The recently opened Xiqu Centre has much to offer seasoned fans of Chinese opera and newcomers alike. Located between the designer shops of Tsim Sha Tsui and the market streets of Jordan, it lends itself well as a stop-off point, with a large public atrium where you can take refuge from the heat and bustle outside, a gift shop stocked with intriguing xiqu-related design items and books, restaurants serving fine Chinese cuisine, and viewing platforms offering spectacular views of the city and the venue interior.

For those who are curious about Cantonese opera but lack the confidence to book a ticket for a full-length performance, the centre’s Tea House Theatre Experience is the perfect starting point for soaking up some local cultural colour. Staged in a small, traditional-style theatre inspired by traditional Hong Kong Tea houses, the show is a 90-minute programme of popular instrumental and dramatic excerpts narrated by a charming moderator. The narration and accompanying surtitles help you follow what you can see and hear, and ensure that everyone is at ease. Before the show begins, waiters serve tea and an ample serving of delicious dim sum, creating an immediate talking point and an informal atmosphere to open your senses to the high-quality performances on stage. Tea is refreshed during the interval, maintaining the relaxed mood. On stage, the accomplished actors and musicians of the Xiqu Centre’s resident Tea House Rising Stars Troupe present lively, colourful demonstrations of different music, singing and acting styles, including a number of favourite popular pieces that often move local audiences to sing quietly along.

However much you know about Chinese opera, culture or history, the Tea House Theatre offers an unmissable and satisfying treat – perfect for visitors and a fun, informative evening or afternoon out.

Language: Performed and narrated in Cantonese with Chinese and English surtitles
Tickets: HK$368, HK$318 (Includes performance, tea and dim sum)
WITH CHINESE NEW YEAR just behind us, we’re all settling into 2019: the Year of the Pig. Did you know that pigs are a symbol of wealth in Chinese culture? At the AWA, we are honoring the new year and spreading good fortune by raising money for Hong Kong’s most vulnerable people. Last year the AWA gave away HK$1,119,120, providing 30 educational scholarships and funding 27 meaningful projects for local organizations.

This year we have collected almost 75 percent of our HK$1 million fundraising goal. We have HK$255,000 left to raise by May, and we’re working hard to close the gap. There are several fundraising events still left on the calendar:

• Chinese New Year fundraising campaign – It’s not too late! See below for details
• Pub Quiz – Thursday, March 21 at Little Creatures in Kennedy Town
• East Meets West Fashion Show – Wednesday, April 24 at the American Club in Tai Tam

Sign up for the Pub Quiz and the East Meets West Fashion Show before they sell out!

Also, I hope that you received our AWA Chinese New Year email solicitation. We thank everyone who already donated to this campaign and we are grateful for your support. If you have not yet donated, there’s still time! No gift is too large or too small. We invite you to join your fellow AWA members in making a contribution.

You can donate online on our website (www.awa.org.hk); in person at the AWA office (cash or check); or by mailing a check (made payable to “AWA”) to AWA, 2-12 Queen’s Road West, Arion Commercial Centre, 11/F, Office No. 5, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.

When I arrived in Hong Kong a year and a half ago (I can’t believe how quickly the time is flying!), I immediately attended the Welcome Back Breakfast and joined the AWA. Our mission is to welcome and empower women like you to connect and contribute in Hong Kong, and I am continually amazed by how well the AWA fulfills its mission.

Last year I connected, contributed and had fun in so many ways: dragon boating; taking local tours to Macau and Hakka villages, among others; learning Cantonese for beginners; hiking segments of the Lantau, MacLehose and Hong Kong trails; traveling to India; volunteering; joining the fundraising committee; and ultimately taking a role on the AWA board. I found myself trying so many new things, meeting new people and establishing my Hong Kong community. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful, welcoming AWA.

The AWA’s success comes in large part from our amazing members who volunteer their time and skills. The AWA has an established tradition of giving back to the community, but to continue to have such a positive impact we always need more of our members to participate. Please support our AWA community by volunteering, planning an activity or outing, attending a fundraising event, donating to our AWA charitable fund, joining a committee like the charity bazaar or local tours teams, or even joining our board. You won’t regret getting more involved!

Here’s to new beginnings, fresh starts and another incredible year for our AWA community!
The AWA (American Women’s Association) is a dynamic community of women of all nationalities, with more than 650 members from 40 countries. We are sure you will find your niche through our diverse range of activities, events and opportunities to volunteer. All women are welcome – do join us!

Current members – you are our best ambassadors. Please introduce new arrivals and old friends to AWA – over wine at OWL, at a Neighborhood Coffee, a WOW event, or encourage them to attend CHAT. AWA’s vision is that all women can connect with us and develop a rich, satisfying and purposeful life in Hong Kong.

Joining AWA is easy via our website at: awa.org.hk or call 2527 2961.
AWA ENJOYS

Wong Tai Sin Temple Tour

Jason Wordie Walk: Kowloon City
AWA ENJOYS

Tour of Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), the Mei Ho House, and the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC)

Packing Chinese New Year food parcels for Feeding Hong Kong
Domestic Workers’ Cooking Class: Japanese Gyoza Dumplings

Cultural Visit to Dapeng Fortress, Guangdong

SAVE THE DATE!

east meets WEST
AWA FASHION SHOW 2019

THE AMERICAN CLUB, TAI TAM
24 APRIL 2019

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT AWA.ORG.HK
AWA Hiking Group
The AWA Hiking Group has been enjoying our hikes on the lovely trails of Hong Kong. We hike every Monday, alternating between strenuous and social hikes. Between October and December we completed the Wilson Trail on our strenuous hike days, beginning near Stanley and ending at Nam Chung, in the New Territories near the Chinese border. This marked the group’s completion of the four long trails, following the Lantau Trail in autumn 2017, the MacLehose Trail in spring 2018, and the Hong Kong Trail in early autumn 2018.

Our social hike days last fall took us to the Sheung Yiu Country Trail with its heritage museum, the iconic Dragon’s Back, Tai O on Lantau Island, the beaches of Sai Kung Country Park, paved and dirt trails on Lamma Island and some of the high peaks on Hong Kong Island.

Hike leaders are Alison Doran and Gail Sousa for the strenuous hikes, and Jackie Smith and Kathryn Abbott for the social/moderate hikes. Going forward, we will be climbing peaks on our strenuous days and exploring the many country trails on our social days. If you want to get fitter and explore the countryside in all parts of the S.A.R., please sign up for our group by sending an email to the coordinators and join us on the trails!

—Kathryn Abbott

Afternoon Book Club
The Afternoon Book Club meets once a month at members’ homes to discuss the selection for the month. Each spring, the books for the following year are nominated and voted upon by club members. Since the book club reconvened in September we have read “Commonwealth” by Ann Patchett, “Pachinko” by Min Jin Lee, “The Undoing Project” by Michael Lewis, “Daisy Miller” by Henry James and “Lincoln in the Bardo” by George Saunders. Members gain exposure to books that they might not otherwise pick up, and the discussion is always lively, leaving us with a much better understanding of the books.

Between now and the summer, we will read “The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of a Vietnamese Family” by Duong Van Mai Elliott, “Cleopatra” by Stacy Schiff, “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens and “Sour Heart” by Jenny Zhang. If the idea of reading and discussing books with a lovely group of interesting women appeals to you, please join us! Happy reading!

—Kathryn Abbott
Spiritual Literacy Group
Late last year I had the honor of serving tea to a few members of the Spiritual Literacy Group (SLG) in Katherine Weisman’s home, following the form and tradition of a “cha dao” tea meditation ceremony. The group had recently been studying Alan Watt’s book “The Watercourse Way” and exploring the ancient Chinese wisdom of the Tao. It seemed like the perfect time to experience these teachings through the practice of drinking tea.

I had recently returned from a 10-day course in Taiwan on tea and meditation with my friend Susan, who helped with the ceremony as the “chatong,” or water bearer. The course was organized by Global Tea Hut, a community of tea lovers across more than 60 countries who are looking to “connect, share tea and heart space and learn about tea together.” They publish a monthly magazine all about tea, from processing methods, history and lore to cha dao – the “way of tea.” The magazine helps to support a tea center in Miaoli, Taiwan that offers free 10-day courses to deepen students’ knowledge and experience of tea.

The intention at the SLG ceremony was to introduce the “bowl tea” method of brewing and the essence of simplicity and meditation in cultivating inner harmony and awakened presence. By sharing tea together in silence we found peace of mind and a deeper connection with ourselves, nature, and each other that morning.

—Deborah McAulay
How long have you lived in Hong Kong? I have lived in Hong Kong for 1 1/2 wonderful years.

How long do you think you will stay in Hong Kong? I will probably stay in Hong Kong for another three-plus years. All depends on my husband’s job, of course.

Where are you from, and where have you lived? I was born in the U.K. and lived in Wales, but have not lived there for 45 years, except for a recent 10-month visit to Maidenhead. I lived as a third-culture kid in South Africa in Johannesburg, Durban and the Cape and spent my formative years in Nairobi, Kenya, and Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire. I have also lived in Heidelberg and Hamburg, Germany; Philadelphia and Orange County, California in the USA; Auckland, New Zealand; Voorschoten and Voorburg in the Netherlands; Jussey in France; and Mojácar in Spain. Needless to say, my accent is a mix of who knows what!

Children/family status? My gorgeous husband, Tim, is American; he comes from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the dairy capital of America. Our son, Keanan, lives in Switzerland and has a charity for children in India. Kaylah, our daughter, is doing her master’s at the London School of Economics.

What is your idea of perfect happiness? Being around my lovely family and friends. Laughing and not taking life seriously. Traveling, experiencing new cultures and working with charities that involve children and animals.

What is your greatest fear? Losing my freedom and being dependent on people.

Which living person do you most admire? Oprah Winfrey, for her leadership and passion for life, her “you can do this” attitude, and her compassion for others. I also admire her amazing involvement in the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.

What is the quality you most like in a man? A sense of humor, romanticism, emotional openness. Being able to admit when he is wrong. A love of traveling and exploration. And readiness to take on a challenge.

What is the quality you most like in a woman? Honesty, straightforwardness. I also like someone who’s fun to be around and ready for a good laugh.

When and where were you happiest? There are two things that make me happy. One is exploring new countries and cultures and meeting and interviewing people for my radio show. The other is my work, which is “edutainment” – i.e., educating children through reading, songs, puppets and videos.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? My gypsy, nomadic outlook on life, as it is going to be very difficult for me ever to settle down in one place.

What do you most love about Hong Kong? I love the diversity of the culture and the vibrant city of Hong Kong. Then you have Discovery Bay, which is quiet, has a lovely outlook and makes you feel like you are on a permanent holiday.

What do you most dislike or find most challenging about HK? Too many people pushing and not thinking about others. The spitting, sneezing, coughing without covering one’s mouth and the horrible noises that come with it. The interesting smells … I am not quite there yet!

Where is your favorite travel destination? New Zealand. I also love Europe.

Where are you going on your next trip? The South Island of New Zealand.

Who are your favorite writers? Dr. Seuss, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Grisham, Margaret Atwood, Roald Dahl, John Fowles, Jane Austin, Jeffrey Archer, Agatha Christie, Wilbur Smith.

Who is your hero from fiction? Alice from “Alice in Wonderland“ is an adventurer with passion, curiosity and a vivid imagination.

Who are your heroes in real life? The people I meet in everyday life – they are extraordinary. They do amazing things, have their own special stories to tell, give back to the world, take care of others, are fantastic parents, and deal with the good, the bad and the ugly – always with a smile on their faces.

How would you like to die? In a skydiving accident at age 101. I would like “It’s a Kool World, never forget to laugh” on my tombstone with my animated characters.
This fun and friendly team needs an organized coordinator to take the helm. If you've enjoyed any of the activities offered and want to get more involved, contact Tracey-Lee Hayes at activities@awa.org.hk for more information.
WE’VE ENTERED the season of bad pollution, but everyone seems to have a different idea of what is “bad” and what to do on a “bad” day.

First, do you really need to worry if the air quality is bad? Maybe. If you are in a vulnerable category (i.e., you’re very young, very old, suffer from asthma or are recovering from a respiratory illness), then you should be careful. For people whose lungs are not operating at full adult capacity, even a single day of bad air can cause long-term health problems. Those people should do their best to reduce their exposure during moderately bad days and avoid going outside on bad days. If they must go out, wearing a mask is a good idea.

For the rest of us – older children and adults with healthy lungs – you can think of air pollution as similar to other bad things in your environment: negative health effects come from cumulative exposure. Just as is the case with a giant bacon cheeseburger or a bottle of wine, if you have one every day, bad things will happen to your body over the long term. However, if you have only one a year, your body will have no difficulty dealing with it.

Air pollution is similar – your health risks rise with exposure. Thus, if you are a short-term resident of Hong Kong, it might not matter at all, but if you have been here for 10 years and are planning to stay for 10 more, be a bit more careful when pollution levels are high. Think about taking the through-the-buildings route to lunch, traveling by MTR instead of driving, picking a different day for that Dragon’s Back hike, and putting on a mask, especially if you’re going to be out for a while.

Is today a “bad air” day? Oddly enough, this question is not as easy to answer as one might think because there are so many different websites and apps. The majority of apps pull their data from the same source, Hong Kong’s Environmental Protection Department, but different apps rate the risks differently.

One good website (when it is working) is The Air You Breathe (theairyoubreathe.com), which offers a comparison of how different entities (e.g., WHO, the U.S., the U.K.) rate Hong Kong’s air on any particular day.

The official Hong Kong EPD app is AQHI (aqhi.gov.hk/en.html), which pulls data hourly from its 16 air quality stations and has an easy-to-read map as its main interface. For more detailed information, my favorite app is AQICN (aqicn.org/city/hongkong). It was developed by the World Air Quality Index Project (WAQI), which gathers data from 10,000 stations worldwide and uses a unified scale to rate the air quality.

The app is not very sophisticated, but it allows you to pick a home station and then displays all of the measured air pollutants (e.g., PM2.5, SOx, ozone, etc.) for that station. The WAQI website (https://waqi.info) offers excellent world pollution maps and extensive information about air quality.

Another useful app is PRAISE (praise.ust.hk), which was developed by a team at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. It has a friendly interface that offers basic information about today’s weather and pollution on the front screen, and also includes pollution forecasts and regional maps. By the end of 2019 it will offer “clean air route” suggestions for travel as well as calculate your personal pollution exposure levels.

Other good apps include Air Matters (air-matters.com/index.html) and AIR by Plume Labs (plumelabs.com/en/air). As mentioned above, all of the apps contain essentially the same data, so your choice will be largely based on which interface you prefer.

Two important things to keep in mind: 1) Even though our data makes pollution more obvious now, Hong Kong’s air quality is actually better than it was ten years ago; and 2) our air is often better than what our friends in other countries might have (for example, today New York City has worse air than we do), but they’re not checking. So use the apps to check and respond appropriately, but don’t let fear of bad air force you to stay inside all the time – spending all day in front of the TV has its own bad health consequences.

Making Sense of Hong Kong’s Air Pollution

By Mary Alice Haddad
AWA WISE is a series of events dedicated to women who want to be inspired and empowered to develop professionally - whether re-entering the workplace or starting their journey to entrepreneurship.

**Thank you to our sponsors & community partners:**

1. Deloitte
2. EventBank
3. The Executive Centre
4. Sun Life
5. Babycakes
6. AmCham
7. Deloitte
8. Wework
9. Daybyday
10. THE EXECUTIVE CENTRE

**What is your purpose? Do you know? Are you living it, following it or letting it slip by?**

This workshop provides an opportunity to look deeper into your purpose and see how it can be expressed both in your personal life and your career. Perhaps you have been toying with the idea of going back to work, or changing your career, or starting something new. As you allow yourself to make the next big, or small, step in your life, take the time to dive deeper into your purpose to inform those big life, and career, decisions.
8 MARCH
KPMG
DARE TO CHANGE: YOUR READINESS, YOUR CONFIDENCE
JOSEPHINE PARIS
COACHME

How do you know if you are emotionally and mentally ready for a change?
This workshop explores your capabilities and helps you make new discoveries about your potential. Put yourself in the hands of a certified coach with 11 years of global experience who will help as you contemplate a major change: starting a business, embarking on a new career, or going back to work.

12 MARCH
AWA OFFICE
PRESENTING WITH IMPACT AND ACING COVER LETTERS
CATHY BLANC
CWB CONSULTING
JOSEPHINE PARIS
COACHME

You never get a second chance to make a great first impression, whether in a cover letter or in person. Learn how to stand out in a sea of people, resumes or business cards. You will learn the keys to creating an elevator pitch and how to tailor a cover letter to the right audience.

11 MARCH
WEWORK
HOW TO WRITE A RESUME TO STAND OUT
CATHY BLANC
CWB CONSULTING

Create a resume to reflect your true capabilities. This workshop will give you insight from a coach with over 15 years’ experience in HR who will help you identify your key skills and motivations to help you get the job you want. There are a limited number of places available and Cathy is a hot ticket - so sign up fast.

13 MARCH
LINKEDIN
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO FIND THE PERFECT JOB
TINGI KO
LINKEDIN

Ever wanted to know how to maximize your LinkedIn profile - from experts at LinkedIn? We have exclusive insight on how to leverage their platform and develop a stronger digital footprint, which is essentially your personal brand story. This is a BONUS event available only to those who sign up for other workshops.

This presentation is organized in partnership with LinkedIn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BUY TICKETS GO TO: WWW.BITLY.COM/AWAWISE

Thank you to our community partners:

8 MARCH
KPMG
DARE TO CHANGE: YOUR READINESS, YOUR CONFIDENCE

11 MARCH
WEWORK
THE IMPACT OF GOOD BRANDING AND THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING
CASSANDRE DAIGRE
WILD AGENCY
AGATH HEIDELBERG
MARC AND CHANTAL

14 MARCH
R ONE SPACE
NAVIGATING THE MINEFIELD: HOW TO REALLY ACCESS HONG KONG’S JOB MARKET
SHIRLEY ADRAIN
BACK TO WORK HONG KONG
KIMBERLY ARTH
PIVOT
PRIYANKA GOTHI
RETIRED NOT OUT
MARIE SWARBRECK
FLEXIMUMS

14 MARCH
R ONE SPACE
MEET & GREET NETWORKING
As we close an incredible 11 days of events, we celebrate women who are thriving across sectors. This is a great networking opportunity to have real one-on-one conversations with industry leaders, coaches, and recruiters - many of whom have been speakers throughout the week. Be ready to walk away feeling inspired!

12 MARCH
WEWORK
THE IMPACT OF GOOD BRANDING AND THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Thank you to our community partners:

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
WHERE WE BELONG
AWA Interns on Growing Up “Other” in Hong Kong

EVERY YEAR in the AWA office we take on a team of final-year students from City University’s English department for a practical work experience. This year, we have four bright women working with us – all born and raised in Hong Kong, and all ethnic minorities. Together, we have been exploring the themes of belonging and “home.” As most of us at the AWA know all too well, finding that place where you make friends and discover purpose and fulfillment – that place where you belong – is so important.

See Hong Kong through Himie, Iqra, Jasman and Sania’s eyes, from a perspective that may be different – but perhaps not foreign to anyone in a new city or country, or even returning home after a time away.

L-R: Himeshika (Himie) Samaradivakara, Sania Bano, Iqra Fida, Jasman Kaur

The Battle to Belong
By Iqra Urooj Fida

Whenever I am asked where I am from, without missing a beat, I say Hong Kong. The dreadful response I receive, “But which country are you really from?”, is deafening to my ears. Despite being born and raised here, this response makes me wonder if I even belong to Hong Kong.

Whether it be white, brown or black, almost every race has endured racism in Hong Kong. If a brown person stands or sits next to Chinese people, noses will immediately be covered even if we smell like garden roses. In many cases, we are even told to go back to our own country, when in reality, this is home for most of us. Just because of our race, we are instinctively stereotyped as uneducated and illiterate no matter how educated and sophisticated we are.

Some Hong Kong Chinese even make racist comments and actions towards their own community – in other words, mainland Chinese. When even the mainlanders can’t be accepted, how can people of color expect equality? Despite being known as an international city, there is still a lot of ignorance in Hong Kong.

Let’s not forget the language barrier in Hong Kong. There may be some bilingual banners, leaflets and posters sprinkled around Hong Kong, but the majority are still in Chinese. For example, I recently went into a very popular electronic store to get more information about the new Samsung phone, but they only had the leaflets in Chinese. Even the item specification tags in these stores are in Cantonese only.

The majority of Hong Kong people actually do know how to communicate in English. However, if they see a non-Chinese person approaching them, they will immediately try to hide the fact that they saw them and pretend that either they or the other person is invisible – just to avoid having to interact in English.

How can we belong to the “international city” when it isn’t really that international to begin with? A Hong Kong that I can belong to should not have harsh acts of racism and it should have equal opportunities for every race. It should be a place where we can communicate easily and effectively; be able to find bilingual leaflets in stores; and have no difficulty in reading signs and banners on the busy streets.

Most importantly, a Hong Kong that I can belong to should be open-minded, harmonious and united, with smiles and cozy greetings. A place where I can breathe freedom, that is the Hong Kong where I will truly belong.

No place to call my home
By Sania Bano

I root from a country,
A country so beautiful
With its luscious green fields and endless glaciers
They all seem familiar to me
The pastoral fragrance, the mellow sunset
A place beyond my reach to call my home

The land, the people
They do not associate with me
They do not recognize me
They say I am not one of them.
That I am exotic,
Outlandish,
Atypical,
An outcast.
I was born in a city,
A city so lively
With its towering skyscrapers and throng of people
They all seem well known to me
The fish markets, the humid skies
A place beyond my reach to call my home

The land, the people
They do not relate to me
They do not identify me
That I am anomalous
Unconventional,
An interloper.

And the truth is,
Raised in a city I am not originally from,
Made me realize
I have no place to call my own,
No place to call my home.

According to my mother, my first week of kindergarten was traumatic for both of us. I remember being terrified of speaking, since my classmates did not speak an ounce of English. I would beg her to bring me to her workplace instead.

Being in a local kindergarten was tough, but not as tough as primary school. I got bullied in those six years due to my skin color, the bias of teachers and the habits of my culture. It made me feel left out whenever they laughed at me due to something they had never seen before.

“Do you eat curry every day?”
“No, I do not. Do you use chopsticks to shove dim sums down your throat while you chug them down with snake soup?” was usually my reply.

Back when I was in primary school there were no laws to protect myself from people making racist comments, even when they were “adults you should trust” – teachers. My mother was a frequent visitor in the school principal’s office. She would howl at the teachers and the principal would send them off with warnings.

Once I applied for a teaching position, speaking in Cantonese over the phone. When I was about to sign the contract, they saw my face and rejected me. My skin tone, my ethnicity, my living patterns, the list goes on – they are constantly judged and pinpointed by locals.

Strangely, the only place that has ever felt like home to me is Wellington, New Zealand. The young female prime minister, the multiculturalism, friendly people who actually mean the small talk ... I hope to migrate there in 10 years’ time.

In the meantime, I have made a promise to myself that I will change something in Hong Kong. Even if it is a teeny, tiny change, I will and I must! Perhaps being the first Sri Lankan civil service worker in Hong Kong, so that I can help my fellow south Asians to access more resources. More Hong Kong-born non-Chinese working in influential sectors will not change the city drastically, but we will have our say, instead of receiving more empty promises.

I want to work with domestic helpers or refugees as well. As I have family members who touch on both identities, I recognize their needs and think they deserve a bigger say in society. For example, refugees should be able to have paid work in Hong Kong on projects that give back to the city. Domestic helpers should have access to education if they want to continue learning.

This lioness is not done with Hong Kong. Even if she does not feel comfortable in the jungle, she will make use of her resources to feed and care for her family.

This is me: A bizarre woman who eats roti with siu mai while listening to Kendrick Lamar’s “All the Stars.” As long as I can remember, I have been pulled in opposite directions by the hurricanes of Western and Chinese culture, alongside my Punjabi culture.

Therefore, I have never been able to find a sense of belonging in the city I grew up in. Ironically, Hong Kong has always claimed to be an international city with vibrant and diverse cultural scenes. And yet, I (we) have never been able to fit in here.

The truth is, Chinese people stay with Chinese, white with white and ethnic minority with ethnic minority. Every race has its ranking and racial equality is as common as a breath of fresh air. We might be diverse, but we are far from inclusive.

For people like me to belong, the gloomy aura of Hong Kong must change. We need to let go of our misguided beliefs about other cultures. Not only does the government have to bring radical change to the system and community, but it also has to hear our voices. Not as expats or ethnic minorities, but as Hong Kongers and locals.

The Hong Kong media needs to become a place where people of diverse color can see others who look like them. A place where anchors, actors and journalists are from different backgrounds and cultures. A place where everyone can feel respected and accepted.

For me to feel like I truly belong, the parks have to be packed with groups of colorful people; the malls and markets clustered with people greeting one another rather than shying away with attitude. Universities and schools filled with diverse students, domestic helpers being treated as equals and streets filled with neon signs in English.

Hong Kong: A city where we can celebrate everyone. A city that hybrids like me can call home.
Foreseeing Changes with Change Makers

By Farah Siddiqi

CHANGE MAKERS
Twenty Women Transforming Bollywood Behind the Scenes
Authors: Gayatri Rangachari Shah and Mallika Kapur
Published by: Penguin India
ISBN 978-0143441731

THE TIMING OF “Change Makers: Twenty Women Transforming Bollywood Behind the Scenes” couldn’t be better. Not only has India remained largely untouched by the #MeToo movement, but, as the authors say, women’s participation in the Indian workforce has been in significant decline – except in Bollywood. It’s the only industry in India where women have been making strides. Why?
The authors, two journalists, undertake a journey to follow this trend and find out why Bollywood is a thriving industry for women.
The women featured are talented at their trade and have pushed to get to where they are. “They come from middle-class families and have not had lascivious godfathers or indulgent uncles to coax their careers along,” write Kapur and Shah. “They are where they are because of their determination and hard work.”

Although the average viewer may think she knows a lot about Bollywood, what people mostly know are the glamour, the drama and the enchanting dance numbers. Kapur and Shah ask, “What about those women who work away from the limelight, behind the scenes of the Hindi film industry? They belong to a Bollywood we know little about.”

In “Change Makers,” the reader absorbs pounds of information in a series of easy-to-digest profiles. Women were not involved let alone permitted to work in many aspects of Bollywood before these “change makers” pushed for equality. One comes away knowing not only about each of the fascinating women but also about laws, unions, traditions and gender prejudice in India, both now and in the past. It is not just a read; it is an education.
The authors are thorough in peeling back the onion on each subject, telling enlightening short stories that make each individual memorable. Each story gives background and intricate details about the subject’s life and even childhood. The depth of each profile and the thoroughness of the writers’ research let the empathetic reader feel all the sorrows and joys that have been overcome.

Kapur and Shah write about their subjects in a way that involves the reader and makes her feel like she could be one of them. And so it seems the purpose of “Change Makers” is not just to showcase these amazing people but also to give women role models and provoke further change. It’s not just #MeToo, but #WeWillTogether. Asked what one message she would want a reader to come away with from this book, Kapur said, “To try anything unconventional for their gender.”

Mallika Kapur will moderate the March 6 AWA WISE panel on the subject of “Exploring Mindset: Making it Back.”
A FEW MONTHS AGO, 16 AWA women embarked on a fabulous five-day trip to magical India. The first stop was Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a protected area in the northeastern Indian state of Assam. The park’s 430-square-kilometer area, sprinkled with elephant-grass meadows, swampy lagoons and dense forests, is home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros, approximately two-thirds of the total world population.

Kaziranga is also home to elephants, tigers, leopards, monkeys, water buffalo, wild boars and many species of deer. It’s visited by gray pelicans and many rare migratory birds, and numerous species of ducks, geese and storks roost near Kaziranga village. The rare Ganges River dolphins swim in the park’s waters, which can be explored on a river cruise.

The park is known not only for its dense population of animals, but also for its wildlife conservation initiatives. With its extensive wildlife conservation activities, the park has successfully managed to grow the population of the one-horned rhinoceros and Bengal tigers, both endangered species.
The AWA women explored this gorgeous and serene national park via jeep and riverboat. From the open-top jeeps, we saw many rhinos, monkeys, boars, deer and birds, as well as several wild elephants and an elusive wild buffalo. From the river cruise, we saw many birds, and stopped to tour a remote village and temple. Although we did not see any tigers or leopards, the park offers elephant safari rides which allow visitors to journey deeper into the jungle.

We stayed at the beautiful and rustic Diphlu River Lodge, a highly popular lodge not far from the park, which hosted the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their 2016 Kaziranga wildlife holiday. The lodge’s beautifully decorated cottages overlook the Diphlu River and blend in with the forest surroundings. The lodge provides fabulous meals and entertainment for guests, including fireside dances and comfortable bar and communal areas.

After leaving this beautiful landscape, we took a short flight from Jorhat airport to Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta, the City of Joy. Kolkata, the second largest city in India, is the capital of India’s West Bengal state and was India’s capital under British rule. The city is known for its grand colonial architecture, art galleries and cultural festivals. Kolkata is also famous as the home of Mother Teresa and her order, the Missionaries of Charity.

We awoke early on two mornings to explore the city on foot. The first day we explored the flower market and Howrah
bridge area. The sights, smells and sounds of the flower market were in full swing for our 6 am tour. Since January, with its cooler temperatures, is the height of the wedding season, the flower market was full of seasonal flowers. During our time in Kolkata, our group saw several wedding events that were decorated with thousands of flowers.

Our second early morning walk focused on the grand architecture of Kolkata. Although not all of the buildings have been maintained to their original grandeur, it was still easy to appreciate the city’s architecture. In addition to the beautiful buildings and bridges, we were able to get a feel for the neighborhoods and people of Kolkata.

Throughout our time in Kolkata, we did experience the joy of this city – its sights, sounds, people and amazing food. From fine dining in palaces to walking the city streets and shopping in local markets, we experienced a wide range of life in Kolkata. We even glimpsed a bit of the politics in this region of India, as major political events were occurring in the city during our stay.

In all, the women of AWA enjoyed a fabulous jungle safari and city visit during an incredible five days in India. Many thanks to AWA member Gunjali Singh for organizing an insider’s tour of this remarkable region of India.

---

Spa Beaute Par Zai & The Academy

Our Award Winning Treatments

- Facials
- Aromatherapy
- Slimming Treatments
- Reflexology
- Waxing
- Permanent Hair Removal
- Electrolysis
- Eyelash Extension
- Eyebrow & Eyelash Tint
- Henna
- Permanent Tattoo
- Manicure & Pedicure
- Hairstyling
- Make up by Nigar Q.

12/F Sea Bird House 22-28 Wyndham Street Central Hong Kong
Tel: 25241272 / 25225945  Whatsapp 93645271
Email: info@spabpz.com  Website: www.spabpz.com
**Neighborhood Coffees**

If you live, work or play in any of the following neighborhoods, join others in your area for a monthly coffee. Meet new friends or catch up with old ones, discuss and plan new activities. Contact your local coordinator for details of forthcoming coffees.

**HK SOUTHSIDE**
Jean Han, jeanhoya@yahoo.com

**POK FU LAM AND SHOUSON HILL**
Annie Fifer, annefifer@gmail.com

**DISCOVERY BAY**
Kathryn Abbott, ykathrynabbot@yahoo.com

**SAI KUNG**
Katherine Fenton, kfenton@aol.com

**KOWLOON**
Penny Soder, pennysoder@gmail.com

**HK CENTRAL/MID LEVELS**
Ana Cahill, anapcahill@yahoo.com

**OWL CENTRAL (Out With the Ladies)**
Come join us any week or every week - same time, same place (except public holidays).

**WHEN:** Every Tuesday, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

**WHERE:** Oolaa
20 Bridges Street, Soho

**COORDINATOR:** Connie Albracht, conniealbracht@me.com

**CHAT (Come Have a Talk)**

**WHEN:** Thursday, 10:30am – 12:00 noon
(except public holidays)

**WHERE:** Café 8, Rooftop of Pier 8, above the Maritime Museum.

**COST:** No fee (all beverages & lunches at personal expense)

**COORDINATORS:** Nancy Acee, hacee3@gmail.com
Avril York, avryl7@gmail.com

**AWA Buddy Program**

How would you like to help welcome new members to the AWA? The AWA Buddy Program pairs interested new members with a “Buddy” who helps answer questions about life in Hong Kong and/or the AWA. We always need new Buddies as new members join throughout the year. If this behind-the-scenes activity appeals to you, please contact Alison May at alisonemay@me.com.

**Foon Ying-Hong Kong Insights**

Foon Ying means “welcome” in Cantonese and the whole idea of these sessions is to embark on adventures and embrace new friendships. We welcome AWA members, both long-standing and newbies, to get together and explore the SAR; to share experiences about life in Hong Kong along with the tips and wrinkles that just make it all a bit easier. We aim to help you build your friendship circles so the program is great for both brand new “Hong Kongers” as well as those of us who have been here a while and watched our first batch of friends and contacts head home or off to new pastures. Your commitment is to attend all three sessions over a three-week period and be willing to explore new places and meet some lovely people (and possibly lifelong friends)!

**WHEN:** Every month

**WHERE:** AWA office or alternate location as agreed

**COORDINATORS:**
Chrissie Govier, chrissie.govier@gmail.com
Helen Pott, helen.hk123@gmail.com

**DB OWL (Out with the Ladies)**
Come join us any week or every week - same time, same place (except public holidays).

**WHEN:** Every Thursday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Hemingway’s, Main Plaza
20 Bridges Street, Soho

**COORDINATOR:** Dede Marconato, marconatofamily@gmail.com
An Evening at the Hong Kong Country Club’s Wine Cellar
When: Friday, 1 March, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM (Approx.)

Environmental Tour: Urban Eco-Farming in Hong Kong
When: Monday, 4 March, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Register by Wednesday, 27 February

Educational Series: Hidden Macau, a Fusion of East and West in Lifestyles
When: Wednesday, 6 March, 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Approx.)
Register by Wednesday, 27 February

Tai Po Market Foodie Tour
When: Friday, 8 March, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Approx.)
Register by Wednesday, 6 March

Educational Series – Historical Talk with Jason Wordie: How Hong Kong Works (Talk and Cocktail Reception)
When: Saturday, 9 March, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Register by Wednesday, 27 February; no refunds

Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery Tour
When: Monday, 11 March, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Approx.)

Learn About Feng Shui Series: Walking Tour of Major Buildings in Central
When: Tuesday, 12 March, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Register by Thursday, 7 March

Wander Asia Adventure Series: Yangshuo/Guilin Hike and Raft Through Karst Landscape
When: Tuesday – Thursday, 12 – 14 March
Register by Friday, 15 February; no refunds

Recreational Series: Champagne & Pamper
When: Friday, 15 March, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Educational Series – Walking Tour with Jason Wordie: Causeway Bay
When: Friday, 15 March, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Approx.)

Arts/Crafts & Design Series: Introduction to Pearl Knotting
When: Friday, 15 March, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Approx.)
Register by Monday, 11 March

Behind the Scenes Series: Cathay Pacific City
When: Saturday, 16 March, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Register by Saturday, 9 March

Cooking with Passion: Cooking and Baking Class
When: Tuesday, 19 March, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM (Approx.)
Register by Sunday, 17 March; no refunds

Educational Series – Walking Tour with Jason Wordie: Shing Mun and the “Gin Drinkers Line”
When: Saturday, 23 March, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Approx.)

Educational Series: The Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (CFA) – Guided Tour
When: Monday, 25 March, 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Educational Series: Sunset Survivors: The Dying Trades of Hong Kong
When: Wednesday, 27 March, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Register by Wednesday, 6 March

Diamond Master Class
When: Thursday, 28 March, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Approx.)
Register by Thursday, 21 March

Looking Forward April/May

Behind the Scenes Series: Asian Tigers Warehouse Tour and Lunch
When: Thursday, 11 April, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Register by Monday, 8 April

Arts/Crafts & Design Series: Introduction to Jewelry Making
When: Tuesday, 14 May, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM (Approx.)
Register by Thursday, 9 May
### Environmental Tour: Urban Eco-Farming in Hong Kong

- **When:** Monday, 4 March, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Where:** Meet at Yau Tong MTR station, outside Exit A
- **Cost:** $200 member/$260 member's guest
- **Capacity:** 10 max
- **Coordinator:** Mary Alice Haddad 5902 0555

Join us to learn how an eco-startup does urban farming in Hong Kong! Founder King Lai will lead us on a tour of their facilities and hold a Q&A session to answer all your questions about urban farming, hydroponics and the challenges of being an eco start-up in Hong Kong. As a bonus, all participants will receive a grower’s choice set of lettuce to try at home.

### Educational Series: Hidden Macau, a Fusion of East and West in Lifestyles

- **When:** Wednesday, 6 March, 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Approx.)
- **Where:** HK Macau Ferry Terminal (Exact location will be emailed to participants)
- **Cost:** $1350 member/$1410 member’s guest
- **Capacity:** 10 min/15 max (excluding coordinator)
- **Coordinator(s):** Tracey-Lee Hayes 9130 0851

Macau is NOT just about casinos. It is where Portuguese cathedrals, traditional Chinese shophouses, and cobblestone alleys reminiscent of Lisbon coexist. In many ways, the colonial history of Macau and Hong Kong are similar. However, while Hong Kong is quickly erasing her colonial legacy, Macau is doing a great job of preserving, restoring and promoting her heritage. On this walking tour to discover the real Macau, we will discover what we are missing in Hong Kong and visit some fabulous colonial-era buildings. Among them are a wonderfully restored mansion with European, Indian and Chinese fusion architecture and a well-preserved traditional Chinese pawnshop turned museum. We will also have a hands-on session to make our own Portuguese egg tarts. The price includes jetfoil return tickets, local Macau guide fees, private chartered minibus and Portuguese egg-tart-making workshop. Lunch will be at shared expense. See website for full itinerary.

### Tai Po Market Foodie Tour

- **When:** Friday, 8 March, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Approx.)
- **Where:** Meet at Tsim Sha Tsui TST MTR (inside)
- **Cost:** $930 member/$990 member’s guest
- **Capacity:** 1 min/12 max (excluding coordinator)
- **Coordinator(s):** Cecilia Leung 6201 6332

Escape from Hong Kong’s urban jungle to engage in some serious munching in Tai Po Market. In this old market in the New Territories, treat your belly to more than 10 mouthwatering tastings while also learning about the neighborhood’s agricultural past. On this walking food tour, we will visit six family-run eateries where we will taste made-to-order steamed rice rolls, beef brisket noodles, a selection of handmade candies, snake soup (tastes just like chicken!), a variety of seafood dishes with some beer, and dessert. We will meet at 2 pm in TST MTR station and take the MTR to Tai Po Market station. Tour begins from Tai Po Market at 3 pm and will last about four hours. The cost includes all selected tastings, private licensed foodie guide and gratuities. Comfortable shoes recommended for this walking food tour.
EDUCATIONAL SERIES

LOCAL TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL SERIES – HISTORICAL TALK WITH JASON WORDIE: HOW HONG KONG WORKS (TALK AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION)

WHEN: Saturday, 9 March, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Register by Wednesday, 27 February; no refunds after registration deadline.

WHERE: The Club Royal, Dynasty Court, Mid-Levels Central (Exact location will be emailed to participants)

COST: $670 member/$730 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 20 min/40 max
COORDINATOR(S): Susan Soskin West 9191 1503

Whether you’re new to Hong Kong or have been here awhile, Hong Kong’s unique position within China and its evolving political, economic, and social fabric can be an enigma. Join our favorite local historian, Jason Wordie, for one of his most popular talks, “How Hong Kong Works.” Our evening will begin with a cocktail reception (open bar and canapes) at the Club Royal within the Dynasty Court apartment complex in Mid-Levels Central. Jason’s illustrated talk will explain common terms and functions that can be puzzling to the uninitiated. For example, what are ExCo, LegCo, the Joint Declaration, and the Basic Law? What does the term “one country, two systems” mean and how does it really work? What is a “functional constituency,” and who or what is the Heung Yee Kuk? Answers to these questions and many more will be comprehensively discussed. This wide-ranging talk gives such insight into everyday Hong Kong life that it is a “must-do” for anyone looking to enhance her Hong Kong experience.

TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS MONASTERY TOUR

WHEN: Monday, 11 March, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Approx.)
WHERE: Meet at Admiralty MTR (inside) near M&S Foods OR Sha Tin MTR station, Exit B (outside turnstiles)
COST: $60 member/$120 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 6 min/16 max
COORDINATOR(S): Jane Buck 9530 7957

Located on the mountain behind Pai Tau Village in Sha Tin, the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery consists of five temples, four pavilions, one pagoda, one veranda and more than ten thousand Buddhas of all shapes and sizes. The exquisite nine-story pagoda is the image printed on the Hong Kong $100 note. Especially interesting are the life-size Arhan Buddhas lining both sides of the many steps leading up to the monastery. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water. Optional lunch (at shared expense) to follow.

LEARN ABOUT FENG SHUI SERIES: WALKING TOUR OF MAJOR BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL

WHEN: Tuesday, 12 March, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WHERE: Meet at Central MTR, Exit K (outside)
COST: $410 member/$470 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 6 min/12 max
COORDINATOR(S): Kim Rehmann 6039 2311, Susan Putnam 6272 6709

Feng shui, the theory of tapping into the energy of surroundings to create prosperity, has long been practiced in Hong Kong. Companies big and small consult feng shui experts to determine auspicious dates for deals and launches and to create environments that will welcome good fortune. Feng shui is also taken seriously before buildings are constructed. We have a unique opportunity to walk around Central with feng shui business consultant Susanne Schultz, owner of Schultz Consulting, and hear fascinating stories about the local architecture, including the HSBC building, Statue Square, the Bank of China building, Cheung Kong Center, and more. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water.

WANDER ASIA ADVENTURE SERIES: YANGSHUO/GUILIN HIKE AND RAFT THROUGH KARST LANDSCAPE

WHEN: Tuesday – Thursday, 12 – 14 March
Register by Friday, 15 February; no refunds will be given at any time.
WHERE: (Exact location will be emailed to participants)
COST: $7500 member/$7800 member’s guest
Single supplement: $1200
CAPACITY: 6 min/12 max
COORDINATOR(S): MaryAnn Boone 9556 8659

Let’s go hiking in spring and take a bamboo raft ride down the Yulong River! Marvel at the surreal karst landscape, which has been immortalized in Chinese classical landscape paintings and poetry for 2,000 years. Welcome to Guilin, where you will be treated to an abundance of amazing scenery and traditional Chinese architecture centuries old.
For this trip, we will be hiking (see rating below) along the Li River, passing by rustic fishing villages and experiencing up close the towering karst peaks. We’ll also enjoy the scenery on a traditional bamboo raft trip down the Yulong River. Accommodations are in a tastefully restored Qing Dynasty mansion from which you can explore the ancient town and enjoy local culture. You need a valid China visa and passport with at least seven months’ validity. Individual travel insurance required. See the website for further info. Hike rating 2.1 out of 5 (length less than 10km, speed 2.5, elevation gain less than 300m).

Recreational Series: Champagne & Pamper

WHEN: Friday, 15 March, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
WHERE: The Feel Good Factor, 2/F, Winsome House, 73 Wyndham Street, Central
COST: $460 member/$510 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 4 min/12 max
COORDINATOR(S): Nicola Robertson 9358 6512

Who doesn’t like champagne and pampering?! While you learn some of the history of champagne and sample delicious champagnes from the House of Joseph Perrier’s prestigious collection, you will be treated to an express mani or pedi (nail shape, polish change and massage) at the Feel Good Factor (FGF), the first specialist nail salon in Hong Kong. A real double treat!

Educational Series – Walking Tour with Jason Wordie: Causeway Bay

WHEN: Friday, 15 March, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Approx.)
WHERE: Meet at Admiralty MTR (inside) near M&S Foods
COST: $440 member/$500 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 10 min/18 max
COORDINATOR(S): Susan Soskin West 9191 1503

Causeway Bay brings to mind high-end shops, crowds and constant consumerism, but a closer look reveals numerous lesser-known historical details and unexpected surprises. Our walk begins at Victoria Park, where local conglomerate Jardine, Matheson & Co. played a key role in Causeway Bay’s transformation and growth. We will then visit the statue of Queen Victoria and learn about its journey from Central to Causeway Bay – via Japan. From Victoria Park, we pass by Queen’s College, one of Hong Kong’s premier public schools for boys; Tin Hau Temple; and Lin Fa Kung, where the annual Tai Hang fire dragon dance takes place. Then we will proceed via a Fook Tak Chi temple to the famous chapel of St. Paul’s Hospital, the St. John Ambulance Command headquarters, the ornate, Chinese-style St. Mary’s Church, and the protected building that houses the Po Leung Kuk charity. Along the way, we will see unexpected reminders of WWII. We finish at the marvelous Race Course Fire Memorial, on the hillside behind Hong Kong Stadium.

Arts/Crafts & Design Series: Introduction to Pearl Knotting

WHEN: Friday, 15 March, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Approx.)
REGISTER BY: Monday, 11 March
WHERE: Stubbs Road Area (near Adventist Hospital) (Exact location will be emailed to participants)
COST: $510 member/$570 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 4 min/8 max (excluding coordinator)
COORDINATOR(S): Emily J. Hoaglin 6685 0305

Whether you like to work with pearls or beads, the knotting technique is indispensable for any jewelry maker. In this class, you will learn the basics of the knotting technique and how to begin and end a necklace on a clasp. At the end of this session, you will have a completed necklace to wear home proudly. Included in the course are handouts and instructions for making your necklace; thread; needles; and basic findings. The cost of pearls is additional, and you may choose from a wide selection of shapes, sizes and colors beginning at $50 per strand. If you wear glasses for close work, please bring them with you.

Behind the Scenes Series: Cathay Pacific City

WHEN: Saturday, 16 March, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
REGISTER BY: Saturday, 9 March
WHERE: Meet at General Post Office, 2 Connaught Place, Central
COST: $395 member/$455 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 25 min/30 max
COORDINATOR(S): Karen Womick 6316 7737, Tracey-Lee Hayes 9130 0851

Calling all travelers and anyone interested in aviation! Join us for a unique, behind-the-scenes tour of Cathay City, Cathay
Pacific’s Hong Kong headquarters. Built in 1998 at a cost of HK$4.9 billion, Cathay City was created for all central CX employees to work in one location. Our tour will include CX’s flight training center, cabin mock-up, check-in counter mock-up, crew lounge and the crew-only Headland Hotel. After the tour, we will enjoy a buffet lunch at the hotel’s Lion Rock Café.

Cooking with Passion: Cooking and Baking Class
WHEN: Tuesday, 19 March, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM (Approx.)
WHERE: Meet at Admiralty MTR (inside) near M&S Foods (Exact location will be emailed to participants)
COST: $700 member/$750 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 10 min/25 max
COORDINATOR(S): Cathy Furlong 9249 8533, Heidi Rockowitz 9090 7909
Making pasta is much easier than most people imagine. By making your own pasta dough, you have unlimited options for creating personalized pasta dishes. Join your fellow foodies for a fun night of learning how to make delicious pasta, followed by a quintessential chocolate soufflé, the light and airy French dessert famous for its trademark "risen" top. While our dessert is baking, we will enjoy the pasta with a pork ragu sauce. Free flow prosecco, soda, water and snacks complement the evening’s activities at the mixing bowl.

Educational Series: The Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (CFA) – Guided Tour
WHEN: Monday, 25 March, 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM
WHERE: CFA Supreme Court Building, Jackson Road, Central
COST: $60 member/$120 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 5 min/20 max
COORDINATOR(S): Lee Parr 5698 9163
The CFA is the final appellate court within Hong Kong’s judicial system. In addition, it plays an important role in the development of the common law in Hong Kong. This is a unique opportunity to visit the CFA building and learn about its architectural heritage and the CFA’s judicial history. We will tour the court rooms, galleries and library, and then will meet with one of the permanent judges to learn firsthand about how the judicial system works in Hong Kong.

Educational Series: Sunset Survivors: The Dying Trades of Hong Kong
WHEN: Wednesday, 27 March, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
WHERE: AWA Office
COST: $60 member/$120 member’s guest
CAPACITY: 12 min/30 max
COORDINATOR(S): Susan Soskin West 9191 1503
Join us for a fascinating talk on the vanishing trades of Hong Kong with Lindsay Varty, author of the new book “Sunset Survivors,” which shares stories of Hong Kong’s traditional tradesmen and women through stunning imagery and
candid interviews. She covers a myriad of curious professions that are quickly falling into obscurity, from fortunetelling and face threading to knife sharpening and even birdcage making. Many of the professions profiled are struggling to stay relevant in today’s fast-paced and digitized world. An English/Macanese woman raised in Hong Kong, Lindsay provides a cultural bridge from a western perspective. This talk will heighten your local awareness and generate even more appreciation for the charm and culture that makes Hong Kong so special.

**Diamond Master Class**

**WHEN:** Thursday, 28 March, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Approx.)
Register by Thursday, 21 March

**Looking Forward April/May**

**Behind the Scenes Series: Asian Tigers Warehouse Tour and Lunch**

**WHEN:** Thursday, 11 April, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Register by Monday, 8 April

**WHERE:** Meet at General Post Office, 2 Connaught Place, Central

**COST:** $60 member/$120 member’s guest

**CAPACITY:** 10 min/20 max

**COORDINATOR(S):** Rebecca Hooper 6822 4721

Have you ever wondered where your household shipment goes after it leaves your flat and is loaded onto the container ship? Asian Tigers Mobility, a leading provider of international relocation solutions, has organized a fun-filled day for our group, beginning with a private tour of their warehouse that includes expert packing tips. A friendly “how well do you think you can pack” competition will follow before we head to Citygate Outlets for a delicious dim sum lunch courtesy of Asian Tigers Mobility. After lunch, you are free to shop the outlet mall and return home at your leisure.

**Arts/Crafts & Design Series: Introduction to Jewelry Making**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 14 May, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM (Approx.)
Register by Thursday, 9 May

**WHERE:** Stubbs Road Area (near Adventist Hospital) (Exact location will be emailed to participants)

**COST:** $1060 member/$1120 member’s guest

**CAPACITY:** 4 min/8 max (excluding coordinator)

**COORDINATOR(S):** Emily J. Hoaglin 6685 0305

Welcome to the wonderful world of jewelry! There are a vast...
number of disciplines in jewelry making; we will be working with beads and stringing. Once you learn which supplies and materials are needed and practice a few simple techniques, nothing will be beyond your capability as you set your creativity loose designing unique pieces. In this one-day course, we will cover tools, beads, findings and stringing materials; how to determine what stringing material and findings to use for a particular piece, and how to mix beads of different colors and proportions together. Finally, we will be designing and creating a piece of jewelry. If you wear glasses for close work, please bring them. You will also need to bring lunch for a 30-minute midday break.

Registration Procedures
Local Tour and Activity (LTA) events are open for registration as of the first of each month in which the activity will be held. Activities being held in the early part of the following month are open for registration on the first day of the prior month. Check the AWA website at www.awa.org.hk for the most up-to-date schedule and don’t forget to register early as many of the events will sell out.

Refund, Cancellation and Substitution Policies
Every activity includes an administrative fee of HK$60 Member/HK$120 Member’s Guest. This base fee is not refundable at any time unless the AWA cancels the event. Charges in excess of the base fee are refundable if cancellation is received by the AWA office at least one full week before the activity date. For example, if the activity is on a Tuesday, cancellation must be received prior to midnight of the previous Tuesday. If the AWA cancels an event, the entire activity cost will be automatically credited to you. Credit notes are not transferable and must be used within six months from the date of issue or by the end of the AWA fiscal year (30 June), whichever is earlier. You may request a check in lieu of a credit at any time before the credit expires. Owing to the popularity of AWA activities, many have a wait list and therefore substitutions cannot be accepted. If you are unable to attend an activity, please, inform the AWA office to cancel your place and allow someone on the waitlist to attend.

*The $60 registration fee is purely an administration fee. It is not donated to the Charitable and Education fund.

Local Tours and Activities

The AWA WOMEN’S FORUM LUNCH & LEARN program is a series of short monthly discussions focused on women: our lives, our choices, our impact, and our concerns. Meet in the AWA Office around noon with a sack lunch, speakers begin at 12:30 and wrap up around 2 pm. Lunch and Learn events are no charge, but please register for the Women’s Forum on the AWA website under Ongoing Clubs and Sports. Questions? Contact maryannboone828@gmail.com

Wednesday March 20 - Matt Friedman: Ending Modern Slavery
There are more slaves today than at any other time in history. That shocking fact, presented by Matt Friedman of The Mekong Club, summarizes the statistics: 45.8 million people in 167 countries are exploited every day for their labor, especially in South-East Asia. These people make the recognized name-brand products we buy and they harvest or process the food we eat. The Mekong Club is a leader in engaging and inspiring the private sector to lead the fight against the epidemic of modern slavery.
AWA’s Ongoing Clubs & Sports

Of the many ways to get involved in the AWA, Ongoing Clubs & Sports are the most popular, and easiest, ways to make new friends. We offer something for everyone: from hobbies to languages, golf and dragon boat racing. Ongoing Clubs & Sports offer comfortable and enjoyable ways to keep busy and expand your network of friends. These activities are organized by AWA members for AWA members with similar interests and passions. One-time registration is required in order to receive updates about scheduled activities. For more information and to register, go online to www.awa.org.hk.

| ART LOVERS:                         | Kumiko Matsushima, kumikomatsushima333@gmail.com |
| PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP:                 | Angela Bellas, angela_bellas@yahoo.com            |
| STITCH:                            | Connie Albracht, conniealbracht@me.com           |
| AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB:               | Penny Van Niel, penny.vanniel@gmail.com           |
|                                   | Kathryn Abbott, ykathrynabbotty@hotmail.com       |
| SPIRITUAL LITERACY GROUP:          | Kate Weisman, kate.weisman@gmail.com              |
| MAHJONG MADNESS:                   | Katherine Fenton, klfone@aol.com                  |
|                                   | Nicola Robertson, jamjarrobertson@aol.co.uk       |
| SOCIAL BRIDGE AND LUNCH:           | Position currently open. To learn more, email Tracey-Lee Hayes at activities@awa.org.hk. |
| GAMES GALORE-MAHJONG OR BRIDGE:    | Beth Hall, bethall@netvigator.com                 |
| LUNCH BUNCH:                       | Connie Albracht, conniealbracht@me.com           |
| GALLOPING GOURMET:                 | Linda Gomoll, ljgomoll1@gmail.com                 |
|                                   | Jean Han, jeanhoya@yahoo.com                      |
|                                   | Mary Oliver, leoliver@msn.com                     |
|                                   | Penny Soder, pennysoder@gmail.com                 |
| AWA HIKING GROUP:                  | Gail Sousa, glsousa@yahoo.com (Monday hikes)      |
|                                   | Alison Doran, ajdoran23@gmail.com (Monday hikes)  |
|                                   | Kathryn Abbott, ykathrynabbotty@hotmail.com (Wednesday hikes) |
|                                   | Jackie Smith, jackie.smith8@yahoo.com (Wednesday hikes) |
| AWA GLOBE PADDLERS DRAGON BOAT TEAM:| Sarah Brundan, sjbrundan@yahoo.co.in              |
|                                   | Augusta Nichols-Even, nichols.even@gmail.com      |
| AWA GOLF SOCIETY:                  | Nicci Button and Tanya Keg, golf@awa.org.hk       |
| WOMEN’S FORUM:                     | MaryAnn Boone, maryannboone828@gmail.com          |
| WOW:                               | Karen Whitaker, wow@awa.org.hk                    |
| ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:           | Gabriela Caraman-Heijnen, awahkenvironment@gmail.com |
COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SERVICE volunteering@awa.org.hk
Chairperson
Soup Kitchen Claudia Ciesielski: claudiahhk2001@yahoo.com.hk
HK Society for the Blind Lee Parr: kingsmeadparr@aol.com
Ronald McDonald House Renee Cheung: reneecheung@me.com
Hong Kong Hosts:
Adopt a Marine/Sailor Amy Caine: hongkonghosts@awa.org.hk
China Merchants Wharf Kimm Schumacher: Kimm.fl@gmail.com

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP educationscholarship@awa.org.hk
Chairperson Augusta Nichols-Even: educationscholarship@awa.org.hk
English Programs:
Kwun Tong Marti Law: martilaw@hotmail.com
Pok Fu Lam Liz Clark: liz.clark.hk@gmail.com
Sham Shui Po Barbara Iannazzone: barbara.iannazzone@gmail.com
Chai Wan Linda Gomoll: ljgomoll1@gmail.com
Mei Foo Reading Program Jill Baran Scott: jbaranscott@gmail.com
Lai King Karen Prosser: Kakki1961@hotmail.com
Dining Etiquette Bernice Lee: berniceliee2002@yahoo.com
Mock Interviews Katherine Payne: kepayne2506@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS publicrelations@awa.org.hk
Chairperson Rachel Bourke: publicrelations@awa.org.hk
Newsletter/E-Blast Coordinator Rachel Bourke: publicrelations@awa.org.hk
Forum Moderator Rachel Bourke: forum@awa.org.hk

MEMBERSHIP membership@awa.org.hk
2nd Vice President Gail Sousa: membership@awa.org.hk
Buddy Program Alison May: alisonemay@me.com
CHAT Coordinator Nancy Acee: hacey3@gmail.com
Avril York: avrily7@gmail.com
Foon Ying-Hong Kong Insights Chrissie Gouver: chrissie.gouver@gmail.com
Helen Pott: helen.hk123@gmail.com
Membership Discounts membership@awa.org.hk
OWL Connie Albracht: conniealbracht@me.com
DB Owl Dede Marconato: marconatofamily@gmail.com
WOW Karen Whitaker: wow@awa.org.hk

OFFICE
Phone 2527 2961/2
Fax 2865 7737
Hours 9:30am – 3:30pm Mon-Thu
Address No.5, 11th floor, Arion Commercial Centre, 2-12 Queen’s Road West, Hong Kong
Website www.awa.org.hk
Director of Operations Barbora Mayer: director_operations@awa.org.hk
Membership Representative Joanne Lam: info@awa.org.hk

EXECUTIVE BOARD
President Andrea Roth: president@awa.org.hk
1st VP Fundraising Robin Neiterman: fundraising@awa.org.hk
2nd VP Membership Gail Sousa: membership@awa.org.hk
3rd VP Activities Tracey Lee Hayes: activities@awa.org.hk
Treasurer Alison Doran: treasurer@awa.org.hk
Recording Secretary Jessica Cheng: secretary@awa.org.hk
Charitable Donations Beth McNicholas: charities@awa.org.hk
Community Service Lee Parr: volunteering@awa.org.hk
Education & Scholarship Augusta Nichols-Even: educationscholarship@awa.org.hk
AWARE Editor Stephanie Chan: aware@awa.org.hk
Sponsorship Debbie Cruikshank: corporatesponsor@awa.org.hk
PR & Communications Rachel Bourke: publicrelations@awa.org.hk

SOCIAL
ACTIVITIES activities@awa.org.hk
3rd Vice President Tracey-Lee Hayes: activities@awa.org.hk
Asian Tours Tracey-Lee Hayes: tleehayes@me.com
Annie Fifer: anniefifer@gmail.com
Heidi Rockowitz: heidirockowitz@gmail.com
Debbie Cruikshank: Debcrui@aoic.com

If you would like to join the AWA or if you have any question about the organization, please contact the office or any of the Executive Board members.

CARPET WASHING & REPAIRS PROFESSIONALS
CLEANING & REPAIR SERVICES
Our cleaning and repair services are the best in Hong Kong: Free pickup and delivery.

SHOP IN YOUR HOME
You can buy a carpet in the comfort of your home. (We can bring the carpets to you with no obligation.)

CALL : 9018 0897 / 2851 3665
EMAIL : lqbalhk@me.com
WEBSITE : lqbalcarpets.hk
ADDRESS : G/F. 21 PO TUNG RD. SAIKUNG
JOIN US TODAY

Become a part of AmCham network and experience the differences with...

ACCESS
Connect with C-suite and govt officials, high-level delegations to Washington and China

ADVOCACY
An influential voice for the international business community

EXPOSURE
Branding and speaking openings, print and digital coverage

NETWORKING
Grow your professional network, unlock new commercial opportunities

The American Chamber of Commerce is the largest international chamber in Hong Kong, with almost 50 years of history and influence in the Asia-Pacific. Our mission is to serve as a center for networking, information and advocacy for our valued members.

Enquiry: membership@amcham.org.hk / +852 2530 6925