

Paint your soul... Yellow



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

www.agoracubinternational.com

4th ISSUE 2013/14

Yellow means joy and happiness

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Hello Dear Friends

To say these past 5 weeks have been a kaleidoscope of colour, impressions, unbelievable landscapes, historical buildings, beautiful ladies, smiling faces, gourmet meals, delicious wines, chocolates, and so much more – would be an understatement!! Since leaving South Africa on 13 February 2014 for Europe, I have had the privilege of meeting just over 100 Agora members from five countries in 17 days!! Ladies you have painted my soul!

First stop Germany, with Karen von Koschitzky as my host and guide in Walsrode, we travelled to the Historic town of Hamelin, and to the beautiful city of Berlin. The childhood fairytale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin was brought to life and meeting the Berlin Bear was a thrill. Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin wall – all in a days work! Who can forget shopping at KADEWE? In Germany I met 8 Tangent Germany Clubs and just over 25 ladies. What a beautiful start to my European experience.

Karen and I then flew to Switzerland, where we were met and entertained by the ladies of AC Lemman and AC Lausanne. The Olympic museum, was awesome!!



The highlight for me was walking in the snow – yes, yes, this African baby wanted to feel the thrill of walking in the snow – I LOVED IT!!! Once again I met just over 20 ladies, including Annie-Ferdinand the first president of AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL. Delicious Fondue's, superb wines, delightful cocktails, AC Switzerland – thank-you for making a snow dream come true.



Then it was back to work. Lokeren, Belgium, for the board meeting. The board meetings, although hard work, are just great!! Meeting up with fellow board members, the fellowship, the laughter, the fun, these are friendships that will last a lifetime. Here we visited Gent where we were treated to a divine meal at Restaurant Roux, Carine Everaert's restaurant. Off to Flanders's Fields and a horse and cart adventure with the Belgian ladies. Side splitting laughter, chocolates, more wine and good food – whew, my jeans were starting to sit very, very tight at this point. In Belgium I met 8 ladies from 4 AC's Belgium



Accompanied by Kelly, Holland our destination, we headed off in Karin Chaffart's vehicle together with the very clever TOM TOM. The clubs of Nordwijk, Eindhoven, and Venlo were waiting, along with President Christa from club AC 5. How can I ever forget finding Mandela's signature in the "sweatbox " at The University of Leiden, the works of art at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, walking in the footsteps of van Gogh in Nuenen, and the mind blowing Bell Museum? Dinner at Venlo's club house – wow! Meeting 27 ladies from 4 clubs was great!



The Installation of the National Board AC Romania, brought about the last leg of this journey. Karin, Kelly and I set off in great spirits, the inspiring city of Brasov our home.

Words cannot express the sincerity of the Romanian hospitality, the awesome traditional evening, the well run AGM and meeting, the elegant gala dinner, the friendly city of Brasov, the stunning sightseeing, the outstanding weekend program, the dancing, the happy warm smiles, the friendship and the fellowship. Romania, I am counting the days to October 2015!!!

Throughout my travels, the highlight was, without a doubt, meeting the members of ACI. Being home hosted, enjoying wholesome home cooked dinners and chats around the table, are what made this trip so very, very special.

Thank-you to each and every Agora member who contributed to making this an unforgettable experience.

While I painted my soul in Europe, you have all left your footprints in mine!

Yours is friendship

Love Sandy

Put some yellow in your life when you want:

- clarity for decision-making
- relief from 'burnout', panic, nervousness, exhaustion
- sharper memory and concentration skills
- protection from lethargy and depression during dull weather

Veerle De Jonge
ACI IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

Sandy van Niekerk
ACI PRESIDENT

Nikkie Grewar
ACI TREASURER

Karin Chaffart
ACI SECRETARY

Kelly Geisler
ACI VICE PRESIDENT



*Wishing you all a blessed
and delicious Easter!*

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



AGORA ROMANIA

National Board Installation



Every charter meeting is a milestone, but above all, the charter meeting of a national organization is a magic moment.

March the 1st, a millennial Romanian celebration day correlated to women and spring as means of life and continuity, was the day when AC no.2 Braşov, AC no.3 Braşov and AC no.4 Craiova decided to establish the Romanian Agora Association, with the installation of The National Board.

The ceremony took place in Braşov under the high patronage of Sandy Van Niekerk, President of AC International, Kelly Geisler, AC International Vice-President and Karin Chaffart, AC International Secretary and representative of AC Belgium, the godmother of the Romanian National Organisation.

The two-day event was begun on Friday, February 28th, with a traditional evening, which, alongside Romanian traditional food and music, was a parade of folk costumes too, worn not only by us, but also by the representatives of Club 41 and Ladies Circle Romania, who attended this wonderful evening. *(I have to admit that its success made some of us somehow anxious about maintaining the same level of organising, joy and entertainment along the whole weekend!).*





The charter meeting, held in a conference room of the 5* Aro Palace Hotel, was opened with the Romanian National Anthem sung with us in a vibrant choir by all the representatives of the Romanian Ladies Circle, Round Table and Club 41 (among them national presidents and many executives), a solemn moment which previewed the great solemnity of signing the Chart.

And then, the gifts, congratulations and best wishes expressed not only by the ACI officials, but all Romanian Quatalagor members who wanted to be with us in this important moment, gave us a great feeling of solidarity and joy for entering such a great family.



And here is the first Romanian National Board:

Angela Micu (AC no.2 Braşov) – President

Sorina Barbu (AC no.3 Braşov) – Vice-President

Mihaela Drăghici (AC no.4 Craiova) – Secretary

Silvia Souca (AC no.2 Braşov) – Treasurer

The first event on the national agenda: the Charter Meeting of Agora no.5 Timișoara.



In the evening, the gala dinner was the moment of celebration, a really welcomed explosion of joy, humour and entertaining, after the deep solemnity of the charter meeting. And the general feeling that everybody knows each other, and they all are having a wonderful time together, was the greatest reward for the organisers. In the spotlight (mostly for a couple of the 41 clubbers, I should say), were the representatives of Agora no.5 Timișoara, who invited all the participants to their Charter Meeting in November this year.

After Round Table Romania in 1992,
Ladies Circle Romania in 1994,
Club 41 Romania in 1997, here is now Agora Romania!

The Quatalagor in Romania is at nation level!

Sorina Barbu

AC Romania Vice-President 2014 – 2015

President of AC no.3 Brașov 2013 – 2014



AGORA'S FOOTPRINTS IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

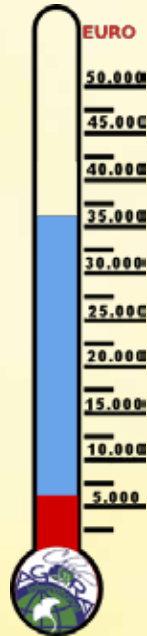
Just look at the Service Barometer growing ever so swiftly – WELL DONE AGORA!

We have raised 29713 Euro to date for our local charities and 6306 Euro for Children of the Dump, a total of 36019 Euro

How have we done this?

By taking rice to the elderly, packing Santa Shoe Boxes, X-MAS in a Box projects, 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 RT and 41ers, contributing toward the LCI ISP CHILDREN OF THE DUMP, visiting Stroke patients, organizing dances and concerts for charity, Angle Tree project for gifts for the less fortunate, SOS Future Mama's, Raffles of handmade crafts, a night at the theatre raising funds, donating a Christmas meal, DARK IN THE PARK – a project donating self adjusting glasses worldwide, a traditional Christmas concert for an autistic child and helping terminally ill cancer patients Time for life International, collecting cash donations, clothes, medicine etc, for the children of war-stricken Syria. A Benefit concert, for the Hospice House of Hope in Brasov. This my dear AGORA is just the tip of the iceberg!

We have volunteered our time towards the Nieman-Pick Disease project in an endeavor to finding a cure, at the ARK of San Diego – a home for intellectually disabled people and so many, many more hours doing good deeds.

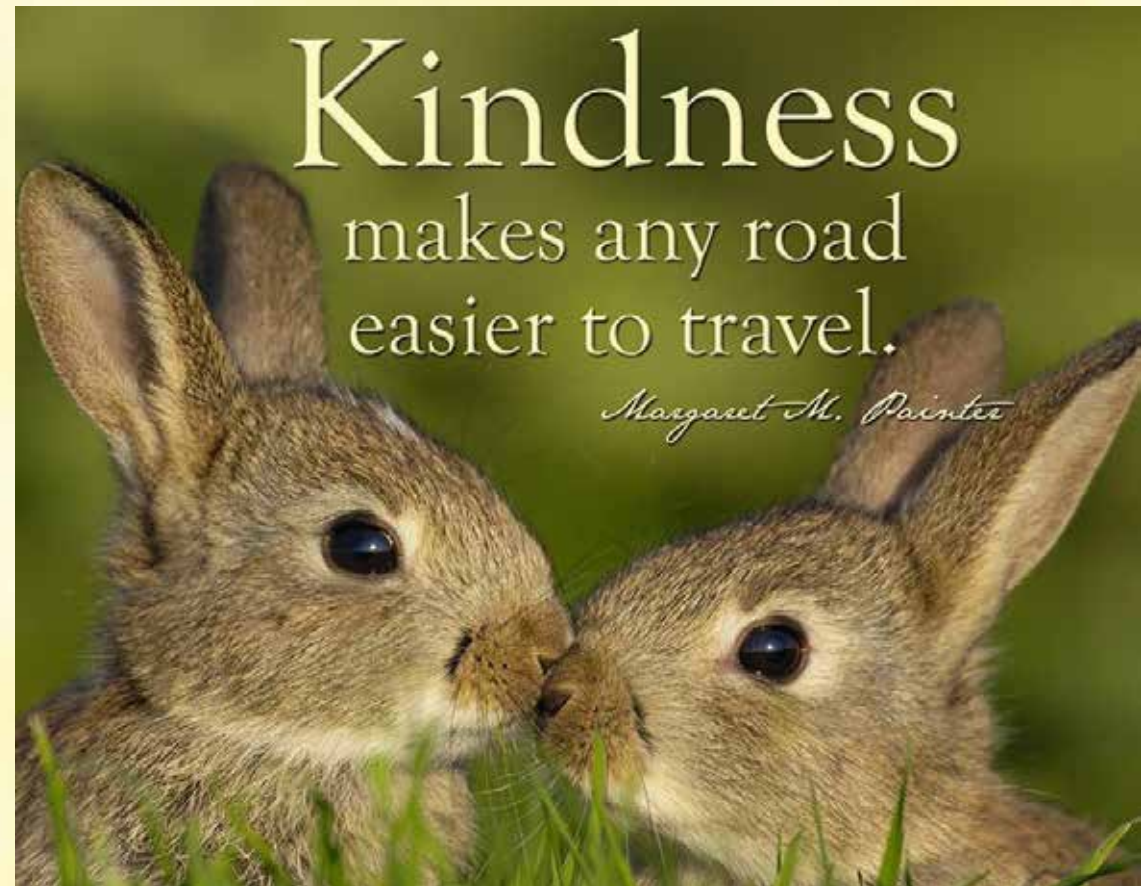


36 019 Euro raised so far:

29 713 Euro for local charity projects

6 306 Euro for children of the dump

WELL DONE AGORA!





**CONCERT
INAUGURAL
KAMERATA
KRONSTADT**
Dirijor:
Cristian Orosanu

PROGRAM
W.A.Mozart:
Divertismentele
K.136,137,138
A.Vivaldi:
Anotimpurile

REZERVĂRI LA
0755 565 117

Organizator
AGORA
Club
3
Brasov
România

În beneficiul
HOSPICE
Casa Speranței

Solist:
**Alexandru
Tomescu**
și vioara
Stradivarius
1702

15 IAN
2014
19:00
SALA
PATRIA

AGORA PAINTS OUR SOUL!

Another wonderful project by AC ROMANIA

Charity, Stradivarius, Mozart and Vivaldi

Fundraising in the benefit of Hospice House of Hope – a foundation dedicated to children and adults diagnosed with incurable diseases – has become a tradition which affirmed Agora Club 3 Brasov more and more strongly in the social life of our city.

This time the benefit concert held on January 15, 2014 exceeded by far the limits of common charity events, as it was also an important moment in the cultural life of Brasov: the debut of the Kamerata Kronstadt chamber orchestra, made up of a total of 20 instrumentalists of the local Philharmonic, led by conductor Cristian Orosanu. Guest violinist Alexandru Tomescu, with his 1702 Stradivarius violin delighted the audience who occupied all the places of the Philharmonic Hall of Brasov.

Beyond our efforts and enthusiasm the success of our action was due equally to the artists who have accepted their orchestral debut to take place under the auspices of a charity concert, to the City Council that offered the Philharmonic Hall for free, and last but not least, to the generosity of the Brasov community, which made the tickets to be exhausted in just a few days.

And the pride and joy of Club Agora 3 is not related only to the amount of 3,500 € which was raised, but also that our action has managed to highlight the strength and latent energies of the local community, important premises for the success of our future projects.

Sorina Barbu
President Agora 3 Brasov – Romania
2013-2014



Tone in Tartu. A superb Ambassador for ACI



Tone Wϕlsted-Knudsen, Vice President AC Norway Rogaland S, represented ACI at the Ladies Circle MTM in Tartu 13 – 15 Feb 2014. Thank-you Tone, you are indeed a great ambassador. From the opening ceremony at the Town Hall, to dancing the night away to 80's music, a bit of shopping - of course- and talking to the ladies about AGORA Club International, Tone really represented the true spirit of AGORA

ladies, vibrant, modern and trendy and dynamic. Tone managed to give an excellent presentation at the MTM regarding Agora and handed out 100 brochures. Thank-you Tone you look fabulous in these photos!





GERMANY



GERMANY







BELGIUM



BELGIUM





HOLLAND







ROMANIA





ROMANIA  CLUB AGORA ROMANIA



ROMANIA



AUSTRIA

A NEW AGORA COUNTRY IN FORMATION

Returning to a friend's home is always a joy, especially when you know new experiences are planned. There will be new sites to see, events to attend, the wheels are turning, new friends will be made and more memories made! There was little time for sleep as night time is for catching up on lives and moments to share on children's growth in to young men and women... and family news and recapturing the past. With minds a bit foggy from lack of sleep, Liz and I ventured to the cable car that would take us to der Untersberg. Seeing others in hiking boots, with walking sticks, poles, backpacks and skis did nothing to jog our minds to alter our attire or plans... and so, when we arrived atop with Dansko clogs, slick high-heeled boots and handbags with iPad and makeup in tow, we were a bit surprised to find that what Liz's childhood memory recalled as being an easy trail – was not! Instead, we found ourselves a bit unsure of our footsteps on deep snow... at times, steep and slick slopes. Liz finally yielded to the mountain, returning to the bench to soak up alpine sun, while I hiked on, undeterred and determined to find a way to the cross that marked the top.



“ ...the mountains seemed to continue into the horizon. It made me think of the wonders of this world – such beauty, such power.. ”



I carried upward and onward, passed by those kitted out in proper hiking and skiing gear... a slip here and there naught against my drive to catch the view in my mind and keep it with me. My heart beating quickly at times with anticipation and exertion beyond my norm, I finally reached the top and was overwhelmed by the cross set against a 360 degree magnificent view! With this peak to myself, in awe as I took in such a glorious view, the mountains seemed to continue into the horizon. It made me think of the wonders of this world – such beauty, such power – after taking time to absorb some of the beauty and tranquility found, I finally relented, giving up my spot at the top of this world and returned to be rewarded with a Radler (wiener with raw horseradish and mustard), a bit of heaven to my growling tummy. Suddenly, the once clear skies gave into the clouds and vision remained just a few feet. The chances, the timing of Mother Nature – we returned to the base, still high on mountain air...



From beauty in nature to man-made beauty – we drove through quaint village roads to reach Wattens where lay the Factory Swarovski... what an incredible house of creativity! This was wonderfully overwhelming with color and brilliance manifested in so many shapes and forms by varying artists!




What could possibly wrap up this excursion and make this the most truly wonderful Agora adventure? Well, I would say the beginning of a new club in a new country! And with that, I conclude this report with a most happy heart... to announce that **Agora Club Salzburg Austria** is now in formation with the most wonderful group of ladies! We wish them a successful beginning and look forward to many new adventures with them! Welcome!

Looking forward to many more adventures with Agora.....

Kelly Geisler
ACI VP 2013-2014



I am **WONDER WOMAN**



*I wonder where I left my keys,
I wonder how I put weight on,
I wonder where my money went,
I wonder where I put my phone,
I often wonder why I wonder...*



**CHANGE
YOUR THOUGHTS,
AND YOU CHANGE
YOUR WORLD.**

thingsweforget.blogspot.com



Carry or wear yellow gemstones to promote the ability to express yourself. They are excellent stones for writers and public speakers to increase eloquence. The yellow stones stimulate movement and mental awareness.

Pure, bright and sunny yellow is the easiest colour to see. People who are blind to other colours can usually see yellow.

Yellow is full of creative and intellectual energy.

Always use yellow note pads.

Yellow symbolizes wisdom.

People of high intellect favour yellow.

Yellow daffodils are a symbol of unrequited love.

Wear yellow to present a cheery, uplifting effect.

Use it around your office to help keep a clear mind, and improve memory and decision making.



LIFE ON THE ACI BOARD

Report Karin CHAFFART

Five months have passed since my kick-off as ACI secretary in Hyeres.

Five months of ups and downs. Ups with all the fantastic new people I've met, downs when I was struggling with my computer. I'm sure the thing is haunted with files gone missing, blocked e-mails and internet failing even without touching anything!!

But the Ups made me forget about all those stressed evenings. The good vibes at board meetings, the friendship I experienced, the wonderful ladies from all Agora Clubs I've met. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Sunday the 26th of January I visited our neighbours in the Netherlands. Every year they have a New Year's drink and lunch with all Agora Clubs from the Netherlands. A beautiful initiative worth following, so good to bond with all sister clubs at the beginning of a new year. The ladies from AC Netherlands welcomed us in restaurant Pilkinton's in 's Hertogenbosch with coffee and lovely cakes.

Then we were given a guided tour in the Museum of Noord Brabant: a perfect mix of old and modern architecture and modern and classic art. After this beautiful tour we went back to the restaurant for lunch and get-together

Thank you Dutch ladies for the fantastic organization and the warm welcome we (that is Carine Everaert en Yvonne Houben from ACBelgium and me) received.

In February we had our board meeting at Veerle's house : days of hard work but with lots of laughs, friendship and fun..It was with pain in my heart I waved my board members goodbye on Monday morning. But we would meet again soon..on Thursday Sandy and Kelly came back from the Netherlands and we left for Bucharest. At the airport a very nice and friendly driver was provided by the Romanian ladies. He brought us to our hotel in Brasov.

From that moment on we were spoiled rotten!! Sylvia and Gabriella took us to a nice restaurant and informed us about the program for the coming days.



Friday morning we were picked up after breakfast for a guide tour to the fortified villages of Transylvania and visited SanktPetra where we had a lovely lunch. We had a stroll in lovely Brasov and in the evening Gabriella's husband came to pick us up for a fantastic dinner party in real Romanian style... Lots of drinks and food and dancing, dancing, dancing.

The Agora ladies prepared a real surprise with lovely dances in local traditional costumes; It was so beautiful and so much fun.

Saturday morning Sylvia drove us to the mountains: stunning views of beautiful forests and nature around Brasov.

Then we were given a guide tour in Brasov by a historian. So many nice buildings and such rich history: they have reason to be proud of their city!!

I could have strolled for hours in the streets of the old city but we had to prepare for the official AGM and Installation of the National board of AC Romania. Everything was prepared into the finest details!

Afterwards it was party-time again. We went back to the hotel with hearts filled with joy and very very painful feet!

Thank you ladies for your warm hospitality and the fun we had in your lovely country.



Yellow Energy

Like the energy of a bright sunny day, yellow brings clarity and awareness.

The shade of yellow determines its effect:

Yellow-green can mean deceit, and creates a disoriented feeling.

Orange-yellow imparts a sense of establishment.

Clean light yellow clears the mind, making it active and alert.

DATES TO DIARISE



21-23/03/2014:	Charter LC1 Zurich Switzerland
28-30/03/2014:	Charter Agora Club Madagascar
16-18/05/2014:	Charter Agora Club Malta
09-11/05/2014:	AGM TC Germany 42 Bielefeld
10/05/2014:	AGM AC Italy Modena
13/05/2014:	AGM AC Iceland Akureyi
24/05/2014:	AGM AC Netherlands Venlo
24/05/2014:	AGM AC South Africa Johannesburg
10-12 /10/2014:	ACI AGM South Africa

LIFE'S A DANCE^T

If the only thing you accomplish in a day is one act of kindness, that's enough; you've earned your place on the planet.

M.M. Painter

You may suffer many defeats in this life, but you will not be defeated. You will rise after each trial stronger and wiser. — Leon Brown

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Rules for Happiness:
something to do,
someone to love,
something to hope for.

— Immanuel Kant

LIFE'S A DANCE