



BPW Finland

Enjoyable BPW Hanse days in Turku

I was very happy to meet all the BPW Hanse Network ladies in Finland's first and former capital Turku on the 17th and 18th of June. We were a group of BPW from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. It was nice to learn to know **Ulrike Bauer** from Bremen, the "soul" of BPW Hanse Network as well as other BPW from Germany. It was nice to meet **Anoesjka Dinjens** from Amsterdam. And of course it was nice to meet once again **Ulla-Liza Blom**, the President of BPW Sweden and all the members of BPW Turku Club, including **Marita Hagelstam**, the secretary of Turku Club, and **Inkeri Kauppila**, one of the owners of Kauppila's commercial garden we visited. We had a dinner together, and some of us attended the seminar of Hanse Days. One of the keynote speakers and a moderator of a group session was MP **Tarja Cronberg**, the Women of the year 2004, elected by BPW Finland.

I appreciate the work Ulrike and other BPW ladies have done for BPW Hanse network. That is something we really need to strengthen our contacts and informal networking. I enjoyed very much the company of these BPW and the good time we had together. It was so enriching to meet new people who share the same aims concerning the status of women, so enriching and interesting to hear about circumstances in other countries and so stimulating to converse with others, and of course - to have fun.

Next year 2005 BPW Hanse Network will have its meeting in Tartu, Estonia. Tartu is a beautiful city with its very old university. I hope that as many BPW as possible round the Baltic Sea and from Europe will join this glad group of BPW. I hope that BPW Hanse Network will establish its position and create new traditions. I hope that BPW Hanse Network will also strengthen the "Nordic Dimension" and co-operation between the BPW countries in Europe.

I will never forget the delicious taste of assorted Bremen's chocolate Ulrike gave me.

With Warm Memories

Paula Hjelt-Putilin

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President BPW Finland