

Paint your soul...

www.agoracubinternational.com



What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

Nelson Mandela

1st ISSUE 2013

Pink is the color of  
UNIVERSAL LOVE. Pink  
is a quiet color. LOVERS  
of BEAUTY favour pink.  
A pink carnation means  
"I will NEVER forget you".

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## Dear Friends, for those that missed the conference in Hyères, herewith my speech...

Isn't it amazing that when we, as women of this wonderful organization called AGORA, meet, often for the very first time, sometimes after many years, months or only at the annual AGM's – we just seem to connect. We have a common purpose that transcends languages and cultural barriers. We are simply drawn to each other. We share the same values of wanting to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us. We offer support to those in need – be it emotional, physical or financial.

We are passionate about life, passionate about people, passionate about friendship and passionate about service. That's why AGORA started, to continue in the friendship built up in Ladies Circle, to continue meeting friends worldwide and making new friends that enrich our lives and the lives of others, to continue making a difference.

As passionate women, we put our heart and soul into everything we do, after all **"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."** Ralph Waldo Emerson

We all express ourselves in different ways. To paint is to put the colours of your heart on canvass, to dance on paper. Painting leaves behind a footprint and an impression that can last a lifetime and beyond.

## PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AGORA ACI 2013

Ladies, we are all painters, every single one of us here today has left their impression and footprint in someone's life, somewhere across the globe.



**So now ladies, I ask you to go out and Paint your Soul...**

Leave your footprint in someone's life. Leave the impression of your **inner beauty**, feel **kindness** and **sympathy** for others, appreciate the beauty in **art** and **nature** around us. Fully express yourself in every dimension of your life. Stand firm and whole as a woman, you are precious and irreplaceable.

Nelson Mandela once said **"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."**

I thank each and every one for the impression you have left on me, your footprint of friendship and love has enriched my life beyond words and will last a lifetime. Thank-you

Sandy van Niekerk – PRESIDENT 2013/2014

*As passionate women, we put our heart and soul into everything we do...*

Paint your soul... Pink

# Your ACI Board 2013-2014 at your service! Our Hearts and Souls are ready to paint the world!



**Karin Chaffart**, *ACI Secretary* • **Veerle De Jonge**, *ACI IPP*

**Sandy van Niekerk**, *ACI President*

**Nikkie Grewar**, *ACI Treasurer* • **Kelly Geisler**, *ACI Vice President*

Put some pink  
in your life when  
you want:

- calm feelings
- to neutralize disorder
- relaxation
- acceptance, contentment

Club  
**AGORA**  
international

Paint your soul.



**SANDY  
VAN NIEKERK**  
President

Dear Friends

How privileged I am to be ACI President. I have just loved being part of the ACI board this past year and meeting and conversing with Agora friends worldwide. As a member of Ladies Circle for 10 years and an Agora member for 5 years, I have met fabulous women and made friends that will last a lifetime, that have left their footprint deeply embedded in my life.

I paint my soul Orange. It reminds me of why I am an AGORA member, why I am so passionate about this organization. The colour Orange is a warm and inviting color, just what we experience every time we meet an Agora member or go to a function. Orange is both physically and mentally stimulating, so it gets people thinking and talking! A perfect AGORA colour... specially the talking part! Orange brings spontaneity and a positive outlook on life, it radiates warmth and happiness, is optimistic and uplifting, rejuvenating our spirit. Isn't that what AGORA is all about?

Ladies, I look so forward to Painting my Soul and meeting up with Agora friends across the globe, whether it be in person, on face book, via e-mail, newsletters, or all of the above.

Love Sandy

Paint your soul.



**KELLY  
GEISLER**  
Vice  
President

Dear ladies,

I was really moved by the wonderful collective supportive spirit at the ACI gathering in Hyeres! What a superb group of women and I am so honored to be a part of this dynamic, diverse and energetic group! Although I live miles away physically, I feel such a deep connection to the heart and spirit that runs through all of us in our solidarity to do something purposeful with our lives, to paint our souls and leave meaningful footprints of lives well lived. My journey with you began with ladies Circle in 1999, and now with Agora ladies continues with such excitement and anticipation on how this time with all of you will continue to unfold! I am so very humbled to be part of this board and will always serve to the best of my ability. I look forward to working and sharing with all of you in the coming years!

My color from the artist's palette is blue. It is chosen by artists to show perspective, and allows the ability to look outward...and so I will paint my soul blue in an effort to always communicate with peace and kindness.

Lots of love, xxoo Kelly Geisler

Paint your soul.



**KARIN  
CHAFFART**  
Secretary

Dear ladies,

When Veerle asked me to join the ACI board I was really honoured.

I am rather "green" in Agora: I started my Agora-career only in 2007 as a founding member of our club AC 7 Lokeren Waasland-Belgium. But for the past two years I was treasurer in AC Belgium where my involvement and engagement grew.

Being a self-employed dentist and mother of two young adults Eline (23) and William (20) I know a lot about time-management and diplomacy.

I paint my soul in green: the colour of growth and renewal, the colour of the optimism and positivity I feel with my boardies. The ability to love and nurture ourselves and others unconditionally. And then there is red which stands for the warmth I feel, the passion I want to share in Agora and my determination to do a good job for you all and Agora.

Love Karin

Paint your soul.



**NIKKIE  
GREWAR**  
Treasurer

Dear ladies, dear friends,

Well another year ahead of us. An exciting one too!!!

As I start my 5th year on the ACI board – what can I say to you – only that I feel very privileged and honoured to be part of such a dynamic and progressive group of ladies.

We are all true to the words of our Veerle: " Stronger through Diversity".

I think that this past year has certainly shown this and I know that in the forth-coming year we will bond together, grow and become even stronger.

So I am "Painting my Soul " Purple – for Passion and Dedication to our amazing organization.

With love

Nikkie

Paint your soul.



**VEERLE  
DE  
JONGE**  
IPP

The warm friendship and unique harmony we experienced at the ACI AGM 2013 in Hyères, has emphasized to all those present the capacity of our Agora members for empathy and compassion. Qualities which make a difference to the projects we support and thanks to which we can change how we and the people around us perceive the world: a world which is friendlier, fairer and more compassionate, and is respectful for diversity.

This is the Club I am proud to be member of.

Together with the energetic board 2013-2014, and thanks to the unrelenting support of my husband Dirk and children Tara, Steven and Mattias I am still more than happy to combine my job as Interior Architect with ACI, and serve you for the 6th (and probably last ☺) year as member of your International Board.

I'll keep on "Painting my Soul" yellow – the colour of hope for a wonderful future for Agora and for all those we care for.

Love Veerle

**PINK ENERGY: Pink symbolizes love and romance, caring, tenderness, acceptance, self-worth and calm.**



## We have started a Service Barometer

SEND US YOUR SERVICE PROJECT DETAILS AND WATCH AS IT GROWS AND GROWS!

LADIES, as AGORA we will be 'Painting our Soul' all over the globe, leaving our footprint in someones' life. We make a difference, and together each day we leave an impression somewhere in the world. So, we have started a Barometer – you can watch it moving upwards on the website.

We need you to tell us how you have left your footprint, how much you have raised for charities in your countries, be it in time or in money. This goes for ALL service projects right down to club level, as many clubs do service on a local level. This all adds up and we will be able to show what AGORA has done collectively for service.

I think we will all be so, so impressed and proud when we look back and see what we have achieved.

The Barometer will run from October 2013 – September 2014.

## Children of the dump

The LADIES CIRCLE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT (ISP), for 2013-2015 is CHILDREN OF THE DUMP.

Once again AGORA has voted to support the LCI ISP. This is a wonderful Side By Side project with Ladies Circle and cements our support and friendship to our sister organization.

CHILDREN OF THE DUMP is also reflected on the barometer and each time we raise money for this ISP it will show in a different colour. Ladies we have already raised EURO 5515 for Children of the Dump at the AGM – isn't that just great?!?

A bit more about

## Children of the Dump



CHILDREN OF THE DUMP was founded in 2004 to change the lives of hundreds of children, living on the dumps of Stung Meanchy, Cambodia. With the help of funding, the NGO will help the local "Center for Children's Happiness" to provide these children with a home and decent meals, and offer them the chance to go to school and study. A new wing is planned in the CCH, aimed to provide supervised independent living, preparing the children to make their way back into society. Please have a look at the AGORA website to see the presentation and find out more information [www.agoraclubinternational.com](http://www.agoraclubinternational.com)



*This is what our Barometer looks like on the website – and the status of this newsletter – so come on Agora – let's get this moving!*

## CANCER RIBBONS

PINK IS FOR  
**BREAST  
CANCER  
AWARENESS**



Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer.

# Dates to diarise

## **14th November 2013** **ACI day!**

Let's make this a special day!

Take the opportunity to organise something with your club for our new ACI project "Children of the dump" or invest in a local charity project.

Let us know what you did! It's not about us... it's all about you.

Time and money given to charity, Agora, our ISP project by Agora clubs all over the world. Local or National, small or big projects: everything is worth sharing with us.

We will add your contribution to our barometer so we can all see that we can make a difference!

## **15-17 November 2013**

## **AC 8 Vernona (Italy) Charter**

## **14th February 2014**

## **Charter 2014 AC TC 27 Hannover (GER)**

### **WEARING PINK**

Wear pink when you want to present yourself as a peaceful, calm person who is not threatening. The softer shades are very feminine and darker shades will alleviate feelings of friction.

### **PINK GEM STONE PROPERTIES**

Pink gemstones can be used to promote love, self-worth, order and protection from violence or aggression. Carry or place pink gemstones around your home or office to stimulate love and beauty.

14th OF NOVEMBER IS

# ACI DAY!



PAINT YOUR SOUL...

# RED!

Wear your little red hat and make this day a special day – with your friends, with your club...

Organize a fun event for ACI DAY  
and let us know about it!

*When you pursue your dream...  
Your passion propels you forward*



[www.SimpleStepsRealChangeMagazine.com](http://www.SimpleStepsRealChangeMagazine.com)



# Snippets from the AGM-2013 Hyères

The recent ACI AGM in Hyères was once again a wonderful occasion filled with fun, laughter, friendship, good food, good wine and great, great memories. Thank-you Isabella and your ladies from Hyères AC39. You all made wonderful hosts and organized a superb AGM.



## A word from Isabella Seguinot – Conference organisor

Dear Friends all over the world,  
Few days ago now, you gave to me and to the AC39 Hyères members a great gift during the 17th ACI conference...

During 2 years, after that Veerle asked us to organise her ACI President's AGM, we worked hard and a lot. We visited different places where we could host you, made the better price, organised different tours... and so...

Then, we worked hard and you came with so many from so far... Thanks a lot for having positively and numerously replied to my proposals !

You were 26 in Nice city tour, 42 in Saint Tropez city tour, 111 at the Galoupet to visit the vineyard and 106 in Porquerolles Island.

You were 33 at the councillors meeting, 170 at the Welcome Party and 219 at the Gala Diner.

You came to the ACI Conference with :	
1	from Iceland
1	from Madagascar
2	from Romania
4	from South Africa
5	from Switzerland
5	from Norway
6	from Malta
8	from USA
9	from The Netherlands
9	from Morocco
10	from UK
12	from Italy
19	from Germany
51	from Belgium
80	from France

We were only 8 to organise the Conference for you: my personal assistant and the chairman of Agora 39 Hyères, Martine Monzo; our conference Nurse and our club secretary Valérie Rimbaud; our VP Véronique Figuiere-Breton; our IPP Mireille Mitteau; our IRO Linda Pidoux; my LC godmother Dolorès Tollardo; a very active member Marie-Christine Gruchet and myself.

A big thank you to my great team who followed me during this whole crazy week ! A big thank you also to my dear friend Veerle, who gave me this challenge.

Myself and my friends from Hyères hope to see some of you in other places this year... or very soon !

Lots of Love, ENJOY!

Your conference Convenor 2013,  
Isabelle  
[isabelle.seguinot@libertysurf.fr](mailto:isabelle.seguinot@libertysurf.fr)









Paint your soul...

hyères - le lavandou - gapeau

dimanche 13 octobre 2013

# Var-matin

LA LONDE-LES-MAURES

## 250 femmes et 15 pays à l'assemblée générale du club Agora



Quelque 250 femmes originaires de 15 pays différents ont participé, hier, à l'assemblée générale annuelle du club Agora international au domaine du Galoupet.

(Photos Patrick Beaudet)

Le club Agora international a tenu cette année son assemblée générale annuelle en France, sous la présidence de la Belge Veerle De Jonge. C'est le superbe domaine du Galoupet, à La Londe, qui a accueilli quelque 250 personnes originaires de quinze pays (France, Belgique, Suisse, Angleterre, Allemagne, Italie, Pays-Bas, Norvège, Islande, Roumanie, Malte, Afrique du Sud, Maroc, Madagascar et États-Unis). Le club Agora, qui a pour devise « Donner et tolérer », est un club service, « apolitique et non religieux », qui a pour originalité de ne regrouper que des femmes de plus de 45 ans un peu partout dans le monde. « L'objectif est de favoriser l'amitié entre femmes qui



Isabelle Séguinot.

partagent les mêmes valeurs, explique Isabelle Séguinot, présidente du club Agora 39 Hyères, créé il y a quatre ans et qui a organisé la manifestation cette année. Et d'être utile à la société. » Elles œuvrent ainsi actuellement pour les enfants, particulièrement en Asie. Ensemble, depuis jeudi, elles ont aussi visité Nice et Saint-Tropez, ainsi que le domaine londais, et passent aujourd'hui la journée à Porquerolles. Avant de rentrer chacune dans leur pays respectif. L'an prochain, l'assemblée générale se tiendra en Afrique du Sud, et sera d'ailleurs présidée par une Sud-Africaine, Sandy Van Niekerk, élue hier.

F. R.

# Agora makes headlines in Hyères























ENJOY!  
AGL AGM 2013 - MYERS