

MHVTA has a party at the Poughkeepsie Dress Barn (April 19, 2009)

MHVTA arranged to visit the Poughkeepsie Dress Barn on Sunday evening (after closing) and we had the whole store to ourselves. There was refreshments provided and members also brought things to share. The attendees were Miki and Lee, Rena and Sage, Johanna, Jenn, Edie, Susanah, Paris, Angel and Jan. Susanah and Paris attended this get together even before attending a meeting (and brought Angel). Susanah is a local photographer who in the course of her work does makeup so she dug right in and provided makeovers for several attendees (thanks Susanah.. you were awesome!!).

Jan asked everyone to provide their experiences about the party and pictures if anyone had some. Rena who provided her answers and pictures in a report form so I simply added everyone else's responses to what Rena provided. Net: You should have been there. We had fun!!

What was your expectation attending the party?

Rena: Kind of a silly question Jan, ☺ LOL we have kinda done a few of these together ☺ and with my closets budging at the seams!!! I think I expected just what we got.. a fabulous night out with good friends and Sisters. We did something similar in CT in conjunction with a banquet so the store seem to make out a little better being close in date with the banquet with everyone looking for special outfits. The whole evening was great and the Olive Garden was the icing on the cake, good food, great service and fabulous company.

Lee: I had a wonderful time! I knew I would be spending money, and so I economized on other things a little bit ahead of time.

Sage: Well, I've been to a few similar parties here in Conn so I sort of knew what to expect. It was very nice and the Dress Barn ladies made us all feel like they were really happy to have our group there.



Meet Susanah and her makeup skills..

Susanah: Hi everyone. Thank you for letting us join you at the Dress Barn Party. We had a great time!! It was so much fun getting to know all of you. I enjoyed making-up you gals and would love to do this again. The sales staff was so sweet and they tried very hard to make us feel at home. Paris, Angel and I had a great time. We love to see our little Paris shine in new dresses and feel that this was such a great thing for us to do with her. Ms. Paris was so happy she can't wait till next the next party.

Miki: To have a fun time with group meetings and find a few things for my wardrobe.

Jan: Having attended CT Dress Barn parties, I thought we'd have a good time but wasn't sure how many attendees we'd get. I was pleasantly surprised when 11 people showed up. I had fun at the party and at the group dinner afterwards.

Jennifer: "Awesome" night out with the girls. How nice was it to go into a regular store and one we all love and not have to play the size roulette wheel only to find out when you got home you are not a size 8 but a size 14, LOL... You all know what I am talking about don't deny it. As for my purchase that evening you will all have to refer to our banquet evening pictures with Ms. Betty, Edie, Jan, and myself. during the Liberty conference.

Edie: To have a shopping trip out to a local store with our folks. I also figured that dinner would be part of the evening.

Did you buy anything? What was your experience with the staff and products for sale?

Miki: Yes!



Jan had a makeover and was having lots of fun.

Jan: I looked at a lot of things but purchased a top and jeans and a control support garment. They had a good selection of new things but there wasn't much in the way of clearance as they already had returned most of the winter merchandise. The 15% off any purchase was an inducement to buy, buy, buy.. but I tried to restrain myself. When I asked if I could apply for a job, the store manager said sure but she'd have to check with higher ups as well. **Net:** Dress Barn wanted and desired our business.

Sage: I got a grey jacket that Edie showed me and a simple black tank to go under it. I got a nice black lace three quarter length top sort of casual (maybe for work?) and a brown sweater. They ordered a jacket for me that they didn't have in my size and it will be delivered to the store near my home.. How's that for great service?

Jennifer: How nice was it to go into a regular store and one we all love and not have to play the size roulette wheel only to find out when you got home you are not a size 8 but a size 14, LOL... You all know what I am talking about don't deny it. As for my purchase that evening you

will all have to refer to Liberty banquet evening pictures with Ms. Betty, Edie, Jan, and myself (coming).

Edie: Yes, a dress, a jacket, a pair of jeans, and a pair of shoes. The staff was very helpful. Since I have a problem with finding jeans that fit properly, I asked one of the sales people for help in that area, explaining what my issues were and she found a pair for me. I had not shopped in Dress Barn for several years because I felt that the quality had declined, but was pleasantly surprised to find it improved since the last time I had shopped there. I think that their style is aimed for an older audience, especially on the Dress Barn Woman side of the house, and I prefer more youthful styles, but I was able to find things that were OK.

Rena: Yes even with the Budgeting Closets 4 tops that I just love, some jewelry, and some Leggings, It was great to see one of the tops I purchased on a sales woman, They were all great, Kudos to the bunch of the Dress Barn Folks and Susanha with the Make up.

Lee: I spent more than I should have but I got some great clothes. I shop regularly at Dress Barn so I knew the clothes would be of good quality. The staff was very nice and helpful. They even provided refreshments although we didn't need them - we were too busy shopping. The best part of the make up session was the photo afterward. I hope Susanah sends us a copy of our photos because although I seldom like photos of myself, I loved the one she took.



Rena, Miki, Jan and Paris with the Dress Barn ladies

What happened at the party or at dinner that you thought was fun and what wasn't?

Sage: I had a wonderful time at both. The staff was lovely, friendly and very funny, as for the products they are well priced, well made and easy to wear.

Jan: I thought the Dress Barn staff was great. We could talk with them and they were thrilled with our group and that we spent \$\$\$. I think I gave them other ideas for the future.

Rena was having way too much fun..



Rean: It was a great evening ☺ Thanks Miki and Lee

Edie: The staff at the store seemed quite comfortable with us. I thought things went quite well, at the restaurant, as well. I thought our waitress did an excellent job, and managed her pronouns quite well, especially considering that she had no advance notice. Our makeup person, Suzy (Susanah) was fun. I don't think that there was anything that wasn't fun, except paying the bills, LOL.



Rena: See other responses to questions.

Everyone was having such a fun time..

Lee: Dinner at The Olive Garden was a problem. The soup I ordered was awful! I spent \$13.60 for nothing but a plate of salad and an iced tea, but I have no one to blame but myself for ordering it. The good company made up for the bad meal.

Miki: The staff was fabulous! I just loved the personalized attention. They didn't have everything I was looking for.

Should we do this again or something similar? What other places should we consider? What question didn't I ask?

Sage: Shopping? do you really need to ask? Can you get them to close Kohl's for us? Now that would be a blast! Jan, you're never at a loss for questions.

Lee: Definitely this is something to do again. For me, it was a chance to see people I haven't seen in ages. I work on Monday nights and can never make it to the meetings. Trying on clothes is fun and it gives everybody an opportunity to do it. Fashion Bug might be another good place to try. Their clothes are aimed at a younger group of buyers. I've had a couple of items from Fashion Bug shrink, but that was years ago and I've also had some very good items from that chain. The Avenue in Newburgh (and Danbury) is good for larger sizes, but it's in a mall and that's a problem with the privacy issue. Catherine's is also a good store, but I think it's limited to larger sizes and it's a little on the expensive side. If we decide to gather for food afterward, we might consider choosing the place in advance.

You didn't ask other members why they DIDN'T go. Were they uncomfortable going to a public place? Was there another popular event going on at the same time? Was the bad economy a reason not to shop? Did they not like the choice of store? Should we choose a more distant location for the sake of anonymity?

Jan: Sure.. where?? We should go where someone supports our needs and concerns and isn't affronted to have us visit their store (BRINGING MONEY). Any suggestions??

Rena: See my other responses.. I'm open to anything at this point ☺ About the question not asked.. Hmmm Don't Be Fresh!!! ☺

Miki: The whole experience was fun ! It would have been nice to have a better turnout from the membership.

Edie: Yes, I came in drab, but, in retrospect, it would have been easy to change in the fitting room and have Suzy do my makeup. That may have made it a bit more fun. Yes we should do this again and where? Lane Bryant.



Lee, Miki & Jan had a great time. Thanks Miki for arranging this!!