was fortunate to be part of. She compiled a book "Women's Words of Wisdom, Power and Passion" to which she invited 50 influential women in Australia, myself included, to share their inspiring insights about life in general. It's a very special book that encourages women to never doubt their power, their strength or their endurance and capability to succeed. To me this book is priceless! (<http://www.womenswords.com>)

I also have a friend who once told me; "It's better to wear out than rust out". The key to surviving Saudi is to get busy and to get involved. Do that and you'll soon find life here a wonderful adventure and oddly, find yourself referring to Saudi as *home*!

You can read more about Kay's inspiring work at <http://www.kaydanes.com>.

Desert Gardening

A monthly column dedicated to the unique challenges of gardening in Riyadh

Written By Nabers Cabaniss Johnson

What is that tree?

In large planters it adorns the base of Kingdom Center and lines many a Riyadh wall, dark green foliage trimmed neatly into spirals, cones or globes. In magnificent topiary it decorates every major street in town. Left to follow its own yearnings, it towers over villa walls, branching widely and bearing course clumps of seeds.

Called *Conocarpus* by botanists, its common name is Button Mangrove, so named because of its button-like seeds, though it is not a true mangrove. Arabs call it *Damas*. Evergreen and exuberant, it thrives in Riyadh's desert cityscape like few others, able to withstand drought, salinity, heat, merciless sun and nutrient poor soil. Left unpruned it provides luscious shade and habitat for doves, bulbuls and other avian friends. It is an excellent windbreak.



Conocarpus pruned into energetic spirals.

Conocarpus is a newcomer to Riyadh, having gained prominence only in the past 10-15 years. One species of *Conocarpus* originated in Florida while another is native to Yemen. It is unclear which rules the streets of Riyadh. Bedouins use the foliage of the Yemeni species for goat and camel feed and its

wood for firewood, charcoal and even furniture. It is now a common feature of streets throughout the Gulf, as well as Karachi and parts of East Africa.

Is there any reason **not** to plant this tree? Indeed there is! Think carefully before you act. Lovely on streets and in containers, planted in gardens it is a menace. Like some monster in a science-fiction horror story, its fast-growing roots invade wells, damage walls and break pipes. I learned this in our early months in Riyadh when our water supply one day abruptly ceased. Our intrepid gardener opened the well to find the entire space filled with *Conocarpus* roots. Since we removed the offending tree from within our garden, the much larger *Damas* beauties outside the wall have thus far failed to launch a successful invasion.

Conocarpus wins any botanical survivor-man competition hands-down. Very little can be grown beneath it; its enthusiastic roots absorb all available space and water. I am exploring what can be grown beneath it as a ground cover; yuccas, aloes and crown of thorns survive as underplantings. I might yet surrender and cover the remaining soil with gravel.

In Dubai and Abu Dhabi a campaign began two years ago to remove *Conocarpus* from some compounds and neighborhoods, including Arabian

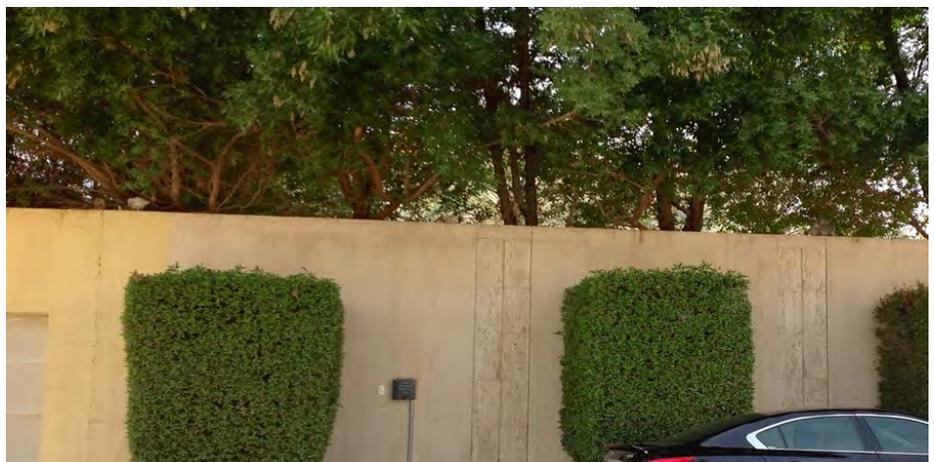
Ranches and Emirates Living. This was in response to the damage the tree had inflicted on pipes, pools and walls. In other areas of the Gulf *Damas* is being planted with abandon.



In its natural form, with course seed pods, dense shade and great height.

To plant or not to plant? My garden and many of the streets of Riyadh would be barren, sun-baked spaces without it. Every day I look with admiration at the trees whose foliage extend above our villa wall in a towering screen of waving green, and admire their tenacity.

Inside the wall? Never again.



Outside the wall, *Conocarpus* is in tidy topiary form. Inside and towering above the wall is the tree in its natural state, creating a shady forest.

Restaurant Review

Written by Jan Thompson



NAME	Zaater w Zeit
ADDRESS	Tahliya Street (north side, one block east of The Goodship Lollypop)
CUSIINE	Fresh Wholesome
SUIT	Friends and Families great for lunch
STYLE	Casual and relaxed, informal
COST	Lunch for eight, SAR 300 to 400

Exterior has clean branding with an outdoor singles space fringed by shrubs. Neutral entry into a clean and grey industrial colour scheme with large Black and White photographic prints each with a small hand coloured section gives a modern edgy feel. There is a choice of lounge or chair seating with private dining available. The different chair styles and colours are a bit of fun, as if they didn't take themselves too seriously.

Service was prompt, place mats and menus appeared quickly and there were lots of images easy to read print giving clear explanations. We all ordered from different selections of the menu, which was great, it felt like a preview for next time.

Teasers, 8 salad choices, Manakeesh (a signature dish) is a combination of freshly baked dough seasoned with herbs, spices or toppings made thick or thin, you can even choose multi cereal dough or add on a fresh vegetables plate if you are watching your weight.

I chose a baked falafel specialty wrap with a side salad of fattoush. The wrap was generous, fresh and delicious and the salad was OK; I personally would have liked more tomato but that is being picky.

Someone else ordered the Zooza salad, which looked great, lots of colour and a large serve. Pizzas were available and pan dishes with eggs, haloumi or vegetables. It seems to be an all-day menu.

None of us had deserts but the mint lemonade was cool and not too sweet. There were fresh juices and the usual sodas.

Takeaway is available for all the above with the expectation of the pan dishes.

It was busy, so if you eat there at night you might have to wait. For lunch it was great, quick if you wanted, or relaxed if you were with friends.

Staff were attentive and helpful, ambience was light and lay-back.

Hours	Sat to Thu	0800 – 0130
	Fri	0800 – 1000 reopen 1300 - 0130



Do you have a special skill?

Would you like to meet new people?

The WSB is seeking women volunteers to help with various projects. Whether leading one of our workshops, writing for our monthly magazine, or helping spread the word at coffee mornings there is an opportunity for everyone who would like to assist us.

For more information contact us at newsletter@wsb-ksa.com.

To the top of the world ... The last leg on the Friendship Highway

Written by Jan Thompson

Delighted you are still with us. I know it may have seemed long-winded but here we are almost at the end and as they say, "I save the best for last". Adventurers, I hope you have packed warm clothes and your walking poles for this the final leg of our 5,000 kilometre (3,000 mile) road trip from Shanghai to the Tibet-Nepal border.

With one last memory-etching backward glance to the Potala Palace we head off from Lhasa bound for Shigatse visiting Yamdrok Lake, Karika Glacier and Palkhor Monastery. Fancy a picnic by a freshwater lake, one of four sacred holy lakes in Tibet? According to local mythology, Yamdrok Lake is the transformation of a goddess. The Tibetan people consider mountains and lakes sacred; they are the dwelling places of protective deities and therefore are invested with special spiritual

powers. Stopping for a roadside coffee at Gampa Pass gives the opportunity to marvel at the Karika Glacier. Famed as the 'The Ice Queen', this scenery is big, you can almost touch it and your neck crinks as you gaze up to its full height of 5,560 metres. Palkhor Monastery at Gyantse, which can be traced back to the ninth century, has nine-tiers containing 108 gates and shrines. It is also known as the 'Ten Thousand Buddha Pagoda' as there are literally 10,000 figures of Buddha celebrated in the chapels, shrines or as murals in the pagoda. Shigatse is dominated by the 15th century Tashilunpo Monastery which is the largest active monastic institution in Tibet. More than 700 monks in maroon robes seem to be everywhere, going about their daily chores and praying, surrounded by yak butter candles which create a warm ambience. Founded by the First Dalai



Lama in 1447 and since expanded it now covers an area of nearly 300,000 square metres.

Although the architecture of the monasteries catches the eye, domestic buildings along the way have their own distinctive features.

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To the top of the world ... The last leg on the Friendship Highway

Written by Jan Thompson



Many of the houses and dwellings are built on elevated, sunny sites facing south from a mixture of rocks, wood, cement and earth. Little fuel is available for heating or lighting so flat roofs conserve heat and multiple windows let in sunlight. Walls are usually sloped inwards at 10 degrees as a precaution against frequent earthquakes. Tibetan homes are generally whitewashed on the outside and beautifully decorated inside.



Although there were many interesting stops along the way, the 5,000 kilometre marker from Shanghai on the Friendship Highway almost passed unnoticed because 'Everest' was not too far away and that was now our focus. Mount Everest on the border of Nepal and Tibet at 8,840 metres (nearly 30,000 feet) high is truly the 'Top of the World'. Our original plan

was to spend a night at Base camp, just under five miles from Everest. But like all best laid plans, nature conspired against us and a hurricane in the Indian Ocean affected weather patterns in the region. The result was Base Camp was snowed in and closed for several days due to metres and metres of snow, so fellow explorers, we go to Plan B.



Driving through the Qomolangma National Nature Preserve with its beautiful cloud of flags was a wow moment, almost there so now I was "excited".

The amended itinerary was to drive past the turn-off to Base Camp and see what we could see. The planets must have been aligned because around one uneventful corner there she was, just poking her summit above the cloud line like a white pyramid, in all her glory Mt. Everest.



Everest is called Chomolungma in Tibet which means 'Mother Goddess of the Universe'. In Nepal it is Mt. Qomolangma or 'Goddess of Mountain' ... mysterious, magical and incredibly spiritual. It has intrigued all kinds of people with its aura. Pilgrims trek long distances to present a pious worship, climbing enthusiasts run great risks to challenge its high altitude while common visitors yearn for a reverent look at this holy peak. This is what we were now seeking as second prize. The prize was a further 40 kilometres along the road just as we approached Tingiri. Cruising down a long wide valley I glanced left and my heart skipped a beat, unshrouded was the 'Goddess of Mountain' framed by folds of earth and cloudless blue.

Huge, white and immense, I will never forget the moment; it was like being struck by a force of nature. Everest became my sole focus; I could not look away, transcended by its spiritual presence.

..... Continued on next page



To the top of the world ... The last leg on the Friendship Highway

Written by Jan Thompson



Western climbing parties have attempted this peak since 1924, because "it was there". Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and the New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary using the southwest route were first first to reach the summit of Mount Everest in May 1953.

Sherpas, the local people who live in the foothills of Mount Everest are known for their skills as mountain guides. They believe Mt. Everest and its flanks are blessed with spiritual energy and one should show reverence when passing through this sacred landscape. Here, the karmic effects of one's actions are magnified, and impure thoughts are best avoided. The top of Everest is covered with snow all year. In May and November each year, the jet stream moves north causing the winds to calm and temperatures to warm. This summit window is the ideal aperture for people to climb to the peak. At other times the wind can howl at over 200 kilometres (120 miles) per hour.

Climbing Mount Everest comes with a hefty price tag: for guides, equipment, Sherpas, porters, oxygen, permit, fees and support at Base Camp, the cost is around £30,000 per person. Climbers must also show proof of funds to pay for helicopter evacuation if necessary.

A single supplemental oxygen bottle costs £300 and as many as five are often needed to attempt a climb. There are 18 different climbing routes on Everest and an expedition takes at least 40 days in order for the body to adjust to the high altitude.

We were just visiting but had the extremely good luck to see Everest in situ; raw, beautiful, natural and unadorned. I now understand the magnetic attraction for mountaineers.



The rest of our journey was a long and snowy traverse followed by a rather hair-raising descent to the Nepal border then a slow winding narrow track past many villages to Kathmandu.

Even today when I look at the photographs I took of Everest I am ener-

gised. Although this thoroughfare may not be for everyone I can honestly say this was a fantastic action-packed quest, hard on occasions, certainly in the class of an adventure.

Adventurers, get your visas, pack your bags and enjoy the 'Top of the World'.



Author: Jan Thompson

E-mail: jan@pcandjt.com

The Results Are In!

Written by Lisa Ouazzani

Last month, we asked you, the WSB members, to give us your opinion on the direction of the organization's programs. The survey results revealed a lot about our community, your needs, and desires about the path of our future services. WSB will use this information to better serve you.

So, here's what we learned...

- 31% of the survey respondents are Employed, 14% are Business Owners, and 55% are Unemployed.
- 38% are looking for employment, whether they are currently employed or not.
- The desire to Work at the place of employment (both Full time and Part time) accounted for 39% of the respondents, while 31% wish to work from home.
- Many respondents indicated that they are currently freelancers or would like freelance and project-based consulting work.
- 84% replied that you would recommend WSB events to your friends. That's fantastic news! We hope to see you all at our future events.
- We asked you to rank the types of events you would like WSB to host. The number 1 rated type of event requested by all respondents was the WSB Opportunities Fair. The second most requested event type was Skills-building Workshops. Networking events were the third most requested followed by Social/Casual events and lectures.
- 55% of the respondents prefer events to be hosted in the morning, while 45% prefer evening events.
- We asked you on which topics you would like us to focus. The majority of respondents prefer events focused upon networking and making connections. The second most requested topic was 'Starting and Running a Home-based Business'. The last two topics, Skills Building and Orientation to Riyadh, were equally requested in third place.
- 91% of respondents read the WSB monthly news magazine.
- We asked which sections you find most useful in the newsletter. In first place is the Calendar of Events, followed by Inspiring Female articles, Highlighted Job Opportunities, Home-based business articles, Restaurant and Shopping reviews in that order.
- You told us you would like to see articles about these topics:
 - Information about the working environment for females and sponsorship guidelines for different sectors.
 - Articles from Employers with information about their hiring needs and positions available to expatriate females.
 - Details about integration into Riyadh for new residents as well as recommendations for organizations and venues.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our survey results. We will take this feedback into consideration going forward!

Is writing a passion for you? Do you have ideas for the WSB Magazine? Do you want to contribute to the most valuable magazine in town for expatriates?

Then join our staff of volunteer writers! The WSB is currently seeking volunteers who enjoy exploring, meeting new people, and have an interest in sharing their stories through written word.

Prior writing experience and communication skills preferred.

If interested, please send a writing sample to Inge at newsletter@wsb-ksa.com

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iman.staab@gmail.com

Home Business Corner

A brief insight into WSB readers' home-based businesses

Interview and article by Leanne Mills



Lapourpre Online Store

Name: Lamyia Alsaber

Nationality: Saudi

Business created: 2012

Can you tell us about you and your business?

I'm 22 years-old, a designer and the founder of a small online store called *Lapourpre*, the French word for purple and my favourite colour! The main products I design and manufacture are makeup bags, pouches and handbags which are made from traditional old Saudi fabric; heavy cotton that would be worn around the head or used for bedding. If you've been to the Janadriyah Festival, then you would have seen this fabric everywhere! I hand paint my own designs onto the bags. I also hand-make bracelets and personalized smartphone cases.

How did you begin your first collection of designs / start your business?

I've always had a passion for design and fashion since I was a child. Being an independent woman and having my own business has been a dream of mine. One day, while I was in my final undergraduate year, I decided that I wanted to illustrate something that is related to both my culture and the youth of my generation. So, I started to save money until I had enough to design and create a small amount of notebooks and bookmarks. From there everything started to develop and people instantly loved my work.



Lapourpre's best-selling item, the Dermah bag

Where do you get your inspiration for your work/designs?

I'm inspired by everything I see around me. From our Saudi culture; old sayings, proverbs and names of beautiful objects which are no longer used by my generation. I like to blend this traditional element with a hint of today's modern Saudi life. This is shown in our best seller item, the makeup bag (Dermah) which has the lipstick design. 'Dermah' is what older Saudis would call a lipstick.

Talk us through a typical day

Usually I wake up around noon and head to university. I'm an MA student studying English Literature. I return home around 7pm and, after drinking coffee and spending time with my family, I spend most of the evening in my room completing homework and checking social media accounts. If I have an idea I will write it on a post-it note! Usually my ideas come when I'm lying in bed reviewing my day. Also, if there are any new orders on my online store I prepare the order for the customer; my policy is to ensure that orders never take more than one week to reach a customer.

Between school, work, and blogging I mostly don't have time to check Twitter and Instagram as much as I used to. I mostly go to bed around 2am. I usually post on my blogs on weekends.

Have you taken many risks with the creation of Lapourpre?

Just being out of my comfort zone has felt very risky to me. I'm quite a conservative person. But doors have opened when I least expected them to and a new world has appeared that I dreamed of, so the discomfort has been very worthwhile.

My friends took risks with me. They saw my entrepreneurial spirit and they wanted to play a part, so they lent me money and told me I could pay them back whenever I was able. They have been wonderful.

What have been the challenges you have faced?

Marketing has been a challenge, since Saudi people are new to the online shopping marketplace. It's been challenging to make people trust your online store enough to transfer money before seeing the actual products. To solve the problem we started to distribute some of our most popular items through shops ('Unique Gifts' in Riyadh). Also, we offer free

returns and exchange.

It's also hard to get used to the ups and downs of the sales flow. For two months, the products are selling very well and I am busy fulfilling orders, then it goes quiet. I've learnt to use this time to think about how I can promote the brand in different ways.

What else have you learnt?

Not to rush things. I was so excited to start that I rushed the design of the web template and I wish I had given myself more time to choose a better developer. I had to create the logo myself as it's such a personal thing and no-one could understand what I wanted and why. I should have done that from the start instead of asking others to try and design what was in my head!

What are your goals for the future?

To develop the quality of my bags and to finish my Masters studies. From a business perspective, I want to introduce other lines of product using different materials and I have a design already underway for a leather handbag.



Miss Neqab tote bag

What's the one bit of advice that someone has given you that you've realized was priceless?

Nothing is impossible, say "I'm possible". My teacher once told me that and from that point I tried my best to overcome any challenge. For me, I always say to myself "YOU CAN DO IT". I know it's simple but when you repeat it to yourself, eventually you'll believe it and you'll act on it.

Also, this is something from me to everyone: always surround yourself with positive, supporting people. There will be times when you'll need a shoulder to rely on, someone to believe in you, even if you believe in yourself.



Um Kalthom pouch.

The Lapourpre online store can be seen at www.la-pourpre.com but it is in Arabic. If you'd like to find out more about the products, you can reach Lamyia via email at la-pourpre@hotmail.com.

Follow Lamyia and Lapourpre on Instagram at [@la_pourpre](https://www.instagram.com/la_pourpre) and on Twitter at [@la_pourpre](https://twitter.com/la_pourpre)

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If you have a question that you would like us to ask future home-based business owners – or if you would like your business to be featured in a future newsletter – let us know.

Email your question to info@wsb-ksa.com

Nutmegs, Chocolate and a Retired Revolutionary

Written by Susie Harris

Welcome to Wanderings

Susie, or Naviguesser is traveling the world with her husband Kevin. Susie faithfully keeps a log, sharing a little of their life onboard *Tempress of Down* and their sailing adventures wherever in the world they happen to wash up.

A month ago they crossed the Atlantic and they are currently in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Monday, 17 March 2014

Clement Baptiste (CB) advertised his heritage tour on the Grenada Cruisers Net (VHF ch 66 07:30 Mon-Sat) so wanting to see something of the island Kevin & I gathered together a couple of other boat crews – Michael & Gilla SY Wolf who we originally met in Lanzarote, and Ian and Trish of SY Sanctuary from the Isle of Man who are anchored next door. Then last Tuesday the six of us met CB in the car park of Prickly Bay Marina on the south west corner of the island. CB proved to be a larger than life character with a history closely associated with the Marxist govern-



Packing Nutmegs

ment that ruled this paradise for a few years from the late 70's. His view of the events leading up to the American invasion was extremely personal and fascinating. CB then a young man in his



Nutmegs drying in their shells

thirties with a wife and family, was a driver to one of the Russian VIPs until the Grenadian leader Maurice Bishop stopped off to pay a visit to President Reagan during his return from a trip to the Kremlin upsetting the rest of Grenada's ruling party.

Along with many of his fellow countrymen CB resigned from his job almost as soon as Maurice Bishop was put under house arrest. A few days later CB was one of the vast crowd that freed the leader initially but then the ruling party re-arrested him and put him and several of his cronies before a firing squad before hunting down and imprisoning those who had released him. CB spent several months in hiding, not very difficult on this small island with its mountainous terrain covered in thick rain forest. Eventually in October 1983 the Americans landed and after some fighting ousted the



Sack stencils - major ports all over the world

Cuban and Russian forces from their foothold in the Eastern Caribbean on the oil route from Venezuela. CB was then reunited with his family and now some thirty years later is entertaining and informing tourists with his left wing views and personal take on the islands history from the arrival of the French who may or may not have massacred the indigenous population (or did they jump to their deaths from the cliffs at the north?) to the present day



We've worked a few places where this would be apt

invasion of cruising sailors from all over the world.

So what did we learn – most of today's locals are descended from slaves from the Ashanti tribe of West Africa brought by the French and later the English to work the plantations; bananas and sugar cane were imported and grow successfully to this day. Later in the 19th century nutmeg seedlings were brought from Indonesia to the island by an Englishman; Grenada is today the second largest producer of nutmegs in the world (Indonesia is the first). Many nutmeg trees were destroyed by hurricane Ivan in 2004 but the industry is recovering with new trees planted. It takes about 15 years for a nutmeg tree to produce fruit.

..... Continued on next page

Nutmegs, Rum, Chocolate and a Retired Revolutionary

Written by Susie Harris

The locals grow the trees in their gardens and farms and the nutmeg is collected and processed by an island wide co-operative at two of three stations



Sugar cane crusher

around the island. Every part of the nutmeg is useful; the outer soft yellowy skin is pressed for juice, the inner red coating is dried to become mace and the nut is dried before shelling. The best quality nutmegs are shipped all over the world for food use, the rest are used for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Even the hard shell of the nut is not wasted, ground down to make a mulch to fertilise the soil and prevent weeds in local fields and gardens.

Sugar cane is used to make the national drink, mostly white but some dark and some spiced is also produced. Our tour took us to the factory where they still use machinery from the eighteen hundreds to crush the cane.

The cocoa bean grows all over the island; in plantations and in gardens and again is collected by a co-operative and much is processed to produce Grenadian Organic Chocolate. Thanks to CB's contacts we were privileged to have an unofficial tour of the actual factory – a tiny place with a handful of employees taking the raw nuts and producing hand wrapped bars for export and lo-

cal purchase. Probably the only chocolate where the best before date is hand written on the wrapper and very delicious it is too if dark, rich chocolate is your thing; hunt it down in your local store or buy it online!

All in all a splendid day out with oil down for lunch (the national dish consisting of fried fish, chicken and lots of starchy root veg plus solid grey dumpling chunks in a sort of curried gravy, spicy and filling) in one of the north eastern villages. Towards late afternoon we visited one of the many waterfalls on the island, it was raining which was pleasant to stand about in



The Chocolate factory



Cacao Beans

after the earlier heat. None of us were equipped to swim but we did pay one of the local young jumpers to leap from the top into 50 feet into the pool below – what a way to earn a living!

After a final scenic drive down through the jungle we reached the town as

everyone refers to St Georges and were soon onto familiar roads back to Prickly Bay in time for a sundowner at the bar.



Jumping for a living

This story and much more can be found on [Temptress of Down](#)

by Naviguesser



Calendar of Riyadh Events

Compiled by Clare Barbour

If you are organising an event and would like to be listed, please email info@wsb-ksa.com

Weekly: Dinning at Al-Faisaliah Rosewood Hotel

Sat - Arabic Night, Middle Eastern Cuisine
Sun – Night of the Raj , Indian Cuisine
Mon – Lime, Coconut & Lemongrass, Thai Cuisine
Tue – Chocolate & Chili, Central American Cuisine
Wed – S. Eastern Spice Bazaar, SE Asian Cuisine
Thur – Moroccan Souk, North African Cuisine

Maison Bo-M, Nujood Mall, opp Intercontinental
Presenting Spring/ Summer 14 collections of designers from the Region.

For more info see www.facebook.com/Maison.BoM

APRIL

NOW

Throughout APRIL

Adult & Kids Art Classes

Areej Café, Centria Mall

Every Friday. Adults 2-4pm. Kids 3-5pm.

Schedule published weekly. For more info visit

www.facebook.com/pages/Areej-ART-CAFE

Until 10 APR

'Shining' Solo Art Exhibition

L'Art Pur Gallery, Takassusi

7 – 10pm daily. Nasser Al Turki's Solo exhibition. For more info call 055 271 7758 or visit

www.facebook.com/pages/LArt-Pur-Gallery

Until 14 APR

'What's Your Sign?'

Areej Café, Centria Mall

Art exhibition by Rachel Eschenbach. Artwork based on the ancient tradition of ANWA, the patterns of the stars in the night skies over the land of Saudi Arabia the research of Al sufi, and the star clusters known as the zodiac constellations along the elliptical. For more info email

rae165@gmail.com or visit

www.facebook.com/pages/Areej-ART-CAFE

Until 14 APR

Mohammad Zaza Solo Art Exhibition

Naila Art Gallery, Takassusi

10am -10pm Sat-Sun, 5 - 9pm Fri. For more info visit

www.facebook.com/pages/Naila-Art-Gallery or call

01 8805352. info@gallerynaila.com.

Until 15 MAY

Riyadh Fashion Exhibition

Until 30 MAY

'The Questions/More Questions'

Alaan Artspace, Oruba St

Curated by Mary Teeling. Premier of artist Abdullah Al Othman's Venice Biennale video installation.

For more info visit www.facebook.com/alaanartspace

SUNDAY 6 APR

Mohammad Zaza Art Talk (in Arabic)

Naila Art Gallery, Takassusi

8.30pm. For more info visit

www.facebook.com/pages/Naila-Art-Gallery

or call 01 8805352. info@gallerynaila.com.

TUESDAY 8 APR

Haya Tours: Riyadh by Night

City tour by bus

6 – 9pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call

0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours

FRIDAY 11 APR

Haya Tours: Taif Flower Festival Trip

Weekend trip 2000 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call

0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours

'Spring Carnival'

Sholay Garden, exit 30

4pm – 11.30pm. Limited tickets available at the gate.

5-10yrs 5 SAR, Kids with Movie 20 SAR.

An event with colourful stalls, yummy mouth watering variety of food, BBQ, kids jumping castle, face painting, cotton candy, games and screening of the Oscar winning movie 'Frozen' For more info contact Rabia Tariq 0536293235/0556751639. Book early

www.facebook.com/events/517989098319302/?ref=3&ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular

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These events are subject to the organisers' membership and registration rules, therefore any interest to participate or attend must be directed to the contact source stipulated in the event listing.

SUNDAY 13 APR**Haya Tours: Masmak Fort & Diriyah**

City tour by bus

4.30 – 7.30pm. 150 SAR. For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323.www.facebook.com/hayatours**MONDAY 14 APR****Ishbilila Coffee Morning**

Ishbilila Compound

9 – 12pm. Vendors, breakfast, raffle and socializing.

Register at event1@bawaniint.com**TUESDAY 15 APR****Haya Tours: Riyadh by Night**

City tour by bus

6 – 9pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours**ACR event 'Abaya Fashion Show'**

6.30 – 9pm. 70 SAR. Ladies only. Cyma designs. Traditional Arabic coffee, dates and hors d'oeuvres.

Register at www.acrsa.com******* WEDNESDAY 16 APR *******

WSB event 'Women's Professional Skills Building Workshop

9.30 – 12pm. Prepayment 60 SAR, At the Door 80 SAR.

Effective Networking, CV improving, Social Media.

Reserve a space, email events@wsb-ksa.com**THURSDAY 17 APR****ACR event 'The Hunger Games Catching Fire'**

7 – 10pm. 70 SAR. Big Screen theatre experience and popcorn.

Register at www.acrsa.com**MDF event 'Mamma Mia' concert**

French Embassy, DQ

8pm. Take copy of passport to French embassy

Sun-Thur 9am – 3pm.

For more info contact info.culture@af-ksa.com**SATURDAY 18 APR****Marine Ball**

Marine House, DQ

7pm – Midnight. 100 SAR. Smart Casual.

In order to purchase a ticket email passport copy to riyadhMWR@state.gov. Then wait for a confirmation email accepting your request, and visit USERA office to collect

and pay for tickets.

SUNDAY 20 APR

Until 5 MAY

'The 5 Senses' Art Exhibition

L'Art Pur Gallery, Takassusi

7 – 10pm daily. Contemporary Islamic art by renowned Turkish artist Ismail Acar. Touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight. For more info call 055 271 7758 or visit

www.facebook.com/pages/LArt-Pur-Gallery**Haya Tours: Masmak Fort & Diriyah**

City tour by bus

4.30 – 7.30pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours**TUESDAY 22 APR****Haya Tours: Riyadh by Night**

City tour by bus

6 – 9pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours**FRIDAY 25 APR****Uncle Sam's Spring Brunch**

USA Embassy, DQ

11am – 3pm. 250 SAR. Smart casual.

Tickets on sale at USERA Gift shop 9.30am – 3.30pm Sun – Thur. English ID necessary.

SATURDAY 26 APR**ACR event 'The Smurfs 2'**Noon – 3pm. Adults 70 SAR. Kids (3-12yrs) 40 SAR. Kids (2yrs and under) FREE. Popcorn, hot dogs and big screen theatre experience. Register at www.acrsa.com**TUESDAY 27 APR****Haya Tours: Masmak Fort & Diriyah**

City tour by bus

4.30 – 7.30pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours**MONDAY 28 APR**

Breakfast and Pamper Morning

Nakheel Village Compound

..... Continued on next page

These events are subject to the organisers' membership and registration rules, therefore any interest to participate or attend must be directed to the contact source stipulated in the event listing.

9 – 12pm. Free breakfast. Register before April 24th. For more info contact recreation@nakheelvillage.com or call Mona 0543302192.

TUESDAY 29 APR

Haya Tours: Riyadh by Night

City tour by bus 6 – 9pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours

Haya Tours: Madain Saleh Tour

Weekend trip 2000 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours

SUNDAY 4 MAY

Haya Tours: Masmak Fort & Diriyah

City tour by bus

4.30 – 7.30pm. 150 SAR.

For more info contact info@hayatour.com or call 0504166323. www.facebook.com/hayatours

MAY

FRIDAY 2 MAY

Until 4 MAY

'Flow Continues' Art Exhibition

Al Hamra Compound, Villa 450

10 – 1pm & 4 – 9.30pm. Nina Amin's private viewing of her art work. Contact 0503163054 or email kiran_a75@hotmail.com , nina_amin@msn.com

USERA'S SUMMER CAMP 2014

June 15 – July 24

Ages 6-14yrs.

Sunday – Thursday.

Full Day 8am – 4.30pm

Half Day 8am – 11.30pm

Sign up now. For more info contact

userayouth@gmail.com or call 011482 9604.

Priority given to US Embassy children, USERA members and AIS-R students.



Advertising in the WSB Newsletter

SR600 for 1/2 page
SR300 for 1/4 page
SR50 for classified

To book a space or for more information
please contact us at
newsletter@wsb-ksa.com

Regular Activities & Events in Riyadh

Compiled by Clare Barbour

If you are organising an event and would like to be listed, please email newsletter@wsb-ksa.com

Kingdom Coffee Morning/Bazaar Kingdom City Compound

Every first Monday of the month (except January, July, August and September)
9 -12 pm, no entry charge, for info contact 275 0 275

Riyadh International Quilt Guild

A great place to learn new skills, find out about local resources and share information.

Every fourth Sunday of the month
7.00 - 9.00pm
Sept – May

Annual membership is SR 150.

For further details, please email:

RiyadhQuiltGuild@gmail.com

Or visit Web: <http://riyadhquiltguild.blogspot.com>

Haya Tours

For regular day and weekend trips around Riyadh and the Kingdom get a Schedule. Contact Salwa on info@hayatour.com or call +966 504 166 323, Tel/Fax: +966 1 4507167

Classic Culture Tours

For regular day and weekend trips around Riyadh, Kingdom and abroad Get a Schedule. Contact Cora on c3classicculture@yahoo.com

Falcons Kids Swim Team (ages 5-16)

Training all year round at Fal Compound indoor pool. Email Ghada for more info gmmorsy@yahoo.com or mjcrodrigues@yahoo.com

Go Karting

Reem International Circuit 5pm - 12 am. Every Thur and Fri.
For more info call 0569082900

Aquagym Classes

Saturdays 8.30 – 9.30am

Kingdom Compound
For info and to sign up contact Marie Cousin at

recreation@kingdom-city.com

Swiss Ball Classes

Mondays 8.30 – 9.30am

Kingdom Compound.
For info and to sign up contact Marie Cousin at recreation@kingdom-city.com

Salsa Dance Classes

Nakheel Compound. 7pm usually every Tuesday.
SR 20.
Contact riyadhalseros@gmail.com

Yoga levels 1 & 2, Mat Pilates Classes

Evening and morning classes available.
For info contact Sarah Bohairy prana.shakti.yoga.riyadh@gmail.com

Yoga Classes

Fal Compound. Sun & Wed, 8.30 – 9.30pm. Ladies only.
For more info contact Sarah 0545555284 sarahshamra@hotmail.com

Judo

KIDS (Boys & Girls 5-8 yrs) Tuesdays & Wednesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm
KIDS (Boys & Girls 9 - 12 yrs) Tuesdays & Wednesdays 6.30 – 7.30pm
ADULTS (mixed) Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm
All Ages. Najd Compound Recreation area.
Run by German, black belt teacher.
For more info contact Thomas Brackmann tbrackmann@web.de or call 0506119402

Young Rembrandts Drawing Classes

8 weeks for 800 SAR. KG 4-6yrs & Elementary 7 – 12yrs. One class per week. Teaching children to draw and learn about art in and academic, creative and fun way. Hot off the success of Jeddah classes, Young Rembrandts is now in Riyadh. For more info contact 0532152787, 0500175332 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/>

YoungRembrandtsSaudiArabia

ZUMBA Fitness for ADULTS

Sunday 6.30pm – Eurocamp Compound (Olaya)
Sunday 8pm – Private Compound (Olaya)
Monday 10.30am – Romaizon Compound
Monday 7.30pm - Eurocamp Compound (Olaya)
Tuesday 9.30am - Eurocamp Compound (Olaya)
Wednesday 5.30pm – Cordoba Compound
Thursday 11.30am – Fal Compound Residents only
Amelie Al Americani, Certified Zumba Instructor, 0597798498, ameliecani@hotmail.com

ZUMBA Fitness for KIDS (7-11yrs)

Tuesday 4.30pm - Romaizon Compound
Wednesday – 4.30pm – Cordoba Compound
50 SAR/Class or 200 SAR/5 Consecutive Classes
Amelie Al Americani, Certified Zumba Instructor, 0597798498, ameliecani@hotmail.com

*** NEW ***

Craft Classes

Intermediate – Advanced. Ladies ages 9 – 16yrs. 100 SAR. Saturdays 12 -2pm.
Fun & easy Kids-Friendly. Children ages 5-12yrs. 50 SAR. Saturdays 3.30 – 5pm.
For more info please email Fran.crafts@gmail.com or call 0505145809

*** NEW ***

Tango Classes

Beginners level. Tuesdays 7 – 8pm. Rotunda Compound. Exit 13.
20 SAR Ladies, 30 SAR Men
For more info and to sign up email riyadhdtango@hotmail.com

Riyadh Community Groups

The Corona Society

English speaking woman's group
Coronainriyadh@hotmail.com

Maison des Français

Events and activities for French speakers
Mdfriyadh@yahoo.com

OASITALIA

Italian Cultural Association
Oasitalia@gmail.com

ACR

The American Community of Riyadh
<http://www.acrsa.com>
Director@acrsa.com

CCOR

The Canadian Community of Riyadh
Cwor.events@gmail.com

Dutch Club

De Nederlandse Vereniging
<http://www.nvriyadh.com>
Nvriyadh@gmail.com

Southern Cross Women's Association

Australia/New Zealand Women's Group
scwa.riyadh@gmail.com

The Caledonian Society

Scottish Society
www.riyadhcaledonian.com

Nordiska Klubben for Nordic people in Riyadh

Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland
nordiskaklubben@yahoo.com

Useful Links

Life in Saudi

<http://www.saudilife.net>
<http://www.riyadheats.com>
<http://www.rightcompound.com>
<http://www.sufrati.com/sa>
<http://www.get2knowsaudiarabia.com>
<http://www.whileabroad.com/parenting>
<http://www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk>
<http://www.glowork.net>
<http://theodyssea.blogspot.com/>

News and Blogs

<http://www.arabnews.com>
<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/>
<http://www.eyeofriyadh.com>
<http://www.ariyadh.com/eng/>
<http://www.blueabaya.com/>
<http://www.americanbedu.com>
<http://www.expatswomen.com>
<http://www.oasis-mag.blogspot.com>
<http://www.thepinktarha.com>
<http://www.womensbusinessinitiative.net/>

Additional Facebook Pages

<https://www.facebook.com/WSBRiyadh>
<https://www.facebook.com/hayatours>
<https://www.facebook.com/BlueAbayaBlog>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/artdesignsocietyksa/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111213812303012/>
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Crêpe Cart Restaurant & Caffe

At any type of outdoor/indoor events, exhibitions, schools, reunions, birthday parties, engagements, weddings Crepe Cart team would be more than happy to be part of it. To serve you a fresh variety of our Crepes catering international menu.

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Yalla Kids Arts and Crafts Parties



The Good Ship Lollipop is happy to have Yalla Kids on Board! With Yalla Kids, you can give your child a creative experience to enjoy with their friends. We plan and set up personalized arts and craft based parties at your home and cater to your specific requests with activities such as painting, play dough, planting, cupcake decorating, mask making, t-shirt painting and much more!

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The Good Ship Lollipop.
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