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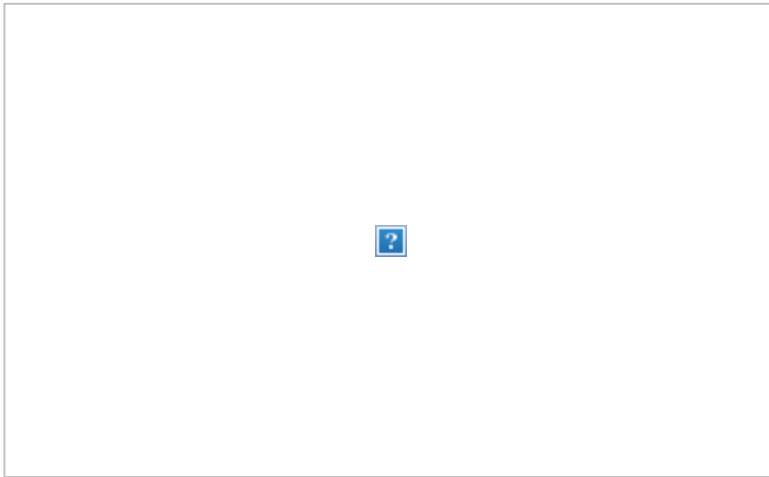
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Music and Fashion were definitely a Passion in Acuto 2002!



The new model army assembled in Acuto by the European Task Force for Women

The culture was in fact a photograph of bacteria under a microscope, which was projected onto the enlightened one, and it then spread rapidly to the other models. The launch of the “Divine Fragrance”, beautifully boxed in the book of the Word of God, was held high over a model’s head to demonstrate the Exalted Word. And that was just the beginning and just a part of a fun-as-you-learn artistic endeavour – it was a fashion show to remember which was devised by Carrie Varjavandi from Scotland, assisted by partners in crime, Angela Tidswell of England and Tracey Jones of Wales.

The Task Force has been inviting women from all European countries for a number of years to attend training seminars at the Bahá'í run Hotel La Panoramica and Conference Centre located on a beautiful hillside overlooking the ancient town of Acuto. In January over 60 women from 25 countries gathered together for what was to be the final seminar of the Task Force. It was sad in one way, but very exciting in another to know we were ready to move on in the process of training and diffusing the Word of God. A “Change of Time” so aptly used by the Universal House of Justice is the order of the day. I believe that concentrating on the spiritual nature of the teachings, and using the arts to convey the Word of God, creates an environment at all times for the culture of growth to develop. Genuine love, and warmth, and presentation, are everything when it comes to attracting souls – milk and honey as first part of the process. The Continental Board of Counsellors has now decided that the European Task Force for Women has achieved its aims and objectives, so this was the last seminar and the close of another stage in the development of the Faith. It was a great privilege for me to attend the last three seminars and it has taught me much about the history of women in society, the development of women as an indispensable prerequisite to

peace, the art of encouragement, empowerment and personal development, women as agents of change, and more. It gave all the handmaidens ideas of how women can be catalysts of change, the importance of being involved with other women/women’s organisations as well as inviting them to be involved in our endeavours, and appreciating that the balance of feminine qualities is so important to the advancement of the entire world

A “CULTURE OF GROWTH” fashion show based on the January 9, 2001 letter from the Universal House of Justice, was staged at this year’s seminar for the advancement of women, hosted by the European Task Force for Women in Acuto, Italy.

Models sashayed along the Persian carpet “catwalk” with spotlights and lots of high-spirited music. The

It is important to note that Holland sent a young man, yes, a man, to attend the seminar. I think they're ahead of everyone! Navid enjoyed the workshops and presentations immensely and I think the ladies made a bit of a fuss of him, which helped!

The principle of the equality between women and men, like the other teachings of the Faith, can be effectively and universally established among the friends when it is pursued in conjunction with all the other aspects of Bahá'í life. Change is an evolutionary process requiring patience with one's self and others, loving education and the passage of time as the believers deepen their knowledge of the principles of the Faith, gradually discard longheld traditional attitudes and progressively conform their lives to the unifying teachings of the Cause.

(From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to an individual believer, July 25, 1984: Women, A Compilation No 125)

Angela Tidswell



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