



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

## 2nd ISSUE 2013

The colour GOLD symbolizes wealth used wisely, but it is also the symbol of good health. People who favor the colour gold are optimistic.

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**If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.**

**Bob Hope**

Dear Friends

Christmas is my absolute favourite time of the year. It's a time of food, fun, tinsel and festive cheer. There is no other time quite like it. To me, it means family, tradition, the end of the year, summer holidays, (yes I know... while others are having a "white Christmas"), cheerfulness, love peace and so, so much more. It's a time when as a family and as friends we make an effort to be together. We send messages of love and hope and peace all over the world. It's a time of celebration and reflection. It's a time when we open our hearts to the needy and leave our footprint somewhere in some ones' life.

The familiar smells of cinnamon and spices, Christmas cake baking, mince pies and shortbread – all conjure up the most treasured childhood memories of my grandmother baking for what seemed like weeks in the lead up to Christmas day. Now as I try and follow her recipes, which I never get quite right, I wish I had paid more attention when I was "helping" her bake as a young girl.

I can totally relate to this quote

*"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"*  
*Bob Hope, American film actor and comedian*

The traditional colours of Christmas are green red and gold. Green a symbol of life and birth, red symbolizes love and passion and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.

Whatever you may be doing this festive season, wherever you may be, may you paint your soul with love, peace, hope and light

**Love Sandy**

# LET'S PAINT OUR SOUL GREEN

The colour of Hope and Growth

## News from Italy



“ In Fair Verona,  
where we lay our scene”  
from Romeo and Juliet  
by W. Shakespeare

Our show piece is the newborn Agora Club in fair Verona. It was a great event and a nice occasion to see new and old friends.



## A warm Welcome to Club Agora Verona 8

16<sup>th</sup> November 2013



After a very tasty lunch at the traditional Ristorante Caffè “Vittorio Emanuele” in the wonderful Bra Square, the Charter Ceremony started. It took place at Palazzo Barbieri, where everything was well prepared. The National Board, Verona President Elena, the Godmother Club Vicenza 2 with the President Donata Piccini and the Protocol Lady welcomed all the guests and friends. The National President Letizia Lulli lit the Candle of Friendship and officially opened the Ceremony.



And then, THE GREAT MOMENT: the signature of the *Charter Document* and the official welcome in Agora Club International.

And the event was ratified through an excellent Prosecco as was proved by our V.N.P, Diana



In the evening, waiting for the Gala dinner, we all enjoyed a stroll along the enveloping medieval streets of Verona and Piazza delle Erbe.



And then, the gorgeous Gala Dinner at the famous Restaurant at Palazzo Maffei in Piazza delle Erbe. The food was delicious, wine of the area, mushrooms of the season: all the five senses were satisfied.

No question the ladies of the Godmother Club Agora Vicenza with their President Donata were rather proud of the Charter:

The chartered ladies were very content and when I asked them about their future steps, they said they have always been inspired by the motto "Donner et Tolerer" and are urged by their own motto "Be the Change you want to see".

It was a great weekend, full of cordiality, spontaneity, emotions, and happiness. It's always so nice when we meet all together.

## ITALY: ACI DAY

We all sent and received wonderful and welcome wishes from all over the world during our ACI DAY, but you haven't seen these pictures, yet!!!!

**Thank you ladies of  
Club Agora Verona 8,  
thank you "fair Verona".**

*Dear Ladies,*

*We have increased our members nationally with the charter of a new club in Italy, Agora Verona 8.*

*Agora Vicenza 2 followed the new friends from the "cradle" during an amazing year of formation with meetings that have strengthened the bonds of real friendship among "the old" and "the young" ladies.*

*On the 16th of November a great charter was held in Verona with careful details for the ceremony and the gala dinner. So, I am honoured to present internationally the new club, Agora Verona 8 made up of nine very charming ladies.*

*Donata Piccini  
(President Agora Vicenza 2)*



If you look carefully, among the ladies of Club Agora Bologna 3, you can recognize the Imm.Past President and the National Secretary... The Merry Wives of Windsor (just to quote Shakespeare again...)

And here, some ladies from Club Agora Modena 7. It seems as if they are playing the part of the witches... Where is the National President? She is taking the picture!



I thought they were all serious people!!!! I was wrong!

## And there's gossip...

Some very naughty members of Club Agora Modena 7, decided to have an extra holiday together and fled to Sevilla in Spain and guess what ?

**Agora in our mind, everywhere, at any time.**

**Letizia ( N.P. Agora Club Italy)**



Paint your soul..

# DECEMBER CALENDAR : REMEMBRANCE DAYS AND FESTIVITIES



**1 DECEMBER**  
World Aids Day  
Red Ribbon Day



**1 DECEMBER**  
Independence Day  
Romania



**13 DECEMBER**  
Day of the Republic  
Malta



**30 DECEMBER**  
Day of the Republic  
Madagascar



*There's more, much more to Christmas*

*Than candle-light and cheer*

*It's the spirit of sweet friendship*

*That brightens all the year*

*It's thoughtfulness and kindness*

*It's hope reborn again*

*For peace, for understanding*

*And for goodwill to men*



LOUIS TRICHARDT Christmas Hamper Project Side by Side, ACSA LCSA



Agora Club Belgium

2013 - 2014

Dear Agora Friends

There certainly is some similarity between Sandy's device and the Belgian one. For Sandy, colours are also very important.

This year the logo of Agora Club Belgium is "Colour your life".

In the logo you will notice 6 female figures in bright colours ; they are the 6 members of the national board. Within our Agora family, there is room for all kind of ladies: big and small, thin and plump, all having their proper individuality, appearance and character and most of all... friendship for each other.

Colours are often associated with character traits.

**RED** is a warm colour, representing love and should never be missed in a person's life.

**ORANGE** is a cheerful colour, full of vital energy stimulating positive thinking.

**YELLOW** and **GREEN**  
-the colours of Agora Club Belgium-  
have a central position.

**YELLOW** is associated with the sun and the light and activates creativity and energy.

**GREEN** represents warmth, cosyness and freedom – all these qualities we find in Agora.

**BLUE** is your favorite colour, you are peaceful and you have a sense of responsibility.

**VIOLET** stands for success and power, something we wish everybody to enjoy.

The positive qualities of these colours is what we wish you to have, so we can achieve a wonderful year together.

ACB also tries to make a difference for the disadvantaged or the sick. Many clubs organise events where profits go to social projects. Other clubs work hard to sell homemade goody bags. Some of our members collect coffee and canned food to bring to social restaurants. There are clubs selling tickets for the MS league or for Music for Live. Isn't this great ?

The ACI postcards are available for a small price and they are really successful ! Profits go to the international service project "Children of the Dump". Thank you, dear ladies, for all your support !

So we can say that the barometer in Belgium is rising! We are proud and delighted with the commitment of our Belgian clubs.

**Remember : by sharing and caring, we multiply our possibilities...**

Colour your life with the Agora spirit and you will shine!

**The national board of Agora Club Belgium, Yvonne, Pascaline, Mimi, Carine, Karine, Rebecca**







## BAROMETER

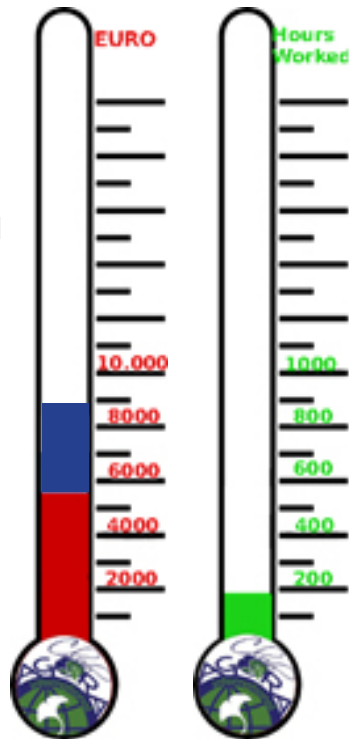
Our Service Barometer is growing SLOWLY but SURELY

We have raised 3415 Euros to date for our local charities and 5515 Euros for Children of the Dump, a total of 8930 Euro

How have we done this?

By taking rice to the elderly, packing Santa Shoe Boxes, having boot sales for Christmas Hampers for the poor. Donating money to the homeless and for children's sports funds. Cooking a delicious traditional dinner for our men – and making them pay handsomely! Side by side projects with Ladies Circle, visiting Stroke patients and much more.

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 in someone's life – somewhere in the world. Help get the Barometer moving upwards and see the results on the website. 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 is goes for ALL service projects right down to club 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 done. The Barometer will run 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.

ABOVE: The very active ladies of AC Venlo, Netherlands, made a difference for a lot of Dutch families. A sum of E1000 was donated to the Stichting Emmaus who look after the homeless and another sum of E1000 was donated to the Stichting Jeugd Sport & Cultuurfonds who financially support families that have difficulties paying for their children's sports and cultural activities.



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)



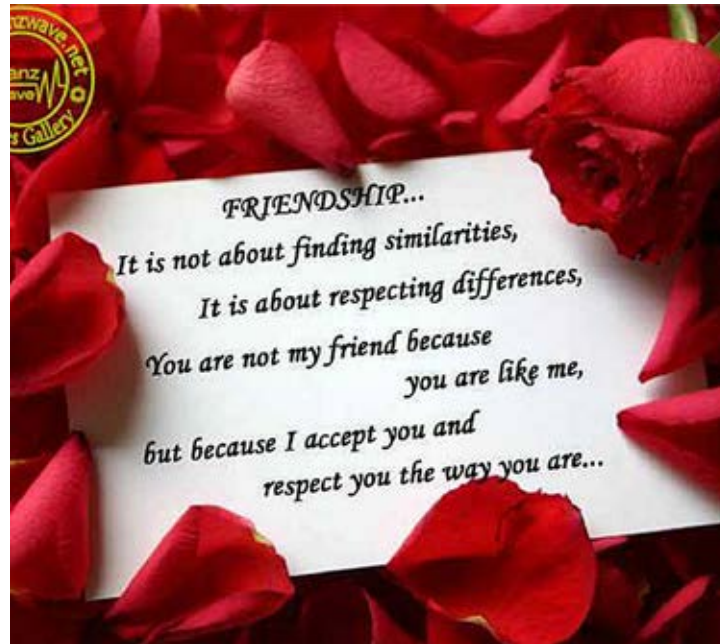
16 Nov 2013, Board members meeting of the 6 Dutch Agora Clubs.



A Very  
happy Christmas by  
Agora Vicenza 2



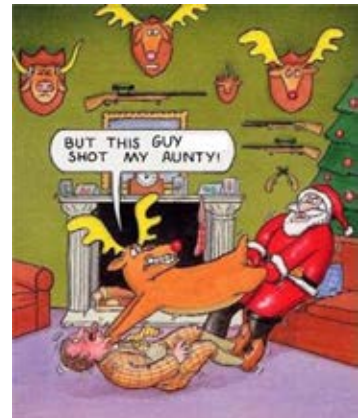
Norway Xmas



*FRIENDSHIP...*  
*It is not about finding similarities,*  
*It is about respecting differences,*  
*You are not my friend because*  
*you are like me,*  
*but because I accept you and*  
*respect you the way you are...*

Gold is the colour of success, achievement and triumph. Associated with abundance and prosperity, luxury and quality, prestige and sophistication, value and elegance, the colour psychology of gold implies affluence, material wealth and extravagance

Optimistic and positive, gold adds richness and warmth to everything with which it is associated - it illuminates and enhances other things - a true AGORA TRAIT



## AGORA INTERNATIONAL DAY

14 November ACI day was celebrated all over the AGORA world in many different ways. Some used the day to leave their footprint embedded in the lives of those less fortunate. Some used the day to connect with AGORA friends and club members. Most sent wishes of love and friendship from all over the world. The colour **RED** was significant. Here are some pictures...



Morocco



Botswana



Belgium



## POLAND



## AGORA CLUB LEMAN SWITZERLAND

Hello all Agora sisters of the world.

I send you greetings and wish you all Happy ACI day from the white ACI country Iceland.

I send you WHITE-coloured wishes from our snowy winterwonderland.

These wild reindeers live on the eastcoast of our island and were almost disturbing the traffic on the countryroads this morning.

Best regards,  
Dagny Leifsdottir  
Chairman AC-2 Reykjavik-Keflavik  
Agora Club Iceland



Hello all Agora Ladies

We are sending you Glorious Golden wishes for a wonderful ACI day, as the sun is shining (after many miserable days of rain!) and the wind is blowing the glorious golden leaves around everywhere!

Enjoy whatever the day has in store!

With love and best wishes,

Sandra &  
the ladies of UK No1



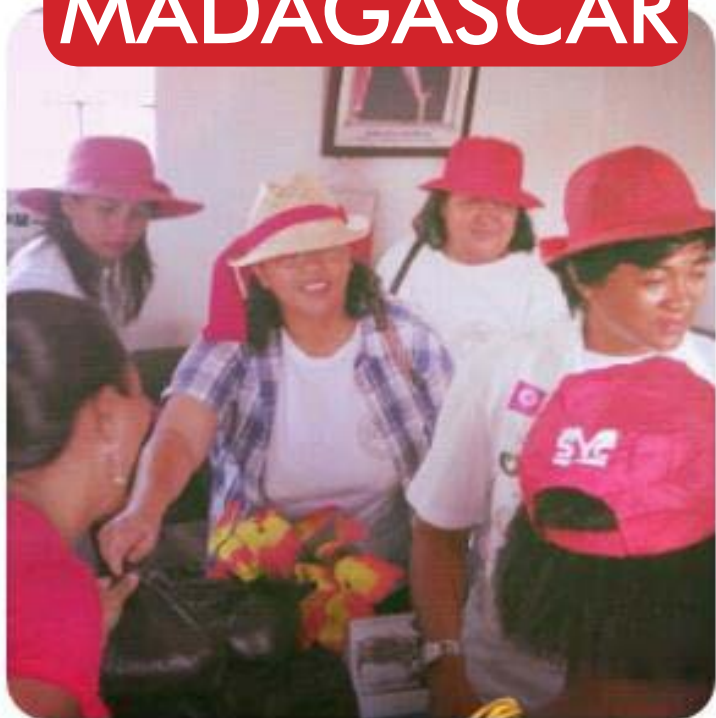
**SOUTH AFRICA**

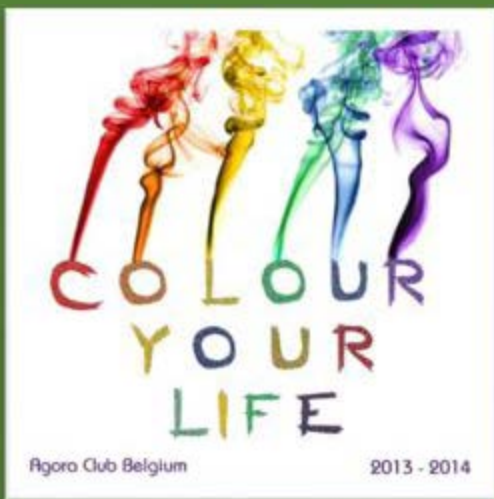


**ROMANIA**



# MADAGASCAR





What a joy it is to have  
A friend as dear as you  
To think about and care about  
And count on always too

And so today we'd like to say  
We're grateful as can be  
For all you do and all you are  
And all you mean to us.

The national board of Agora Club Belgium wishes you all a happy ACI Day!  
Yvonne, Pascaline, Mimi, Carine, Karine and Rebecca



# GREETINGS FROM THE LCI BOARD



**Sonel Prinsloo**  
PAST LCSA NAT PRESIDENT



ACI  
GREETINGS  
FROM  
USA

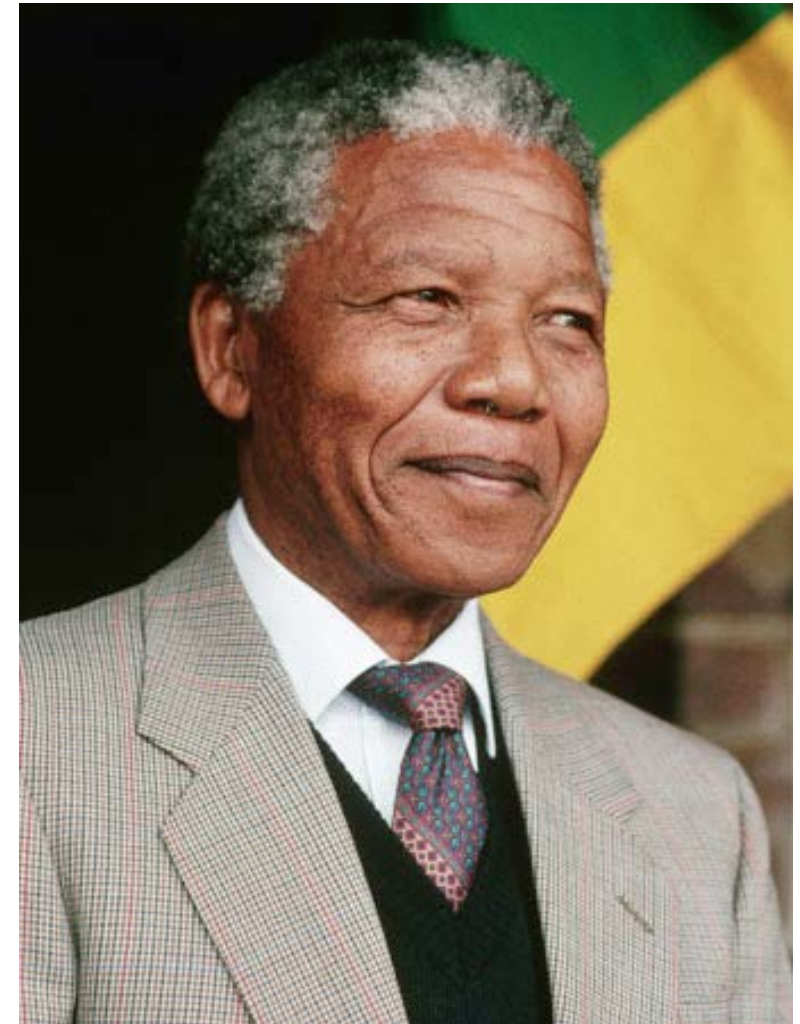
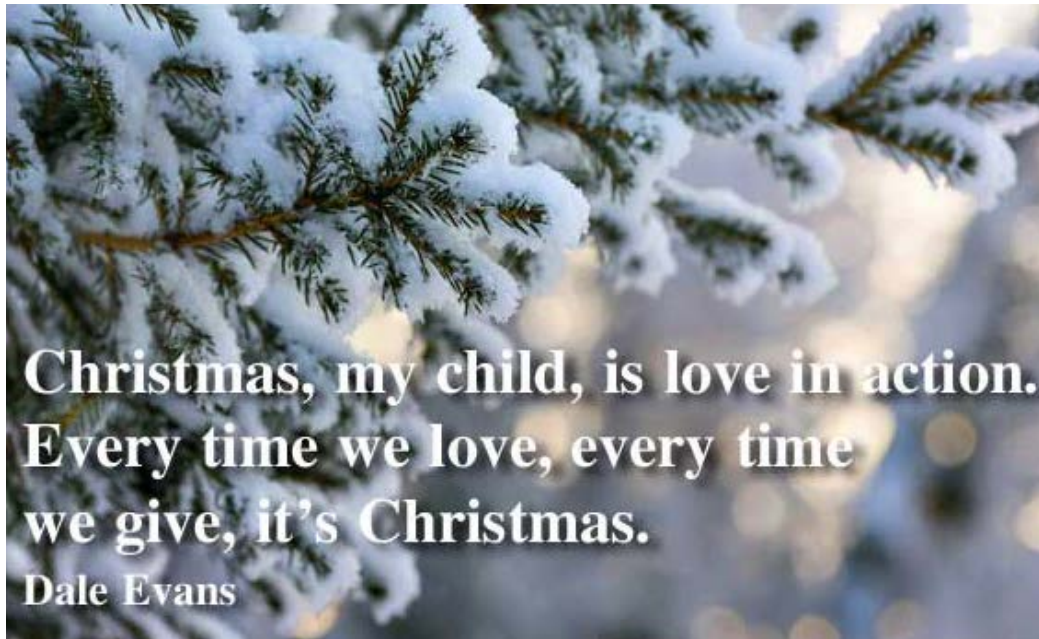
ACI GREETINGS  
FROM ITALIA



Paint your soul...

## DATES TO DIARISE

24 – 27 January 2014	LCI midterm meeting, with South and Africa Regions, SA
13 – 16 February 2014	LCI midterm meeting with Nordic and Middle regions, Estonia
01 – 03 March 2014	AGM AC Romania and Installation of the NB, Brasov
11 March 2014	AGM AC 1 Lemman and AC 2 Lausanne Switzerland
28 – 30 March 2014	Charter AC Madagascar



*"I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself."*

*In Loving Memory of our Nation's Father*

*Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela*

1918 - 2013

# HAMBA KHALE MADIBA



WE CAN CHANGE THE  
WORLD AND MAKE IT  
A BETTER PLACE. IT  
IS IN YOUR HANDS TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

-NELSON MANDELA



Sometimes, it falls  
upon a generation to  
be great. **You can be  
that great generation.**  
Let your greatness  
blossom.

-Nelson Mandela

“WHEN A MAN HAS DONE WHAT HE  
CONSIDERS TO BE HIS DUTY TO HIS  
PEOPLE AND HIS COUNTRY,  
HE CAN REST IN PEACE.



I BELIEVE I  
HAVE MADE  
THAT EFFORT  
AND THAT IS,  
THEREFORE,  
WHY I WILL SLEEP  
FOR THE ETERNITY.”

- NELSON MANDELA

## Christmas Red & Green



*There are several colours traditionally associated with Christmas.*

*The most traditional ones are **Red**, **Green** and **Gold**.*

***Green** as in the Christmas trees, the Holly and the Ivy and Mistletoe that decorates our homes during the season. **Green** represents life, growth and hope for new beginnings.*

***Red** is the colour of fire indulging feelings of warmth and visions of roaring fires, red berries and Santa Claus. It symbolises love and passion.*

***Gold** is the colour of the Sun and light and symbolises wealth and good health. And what a coincidence!! The National Colours of our two new ACG countries **Malta** and **Madagascar** are red and green.*

**You're never too old to whisper in Santa's ear...**



*Its been said that everlasting friends go long periods of time without speaking and never question their friendship. These friends pick up phones like they just spoke yesterday, regardless of how long it has been or how far away they live, and they don't hold grudges. They understand that life is busy and you will always love them.*

**We all need some gold for Christmas...**

**Wearing gold in everyday life increases personal power, and promotes courage, confidence and willpower. Gold chains worn around the neck preserve health.**





joy

love

peace

believe

celebrate

hope

2013/2014

Club  
**AGORA**  
international

Wishing you a very happy  
Festive Season and a  
bright and colourful New Year

Sandy, Kelly, Veerle, Karin and Nikkie.  
ACI Board 2013-2014



At the uppermost level, **GOLD** is a colour which is associated with higher ideals, wisdom, understanding and enlightenment. It inspires knowledge, spirituality and a deep understanding of the self and the soul.

In the meaning of colours, gold is generous and giving, compassionate and loving, the benefactor or patron, sharing its wisdom, knowledge and wealth with others. All that **AGORA** stands for...

Gold is a warm colour that can be shiny, glistening and happy as well as dull, muted and traditional. The brighter shades of gold catch the eye with their brilliance while the darker muted shades are deep, warm and intense – isn't that **AGORA**?

## If gold is your favorite colour

- you radiate charisma, personality and individuality, making others feel relaxed and valued in your company.
- you are a loving and compassionate person who shows great personal warmth to all you meet - others feel empowered when in your presence.



“People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.”

—Unknown