

Weekender

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Because every week deserves a happy ending



WORLD MAN'S BEST FRIEND DAY!! PAGE 8



TAKING CARE OF YOUR DOGS IN THE HEAT PAGE 8



TWO WEEKS TO DONE! PAGE 9



TARANTINO HAS DONE IT AGAIN! PAGE 9

Where's The Biryani Party At!

As the disparity between the fortunate and the misfortunate increases, the real MVPs are the ones who take time and effort off of what is prescribed to be the ideal path to success, to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Then there are those who make it their life's mission to improve the quality of life of those around them. Abbas Khan and Mahrukh Abbas are a couple worth emulating. They are the founders of the Saturday Biryani Party, an organization that serves biryani to labourers all over the

country, every Saturday. Beginning as just a meal, it is now an event that brings joy to everyone involved. Weekender had the opportunity to chat with Abbas Khan, to know more.

W. What was the spark that brought Saturday Biryani Party to life?

AK. Saturday Biryani Party is a weekly initiative to share meals with workers at their construction sites. Started in May 2015, we have shared around 73,146 complete biryani meals to date (Aug 17), over the last 223 consecutive weeks. IT is a very humble attempt to create community awareness about the conditions of these workers. In this process, we aim to teach our children certain basic social values, and their role in building a more equitable society. Thanks to this beautiful country where coexisting is an integral part of the community.

We wanted to use this forum to create awareness about the living conditions of workers. We do not see them as a human being separate from the landscape. They are part of our visual frame somewhere in the negative space, that we do not see. We enjoy clean roads, washed cars, clean tables at the food courts, etc. – without realizing that 'someone' is doing this for us. Acknowledgment of their existence is the first step, followed by recognition and realization of what they do – of what they have, and more importantly, realizing the gravity of what we have.

We started this as a family activity. It was started by my wife Mahrukh Abbas in May 2015, by distributing 15 – 25 biryani meals amongst the construction workers near our house. Before the Saturday Biryani Party saw the light, I used to make photo documentary about these workers for my Facebook page, to create awareness about their lives. When the biryani distribution began, my wife's intention to distribute food to these workers and my photography passion to document the lives of these workers were combined. We used to go out in our jeep and from one window my daughter would give drinks, from the other my son would distribute sauces



and biryani and I would take photos and interview few of them to listen to them and document their stories.

Word spread very quickly, as friends joined in, and social media and print publicity helped it further.

We share our meals with everyone, anyone in need, in a casual and friendly, yet very respectful environment. It's a 'party'!

W. What is your process, where do you source the food from or do you make it yourself?

AK. We buy biryani from a supplier. Over the years we have changed suppliers based on quality, quantity, and price. We also buy water and drinks. Apart from this, volunteers bring food to distribute at our party. They bring additional juices, fruits, cookies, chips, even cricket balls, warm clothes, used shoes, children's paintings, hand wash, shampoos, and the like. We always encourage youngsters to attend the event.

W. Who are your biggest financial supporters or helping hands?

AK. My biggest support comes from a friend who arranges the entire event every week, in my absence, since my work requires me to travel a lot. In the past 4 years, we have had a loyal group of volunteers who have supported this initiative through thick and thin. We have had financial support from Bahrain Financing Company for over a year and a half, now. Our major breakthrough was winning the Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for The Best Bahraini Volunteer Project.

W. What is Saturday Biryani Party's next big hopeful step, if there is one?

AK. We aim to begin a 'Kitchen for Widows' – this would be a kitchen where we would contract widows to cook biryani for us every week. We will buy from them on commercial rates. The kitchen would be at their disposal, for them to cook and sell to support themselves and their families.

Abbas Khan also mentioned to Weekender that their logo says 'biryani has no religion'. To volunteer or donate, call on +973 39874541.



Eating out

WHAT: Après Beach
WHEN: 12:30 PM – 03:30 PM AUGUST 23
WHERE: Thai, Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

As the sun sets each evening in our slice of paradise, join us for an evening of sundowners paired with a savory menu, along with outdoor access to the resort's Royal Beach Club pool facilities. A perfect after work escape for romantic couples or with your best group of friends.

WHAT: AFTER BRUNCH MENU
WHEN: 04:00 PM – 06:00 PM, SATURDAYS
WHERE: CANTINA KAHLO, THE RITZ-CARLTON, BAHRAIN

Cantina Kahlo is serving up a light menu perfect for guests who prefer late lunch on weekends, every Saturday after the Brunch Fiesta. The after brunch menu includes Mexican favorites like Guacamole, Ensalada Verde, Ceviches, Antojitos, Tacos, and Churros.

WHAT: SATURDAY FAMILY LUNCH
WHEN: 12:30 PM TO 03:30 PM, SATURDAYS
WHERE: LA MED

Bring your family and friends for a relaxing weekend lunch. Enjoy international specialties, live cooking stations, and a lavish dessert buffet.



Nightlife & Music

WHAT: LADIES NIGHT AT TANATAN
WHEN: ONGOING TILL AUGUST 31
WHERE: RAMEE GRAND HOTEL AND SPA

Enjoy the exquisite offer of buy one get one main course free!!! Get ready for a fun night with your girls!!

WHAT: RnB Classics
WHEN: AUGUST 22
WHERE: CODA JAZZ LOUNGE

Get ready for a Thursday night filled with some of the greatest R&B jams from the 80s, 90s & 00s thrown down by none other than guest DJ Cossta who will be spinning those tunes in between & after our Live band! Get your groove on & bring along those dancing shoes to go down the memory lane when music was fun!

WHAT: PINK PARTY
WHEN: AUGUST 24
WHERE: UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

Unwind at this pink party hosted by the Upstairs Downstairs Restaurant. The Upstairs Pink bar invites you to enjoy free entry and a bottle of bubbly with two main meals ordered. Enjoy live music through the night, which goes on from 8 pm to 1:30 am.

WHAT: LADIES NIGHT
WHEN: AUGUST 22
WHERE: UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

Women rule the world! From 9 pm till 2 am, ladies take charge and will enjoy a night of great fun! There is nothing like hanging out with your best gals and enjoying the best of beverages.



Forever Home Hopefuls

Ready to take them home?

Every week, Weekender, in collaboration with the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA), will showcase two adorable fur babies who are looking for their Forever Homes.

BOYKA

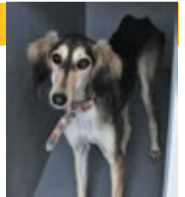
Type: Cat
Breed: DSH
Colour: White
Gender: Male
Age: 5.5 months



Boyka is a cuddly and playful little ball of fur. This curious kittie likes being around people and always shows how keen he is to be taken out and kept close to a loving person. He loves people but is sadly spending most of his childhood months at the shelter, while only catching occasional glimpses of a family and loving home when the visitors arrive. Unfortunately, he always has to watch the visitors leave without him. Boyka would love to go to a loving home where he can focus all of his care and attention on his forever family. Boyka is Fully Vaccinated.

RAIN

Type: Dog
Breed: Saluki
Colour: Black/Tan
Gender: Female
Age: 1 year 3 months



Rain is a very cool and quiet Saluki that moves like the wind. She has the cutest fluffy ears that you can't help but scratch as you look into her eyes and talk to her. Our volunteers love her because of how friendly and easy-going she is towards them. She deserves a much better home and warm family to welcome and love her, where she can spend her days being ever watchful and keeping them safe. Rain's presence instantly adds a relaxed and happy vibe to any household. Rain is neutered, tick-treated and fully vaccinated and eagerly waiting for that special someone to take her to her Forever Home!