

**VIENNA TOWN OF MOZART, STRAUSS,
ART NOUVEAU and The BLUE DANUBE**

85 YEARS AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

After a guided tour through the historical rooms of architect Theophil Hansens' beautiful Palace Epstein next to the Parliament building at Vienna's ring boulevard VAO president Marianne Bargill welcomes about 175 guests in the Palaces' reception hall.

From all over Austria and from different Western European countries graduated women, members of UWE and IFUW, have accepted the invitation and came to Vienna to be present at the celebration of this anniversary.

In the Palace Epstein, the president of Austria's national council, Mrs. Mag. Barbara Prammer is VAO's hostess. She is the keynotespeaker during the function and emphasizes that every woman who has reached the top should take two young women at her hand to give them support and to mentor them on their road up to the top. Barbara Prammer certainly should be considered as an important role model for women in Austria and Western Europe and so should the other speakers Mrs Dr Maria Schaumayer, former president of Austria's National Bank, Dr ing. Ingela Brunner, rector of one of Viennas' universities and Dr Gabriele Kohlbauer, curator of the Jewish Museum of Vienna. After the ceremonial act the guests are enabled to meet each other during a lively reception in the magnificent Festival hall of the Palace.

During the next two days the visitors enjoy a marvelous friendship program, which a.o. contains a guided tour along some of the Art Nouveau art works and buildings in the inner city of Vienna, a traditional Austrian coffee in the clubrooms of the Austrian Federation, and a visit to the Spanish horse riding school; they have dinner in a typical Austrian restaurant and last but not least visit on Sunday one of the most magnificent palaces of the Habsburg empire the Castle Hof, a baroque castle with terraced gardens in the country, where far away one can see Slovakian Bratislava. The Palace Hof is built by the emperors' field marchal Prince Eugene of Savoy in the 18th century and it was expanded and renovated in the era of empress Maria Theresia, who used to live in this rural retreat in summertime together with her family and 18 children.

Thanks to the ladies of VAO, who prepared this fascinating meeting. It turns out that VAO, Austria and Vienna have much potency to play an important role within UWE and Europe.

Gerda Leushuis

UWE secretary