



Dear Ladies of Agora,

Again a terrible attack has shocked our community – again a calling for us to beware and live our aims and objectives “Service and Tolerance”. Together we are strong!

Because of our core beliefs we care for others in need so this newsletter is dedicated to our first ISP which we have chosen at our last ACI conference in Brasov

– EYES FOR THE WORLD – MAY is THE MONTH of OUR ISP!

You also find some news from the countries and the third article of our former ACI president Nikkie who is sharing her most memorable moments with us.

Yours in friendship

Brigitte

ACI Secretary 2015-2017

Index of this newsletter

1. Words of Thanh Thao to AC Belgium	Page 2
2. Our ACI ISP Eyes for the world	Page 2
- Letter of Hanane Bidouj El Jassifi	Page 2
- AC UK	Page 3
- AC Brasov 2	Page 5
3. Side By Side	Page 5
- MTM LCI Mauritius	Page 5
- MTM LCI Leuven	Page 6
- Charter LC New York	Page 9
4. Boardmeeting in Hyères	Page 11
5. Report of ACI President 2010/11	Page 13
6. Barometer	Page 14/15
7. Calendar with new charters	Page 14/15

My dear Agora friends and friends of Agora,

My heart goes out to all my Belgian friends and all the victims of the heinous attack on 22 March 2016.

I share your feelings, your thoughts; I embrace each and every one of you; and I believe that in the end, the beauty of life will reign over all these senseless acts of violence.

Let's continue to instill hope!

Yours always in friendship and love

Ly thi Thanh Thao

ACI President 2015-2016

“Hand Head Heart”



Our First International Serviceproject – Eyes For The World

Ladies, remember our last newsletter in which you could read the thanksgiving letter written to AC Amarula in South Africa because of their contribution to give help to children with eye problems at a small school, how thankful they were?

And now the commitment in Morocco is going to start at the end of April. The Moroccan ladies already did a great job because....but read yourself☺...

The most amazing news in this number is the thorough program worked out by Agora Club Casablanca 1 to host the Service project EYES FOR THE WORLD in Casablanca.

The following words are those of Hanane El Jassifi, President of AC Casablanca 1 (2015-2016):

“After two months and several meetings with various Moroccan authorities, we were finally able to set up "Eyes for the World".

- This social action will be led in close collaboration with the Moroccan Health Ministry and the Moroccan Education Ministry located in Casablanca.
- The Education Ministry required that the state of the health are the only ones to be smart enough to detect the children;
- The Moroccan Health Ministry will provide us a health center called "Centre Ifnou Nafiss" and located in the same district where are schools;
- The Moroccan Health Ministry will provide us the equipment, technicians, two doctors, one or two ophthalmologist and nurses.
- The Moroccan Health Ministry have already begun to list the children in a sight deficiency.
- The targeted schools are the followings:
1/ Ibnou Lbaytar primary school

- 2/ Ibnou Nafiss primary school
- 3/ Sidi Abderrahman primary school
- 4/ Abderrahmane Ibnou Awfe College

- The date of "Eyes for the World" would be from Monday, April 25th till Thursday, April 28th in the Health Center "Ibnou Nafiss".
- Every day from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm, the Center Ibnou Nafiss will receive 60 children accompanied by their parents.
- The children will be managed by the nurses of the Center and the Members of Agora Club while waiting for their turn.
- Every child will proceed at first to read the optical board, then will be taken to the ophthalmologist's to have a medical examination and the prescription and lastly to the team "Eyes for the World" for adjustment and delivery of glasses.
- On Friday afternoon April 29th, we will organize a party with activities, games, surprises and gifts for the benefit of the primary school Sidi Abderhmane. The Moroccan authorities, our sponsors, partners, Moroccan Quatalagor Presidents, journalists, will be invited on this occasion.
- This event will be promoted by newspapers, magazines, radios and probably, also the Moroccan television.
- On Saturday, April 30th, our Club will organize a Gala evening to celebrate this Social Action and we will invite all the Moroccan Quatalagor Clubs."

Hanane Bidouj El Jassifi

President AC 1 Casablanca ***For further commitments of other countries like***

Botswana and Madagascar we need your help, your donations –

MAY the month for our ISP – organize charity events

Agora UK Quiz 12th March 2016

Eyes for the World

Agora UK is always looking for ways to raise money for charities whether it be at home or abroad.

After many of us joined you all in Romania and was privileged to witness the good work being carried out by friends in South Africa for the charity '*Eyes for the World*', it was decided that we could make a difference and raise money by organising a Quiz Night. This was something which we have done before and had always been a success!!

Preparing for this event was a challenge, booking the hall, enlisting a quiz master, raffle prizes and making sure we promoted it well. After a slow start things really took off!!!! Our thanks go to two



members of Agora UK, Debbie Sayer and Sue Marsh, who took control and managed to pull off a very successful evening.

Approximately 100 guests arrived which was such a great surprise as initially the numbers were low. Finding more chairs and tables was a challenge but we squeezed in and all ran smoothly.

I was asked to introduce the evening, thank guests and explain the charity we were raising money for. This was a surprise as normally I would have prepared what I was going to say, but all went well.

The evening was wonderful and our lovely Sorina Barbu from Romania, who was in London for the weekend, was able to join us. This was fantastic, it was so lovely to see her again and be able to introduce her to all our guests and Agora members. Sorina joined me on stage to pick out the raffle tickets and give out prizes which was great fun. (picture attached).

The evening raised **£560!!!!**

Unfortunately my team came joint last!!!! 😊

Love to you all

Emma

Sorina & Emma

England, Quiz & Friendship.

Travelling to London is by itself a wonderful experience. London in March was so unexpectedly beautiful, sunny, warm and welcoming, that it was almost clear for me that something even more beautiful will follow. And it followed – maybe as a sign that winter is over, that friendship and Agora spirit is blooming everywhere, in all the places our Agora Ladies put their imprint on the world. On Saturday 12th March, I first met Louise and Andy and had with them the nicest afternoon in London, before heading to Southend on the Seas for the meeting with all our Agora friends there. And once arrived – surprise, I surely didn't expect that! There were more than 100 people joining the Agora Quiz evening, each of them eager to contribute for our **International Project EFTW**. WOW!!!

And again WOW!!!

What a wonderful job, Ladies, and what a warm welcoming for me! The best example for the Agora Spirit and even more – a Double Donating! – as it was a fund raising evening and friendship of all the ladies in Agora Southend working together and also including me, the new arrival from Romania.

Emma will tell you the whole story, about the background work and the struggle preparing this evening. I have seen only the result and I can report – IT WAS THE BEST!

Sorina AC Brasov 1



The ladies from **AC Brasov 2** created Easter decorations for the orthodox Easter which is coming in May. They want to sell it for *Eyes for the world*.



What about your ideas? Tell us!

Side by Side with LC

MTM of LCI in Mauritius



Great indeed was my attendance to the Mid Term Meeting of Ladies' Circle International, which was held on 3-7 February 2016! It was a beautiful occasion to strengthen old friendships, and to strike up new ones. I was warmly home hosted by Anisha Sennik of LC Mauritius. I enjoyed the lovely company of friends from LC Bostwana, LC Cyprus, LC France, LC Hong Kong, LC Israel, LC Italy, LC Madagascar, LC Mauritius, LC Morocco, LC South Africa, LC Zambia, and LC Zimbabwe.

I enjoyed some sightseeings at Poste Lafayette on the beach at Tina's for the Welcome Party, at Merville Beach Hotel in Grand Baie for the Gala Dinner. We went shopping at Le Caudan Waterfront and the market of Quatre-Bornes. Then I saw Trou aux Cerfs, a dormant volcano, in Curepipe.

I had the occasion to get to know the South African High Commissioner in Mauritius, Dr. Nomyuyo Nokwe. She was enthusiastic of the spirit of "Service and International.

I had beautiful moments



"Tolerance" of Agora Club

with the Ladies. We

exchanged banners. A lot of Ladies were thinking of participating to the Conference and the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of Agora Club International, which will take place in Milan, from 6 – 9 October 2016.

With Divya Rangadoo, President of LC Mauritius



With my lovely friends from LC Botswana

With the two embodiments of the “Side by Side” spirit, Ruth Hungwe (LCI-P) and Chantess Wiggill (LCI-PP).



I should say that the magical spirit of “Side by Side” between Ladies’ Circle International and Agora Club International is the wellspring of creativity, energy, and enthusiasm for both associations to reach out to more achievements and success.

Yours in friendship and love
Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI President 2015-2016
“Hand Head Heart”

MTM of LCI in Leuven

Friday I went by car to Aarschot near Leuven in Belgium as I was hosted by Anne-Marie Wouters/Delsaerdt, a former ACI president.



Ingrid, Chris, Ursula, Anne-Marie, Yvonne



I arrived for lunch where Anne-Marie and three ladies of the national board of Agora Club Belgium: president Chris, vice-president Ingrid and treasurer Yvonne were waiting for me.

We talked and discussed a lot and had much fun together. Chris gave me a lovely mug and mousepad with her logo "Make it nice". In exchange she received....a save-the-date mug for our AGM in Milan to make sure that she won't miss the event ☺



Timetravel back in history

Later Ann-Marie and myself went to Leuven for registration and had a Belgian beer together in a nice place in the center of Leuven before joining the other ladies for the welcome the famous town-hall of Leuven.



in



Isn't Ruth lovely with her nice bonnet ;))

We had some short speeches, food, a lot of Belgian beer and entertainment by two young men, just jumped out from history into our time, sent by Louis XIV. in Versailles. ;))

We talked a lot and had fun together but we did not stay too long to be fresh and clear for the meeting, also held in the town-hall of Leuven next day.



LCI-board and Stéphanie Parizel LC 24 Namur



Chris Helsen and me followed an interesting meeting with workshops and much information. The result of the ISP “Children of the Dump” was very impressive: 196,000 Euro.

In the evening (dresscode: “touch of pink”) we started with “apéritif” in a lovely location.



Banner-exchange with Ruth and Anne-Marie



“German-Austrian connection”

Ursula Lejeune
ACI-VP 2015/2016

Charter LC New York

My friends it is with great pleasure that following the ACI board meeting in Hyeres, I was able to stop on my way home in New York City for the rebirth of Ladies Circle in the USA with their charter!

What a most excellent attended event with over 240 international guests from the Round Table International family which included LC, RT, Agora, Tangent and 41 clubs.

Joining in this memorable event was Virginia West, of New York City and future founder of Agora Club NYC.

What a spectacular weekend so beautifully orchestrated by Princess Jimenez, her LC New York 1 Board and members, with much support and help throughout by the men of Round Table 1 NYC.

My heart is filled with hope for our future, not only within our organizations, but for our world and our people as a whole.

When we all work together in harmony we can move mountains!

Please enjoy a few of the pictures captured of this most momentous event –

Lots of love ♥



Kelly and Virginia with a wonderful message of hope

Kelly Geisler

ACI IPP



Kelly & Virginia meet up with Princess to find our Home Party groups



Blue Home Party at Eriks's



Kelly, Virginia & Sandy are ready to head off the Blue Home Party at Eriks's



Princess Jimenez Addressing the attendees at the official charter ceremony of LC New York



We filled the entire building from top to bottom



Kelly Geisler, Chantess Wiggill, Virginia West. Two past meet up with future at LC NYC charter



Ruth Hungwe and I found each other on the Gala Cruise



The Gala Cruise with all the gallant men and lovely ladies

Boardmeeting 2 in Hyères

The beauty, the colors, and the light of the Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur , especially of Hyères, have warmed me up with delight and enchantment.

Martine welcomed the ACI Board with open arms, open heart, and open mind, and succeeded in making us fall in love with her home town, the oldest resort on the French Riviera.

We had our Board Meeting from 3 to 7 March. I should say that we started it with big smiles and ended it with bigger smiles.



Martine joyfully lighted the candle of friendship



We were passionate about the Agora life and its spirit of "Service and Tolerance"

We had a look back on the past four months! We had done a lot to promote Agora Club, to strengthen the bonds with our brother and sister associations, to improve our communication. We worked out plans and programs for the future of Agora Club. We also discussed various aspects of Eyes For The World, and did some brainstorming on the Conference and the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary.

Among prosecco, amarula, the Italian traditional Easter cake (la colomba), a lot of sweets, and delicate French food prepared by Martine, we faced all the items of the agenda with verve and constructive attitude.

What's more, this year, I our Board Meeting. It was love "la tarte tropézienne", pleasant company of my Martine, and Brigitte.



celebrated my birthday during really special: I love the gift, I but above all, I love the Boardies, Ursula, Kelly,

Martine was so proud and enthusiastic to show us the wonders of the Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur region. We had a little rest from work spent some time beholding the beautiful Medieval Castle of Hyères.

We felt so blessed to have village of Bormes-les-medieval houses with



a walk around the medieval Mimosas, so gorgeous with bougainvillea flowers.

Then we were wordless in front of the beauty of the Domaine du Rayol, where we can admire plants of the Mediterranean basin, the Canary Islands, South Australia, New Zealand, the coast of California, Chile, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, and Asia.



A heart-warming



welcome to the ACI Board.

Then I attended the meeting, which proved to be a great success. We talked, we laughed, we exchanged Agora experiences. All issues were faced with positivity and serenity. We also had the occasion to enjoy the interesting presentation of the AGM of Agora Club France, which will be held on 10-12 June in Saint Raphael.

So happy to have this lovely pic with the dynamic and vibrant ladies of the 4th region of AC France.

Thank you, Micheline Geneix and Maryse Dechappe for a pleasant and productive meeting. Thank you, Isabelle Séguinot, for the hospitality and the commitment to AC France. Thank you, Martine Monzo, for making all these unforgettable moments happen.





This is a historical picture of Annick Thierry, founder of AC France, together with the ACI Board 2015-2016.

Then the dinner entitled “Chic & Loup”, in favor of “Le Fil D’Argent”, an association that supports people afflicted by Alzheimer, was a true explosion of fun, colors, friendship.



After my experiences in Hyères, I feel richer under all aspects.

Thank you, Boardies.
Lots of love
Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI President 2015-2016
“Hand Head Heart”

20 years of History of ACI – Memories of Nikkie Grewar, ACI president 2010-2011.

My Year as ACI President: 2010-2011

I can only remember fondly my year as ACI President.

All started when Danielle Gardin was in South Africa for the charter of Agora Club SA when she surprised me by asking me to stand as her Vice President on the ACI Board. I was very honoured and rather nervous as I was the first non-French speaking applicant and the first from out of Europe not to mention the southern hemisphere! It was however history repeating itself as I had served with Danielle on the LCI Board. So it was an amazing moment for me in Estonia as I came in as the ACI President.

My Presidential Motto was “A Circle of Friends For Ever”.

I chose this to help maintain our relationship with Ladies Circle and to remind us of our unique bonds of friendship within Agora Club International. Held a lot of meaning for me.

I had a wonderful year as president many amazing times with my wonderful Board strengthening the ties of friendship as well as lots of hard work cementing the new guidelines and rules and making ACI an organization to be so proud of. My Board members were truly fantastic, we are still in touch and have found friends for life!

Also a first for us was having Elisabeth Hiller from Tangent Germany as my Vice president.



Tangent Germany joined Agora Club International in Bruges Belgium at the ACI AGM the year before.



One of the highlights for me has to be the Charter of Agora Club USA. Not only a great occasion but made even more special that I inducted Kelly Geisler as the first National President of AC USA, amongst family and friends as Kelly and I are first cousins.

A very memorable few days spent in Tacoma and Seattle.

I ended my year as President in the beautiful town Cesenatico Italy – what a great place to have my AGM and hand over to my dear friend Elisabeth. Once again wonderful memories and continued friendships.

Thank you all for giving me these treasured moments and the privilege of serving as your president.

I loved it so much I presented myself to stand as ACI Treasurer after this! Another 2 awesome years! With love and friendship always

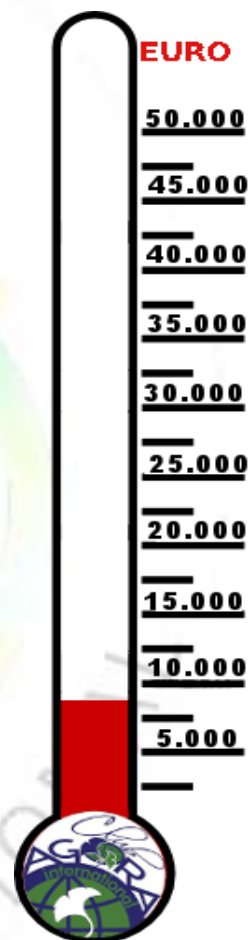
Nikkie Grewar



Calendar for Agora

Our barometer

- 8.- 10 April 2016 Charter of AC Marrakech 3
douniatc@hotmail.com
- 8 April 2016 AC 6 Reykjanesbaer (Iceland)
- 16 April 2016 AGM AC Romania in Dubova
- 30 April 2016 AGM ACT Germany in Dortmund
www.tangent-club.de
- 7 May 2016 AGM AC Madagaskar in Nosy Be
www.agclub41madagascar.livehost.fr
- 14 May 2016 Charter AC 49 Le Tampon (France)
- 20 May 2016 AGM AC Malta in Valetta
- 28 May 2016 AGM AC Italy in Ascoli Piceno
- 28 May 2016 AGM AC South Africa in Louis Trichardt
- 30 May – 2 June Board Meeting 3 in Spittal



3 – 4 June 2016 Charter AC 1 Spittal (Austria) www.agora-club-austria1.at

4 June 2016 Charter AC 2 Egersund (Norway)

11 June 2016 AGM France in Saint Raphaël

6 – 9. October ACIC in Milan www.aciconference2016.weebly.com

