



*Join Us for
A Special Night*

*10th IWG Anniversary Celebration
October 16, 2010*

THE EXPLORER Quarterly Newsletter

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The International Women's Group (IWG) is a non-profit organization. IWG provides outreach through its activities and programs to meet the needs of the international and local community in the Franconian region. IWG offers the opportunity to meet people and learn something new. Membership application form can be found at our website: **www.womensgroup.de**

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

The IWG celebrates its first “round” birthday!

Once upon a time, a handful of women had a vision and created a club for women to connect, make friends, learn from and help one another. From this beautiful vision the IWG was born.

Over the years the Explorer has shown our members in action, doing lots of fun and interesting things. In this issue you will also read about the different (often inspiring) ways many of our members have chosen to serve their local or global communities.

In 2010 the IWG e.V. comes of age with its first round birthday. We cordially invite all past, present and future members, as well as all their spouses and friends, to come and celebrate this milestone with us! The Anniversary Committee has rented a lovely venue, hired a great jazz musician and planned a delightful menu. Laughter and fun are guaranteed but, as your president, I would like you to consider another reason to attend this party.

Most of us have roofs over our heads, health, enough to eat, etc. We have the language skills and education to adapt in times of difficulty. But others are suffering due to violence, poverty, sudden illness or natural disasters, possibly with insufficient survival tools.

As an established organization of talented, community-minded women and in keeping with our new “maturity”, our celebration this year will provide an opportunity for us to share our time, talent and treasure with those less fortunate through a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Women’s Shelter in Erlangen.

Rumi says, “*Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.*”

Well, what do you love to do? Share it. It might not be money or a tangible item. It could be a gift certificate for baby-sitting, a catered dinner party, language lessons or household help. Perhaps you have gardening, handwork or artistic skills or products to share. We all have something special to offer. The possibilities are endless. Local businesses are also donating items for the silent auction; anything from dinner for two, a romantic get-away, wellness package to ... well, the sky is the limit.

During our celebration these items will be offered up for auction and we bid against one another in the spirit of friendly competition to get that special something at the best possible price. Come in for a good time, leave with a treasure and help those in need at the same time!

Mark your calendar. Surely you won’t want to miss the IWG’s 10th birthday/anniversary party!

Much love,

Lucinda Schwaiger, IWG President

E D I T O R I A L

This is the true joy in life - being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. ~George Bernard Shaw

Welcome to another quarterly issue of The Explorer. As we head into the summer months, it’s hard to believe the school year is almost over. There is much to be thankful for as we wind down for the summer.

In this issue, charity is as much the order of the day as having a good time. Topics range from IWG’s 10th Anniversary celebration and Silent Auction to the sizzling Bunco scene, quilting exhibit and more!!!

Shifting from country to country is a challenging experience, Karin Hesse talks about ways in helping newcomers find their place in the community. Ille Prockl-Pfeiffer introduces Zonta, an international service organization comprised of women who dedicate their time to help other women through workshops and projects.

Read about Audra Watson’s volunteering experience as a tutor in the Realschule Herzogenaurach. Get your dose of art reviews. Find out what’s been keeping our fellow members busy in the community. Get into the groove with the upcoming social events.

Finally, thank you to all contributing writers.

“*Writing is a dog’s life...*” Flaubert said, and writing for a non-profit publication for no pay in your spare time is truly only done for the love of it.

Don’t forget, the next issue’s theme will be about “*Language*”. Deadline for submission of articles in the Fall Issue is on Aug 15th. We’d love to hear from you, so please do write to us at editor@womensgroup.de with suggestions for articles. Or better yet, write one yourself!

EL-C Talmadge

Calling all IWG MEMBERS!!!

Dear IWG Members and Friends,

The 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee and I are all excited about our upcoming party on **October 16, 2010. (Mark your calendars NOW!)** It will be a night of meeting many old friends, and new; a night that promises fun and laughter and entertainment. And then again I would like to think that perhaps we can all do more – beyond fun and games and happy laughter, perhaps we can do more to make this more meaningful and happy for us. I have no doubt that we are all blest- financially, career-wise, in the very lives we live – we are all truly blest. And I have no doubt that we are all thankful for what we are and for where we are in our lives and the many things we enjoy. It is because of this thought and the gratitude that I feel for the life that I have, that has made me think about reaching out and giving back, and sharing my blessings with many who are not as fortunate to be so.

What can I – what can we – do to help? Believe me, it does not take much. Every little bit counts, and every little thing can be put together to create one big thing. It is the age-old “United we stand” syndrome. Maybe one little act of kindness or one small contribution will not do much, but if we put together all of our small contributions, it can mean a great thing for one or more people in need. My idea is nothing new, but the thought of doing this with you all and the possibilities of the great things we can do as one group is an exciting prospect for me. To share a little something of what we have, or what we are, by simply participating in our silent auction – to raise money so we can give to charity – is a beautiful concept of truly sharing our blessings.

It will be fun, too – this I can assure you. And why not? When we all know that when we all come together for a project, we pour our hearts and laughter into it – and always with only the best results!

I’m looking forward to seeing you all! Bring along a friend, your partner, your neighbour and don’t forget, - your wallets!

Sincerely,

Marissa Cruz-Springer
IWG Vice-President

P.S.

In line with the IWG 10th Anniversary in October 2010, the planning committee would appreciate any contact information of past members/board members/ founders of the IWG. Some members have moved out of the area, but surely a number of them have kept in contact with the friends they made in the IWG. If you have any information about the whereabouts of these members, we would be delighted to include some “then and now” stories from them. This would also give them a chance to send their anniversary greetings which we hope to feature in one of our publications. Please mail them to vicepresident@womensgroup.de.

We are also in the process of soliciting donors for the silent auction to be held during the party. If you are willing to make a donation, or know of anybody who is willing to donate services or goods, please contact Misook Winter (Tel.: 09134 909851).



Advertising space available in the IWG 10th Anniversary Program.
Proceeds from advertisements in the program will benefit the Erlangen Women's Shelter.

Deadline for submissions: Sept. 1, 2010.
For prices and conditions please contact: Marissa Springer at vicepresident@womensgroup.de.

Introducing the new IWG Board Members...

President: Lucinda Schwaiger

Born and bred in Oregon, Lucinda is a sociologist by education, has worked as an insurance investigator and teacher but is essentially a “hearth tender” by nature. She loves reading, biking, meditative dance and all forms of domestic art, including cooking, sewing and basketry. She held the IWG treasurer position last year and looks forward to serving as your new President.



Vice President: Maria Czarina Cruz-Springer

Mabuhay! Her friends call her Marissa and she comes from Manila, Philippines. She is a certified Food and Nutritionist by profession but has been fortunate to work in other occupational fields. To name a few – Presidential Cabin Crew for Philippine Airlines, Managing Director’s Assistant in Kuwait (where she met her German husband), Philippine Embassy Investment Officer’s Assistant in Cologne and finally settling in Erlangen and opening up her “karton” gift shop which lasted for 8 years. Reading, travelling, eating out with friends are her favourite pastimes. “It is fascinating to see what happens when we throw ourselves into unknown environments”- according to Marissa, and that’s why she joined IWG and accepted the opportunity to serve the board.



Events: Elaine Franz

Originally from Taiwan, Elaine has migrated with her family when she was a teenager to US and lived ten years in beautiful sunny southern California. Prior to marriage, she has worked in the field of international business and accounting at Siemens where she met her husband. Ten years of marriage, she has been travelling with her husband around the world and till recently, they have finally settle down with two children in middle Franconia. Now as a full-time mother and a housewife, she enjoys cooking, reading, listening to classical music, biking, hiking and yoga. Elaine is more than delighted to be given the chance to serve in IWG board as Program/Events Coordinator and hopes to meet more people and to explore new life here in Germany.



Treasurer: Lisa-Maria Beyes

Lisa was born in 1968 in Berlin. She studied law in Berlin and Lausanne/ Geneva and has lived in England, Turkey and Boston for a couple of months. From 2006 to 2008, she stayed in Wooster, Ohio. She has three kids; 9, 8 and 4 years old. She became a member of the IWG because she loves to be part of the international community. She found, that despite all cultural differences, there is usually a way to understand each other and become friends.



Website: Annette St. Quintin

Originally from the United Kingdom, Annette has been living in Germany since 1997, when her husband Simon was transferred with Siemens. Prior to leaving the UK Annette worked in IT and law and now works part-time at the law school (Erlangen University) as a bilingual secretary. She lives in Großhabersdorf (between Nuremberg and Ansbach) with her husband Simon and their two dogs. Annette's interests include cooking, reading, walking and travel.



Newcomers: Birgit Zander-Maron

Many people are still trying to figure out where Birgit really comes from but believe it or not: her nationality is German. She is a mother of 3 children, ages 14, 8 and 5. She has been living in Herzogenaurach since February 2006 and before that the moves were numerous; taking her to places in South Africa, South America and Germany. With IWG, she spends her time attending Bunco evenings, Ladies Night Out and Cooking events.



Welcome the NEW IWG Members...

Katalin Vithalm-Morelli

Katalin presently lives in Herzogenaurach with her husband. Before coming to Germany, she lived in Budapest, Hungary, followed by Munich, where she began to study as a Social Worker.

Her native language is Hungarian, and she speaks very good German and Italian. She is currently learning Spanish. She is interested in art and likes working in the garden. She also likes to meet people from other countries and cultures. Contact her via email: kativithalm@yahoo.de



Sangeeta Joshi-Kumar

Sangeeta is a British-Indian. She lives in Erlangen with her three children. Prior to coming here, she lived in the UK & Kenya. She keeps herself very busy and is multilingual; speaking English, a little German, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Swahili.

Her hobbies are reading, walking, dancing and surfing the Internet. She also loves meeting new people, walking and chatting! She is looking forward to meeting everyone in the IWG. She is also willing to help if needed and if she has the time so plan her in. She loves joining in with all sorts of things.



PSSST! *Silent Auctions Aren't Really Silent!*

TEXT: LIZ KRAFT

The term “silent auction”. *What does it mean?* Does the very thought of it inspire you to spend a night at home, re-arranging your sock drawer? What if you knew that the prizes that were up for grabs included a wellness package, an exquisite hand-made quilt, or a romantic getaway?

And, while each bid may be a bit of a gamble, rest assured that it's for a good cause -- namely to assist the women at Erlangen's own “Frauenhaus Shelter” for women and children.

Why them? Well, as a women's group, it seemed fitting to support other women in need, and this group is a real trail blazer in that it is the only one of its kind in Bavaria, the second of its kind in all of Germany.

So now that the prizes and beneficiary are no longer a mystery, let's talk about the workings of a silent auction. In it's simplest form, bidders have a short window in which they can bid for a given item by entering their bid on a piece of paper. Once that window is closed, guests can either bid on the next package or sit back and relax with drinks, finger food, and live music. At the end of the evening winners are announced and prizes are dispersed. Then we tally up the bids, calculate our total donation, and go home knowing that - on this night - we made a difference in the lives of women and children in our very own communities.

Throughout the night we'll be hearing from a local legend, **Mr. Tony Bulluck** (<http://www.tonybulluck.com/>). Amongst other awards, Mr. Bulluck is the recipient of the Bavarian Blues Award and his soulful jazz- and blues-infused music makes for an act you won't want to miss.

So whether you're feeling lucky or just especially generous, mark the evening of October on your calendar. There, at the “Zehntspeicher” in Neunkirchen am Brand we'll come together to celebrate 10 years of the IWG for a good - no great - cause... because together we can make a difference.

Spotlight on Tony Bulluck - Expat Musician Takes Center Stage

American-born musician Tony Bulluck knows what it's like to live abroad. In fact, it was during his childhood in Panama that he began to show real promise as a musician -- enough so that his choir teacher decided to introduce him to various local icons in the music world. His mentor was so confident in his abilities that he made the initial arrangements for the first of Tony's many public performances.

Even at that time Tony Bulluck the musician attracted large followings, and these early successes prompted him to later form bands. The bands would pay their dues by performing at numerous nightclubs & college

campuses, from Tijuana Mexico to Tampa Florida and beyond, with performances as far flung as Winnipeg Canada. When he wasn't on stage, Tony took advantage of rehearsals with well established Berkley musicians to hone his guitar skills.

As an ambitious young musician, he went on to study Jazz Theory & Harmony, Ensemble & Big Band Performances and Guitar Studies before serving as a community music director & music instructor for the U.S. military in Kaiserslautern & Bamberg.



Now an active member of the International Association of Jazz Educators (since 1984), Mr. Bulluck has performed on some of the world's most renowned stages, including the Miles Davis Hall Montreux Jazz Café, Stravinski Auditorium Terrasse, Lake Geneva Memphis Boat in 29th & 30th Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), European Cultural Centre (France), Nuremberg Opera House, Würzburg Umsonst & Draussen Festivals, Frankfurt Musikmesse, Dresden Blues Festival, Deutschen Bundesrockfestival (German National Rock Festival), etc. He's also the proud recipient of the Bavarian Blues Award, state financial grants & Oscars from the Deutscher Rock & Popmusikerverband (German Rock & Pop Musicians Union).

So what inspired this local legend? Some of Tony's early major influences Nat 'King' Cole, Wes Montgomery, Stevie Wonder, the Beatles, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, and the gospel music he took in at family and religious gatherings.

continued...

When he's not working on his music, Mr. Bulluck supports AIDS Research, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International, Frauen & Kinderschutzhausen (Women & Children Protective Houses).

This combination of talent, travel, and philanthropy make Tony the perfect fit for the upcoming IWG Silent Auction to benefit Erlangen's Frauenhaus shelter for battered women and children. With his help, we're sure to make October 16, a night to remember. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Tony Bulluck to our multi-national IWG family.



*“Wir sagen **NEIN** zur Gewalt gegen Frauen und Kinder.”**

Chances are, you haven't yet heard of the Autonomes Frauenhaus Erlangen. After all, as a haven for those seeking asylum from domestic violence, it is shrouded in secrecy by sheer necessity.

However, when the IWG committee began considering which charities to pair up with for the upcoming silent auction, it fit the two established criteria perfectly.

The first thought was that the charity should be something local, to allow us to give back to the community that we all know and love (excluding of course rainy days or the occasional shocking service experience).

The second criterion was that the charity benefits women in some way, for obvious reasons (as a women's organization). The “Autonomes Frauenhaus” does just that, with its focus on sheltering and protecting battered women and children.

The first of its kind in Bavaria, Frauenhaus is only the second shelter Germany-wide, making it a real no-brainer in terms of whether or not it was deserving of our support and attention.

At the Frauenhaus, each woman receives a private room for herself and any child (or children) she may have. The women who run the shelter provide food, emotional support, counseling, and will even go to “Amt” appointments with victims upon request.

But perhaps most importantly, if a situation arises where the victim must return to their home (for any number of reasons, i.e. for personal belongings), the women of Frauenhaus will be right there with them.

Some of our members have personally endured domestic violence, know others who have or, more likely, encounter women who suffer in silence. As such, the Frauenhaus deserves our respect and support and we are happy to announce the Autonomes Frauenhaus as this year's charity of choice.

Please, let's work together to make every cent raised at the upcoming silent auction count for victims of domestic violence, specifically the women seeking shelter at the Frauenhaus, right here in our very own community. These women are our neighbors, our doctors, or maybe even our children's teachers.

And now, you can make a difference in their lives.

The IWG 10th Anniversary Planning Committee



*from a recent flier produced by the Frauenhaus see: www.frauenhaus-erlangen.de for more information.

IWG CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR JULY 2010

DATE + RSVP	EVENT/VENUE	CONTACT	DESCRIPTION
Thursday July 1 3 pm RSVP by June 30th	Biergarten Venue: Alte Schule Kairlindacher Str. 12 91085 Weisendorf- Kairlindach	Birgit Zander-Maron 09132 747 772 maron2b@aol.de	Biergartens offers not only beer, let's try out the Franconian cuisine in the open air and bring along your children where they can play in the playground next to the biergarten.
Friday July 2 10 am RSVP by June 25th	A Walk at Huckepack in Erlangen- Hüttendorf 91056	Nicola Hammer nj.hammer@t-online.de	Join Nicola for a walk at Huckepack. You can pick your favorites fruits and vegetables fresh from the field. You also can collect fresh eggs straight from the hens. Meeting point: Entrance to Huckepack at 10:00. If it rains, the event will be cancelled.
Thursday July 8 3 pm RSVP by June 7th	Biergarten Venue: Baumhaus Biergarten Rennhofen 23 91448 Emskirchen	Birgit Zander-Maron 09132 747 772 maron2b@aol.de	Biergartens offers not only beer, let's try out the Franconian cuisine in the open air and bring along your children where they can play in the playground next to the biergarten.
Friday July 9 7 pm	Scrapbooking at Antje's place	Antje Slavik 0911 307 2127 antje.slavik@gmx.de	Want to create your own scrapbook? Bring your materials with you and let's have fun! RSVP by July 6th
Tuesday July 13 7 pm	Ladies Night Out- Grill Party at Barbara's Place	Barbara Stöffler 0177 888 8619 barbara.stoeffler@gmx.net	Get the charcoal ready! Bring the meat and let's make the grill hot! RSVP by July 10th
Friday July 16 10 am RSVP by July 9th	A walk at Heinrich-Kirchner Skulpturengarten in Erlangen 91054 Burgbergstr. An den Kellern 37	Nicola Hammer nj.hammer@t-online.de	Join Nicola for a walk at Heinrich-Kirchners Skulpturengarten. Heinrich Kirchner was born in Erlangen in 1902 and became a famous sculptor. Meeting point: Entrance to Skulpturengarten, An den Kellern 37 Burgbergstr. If it rains, the event will be postponed or cancelled.
Friday July 16 10 am RSVP by July 14th	Bunco Night at Deb's Place	Deb Bayer 09132 746831 email: Bayer3@t-online.de	It's BUNCO time! Come and try your luck with this addictive dice game! It is fun, so be one of the lucky ladies to get a spot...maximum 12 ladies! Cost: Don't forget your €5,00 to play and please bring an appetizer or beverage to share with everyone. Wine drinkers....please bring your wine glass with you!
Thursday July 15/29 9 am RSVP by July 13/27	Bike Tour with Birgit from Forchheim to Bamberg Meeting at Forchheim Train Station	Birgit Zander-Maron 09132 747 772 maron2b@aol.de	We are taking a great bike route from Forchheim to Bamberg and along the way we will stop in one of the biergartens to rest and enjoy a meal. In some of the villages we pass, there are train stops which can take us back to Forchheim if you can not bike all the way through to Bamberg.
Thursday July 22 830 am	Lets speak German Stammtisch at "Der Beck" Puma Outlet in Herzogenaurach	Deb Bayer 09132 746831 email: Bayer3@t-online.de	Der, Die, Das...Was ist was??? Let's get together and try to speak German in a no pressure atmosphere at the Der Beck by the new Puma Outlet in Herzogenaurach.
July 6, 13, 20, 27 Tuesdays @ 9am	Morning-Walk Morning-Talk at Herzogenaurach Airport Parking Lot	Gerlinde Süß 09132 630 378 gerlinde-suess@web.de	Let's speak German while walking for 1 1/2 to 2 hours You may as well bring along your Nordic-Walking equipment and get some extra exercise. Let's move it!
Thursday July 8 @ 730 pm	Book Club 2 at Susanne's Place	Susanne Hehn 09132 745 747 susanne.hehn@web.de	Book: Culture Cody by Clotilde Rapaille
SUMMER BREAK!	Book Club 1	Maruja Habeder 09132 9790 m.habeder@t-online.de	

IWG CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST 2010

DATE + RSVP	EVENT/VENUE	CONTACT	DESCRIPTION
Friday August 6 7 pm RSVP by Aug 3rd	Scrapbooking at Antje's place	Antje Slavik 0911 307 2127 antje.slavik@gmx.de	Want to create your own scrapbook? Bring your materials with you and let's have fun!
TBA	Bunco Night	Date and hostess to be advised. Please refer to Aug. E-Newsletter	It's BUNCO time! Come and try your luck with this easy dice game! It is fun, so be one of the lucky ladies to get a spot! Cost: Don't forget your €5,00 to play and please bring an appetizer / desert or beverage to share with everyone.
SUMMER BREAK	Book Club 2	Susanne Hehn 09132 745747 email: susanne.hehn@web.de	
SUMMER BREAK	Book Club 1	Maruja Habeder 09132 9790 m.habeder@t-online.de	
Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Morning-Walk Morning-Talk at Herzogenaurach Airport Parking Lot	Gerlinde Süß 09132 630 378 gerlinde-suess@web.de	Let's speak German while taking a moderate paced walk for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. You may as well bring along your Nordic- Walking equipment. Let's move it!
Thursday May 20 830 am RSVP by May 19	Lets Speak German Stammtisch	Deb Bayer 09132 746831 email: Bayer3@t-online.de	Der, Die, Das...Was ist was??? Let's get together and try to speak German in a <i>no pressure atmosphere</i> at the Der Beck by the new Puma Outlet in Herzogenaurach.



Anyone for Golf?

Summer is the perfect time to hit the links! Dust off your clubs and join us for a round of golf. We meet weekly at different locations to play 9 holes or to practice at the driving range. Afterwards we can relax and enjoy a coffee or lunch in the clubhouse. Beginners are welcome and it is not necessary to be a golf club member as we can play at open golf courses.

For date, time and venue details please contact:

Linda Eviston @ 0172 899 8227 or email: reiki@energy-healing.eu



CALLING ALL COOKS!

In celebration of the IWG's cultural diversity, we would like to produce a cookbook including some of our members' best holiday / festive dishes from around the world.

Please submit your favourite recipe, with pictures, if possible, and perhaps a little bit about how you came by the recipe. Tell us about the special occasion when you would serve this dish, and, if certain ingredients are not locally available, indicate what substitutions are necessary in Germany. If your recipe has been published, please remember to let us know whose it is and where it is published.

Recipes to: Annette webmaster@womensgroup.de by 31 July 2010 so that the cookbook can be published by the end of 2010. All proceeds will go to charity.

The IWG would like to point out that it cannot accept responsibility for any damage or injury caused by members or guests at any of its events.

IWG CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

DATE + RSVP	EVENT/VENUE	CONTACT	DESCRIPTION
Friday September 3 7 pm RSVP by Aug 31	Scrapbooking at Antje's place	Antje Slavik 0911 307 2127 antje.slavik@gmx.de	Want to create your own scrapbook? Bring your materials with you and let's have fun!
Thursday Sep 9 730 pm	Book Club 2 at Shannon Aissen's Place	Susanne Hehn 09132 745 747 susanne.hehn@web.de	Book: The Man Who Loved Books Too Much by Allison Hover Bartlett
Wednesday Sep 22 7 pm RSVP by Sep 19th	Bunco Night!	Linda Eviston 0172 899 8227 reiki@energy-healing.eu	It's BUNCO time! Come and try your luck with this easy dice game! It is fun, so be one of the lucky ladies to get a spot! Please bring along with you an appetizer / drink to share with everyone. The prizes will be provided by the hostess. Maximum 12 ladies.
Thursday Sep 23 1030 am RSVP by Sep 21	Elaine's Kitchen at Elaine's Place	Elaine Franz 01522 199 1294 elaine.tienfranz@yahoo.com	Do you enjoy cooking? Would you like to share with us your recipe? Bring your ingredients and come to Elaine's kitchen. Let's cook together and have fun enjoying our delicious results. This month's menu focus is Quiche and Soup. Maximum 5 people.
Friday Sep 24 7 pm RSVP by Sep 17	Lady's Night Out Thai-Aroi Thai Restaurant Nürnbergstr. 1 Fürth 90762	Elaine Franz 01522 199 1294 elaine.tienfranz@yahoo.com	Chef's recommendation! A specially reserved room just for us ladies who like to taste exquisite Thai food and sing Karaoke. P.S. Members who sing-off-key are more than welcome to join. The theme for this evening is: the more, the merrier!
Wednesday Sep 29 6 - 7pm RSVP by Sep 27	Women City Tour in Nürnberg Meeting at Konigstorturm, right across from the Train-station	Anne Hayner-Hefner 0911 329 410 anne@sawdust-country.de	Anne is going to share her expertise as a tour guide to show us around Nürnberg and tell us stories about some major woman figures in the history of Nürnberg.
Thursday Sep 30 830 am	Lets Speak German Stammtisch	Deb Bayer 09132 746831 email: Bayer3@t-online.de	Der, Die, Das...Was ist was??? Let's get together and try to speak German in a no pressure atmosphere at the Der Beck by the new Puma Outlet in Herzogenaurach.
Thursday Sep 30 930 am	Book Club 1 at Karin Heuchemer's place	Maruja Habeder 09132/9790 email: m.habeder@t-online.de	Book: The Forgotten Garden by David Nicolls
Sep 07, 14, 21, 28 Tuesdays 9 am	Morning-Walk Morning-Talk Herzogenaurach Airport Parking lot	Gerlinde Süß 09132 630 378 gerlinde-suess@web.de	Let's speak German while taking a moderate 1 1/2 to 2 hours walk. You may as well bring along your Nordic-Walking equipment. Let's move it!

ZONTA Club Herzogenaurach

Every issue is a woman's issue

Advancing the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy

TEXT: ILLE PROCKL-PFEIFFER



The first statement is also my mission since years- whether I worked with parents, or at school or church or as a city councillor for Herzogenaurach. But since five years I follow the second statement and mission- at that time I discovered ZONTA and we chartered a new club in Herzogenaurach.

Zonta ,the international service organization for women- you may wonder about the word ZONTA- the origin is from the language of the Sioux Indian and was 1919 adopted as the Zonta International name. It is a composition from several Sioux symbols and means friendship, shelter, inspiration, holding together, honest and trustworthy.

The first German club was founded 1931 in Hamburg and there are now more than 115 clubs in Germany. Worldwide you can find 1215 clubs in 67 countries. www.zonta.org Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talents and raise money.

As I stepped more and more into the Zonta world, I discovered wonderful women from all over the world, dedicated to help women. Zonta is on the forefront of efforts to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women around the globe.

Our international projects are together with UN ,UNIFEM ,CEDAW and in the last biennium such projects as "Safe cities in Guatemala and San Salvador", "Reduction of obstetric fistula in Liberia" or "End to violence against women in Cambodia, Egypt and Syria".

Every club worldwide support these projects financially through charity events. The Zonta Club of Herzogenaurach is doing so, but we support also local projects ,like "Frauenhaus" "Children's hospice" help for single mother and so on. www.zonta-herzogenaurach.de

We fundraise the money with concerts, presentation and projects like Weihnachtsmarkt, which we did with some support of IWG ladies. Thank you so much for helping us in baking cookies and with helping hands in the booth. We should go on....

Our main program to adopt the mission "advocacy" in Herzo is our Mentoring project "Sprungbrett" (diveboard) for girls in her last years of school.

Now together with the vhs (Volkshochschule) we started this project to help girls find their profession. The girls can profit from workshops like "Selfesteem" or "Self-presentation" and can have support by mentoring from a Zonta woman to find their way.

So you see Zonta is not a welfare agency nor a disaster relief/emergency organization, our primary focus is on improving the status of women and we are now the only women's NGO with this specific purpose.

You are welcome to come to our next concert at the new "Evangelische Kirche" in Herzo the 28th of November or see us or work with us at the Weihnachtsmarkt in Herzo. You are welcome to support Zonta projects, they are making a difference in the lives of women and girls everyday around the globe.

By the way to learn more about a Zontian, go to the movie coming up next with Richard Gere "Amelia". Amelia Earhart, born 1897 was the first woman to cross the Atlantic alone in an airplane . She disappeared 1932 during a flight. She also is one of the first woman to be a Zontian and Zonta has named an award for women in aerospace-related sciences and engineering after her.

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If you want more information or want to hear more about the next biennium projects (which are chosen in June at the Zonta Convention in San Antonio) please contact Ille Prockl-Pfeiffer or Karin Hesse, both engaged with Zonta and IWG.



Help Others - Help Yourself!

TEXT: KARIN HESSE

Somehow I got stranded here in Franconia. It wasn't really free will, although it wasn't forced upon me either, but Franconia was simply not among the top 5 places on earth I would choose to move to (it's too cold and spring starts too late ...)

But love dragged me here and for the past 11 years I have considered Franconia my home. The first years were a constant up and down; traveling back and forth between my old homeland Baden and my new exile. In Baden-Württemberg I had a job, my Gospel Choir and friends as well. Here

in Franconia I knew only a few people; that was it. But being a very active person, it didn't take long to meet ladies from the IWG, the sports clubs and other organizations. As I became involved, homesickness ceased to be a topic for me.

After being an IWG member for quite some time, I was often confronted by new members with this question: *"I feel so isolated here. How can I become integrated into the community?"* Remembering my previous situation I came to the short and simple conclusion: if you are involved in a job or some kind of activity where YOU feel needed, integration to the local community will inevitably follow.

It's hard for foreign women to find jobs in Germany where even women who speak German fluently suffer unemployment. But there are many places where you are needed. It might not be high-ranking business employment but women with talents such as we all have (*yes, you too!*) who want to do something, will find a way. Ille Prockl-Pfeiffer, Vivian Widuch and I all went through the same situation.

Somehow we ended up in Herzo, whether we wanted it or not, and had to find our own way. We would like to help you find your place in this community. Through charity work or paid employment you help yourself overcome homesickness, isolation and loneliness by helping those you are working for. It's a wonderful cycle: Help others – Help yourself!

Contact us at: Hesse@grafik-satz.de

We're waiting for your call!



Turn Your Sweat Equity Into Money for Charity

Sound impossible? Too good to be true?

Then check out www.plus3network.com and think again.

Plus 3 links a corporate sponsor with a charity. The corporate sponsor pledges money to a charity and YOU, the member, "earn" money for the charity by engaging in physical activity. 30 different activities count, including walking, biking, golf, soccer, yoga, skiing, and horseback riding. Some are time based and others are distance based.

Becoming a member costs you, the member, nothing. As you log in your various activities to the website you earn "kudos". These kudos are turned into dollars and are sent to the charity by the corporate sponsor.

This is a WIN-WIN-WIN situation. While exercising you do something good for yourself, your chosen charity earns the money and the corporate sponsor has the satisfaction of being a good corporate citizen.

Please note upcoming activities to earn money in May for the FIS- Romanian Orphanage.

Need additional information?

Contact Laura Becker-Lewke: laura@laureywellness.de

Amanda's World

TEXT: AMANDA CARTWRIGHT

What is that saying, 'Charity begins at home'?

A quick look online and we see that it was apparently first written by Sir Thomas Browne in 1642. Is that relevant then today in our mad fast world of indecent extremes? I get so annoyed with priorities today – who cares so much to put millions in the pockets of untalented people who flicker in the limelight for far too long as so-called celebrities who appear to contribute no good to society? The front pages of newspapers give space to 'Reality TV' news ahead of 'real' news and these awful people are making a fortune from magazine space, posing in their lavish homes – well, more fool us! We ogle over the images dreaming of such houses, yet it is us who have provided it for them by buying the magazines in the first place.

It would be an interesting experiment if such magazines did a celeb-type deal with people in need. So what can we do to really make a difference? Perhaps you can be proud to have done something outstanding in sport – like running a marathon that you have been sponsored for – or sat in a bath of cold baked beans for a good cause! (I expect most of us are driven to do such things for very personal reasons – someone close to you is affected by an illness and we do all we can to raise money for research and treatments).

If you are a parent of a child at FIS, you will be aware of the local Scout who is off to Mongolia again this summer to open three new libraries full of donated English language children's books - that makes a difference doesn't it? But how can we relate to it? How wonderful to support them by donating books, but how outstanding to go there – help build and paint, fill the shelves and connect with the children. I truly admire – envy even – people with the willpower and drive to see through such a commitment. I sat with eyes streaming a couple of weeks ago, watching a young girl's film of her solo canoe journey down the Amazon (2010 kilometres!) in aid of Sport Relief. Yes – she had a TV crew and a support team, not to mention a whole nation behind her. However it was a very personal challenge, not for the weak or faint hearted, done to raise awareness and money for others, using her celebrity status in an honourable manner.



Just like the maintenance of Sydney Harbour Bridge, charitable needs are a continuous. The need is overwhelming, the good deeds done and the millions raised brush the surface – we can make a difference there and then, but just down the road more money, more work is needed. Just sit and think for a moment and the whole thing appear – yes - overwhelming. But we – us – who can afford a paint brush **CAN** make a difference by continuing to do our bit.

We can't all climb mountains or sail the seven seas, but we can **CARE**. Caring begins at home, in the street outside your home and in the town your street sits in. Caring seeps into our lives through media channels. We listen and learn and care about affairs of people in need and sometimes we do a little to help. Fortunately we also learn about the many outstanding actions that people do and I like the idea that one day I will find the willpower in me to do something outstanding for others (though I truly hope I'm not driven to do it because of someone close to me being in need).

So yes, I believe that charity does begin at home – because if we can't be charitable to ourselves then we will not be able to share that charity with others. What do I interpret as charity? *Kindness* – being nice to ourselves and others. Support – helping ourselves and others. *Belief* – believing in ourselves and others. *Caring* – take care of yourself and it will be easier to care for others.



Being part of Girl Scouts is a rewarding way of volunteering during your time in Germany.

Change a Life, it's Forever!

Share your skills, your talents, and yourself as a Girl Scout Volunteer!

- Meet new people
- Inspire and empower girls
- Develop new skills
- And have fun!

Our mission statement: "To build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

Contact Amanda Cartwright 09132 730541 or Raji Singam on 09132 8362070 to find out more information about how you could volunteer – it may be working directly with the girls or working on the committee, wherever your interests lie we can use your talents!

Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay

Reviewed by Book Club 2

TEXT: LUCINDA SCHWAIGER

"No war can destroy a sister's love"

This is a very powerful book. That said; the subtitle is misleading. Nothing ever absolved Sarah of feeling responsible for her brother but the war, guilt and silence destroyed Sarah herself.

Does anyone ever win a war or do we all lose when hate and destruction are released into the world?

The atrocities of Vel' d'Hiv' were described as "Hitlerian barbarity," but the French police chose to amend the Gestapo's orders and, rather than delivering Jews between 16 and 50 years of age, arrested 4,051 children. This took place in the middle of Paris, the captives walked en masse through the city streets to their holding pens in the Parisian suburb of Drancy. It was neither reported in the newspapers nor in the radio. In less than 3 years the site of their imprisonment was made into a housing development.

Julia, the journalist researching the Vel' d'Hiv', hears explanations like, "We thought they were being sent to work somewhere" or outrage that the children arrested were "born in France. French children." When a child (or anyone) is killed, does it matter where they were born? Is it less "wrong" if they are worked to death instead of being killed outright? The book causes us to ponder the intrinsic value of life itself.

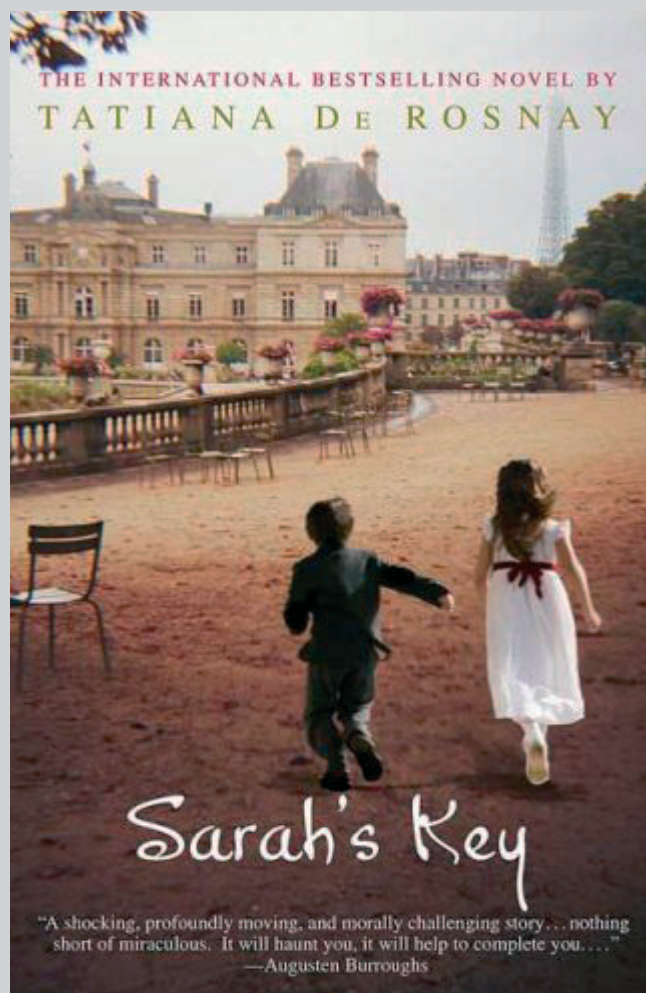
The book interweaves two story lines; Sarah survived a time when her life was considered less than worthless. Julia is pregnant with a long-desired second child that her husband doesn't want.

Despite a loving adoptive family, husband and son, Sarah could never talk about what happened to her. She severed all ties and attempted to create a totally new identity in the new world, but the memories followed. She retained a key that she was unable to use and thus the contents of her anxiety closet remained threatening until her self-imposed early death.

In revealing the part her husband's family played during the war, Julia decides to speak out, rather than keep the family secrets. She uses Sarah's key to unlock the door of truth and decides that life, not death, is truly worth fighting for.

The 6 book club members who participated in the discussion rated the book 4.75 (average) with 5 being the highest possible score.

Individual ratings 5, 5, 5, 4, 4.5, 5



IWG members are now eligible for a 10% discount and 2 months free membership at:



Dreikönigsstrasse 6-8, Erlangen

09131 20 55 42

<http://www.ladys-first-erlangen.de>

Membership includes: all classes, use of the fitness machines, English speaking trainer & sauna. Vibro-therapy and Slim-belly: available at an additional cost.

Trial day passes available through:
president@womensgroup.de

Contact Gabi at *lady's first* for an appointment and state that you are an IWG member.

Art, art, art...

TEXT: MARTA LUCIA DE GERDES



“Patchwork”, the Herzo Exhibit

On March 18, IWG members were treated to a guided tour of the “Patchwork” exhibit in the historical ambiance of the Herzogenaurach City Museum. Anita Leutwiler, a quilt artist herself, welcomed and guided IWG visitors through the exhibit that celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Herzogenaurach Quilting Bee. For the occasion, Herzo quilt makers had been challenged to craft individual patchwork art using exactly the same packet of fabrics!

The results were amazing; each quilter came up with a piece as unique as herself. Landscapes, blankets, bags, cards, innovative patchwork with touches from exotic cultures...the creativity of the Herzo quilters far exceeded the challenge, and yet, they remained true to the intimate nature of quilting.

We wish the Herzo quilters many more years of bringing ideas, memories, and people together.

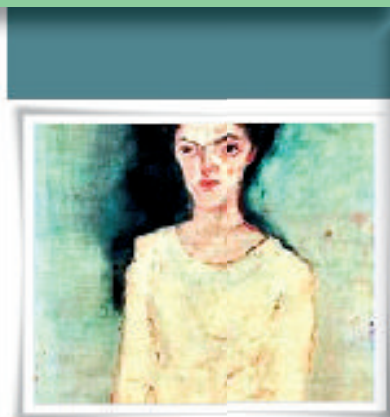
Foto: Patchwork Art “Die Blauäugigen !”
by Anita Leutwiler

Close-up of an impassioned painter

A man, who so adored his lover, that he commissioned a life-sized doll of her for a small fortune. An artist, whose style radically changed several times throughout his career. A painter, whose renderings of London, Venice, or Prague captures everyone’s most endearing encounters with these cities. I had a chance to get to know this man, albeit with some deferment....

I am referring to no other than the painter Oskar Kokoschka. My acquaintance with Mr. OK was thanks to a lecture by IWG’s very own art expert, Ingrid Meyer-Witting. On April 13, Ingrid delivered a most enjoyable lecture on the life and work of the Viennese painter, wonderfully illustrated by a selection of his key paintings. She helped the public understand his work with much humor, and easy-to-follow insights. Ingrid’s talk was part of the “Kunstgeschichte und moderne Kunst” series of the Volkshochschule Erlangen. The events, including lectures and day-tours, are in German, but Ingrid keeps her international public in mind! Absolutely worth it.

Her next lecture in the Erlangen series will be on the French painter Claude Monet, on October 13 at 19:30.



It's all in the Wrist

TEXT: RENEE PFANNENSTIEL



The month of April set an unmatched moment in IWG Bunco history. Calm & collected, never flinching, Linda Eviston succeeded in dominating the Bunco scene with 12 consecutive wins. Despite numerous attempts to take her “mojo” from her, Linda held her seat.

With an array of delicacies for every taste, the 11 ladies attending Barbara Stoffler's Bunco night were surrounded with a welcoming atmosphere, great friends, & delicious treats to tease one's palate. After sampling the “bistro” display, the ladies took their seats. Linda began at table 2, but she wouldn't remain there long, as her winning streak was about to take hold.

Winning her first round dice roll with her partner, Linda secured her seat at the head table. Flying under the radar, few people noticed her unprecedented victories. Her gentle roll of the dice and skills landed her victory after victory with each person she was paired. Attempts were made to mimic her dice roll and achieve a victory, others worked at “stealing her mojo,” all while watching in amazement as she succeeded again & again.

Not until the beginning of the third round was Linda's streak of luck vanquished. A series of 5 losses followed, but Linda again proved her luck, ending her 5 losses with a triumph. To the ladies of the IWG, I look forward to the next month's Bunco game, in the company of wonderful friends, as someone will attempt to challenge Linda's current record. Till then...

Please plan to attend an upcoming IWG Bunco event and join in the FUN! Please bring an appetizer/drinks to share. I will provide the gifts/prizes.

July Bunco at Deb Bayer

Friday July 16th at 1900. Please RSVP by July 14th,
Email: bayer3@t-online.de

September Bunco at Linda Eviston

Wednesday Sept. 22nd at 19:00
Schloss Guttenburg 20 91322 Graefenberg
Email: reiki@energy-healing.eu or

FIS International Fair

TEXT: LUCINDA SCHWAIGER

The 24th of April was a fabulous day. It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic volunteers and happy families! I truly enjoyed participating in this International Fair and genuinely hope the IWG will do so again.

Yes, we did sign up 2 new members and met many potential new members but, more than that, we were able to see many of our lovely members in action. Nearly every one of the “Nation” tables had an IWG member and a lot of IWG members play significant roles in the PTO or the Girl Scouts.

I met a lot of great ladies from other countries who are interested in offering future events like Origami, Fruit Carving and Miniature Flower Sculpting. I also ate a lot of fabulous food; boy, are there some great cooks in this group!

I applaud all those IWG members who PARTICIPATED and hope to see more of this positive engagement in our community. This was a perfect example of what can happen when motivated individuals get together to share in the spirit of inter-cultural awareness and it makes me even more excited about the upcoming Kulturtagen in Herzogenaurach.

Antje took many photos that should be available soon on the members-only portion of our website.

Once again, thanks to all of you for putting together, participating and/or attending this event. As it was recently mentioned in our E-newsletter and Explorer publications, “PARTICIPATION is Fun.”



Quilting Exhibit

TEXT: AMANDA ULEVICH

It all started when a woman moved to Herzogenaurach and started a club to meet some people. Many years later, "Quilting Bee Herzogenaurach" is still going strong! The Herzogenaurach Museum played host to the group's work over the years. And what an exhibition it was!

Doris Wienke, spokeswoman for the club, showed us around. My favorite room was the first. It served as the qualifying round for the free-for-all downstairs. Here's how it worked: each member was given the same 4 fabrics and a year to complete their quilting. They could pick one extra fabric, but only one. The result was astounding.

Some people did abstract pattern-like wall hangings. Others did fantasy-inspired pieces. Quite a few did landscapes. Each quilt was strikingly different than the last, and all were works of art. It was really hard to tear us all away. Downstairs was the free-for-all, open to anyone who participated in the "qualifying round." And what variety! From traditional cover quilts to an interesting mobile-like sculpture, everything was spectacular. Everyone *oohed* and *ahhed* and took pictures... and a few people even took notes!

Finally, we saw the birthday room. It was filled with quilts that members made each other for "round" birthdays (ones that end in zero). Birthday quilts have a special tradition: each member makes a flower square for the lucky recipient. Then quilt all the squares together for a beautiful result. Finally, the part that speaks to the hunter-gatherer part of us all: the gift shop. They had plenty of fat quarters for sale. I couldn't resist - and now I'm casually looking for quilting classes. *Bitten by the quilting bug?* I don't know... Perhaps stung by the quilting bee is more appropriate!

Volunteering at the Realschule Herzogenaurach

TEXT: AUDRA WATSON

Last year this time our family was getting ready for our move to Germany. Passports were applied for, plans were forming, lists were made, house was packed...you get the picture. Now, looking back, I can't believe we have been here a whole year!! Time really does fly when you're having fun! I never imagined that I would meet so many wonderful, unique people from all over the world and form so many lasting friendships!

Having lived on the east coast all of my life, I was so nervous about moving to another country, learning a new language and being away from family. I was lucky enough to meet someone right away who invited me to the next Bunco.

I joined IWG within two weeks of moving to Germany, and have to say it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Whether it's a Coffee Morning, Bunco, Ladies Night Out, or a fun class, I always meet great people and have a great time!

Recently I volunteered at the Realschule in Herzogenaurach, along with several other ladies, helping 10th graders practice for their English oral language exam. As a native English speaker I was amazed at how well these students spoke and understood the language.

But what was even more amazing was how much fun I had and how good it felt to help out and meet these kids. It was a great experience to see the inside of a German high school and watch the kids interact. Again I met some wonderful people and look forward to helping out again if they ask me.

If you're new to the area, reach out, meet people, go to an event, or sponsor one. If you're like me, and have been here a while, reach out to those that are new and invite them to come with you. One of my favorite songs is "*I Hope You Dance*" by Le Ann Womack. My favorite line is "*And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...I hope you dance!*" *Let's dance, ladies!!*

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Audra and her husband Alan moved to Germany last June from Charleston, South Carolina. They have two children Mary Ashton (12) and Bradley (10) who go to the FIS. Alan is an engineer at Robert Bosch in Nurnberg, and although Audra has happily been a stay at home mom for a few years, she previously taught kindergarten. She is an active member of the IWG, and currently serves as the vice president of the PTO at the FIS. She enjoys reading, boating, volunteering at the school, cooking and traveling.





***Zugezogen* – Drawn together**

TEXT: LUCINDA SCHWAIGER

The city of Herzogenaurach is in the heart (geographically and financially) of metropolitan Nürnberg. With less than 5000 inhabitants in 1939, it has grown to about 23,000, partially due to immigration. There are currently 2000 residents from 90 different countries who contribute greatly to its success and cultural development.

With this in mind, the city of Herzogenaurach invites us to share our unique cultural diversity in their annual Kulturtage in November. This promises to be a very high-profile event and their invitation is quite an honor. The city offers space, infrastructure and publicity – all we have to do is bring ideas and ourselves!

IWG past president, a resident of Herzogenaurach and an experienced community service event organizer, Karin Hesse, has graciously offered to coordinate this event.

Please think about ways you can showcase your country and use this opportunity to share your heritage with others. Don't wait for Karin to call you – let her know as soon as possible how you would like to participate! Contact Karin Hesse via email : hesse@grafik-satz.de or call her mobile: 09132 73 44 31

As your president, I would like you to consider another reason to get involved with this project. Remember arriving here (or in another foreign country) and encountering:

- *the language barrier,*
- *homesickness,*
- *feelings of isolation,*
- *difficult finding ingredients for your favorite recipes,*
- *etc.?*

I do. Fortunately, friendly IWG members made me feel right at home, showed me around my adopted homeland and introduced me to a wealth of fantastic women – from all over the planet, including Germany! This is ONE reason to join the IWG.

Now that I have had that positive experience, I want to pass it on. That is ANOTHER reason to join, or remain in, the IWG and a very good reason to participate in this project too.

Please join us in presenting the International Women's Group and your homeland to the general public. Working together we can do a lot of overcome cultural barriers, encourage multi-cultural awareness and welcome newcomers to the area. I guarantee it will be a lot of fun and just might do some good.

*You are cordially invited to attend the
IWG's 10th Anniversary Celebration
featuring live entertainment from Tony Bulluck, hors d'oeuvres and a Silent Auction to benefit charity*

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010, Zehntspeicher, Anton von Rotenhan Str. 2, 91077 Neunkirchen am Brand

Evening Programme:



6:00 pm	Doors open, Registration
6:30 pm	Silent auction begins
7:00–8:30 pm	Refreshments and Music
8:30pm	Silent auction tables close
8:30-9:00pm	Honoring founders, Greetings from our Beneficiary, Cake cutting ceremony
9:00-10:30pm	Concert
10:30 pm	50/50 raffle, checkout and claim items

Proceeds from the Silent Auction Benefit Autonomes Frauenhaus Erlangen

*Tickets purchased prior to the event: €25 per person (€28 at the door)
(Ticket price includes entrance fee and plated finger food buffet)*

Note: No refunds after October 13

No host bar Dress Code: Casual Elegant

Tickets can be purchased from the following members in your vicinity:

All Board Members

Erlangen: Lucinda Schwaiger/Sheza Kahn

Herzogenaurach: Gerlinde Süß/Deb Bayer

Nürnberg: Marta de Gerdes /Jeanette Edelmann

Münchaurach: Noë Pollard

Eastside: Marissa Springer