

International Women's Group e.V.

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 its 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 16th 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.