

After a longer winter break in January, BIWA started its regular Coffee Hours and Luncheons again. In the next months we invite you to many joyful events & activities! BIWA also has many interesting new and 'old' charity projects that need your support! Check them out!

RELAX! IT'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

You didn't have the chance to come to the previous Ladies' Nights? Hopefully you are free on International Women's Day then. On March 8th BIWA is going to the spa and celebrating the day with a Ladies' Night too!

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th every year. We, as an association of international women, want to celebrate this special day by getting spoiled and oiled 😊 BIWA made a great agreement with Crown Plaza. The hotel's spa has offered us access to all spa facilities, a lunch or dinner, and a massage for 150 TL per person. No massage and food needed? Then the price is only 80 TL.

Some BIWA ladies quite enjoyed the day at the spa last year 😊 Don't miss it!



There are other ways to relax too!

Let's celebrate being women at the BIWA's Ladies' Night at Pronto in Bamboo Park, Balat. Same day, different time: we will be waiting for you at 19:00!

Sign up today (!): [Spa Experience / Girls Night Out](#)

ZUMBA FEVER

Shake the stress away!

Zumba lessons are starting again! Shake the stress away. Get ready for summer. It won't even feel like a workout! No! It is pure fun with our 'old' trainer Ergüder Aygün.

This is how it works:

Become a member of [MACfit Podyumpark](#) and share the group price of 150 TL per lesson with other participating BIWA members. Zumba classes will be on Mondays and Fridays from 12.30 to 13.30. Right now six BIWA ladies are attending, which means the price is down to TL 50 per week per person. Please keep in mind that you must pay for one month in advance and no refunds can be given in case you cannot participate.

Ready to sweat?

Yes? / You have more questions? Write an e-mail to Didem at info@biwabursa.org.

A SURVEY TO GUIDE THE WAY

Keeping up with the times: BIWA wants to hear your meaning!

Thank you for filling out the survey. With your feedback we can make sure to plan events and activities that YOU are actually interested in.

If you haven't had the opportunity yet, you may complete the 10-question survey by clicking here: [SURVEY](#)

WHAT'S UP ON WHATSAPP?



The WhatsApp: You love it, you hate it, you cannot live without it anymore. So does BIWA...

BIWA uses WhatsApp to inform & remind members about activities & events. In order not to bother YOU with too many messages, we use it as a one-way communication tool, which simply means: **DO NOT REPLY** to any of the messages in the group.

Our activities coordinator, Danielle, will post the event including contact details of the person in charge. For detailed questions, we ask you to write or call the mentioned member directly.

If you have heard about an interesting event or you have information that you want to share within BIWA, again, contact Danielle to spread the news. Please keep in mind that you need to take care of the organization yourself, in case it is not a BIWA event. Thank you for your understanding ☺

GRACE OF CHARITY

We love to give

BIWA is registered as a social organization. This means that all income, except membership fees, must go to charity. We love that fact, because **WE LOVE TO GIVE**. There are so many who are in need. Here are some projects that will for sure benefit from BIWA's BIG heart. Read more about them below. In the following month more projects will follow!

❖ Special needs for special children

The '[BTSO Baha Cemal Zağra Özel Eğitim Uygulama Merkezi ve İş Eğitim Uygulama Merkezi](#)' is a school for autistic children. Children with autistic disorders have social-interaction difficulties, communication challenges and tendencies to engage in repetitive behaviors. The school teaches them how to manage daily life and selfcare. BIWA decided to finance a room renovation for the smallest children at the school. Besides that, we want to help them with building an extension of their current building and provide room equipment. BIWA will update you on this project soon!

❖ Bursa, from past to present: A project for students

The literature project called 'Geçmişten Günümüze Bursa' (Bursa, from past to present) is a contest for students, tendered by the Uludağ University's Turkish Language Department. Berrin Sarıtuğ, whom BIWA knows from last year's charity project with GÜÇKAT (Disadvantaged Women's Association), is the person in charge of this project.

All students of the Uludağ University, no matter the nationality or department of study, are welcomed to join the contest. BIWA is supporting the project with 500 TL and will be invited for the award ceremony in May!

❖ Time for English!

Last year's project, in which BIWA members volunteered time to help girls from Uludağ University practice English, will continue! The deadline to sign up is over, but there can never be too many volunteers. Contact Simone at info@biwabursa.org if you are interested. The English conversations are organized in cooperation with our friends from BUIKAD (Bursa Business Women and Administrators Association).



❖ ‘Children are our greatest treasure. They are our future’

(Nelson Mandela)

Please have a look at the picture on the right. What you see there is the meeting salon of the [Lütfi Banuşođlu İlkokulu](#). Not so nice, right? BIWA agreed to help the school reorganize the meeting salon. In addition, the school needs a library. BIWA thinks that every school should have its own library. In order to make sure that the children get the education they deserve, we will support the school in the best way possible. More information to follow soon!



IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION: BIWA & NILÜFER İŞ OKULU

Our possible partnership with ‘Nilüfer Özel Eğitim Mesleki Eğitim Merkezi’ (Nilüfer İş Okulu) could help us do charity for others and support the school itself at the same time.

The [Nilüfer İş Okulu](#) is a school for teenagers and young adults with disabilities. Some of our BIWA members had the chance to have a look inside the school (check the [pics on fb](#)) and were quite surprised about its diversity of work opportunities. ‘Learning by doing’ is the key: the handicapped students learn trades, such as gardening and working with ceramics. They also have a print shop and a carpenter’s workshop, where great things are created. BIWA believes that the school could be a great partner for producing needed materials for other charity projects, such as bookshelves for a library.

❖ Another type of coffee place: the NİŞ CAFÉ

The [Niş Café](#) is run by students with disabilities and is located in the garden of the ‘Nilüfer İş Okulu.’ Different food types, such as börek, sarma, and mantı, are prepared by the students’ families and served by the handicapped students. The coffee place gives them the opportunity to work and socialize. The Niş Café was also the location of this month’s board meeting. After the meeting some of our members ate Mantı at the café. It is a small place with a great atmosphere!



CARNIVAL BRINGS OUT THE CHILD IN EVERYONE!

BIWA’s CARNIVAL PARTY was fun!

Some BIWA members celebrated Carnival on February 25th. The costume party was fun. The little ones were entertained by a clown and many other party games. A ‘German Berliner,’ the typical carnival dessert, was served too!

Sometimes pictures say more than words: have a look at these funny & crazy carnival revelers ☺ [More pics](#) on fb!



THE TURKISH VERSION OF TORTELLINI: MANTI

Most Europeans know Tortellini, but few have an idea about its Turkish version, MANTI.

Quite a lot of different pastas comes from Italy, right? No wonder that most European would say, 'Oh! It seems just like Tortellini,' when they see Manti for the first time. People from Russia may say it is similar to Pelmeni. Anyway, let's not discuss which one is more famous, tastes better or was there first 😊. Fact is, Manti is one of the best foods the Turkish kitchen has to offer, and it was on this month's Gourmet Club menu, along with a yogurt soup and green salad.

Every month, our member Irem is searching for someone to host the Gourmet Club. This time, she hosted it herself. Find her recipe and pictures [here](#). AFIYET OLSUN!

EVENING PLAYGROUP @ MOI

If you are a working mom or just simply too busy to join the daytime playgroup, maybe the evening playgroup is the solution for you and your little one.

Every mom wishes to exchange ideas with other moms while enjoying a good cup of coffee or tea. This is possible at our playgroup and BIWA moms love it so much. At the same time the little ones make international friends and learn to socialize and share. If you wish your child to be part of that great international group of toddlers, but you just cannot manage to come in daytime, you may want to join the evening playgroup.

On Mondays mothers meet with their child at [MOI Oyun Evi](#) between 17:30-19:30. The fee is 30TL per mom and includes: *access to the indoor playground (supervised play space for 2 hours) *2 teas per mom *shared sweet and savory snacks. The group is limited to 10 moms per visit, so we kindly ask you to inform Akbike (+90 535 6497901) one day before playgroup time to see if there is a free place left!

! Some of the BIWA playgroup kids started kindergarden, so there are free places in the daytime playgroup. The group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but you do not need to join all days.

If you want to be part of it, please contact Nurgül for detailed information.

FACTS

This might be of interest to you...

- ❖ [MOI Oyun Evi](#) is not just the new place of our evening playgroup. It is also a cooperation partner of BIWA. Just show your membership card whenever you get there and they will give you 10% price reduction!
- ❖ For BIWA kids who love animals: a visit to the Hamitler Animal Veterinary Station is planned on 12.03.2017.
- ❖ A country quite similar to Turkey: Azerbaijan! Our member Nigar will let us know more about her home country Azerbaijan. Come to BIWA's next breakfast/coffee hour at BOOD on 14.03.2017 and learn more about Azerbaijanian traditions.
- ❖ Our event 'International Wine Tasting and Auction' is on 25.03.2017. Did you organize two identical bottles of wine yet? No? Then it's time for it...
- ❖ Annual Easter Brunch is coming up!
- ❖ You know someone who is interested in becoming a BIWA member? Ask your friend to share their e-mail address with us. Nathalie can send them information about BIWA as well as the membership form.

Bursa International Women's Association (BIWA) welcomes 'internationally-minded' women and acts by the motto:

WELCOME – GROW – GIVE



BIWA INTERNATIONAL PLAYGROUP (BIP)

Our BIWA International Playgroup (BIP) is designed to provide children with their first group experience outside the home and give them the opportunity to develop their first social skills. The playgroup is meeting three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from around 10:30-13:00. At the moment, our moms and their children, aged from 8 months to 3 years, are meeting in a kindergarden on Mondays and Fridays. The kids enjoy doing activities and spending time with their international friends. Mothers coordinate an arts & crafts activity each time. On Wednesdays they are staying active by finding innovative indoor activities and visiting Bursa's many wonderful outdoor spaces. Some rules to apply: playgroup language is English, kids can only join with their mothers, and there is a fee to pay. If you are interested in joining, please contact Nurgül via WhatsApp at 0506 338 8969 Our playgroup is always very happy to welcome new moms and kids!

NEW! Come to our evening playgroup on Mondays! For more information contact Akbike (+90 535 6497901)



GOURMET CLUB

Food loving women are meeting every month once at each other's houses to prepare and enjoy a dish together. One member prepares a meal from her country and explains to her guests each step of the preparation. The dish will then be enjoyed together. It does not need to be a complete menu. It can also be a cake, wrap, börek or other simple dish just to eat with tea or coffee. As for the costs, every guest who is attending the gourmet club that day, must pay 10 TL. The host may decide whether to cover her own costs or to donate it to BIWA. The person in charge is Irem. Contact with her by e-mail at irem.talu@gmail.com.



SEWING GROUP

Our "Sewing Group" meets every Thursday, from 11:30 to 15:00 in a small studio in Beşevler. The members of the group create their own projects based upon quilting and patchwork techniques, helping each other to realize them. The studio provides sewing machines and basic materials, fabrics and other materials can be purchased. An experienced sewing lady assists our sewing group at all time. In order to pay the studio rent and other expenses as well as for charity reasons a fee of 150 TL is collected. For further information, please contact Maria (0544 271 99 68).



CHARITY

BIWA does a lot of Charity. To "GIVE" is an important aim of our organization. BIWA has led many charitable projects over the years. Projects, such as the collaboration with a school in Mazlumlar Köy and "The International Recipe Book Project" for the Children's Clinic at Uludağ University Hospital, show BIWA's BIG heart. Since 2009, BIWA has been contributing to Bursa and its citizens, especially to other women's and children organizations through volunteering, fundraising and cooperating with local government or other similar associations in Turkey. If you want to contribute, please contact Steffie by e-mail at: info@biwabursa.org



ACTIVITIES

Danielle will keep you informed about meetings and special events. Make sure you check your mailbox and WhatsApp regularly in order not to miss a 'get-together'. If you need additional information, please write to Danielle at dani.averill@gmail.com.

CONTACT:

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