

Dreams of Summer...



Positive

Warm

Uplifting

Inspiring

Energizing

Lovely long evenings with friends

If summer means all this....

then AGORA IS SUMMER!



NEWSLETTER 10
July 2010

ACI Board 2009-2010

President

Danielle Gardin
Kortrijksestr 394/1
8020 Waardamme
BELGIUM
danielle@new-ace.be

Vice President

Nikkie Grewar
N°1 Mykonos – 217 Smit Street
Fairland
2170 Gauteng
SOUTH AFRICA
nikkie@dwalsh.co.za

Secretary

Veerle De Jonge
Eyerstraat 23
9160 Lokeren
BELGIUM
veerle_de_jonge@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Nicole Rüeger
Chemin de la Grangette 8
CH 1094 Paudex
SWITZERLAND
nicole@rueger.ch

Immediate Past President

Dominique du Peloux
40 bis Rue Jean Bodin
49000 Angers
FRANCE
ddupeloux@hotmail.fr



Dear friends,

The months of May and June have been hectic for me as international President !
There was so much to realise, so much to flavour, so much friendship to experience worldwide....
I am so glad that I could incorporate all my visits with my work and that you all gave me the opportunity to represent our International Association.



AGM Agora Club & 41 Club France in Brive La Gaillarde

The first weekend of June I represented Agora Club during the AGM of Agora & 41 Club France in Brive la Gaillarde, a beautiful little town situated in the southern part of France.

After an 8 hours trip by car Rita Van Belleghem, the Belgian Vice President and myself arrived in a this beautiful little town covered with sunshine. For us little Belgians coming out off the everlasting winter and rain this weekend just brought summer into our lives.



On Friday evening we participated in the "Night of the Friends" were 1200 people represented both our Associations. Unbelievable such a big crowd all dressed in black and white as the theme of the evening was "Rugby" and the local colours of their team were black and white.



On Saturday morning at 9h I represented ACI during the opening of the 41-club AGM, where I must have left a good impression as later on in the day representatives of Senegal and Morocco asked for more information concerning starting an Agora Club.

Later in the morning I was able to attend the National AGM of Agora France where almost all the clubs were represented.

An AGM is lived differently in every country, and when you talk with the different representatives and club members you do feel the beating heart of a country: you feel their thoughts, wishes and fears...



Daniëlle Veaugois and her team did a great job and the AGM was very well prepared.... They proudly announced that next year they already have two clubs to charter: AC DIJON will charter on the 9th of October 2010 and AC Avesnes Fourmies the 19th of March 2011. This last club is situated in the North of France, so maybe some of the Belgian Clubs may attend this charter to support this newcomer.....

At 18.30h all Councillors were expected at the Town Hall for the banner exchange with all national and international delegations of 41 & Agora Club.



During the gala dinner the official installation of both national boards Agora and 41 Club 2010-2011



followed by a great show in typical Moulin Rouge style. Again it was a great weekend, where I met a lot of friends, national and international, friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life.....Thank you all !





Shalom Agora Club Israel !



On the 16th of June I flew to Israël to attend the **Charters of Agora Club 1 Merkaz and Agora Club 2 Krayot** , a weekend that for sure I will remember !

I arrived at 01.15 in the morning in Tel Aviv were Yifat Rom and her son welcomed me. The same night we drove to Haifa in the north of the country as on Thursday we had to start very early in the morning.

Charter AC Krayot



Since the logo of our association is a tree, the girls of Krayot thought that it was important that we as association planted our Agora tree in Israel. It is an honour only given to politicians and VIP but the girls of AC Krayot could persuade the local authorities and so I was received by Gill Atsmon, the Northern Region Forest Supervisor, Dorit Peer and delegation of AC Krayot at Keren Kayemeth Leisrael.

Unfortunately there was no Ginkgo Biloba tree available but I can assure you that in the near future it surely will as the minister of Agriculture will look into it !



The ladies from AC Krayot are very involved with different service projects. One project is a group of boys and girls who are living separately from their family as they have been the victim of rapes or other trauma in their childhood. Fifteen children, between 6 and 17 years are living in a small house with little budget ! They are living on gifts of the society. The Agora's are doing a great job, they are looking for furniture, sheets and they are trying to bring some sun in their lives by having some activities with them or organising Hannuka.

In the afternoon I was expected at the Town Hall, where I had a meeting with the Mayor and Mrs. Vered Per Swid, of the Prime Minister's Office and General director " the Authority for the advancement of the status of Women". There we explained what Agora stands for and what difference we could make in their community. Mrs. Vered was so enthusiastic about our associations that she decided to join us later in the afternoon for the Charter.



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At 19h the first charter took place and no less than 3 Mayors were present for this event.

Dorit Peer -founder president- and her team were over enthusiastic and eagerly looking forward to become members.

Agora club Israel was born !



The group of 25 members of AC KRAYOT and the banner of AC ISRAEL.

The day after they organised a visit for me at Rosh Hankra, at the border with Libanon. It is only when you have been there and lived the situation that you realise how fragile this situation is. The ladies also gave me the opportunity to visit the grottoes in the neighbourhood by Cable car.



On Saturday, Carine Everaert, a close friend of Yifat and member of the Godmother Club Lokeren-Waasland 7 in Belgium (who came only for 48 hours to Israel!) joined us for the Charter. She really wanted to be present to support Yifat and her Agora friends!

Together we went to visit the beautiful city of Jerusalem. No words can describe the atmosphere between the walls of this old city. There are so many different religions in such a small area, that it is only normal that from time to time there are conflicts.

We visited the several holy places, and discovered the city from caves under until the roofs !



In the evening I was invited by the other associations in Israel. Round Table President and the IPP of 41 Club Ariel Eldor invited us for a cosy dinner where we were able to talk about the future of our associations.



Charter AC Merkaz

In the evening I was invited by the ladies of Agora Merkaz to visit the city of Jaffa by night !

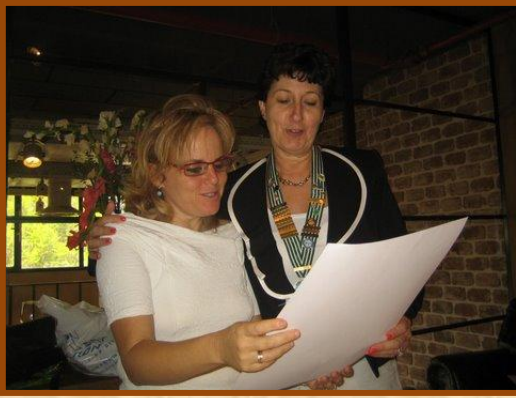
No no girls I hear you thinking " No night clubs " but we had musical tour and visited the most beautiful spots of this old city known for their "oranges". A city with a lot of history only a few km away from Tel Aviv.

On Sunday morning I was expected in the Town Hall of the city of Yehuda, were a smart and dynamic Mayor was waiting for us.

Tammy the founder President was so nice to translate the charter document to that all ladies could understand the meaning of the words. Again a big group of ladies are proud to become member of our association and are looking forward to work with the other associations Ladies' Circle – 41 Club and Round Table....they understood "4Clubs-1Vision"



Tammy, Yifat, Daniëlle, Dorit



The lady that has been the power and the energy behind Agora Israel is Yifat Rom, a Past National President of Ladies' Circle Israel.

Therefore the two clubs Merkaz and Krayot decided to install a **National Board** so that Yifat can continue to promote our association within Israel.

Congratulations Yifat, you did a great job and I really hope that in the near future other Past Circlers in Israel will realise that there is a life after Ladies Circle.

Congratulations AC Israel and WELCOME!



I am sure that in the near future **Agora Club Israel** will grow into another dimension and hopefully we will soon hear from another mega charter like we had in Ladies' Circle a few years ago – 6 clubs chartered in one day!

Thank to all members for the wonderful days they have offered me, I will cherish them for the rest of my life.....





AGM Agora Club Belgium : 26-06-2010

Veerle reports :

President Anne Marie and her team chose a beautiful, warm and sunny day for their AGM...an AGM that reflected the weather with its great and friendly atmosphere! Nothing but smiling faces on the covered courtyard of medieval chapel in Aarschot.



Nearly 100 members + guests gathered for the AGM , followed by an aperitif offered by Anne-Marie's Club AC Aarschot for their 10th anniversary, and a cosy lunch on the yard. It was great to see the delegations of AC France, AC The Netherlands and AC Tangent Germany present,



and also the delegates of 4 Clubs 1 Vision were there to reinforce the friendship between these 4 great Belgian Clubs.

The AGM went fluently thanks to a very efficient "Master (or is it mistress?) of Ceremonies" Marijke. All guests and delegates addressed the meeting in due time, the speeches, voting and info followed each other in an atmosphere of goodwill and at the end –always a beautiful moment- the newly elected board 2010-2011 was presented.



Congratulations to the "old" belgian board for a terrific past Agora year with no less than 2 new clubs, and **good luck** to the new board with a lot of concrete plans for expansion in the pipeline!

It was clear that in Agora Club Belgium they live up to the moto of Anne-Marie : "Enjoy Friendship in Agora" and are in full anticipation with President Rita's new moto :

" Stronger together through commitment"

Don't forget to register!!

See our website www.agoraclubinternational.com



Lose your ♥ in Tallinn
Come to the
Agora Club International Conference!
1, 2, 3 October 2010

Dear friends,

Over these past 10 months the ACI newsletters gave you a reflection of what happens in Agora Club worldwide. They gave you all an idea of how your fellow members in other countries fill in their membership. It gave you an idea of their hopes, plans and dreams.

Together with Veerle I tried to bundle all these stories and events into 10 newsletters, which we are certain brought you all a bit closer.

It is so nice to share: share thoughts, share happiness, share dreams...and true friendship also allows us to share sadness.

It is such a comfort to know that in all these countries we share common thoughts and ideals, and we know that we will always be welcome since: **"Together we are one!"**

Lots of love from your "newsletter-team" and enjoy summer!

Daniëlle and Veerle

