

NEWSLETTER 5
February 2013



www.agoraclubinternational.com

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Dear friends,

In these first 4 months of being your ACI President something has become very clear to me : All our members worldwide have a ❤️ for their charity projects, a ❤️ for the less privileged, a ❤️ for those in need and a BIG ❤️ for Agora!

Everywhere I met you, I have felt that same concern, that genuine drive and care to make a difference.

And it made me proud! It made me proud to be a member of an International Organization where our members know what really matters, and work intensively for making the world around them just that little bit better.

In this month of February, the month of the heart, remember that

*A heart is like a parachute
It functions only when open*

All the best with your charity projects! All the best with Agora!

Love, Veerle

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Dear Ladies,

I would like to give you more information you need to reserve to Plein Sud Hotel.

If you choose this hotel, please send directly an email to the director : Brigitte Perot : bperot@vacancesbleues.fr . Inform her that you will come for the Agora Conference, then she could give you a bedroom with the right price.

Don't hesitate to contact us, if you had trouble.

Registration is open ! We already have the first one... from Lübeck, Germany :-)

Don't forget that we are waiting for you.... and we hope that you will ENJOY your stay !

Yours in Friendship,

Isabelle

Conférence Convenor 2013

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Next 3 months

- 2. March Charter TC 52 Nordenham, Germany
- 19. March AGM AC 2 Lausanne, Switzerland
- 23. March Charter AC 46 Amiens, France
- 05. April Charter AC 4 Craiova, Romania
- 20. April Charter AC 15 Chaudfontaine, Belgium
- 20. April Charter TC 20 Dillenburg, Germany
- 27. April Charter AC 48 Maubeuge, France
- 04. May AGM TC Germany in Norden
- 18. May AGM AC USA in Seattle
- 18. May AGM AC Romania in Brasov
- 25. May AGM AC South Africa in Johannesburg

International charters in 2013

- 5. May Charter AC Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom
- 11. May Charter AC Akureyri and AC Reykjavik, Iceland
- 25. May Charter AC Rogaland S, Norway

**All information and registration forms for the 3 charters
in the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway**

can be found on the homepage of our ACI Website :

www.agoraclubinternational.com

Book and join in the Charter FUN !



Dear international friends.

Agora club Iceland Charter on 11th. May 2013 in Reykjavik.

It is our pleasure to invite you all and your friends to join us for this special moment, chartering the two northernmost clubs in the Agora family.

We have prepared a program for you, starting with arrival on Thursday 9th. Or Friday 10th. May, depending on your best flight prices,

Flights: check the two Icelandic airlines: www.icelandair.com or www.wow.is

Accommodation: reservations made at Brattagata guesthouse and Metropolitan hotel, both in city center

Daytours: Friday 10th. May and Saturday-morning 11th. May

Home parties: Friday evening

Charter ceremony: late afternoon on Saturday, followed by a dinner and music

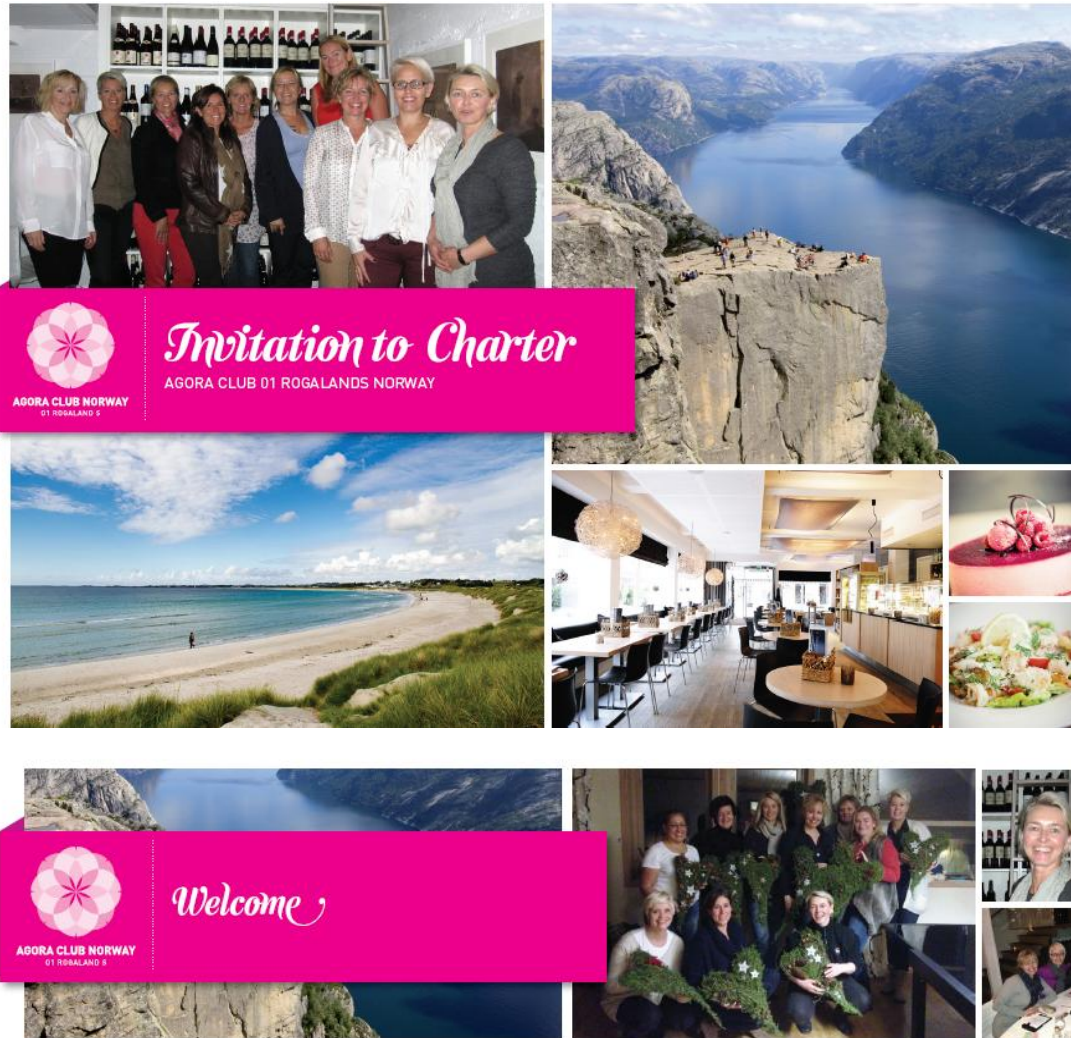
Post tour: 2 day tour to the South coast and to Jökulsárlón, glacial lagoon Sunday – Monday 12.-13th. May

Registration form is enclosed.

Looking forward to see you and all your Agora friends.

Agora Club 1 Akureyri

Agora Club 2 Reykjavik-Keflavik



DEAR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

On this festive occasion it is a great joy to be able to invite you to join the celebration of the charter of the first Agora Club in Norway on May 25th in Sandnes. The city of Sandnes is our "hometown" - and the Airport is Stavanger Lufthavn Sola just 20 minutes away.

It is with great enthusiasm we have prepared a fun and interesting programme for our arriving guests. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Norway.

Best regards from

Aina Hodnefjell Osterhus

President 01 ROGALAND S

FRIDAY 24th - EVENING:

Home party at Aina's place. We drive along the coastline, through underwater tunnels to Mosterøy. We will visit Magical Utstein Kloster, an old stone monastery complete with its own ghost and long and interesting history.

Dinner is an abounding display of local delicacies as the cold and clean ocean waters here provides super high quality sea food.

SATURDAY 25th – DAY TIME:

A guided walk through Sandnes and a visit to Vitenfabrikken. A fun and inspiring museum of knowledge filled with scientific fun facts and amazing things to do; like moving a steel pebble with your mind. Lunch at Charles & De, owner Charles Tjessem is a former winner of Bocuse d'Or 2003.

SATURDAY 25th - EVENING :

The Charter ceremony including dinner and music at Øster Bar in Sandnes.



News on our website

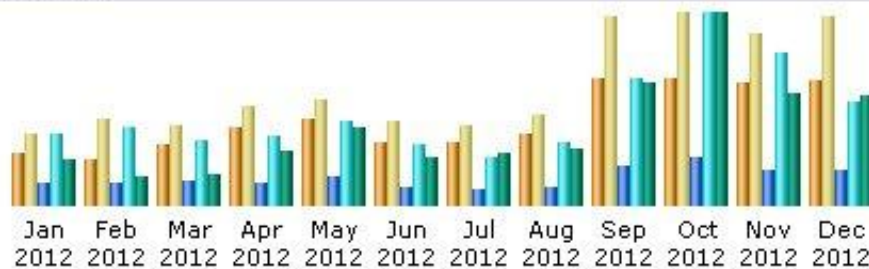
Our website is being used intensively these past months ! Not in the least by the nice newsletters our Karen compiles, but also thanks to the "link" system we installed in October.

Our webmaster Dirk had this terrific idea, and since our website is just a "click" away visits to our site have peaked as you can see from the statistics below! I also put each link on our facebook page and lots of visits come from there too.

Great to communicate!

Veerle

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2012	320	434	1322	4392	799.03 MB
Feb 2012	277	523	1393	4707	523.71 MB
Mar 2012	371	493	1538	4009	543.91 MB
Apr 2012	476	603	1392	4183	959.03 MB
May 2012	530	638	1727	5061	1.33 GB
Jun 2012	380	515	1135	3688	840.98 MB
Jul 2012	385	492	962	2854	903.47 MB
Aug 2012	431	546	1087	3814	1003.09 MB
Sep 2012	776	1145	2447	7749	2.09 GB
Oct 2012	777	1169	2958	11658	3.29 GB
Nov 2012	750	1041	2110	9290	1.91 GB
Dec 2012	756	1144	2158	6298	1.88 GB
Total	6229	8743	20229	67703	15.95 GB

GREAT NEWS!



The ACI board is very pleased to announce that
thanks the surplus of the ACI Conference in Lübeck

we are able to offer our members

for the very first time.....

THE ACI TRAVEL FUND!

We are able to offer to

2 members a travel fund grant of 200€ each

to join in the ACI Conference in Hyères – France 11th -13th of October 2013



Fill in the attached "Application for ACI Travel Fund Grant"

and **YOU** might be the lucky one!



With love from the ACI Boa



Would you like
to join
the ACI Board?

JOIN THE AGORA INTERNATIONAL BOARD AND HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

What does it take to be part of the International Board?? Well, all you need is **PASSION**. **PASSION** for **AGORA**, **PASSION** for Life, **PASSION** for experiencing different things, **PASSION** for meeting like minded women, **PASSION** for friendship and **PASSION** for travelling.

Who would have thought that a short little lady (1.57m in fact), that comes from a small little farming town in the Northern most region of South Africa , would ever be the International Vice President of AGORA CLUB !! Here's the answer **I DID!!** I decided that this is what I would like to do and voiced that dream. Luckily for me, Veerle, Nikkie, Elisabeth , Karen , my own club and National Board who proposed me , plus those of you lovely ladies who voted for me , thought so to! So, Ladies it's that simple - **if you can dream it you can do it!!**

In the short time that I have been privileged to serve on the International Board I have been blown away by the wide net of friendship we share across the globe. **By the PASSION that not only the board members have for their organization, but by the PASSION Agora members worldwide have for their organization.** I have met and made friends for life - truly, a wonderful feeling.

ACI will need to vote in a new Secretary and Vice President onto the board on October 2013.

If this is something you are thinking about and you have the PASSION – then don't hesitate. One thing I have learnt very, very recently, is that life is indeed short, that you need to live life to the full everyday of your life. Don't put off for tomorrow what can be done today. If this is something you are thinking about - then **JUST DO IT!!**

So, come on - join us and live an experience you will never ever forget. Not even AGORA moments will take away these memorable experiences!

Here is the ACI Board in SA
at the charter of ACSA club 3 Kopano

Sandy van Niekerk, ACI Vice President





On the 27th of January AC The Netherlands organized a new year's drink in no other than the Royal Palace ! Actually it was the former Royal Palace, but nevertheless is was quite a spectacular location.



The attendance turned out to be very successful. Goes to show that also for initiatives like these "location location location" is of the utmost importance. Over a 100 members registered for what turned out to be a fun and interesting afternoon.

President Conchita Wormer's welcoming speech



We enjoyed a lovely guided tour through the historical palace, of which many of AC The Netherlands members have fond memories.



After the tour President Conchita welcomed all participants to a cozy and delicious lunch.

The day after the New Year's drink Dutch Queen Beatrix announced her abdication, which gave a very special and unexpected "twist" to this day.

Congratulations dear president Conchita and your national team for a well organized day!

Veerle



When it was announced to us that AC Israel is on the verge of adding 3 new Clubs to their association, I felt that I had to go and give them a support visit. This was a personal visit for me, but I kept it totally in the spirit of Agora.

I was met at the airport by President Yifat and new member Marie Jeanne who immediately opened her house for me and offered to homehost me for the first night. Real Agora spirit ☺ !

I enjoyed a very special family moment at Marie Jeanne's home : the Shabbat Shalom blessing on Friday evening. A very touching moment, I felt so very privileged that I was invited to this.



Shabbat Shalom



The following day Yifat, her daughter Imbal, Marie Jeanne and Michal guided me around in the artist quarter of Tel Aviv.

It was a fun day filled with chatting, shopping, giggles, ice cream and culture...Oh yes, Agora members are forever young at heart ☺

The next day AC Israel organized an advanced AGM, where the prospective new Clubs could meet with the existing Clubs.

It was a warmhearted meeting, in which the new members showed a lot of interest in the working of Agora worldwide. Questions were asked, plans were made and friendships consolidated.



For the rest of my stay President Yifat and VP Dorit organized a full program for me:



We visited the wonderful Charity project of AC Krayot : a day care centre for underprivileged children which receives immense support from the Agora members. Their practical and financial help really makes a difference in these children's lives.

I joined a cooking lesson organized by VP Dorit, and I'm not joking...we learned to make pralines with a famous chocolatier! Despite the fact that I come from the ultimate "praline country" I had never made them myself, so that was quite an experience ☺



I was also very honored to meet the mayor of Krayot on that occasion. Thank you Dorit for this fun evening!



That same evening Yifat and I joined the official half year meeting of Ladies' Circle Israel, where all the boards of the 14 LC Clubs of Israel were present. Yifat and I were invited to address the meeting, so we had the opportunity to tell our LC Sisters about Agora Club Israel and Agora Club International, and invite the boards to inform their older (forgive me that word!) members about our ever growing follow-up Club Agora.

Meeting lovely LC Israel President Sharon Peres Papo

On the last of my 3 day stay, Yifat showed me the surroundings of Haifa : we visited a Kibbutz, went to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilia, saw a baptism at the Jordan river and had a beach dinner. What a wonderful and fulfilled stay it was!

Thank you so much dear Yifat and Dorit and dear ladies of AC Israel for your warm hospitality and enthusiasm. Keep us posted on the dates of the 3 charters!

Veerle



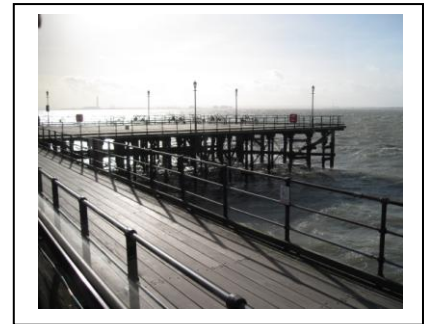
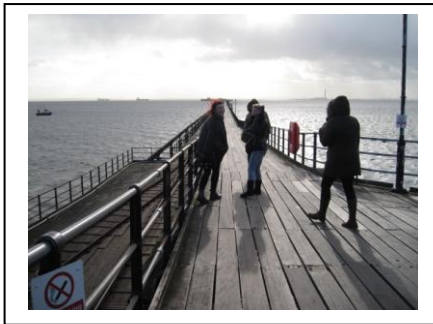
At the Kibbutz...getting inspiration for the Agora shop!



A visit to Southend-on-Sea

At the end of January my husband and I visited Southend-on-Sea. We had a very warm welcome and stay at the Atlantis guesthouse, which is run by Louise Warsfold. She and her husband Andy made us feel very special guests, and we enjoyed every minute of their hospitality. They made us feel so much at home, that we took their keys with us..... Sorry again!

We spent a very windy day along the seaside. The storm was so heavy, that we had to lean against the wind while walking the World's longest pier. Although we are used to windsurfing, this experience was very special.



In the evening we had the chance to meet other members of AC Southend-on-Sea and enjoyed a very special dinner at a Chinese restaurant.



For some strange reasons we did not manage to eat "Fish and chips" although we tried twice. But this will not be the reason for coming back. The reason will be the special fellowship within this club.

So I can only encourage all Agora members to experience it on their own and attend the charter of AC Southend-on-Sea at the 5th of May 2013.

Karen

3RD BOARD MEETING IN SUNNY SOUTH AFRICA 14 – 18 FEBRUARY 2013



History in the making – the first ever ACI Board Meeting was held in Johannesburg South Africa recently. This was a real treat for Nikkie and I, who so enjoyed hosting Veerle, Elisabeth and Karen. With us in the photo is the LCI Webmaster, also from Johannesburg – Bronwenn Odendaal, and an opportunity to share some fellowship with Ladies Circle.

As usual we worked hard, but we had some play time to. We treated the ladies to a real South African meal at Karoo Cattle and Land Restaurant – where typical South African dishes were the order of the day– “PAP AND SOUS” “ BOEREWORS” - SPRINBOK CAPACCIAO, OSTRICH FILLETS, OXTAIL and of course “BOBOTIE” topped with a bottle of the finest South African Red wine. It helped that the owner of the restaurant was a personal friend and my ex boss (about 25years ago).



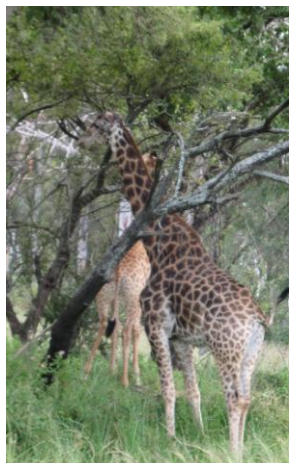
Part of the joy of being home hosted is meeting fellow South Africans and Friends and so we spent a lovey afternoon on a small holding in the countryside, a wood factory and country restaurant where TEA AND CAKE soon turned into something a little stronger! An unplanned sundowner and lots of laughs and special moments with yet another good friend.

One of my proudest moments was the singing of the SA National Anthem at the charter of ACSA 3 Kopana. The beautiful melody as the ladies broke into song and we as South Africans, sang our National Anthem with pride, A cappella style, was so moving and special, to think that a group of women could sound so amazing without a single instrument being played. WOW!!





The Board also had the opportunity of visiting the site planned for the October 2014 conference – watch this space ladies – they were bowled over!!! I will say no more for now on that topic.



All in all we had a superb meeting, very positive in all aspects, lots of laughter as only women can, plenty of good food, good wine and a good dose of South African hospitality. Hosting Veerle, Elisabeth and Karen in our home country was a very special experience – one we hope to repeat some day.

Sandy

Reports countries

A 3rd Club for



What a special night it was on 16 February 2013 when AC South Africa chartered its 3rd club.

This was during the ACI Board Meeting in Johannesburg and a first to have the whole of the ACI Board present and together at a club Charter. A double Whammy!

We all enjoyed ourselves and wonderful new friendships were formed.

One of the highlights for me was when the Kopano ladies sang the South African National Anthem unrehearsed and without accompaniment.

Too beautiful!!!!!!



Nikkie - ACI, Lollo -President Kopano, Anne – President of Godmother Club and Beverley Agora Club SA National President

Ladies of AC 3 Kopano



The ACI Board members Sandy, Karen, Elisabeth, Kopano President Loloo, Veerle, and Nikkie



Dear Agora friends,

We are happy to share with you the activities and events we-organized so far in **Morocco**.



On December 15th CAC1 organized a huge and fabulous party at the president's house, to celebrate the first anniversary of our club. Over 130 guests joined us to share with us this moment of sheer happiness. Among them were a large number of Lady Circle members, Round Table and 41 Clubs members as well. We all celebrated this past year and all its achievements in accordance with the values of solidarity, responsibility and helpfulness of all Agora Clubs.

Our **guests** enjoyed themselves with authentic music, dancing, and very delicate and delicious Moroccan food. It was such a delightful party that some guests remained till 4 a.m.

A representative of a Moroccan charity called "le petit monde" was also invited to this party. It is a private school, that provides free schooling and free lunches to 250 kids from destitute families. She gave to our guests an overview of the association. Some guests volunteered to find sponsors, others promised to introduce this charity to French organizations and others offered their help to repair, restore and decorate its classes.

You can catch a glance of the party through the pictures attached.

On Thursday, February 7th, the president, the general secretary and other members of CAC1 called on "le petit monde" to determine the needs of this association and as a gift they offered food and school uniforms to the association.

In addition, thanks to the energy, and dynamism of our general secretary, that enabled our club to contribute by donating about 3000 Euros to a humanitarian expedition to a village located in the high mountains of Atlas. Lorries carrying several dozens of tons of mattresses, blankets and clothes were offered to these villagers suffering from extreme and severe cold.

Narjisse Kaicer



To enjoy pictures of this expedition, you can click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.459794997413506.108557.408823312510675&type=1>

Skincare evening in Norway

We got information about this new school, and main focus on the education within Health- and Social subjects. Their premises were really great, and the girls that were studying Skincare were sweet and accommodating. The Agora girls had chosen various treatments (prices for treatment where at least 50% lower than prices at a clinic) like back massage, facial, manicure etc. All were very satisfied, as the pictures below shows ☺



Impressions of Iceland !

