



EYES FOR THE WORLD - BANGALORE, INDIA: LC MTM APAC 2019 - KOLKATA, INDIA: LC MTM 2019 - PORNICHET, FRANCE: LC MTM 2019 - ROMANIA AND LITHUANIA: CLUB AGORA FRANCE - NEW CLUB: CHARTERING OF AC5 ICELAND: CHARTERING OF AC8 ICELAND: UPCOMING EVENTS: CLUB ACTIVITES: ISP HAPY HEARTS: LADIES CIRCLE FUND: AGORACLUBINTERNATIONAL.COM



Agora Newsletter 3 2019

Dear Agora Ladies,

It always makes me happy and full of gratitude when I'm working on the newsletter as then I see and feel all the great admirable work and activities that Agora ladies are putting a lot of effort in.

I sincerely hope that you all enjoy it as well.

Yours in friendship,
María Erla
ACI Secretary 2017-2019



Eyes for the world – Bangalore, India

A UNIQUE Side-by-Side mission with Agora Club International & LC India



I still remember

when I was 10 years old and got my first glasses. The world around me become sharper and brighter, and I could read what was written on the blackboard!

This feeling has never left me, and when the chance to attend in the EFTW's mission to Bangalore in India to help underprivileged children and old people to have a better vision, I was in.

I had some unforgettable days together with the members of Ladies Circler and ex-ladies in Bangalore, and not to forget my fellow travelers from Agora Club International from Europe; EFTW Convener and Past President ACI - Veerle De Jonge, President ACI - Anna Tabone and Past President ACI - Isabelle Séguinot. Friendship across borders: working, laughing, giving and feeling the warmth in what we were doing together. A really UNIQUE Side-by-Side project.







Our "own" Ashwini Surendar (individual member of ACI) did the coordination with Ladies Circle India and hosted and spoiling us to the edge – just the "travel" in the Indian cuisine is a story for itself



We visited 5 schools which were built by Round Table and looked after by both RT and LC. In addition, 1 large old age home (and the blessings from the elderly where many – we can probably live forever when counting them all) and 3 eye surgeries were also sponsored by ACI's Specialized Eyecare Fund.



The Circlers of Bangalore did an enormous job – screening 2500 children to have a pre-check if they needed spectacles before we arrived!!!

These ladies are something – just amazing – doing magic in their own neighborhood. You rule!!!



The children became quite eager to do their eye-check when they realized that afterwards, the reward was a "High-five" with this blond European lady ©

Even children came twice for check – in other schools there where sweets handed out afterward ©©©

A few days into the mission we were also invited in the evening to a roof top "meeting" with the Circler and Tabler's of Bangalore – what a treat and great fun!

Now ... I will remember this ...

Aina Hodnefjell Østerhus Agora Club Norway

A little help – makes a big difference!









9 @ EFTW Indi



















































LC MTM APAC 2019 - Kolkata,India Anna Tabone

Mid Term Meeting APAC 2019, Kolkata, India – Anna Tabone

The first Ladies Circle Mid Term Meeting for the Asia Pacific Region was held in Kolkata in the first weekend of February. The importance of this meeting, which was ably chaired by Namrata Shenoy, National President, LC India was to bring together the Asian Ladies who would normally not have the opportunity to attend International meetings held in Europe or elsewhere. The exposure encourages growth in the countries in the region as in fact is due to happen in Dubai. With India as Godmother country. Namrata Shenoy was also voted as the first Regional Chairperson. It was a pleasure also to meet the ladies from Nepal and Sri Lanka, who were attending the meeting



The wonderful welcome that was given to us all made this MTM a very special one – nothing was left to chance and I have to say that wearing a Bengali Saree, kindly given to us as a gift was truly an amazing experience –I just didn't want to take if off... it felt so good to wear one. Attending the Ladies Circle MTM's is inspiring and is a great way of keeping updated with the way forward. The launching of the Circle World based on the already successful Tablers World, is just one of the platforms where we can be following their lead.





It is through this close relationship that together as part of the Round Table family can we be truly work side by side.

This year, we attended the MTM's in France, Romania, Lithuania and India where through the participation of Isa, Chris and I, we have created wonderful memories but above all great friendships that have no age limits. Thank you lovely ladies!

Whilst in Kolkata, LC India organised their 3rd Board Meeting on a great barge on the Ganges. Typical of the wonder women of India, this was organised to perfection. Dressed in a marine theme, we learnt about the amazing projects carried out by the different areas in India. During the meeting, a victim of an acid attack was given a donation to assist in the various operations needed to rebuild her face, her confidence and her faith in humans. What an amazing experience to hear of her ordeal. The Indian ladies have no limits to their service.

Being in Incredible India is indeed an amazing experience, where extremes are taken as the norm but the warmth and love that I have felt unique. My next trip took me to Bangalore where besides it being a meeting amongst dear friends of old, it was a meeting of great emotion that left me wishing I could do more but where I also felt that with a little help, we made a big difference.

Some of these photos speak volumes, I hope you will enjoy them as much as I enjoyed being there.







My dear Friends,



I was really delighted to represent Agora Club International for the first LCI MTM 2019 in Pornichet, France, for the South of Europe area, for 3 reasons:

-To meet again my International Friends... Specially Kenza Sbihi, the LCI President and



my godchild from LC Morocco; Alexandra Bennett, LCI VP from GB&I; Paula Farnfield, TCI President from GB&I; Bouty, Hanane and Lamia from LC Morocco... and what an amazing surprise to see my dear friend from LC Madagascar, Eliane Razafindrakoto.

I met also new friends from LC Cyprus, Israel, Italia, but also from LC Denmark, Sweden and Botswana.



-To meet again my dearest Friends from France: Pascaline (NP LCF), Manue (NIPP LCF), Aicha & Alex (Past NP LCF), Christiane (NP Agora France), François (NP 41 France), Michel (N iro 41), Julien (NP TRF), Geneviève (from LC Pornichet), Aurélie et Céline from my area and so many other french Ladies...





-The third reason is a bit more personal. As I lose my parents, it tooks to me a special extent to come back in a place, La Baule, where I spent holidays for many years, with my family, when I was a little girl.

The weekend began with a very warm Welcome Party in an Oceonarium closed to the Sharks, turtles... and I came back to the hotel with my VIP friends in my little VIP car!



On Saturday morning, it was the LCI Mid Term Meeting.

For the first time, was elected an area chairperson. For the southern area, she is from LC Italy... Martina Santoro! They explained us what "circler.world", the new platform for communication could give to LC. RT already adopte it!







We discovered the 2 proposals to become the new LIC ISP for 19-21 from LC India and LC South Africa. Both of them proposed to help girls and women during their regular period and offered them napkins or underwear. I feel very happy not to have to choose because it will be a very difficult choice as the 2 projects are similar and so useful!

The meeting finished with workshop around several discussions: the ISP, digitalization of the AGM, the Legal structure, the best practices to grow, the onboarding and some branding around the LC Logos...

The afternoon, despite the bad weather, we discovered the Marshal Salt and other beautiful places!!!



Then it was the Gala Dinner, with a French touch, during which the organizer team offered 2000€ to the LCI ISP "Happy Hearts"





LC MTM 2019 Romania and Lithuania

Mid Term Meetings of ladies Circle in Romania and Lithuania

I was the lucky boardie who could join he MTM in Bucharest, Romania (Middle European Region) and Klaïpeda, Lithuania (Nordic Region

Mid-term Meeting

Middle European Region

8 - 10 February 2019

Bucharest, Romania

Mihaela and Luminita from Agora Club Brasov joined me this MTM. What a joy to see them again after our ACI in Gent.





Some mood images from Friday evening

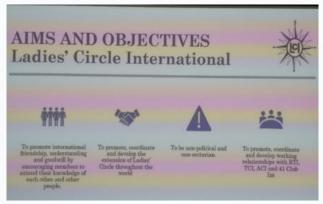
Mihaela Cracana , secretary AC Romania Luminita Dolcan , president AC 3, Romania Both from Brasov



With Alexandra Bennet, Vice international president of Ladies Circle.

The 'young and the old' vice international presidents (3)

They had a fruitful, interesting meeting with discussions and workshops. Well done ladies



- Aims and objectives are the key words for every topic!
- Ladies Circle international decided to add a regional chairperson per Region. Sandra Eilers was voted in for this position.
- Circlers. World will be the place for all the administration for LCI in the nearby future.
- LCI International Service project 2017-2019: Happy Hearts: buy a brick campaign
- LCI International Service Project 2019-2021: 2 new proposals: India: Project Crimson (bio degrable pads, sanitary napkins) and South Africa: Project Dignity (sanitary napkins, Subz).
- LCI conferences: The Netherlands (Rotterdam): 29 August 1 September 2019
- Workshops: discussion in small groups
 - ISP 2019 2020
 - Digitalization of the AGM
 - Legal structure
 - Growth best practices
 - Onboarding
 - LCI branding



Gabriella Abagiu, president Romania Mihaela Cracana, Secretary Romania Luminita Dolcan, President AC 3

Thank you for supporting me between these young ladies!!!



The Belgian board 😂



With Criss Lenqyel, international weblady LC and Alexandra Bennet, international vice president LC

I have met a lot of ladies from the different countries in the Middle European Regions.

Austria, Belgium, GB\$I, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Romania, Switzerland.

Now everybody knows Agora Club is ready to welcome you after 45!!!

MTM in Lithuania

The weekend after Bucharest back in the plane to Vilnius. Never been there so very excited to go!!



Mid - Term Meeting
Nordic Region
15-16 February 2019
Klaïpeda, Lithuania

The different countries in the Nordic Region are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and USA. We only have Agora Clubs in Iceland, Norway and USA so still a lot of possibilities for our organisation (3)



Ladies Circle Lithuania

During the AGM ,the same topics were discussed here as in Bucharest.

Lina Nosevic of LC Lithania was elected to become the chairperson of the region



Laura Bartkeviciene, vice president Lithuania Gintare Drungiliene, president Lithuania



Your vice president 'in action'



It was a pleasure to join the MTM's both in Bucharest and Klaïpeda.

I have met young, energetic ladies with a big heart.

See you all-in Rotterdam to celebrate your 60 th birthday ladies 3

Friendship and service

DREAM ACHIEVE INSPIRE

AND A LITTLE HELP MAKES A BIG DIF



Club AGORA France: a new club

Saturday 2nd February in the city of Meaux, where there is an important meeting Quatalagor CNR and also National desk and committee of the Regions of the Club

AGORA France, National French President: Christiane FIUMANA put back the formation collar at the future President: Caroline. This new AGORA Club is in the city of Aire sur la Lys. The name of this new club is Club AGORA Aire-Artois 65 and the sponsoring Club is the Club AGORA Lille 1.













Chartering of AC5 Iceland



Agora 5 in Húsavík Iceland was chartered February 1st. We had many wonderful guests from the national board, from our mother club Agora 1, the incoming Agora 7 and from other Agora clubs in Iceland. We were very happy that so many ladies took the time to celebrate with us since the weather was not

cooperating and a winter gale was there in full force. 9 ladies from Húsavík were chartered but two more will be chartered as soon as possible.



The Agora club #5 ladies and the Agora national board of Iceland

This group of great ladies is a mix of former Ladies Circle members and those who are new to the organization. It is nice to report that two of our founding members were also founding members of Ladies Cirlce 5 in Húsavík, 1996. The group started meeting regularly last fall, has already put forth a program for the year and has participated in the charity project of "Christmas in a shoe box". The charter started with a dinner where the formal chartering ceremony took place. After that a large group of us continued on to the Geosea thermal baths with a magnificent view where we chatted and had a few drinks. Those who held out the longest were able to have a taste of different kinds of beer in Húsavík's microbrewery, Húsavík Öl.









Thank you to all of our guests for celebrating our special day with us and we look forward to working with Agora Ladies all across the world in the coming years.



Chartering of AC8 Iceland and 100th member!!

On 11th of January we did welcome a new club in Iceland, Agora Club Iceland 8.

AC 8 is in Reykjavík and sorounding and is mixed with former LC member and member that have no past from LC. We love how we mix together. It was a wery pleasant moment and a bonus was that in this new club we chartered our 100th Icelandic woman into Agora.

Agora is growing fast in Iceland and this new club added 2 new mebers in February and more to come.



AC8 and part of the AC3 board, the mother-club





Sólrún Pálsdóttir is the Agora member nr. 100 in Iceland

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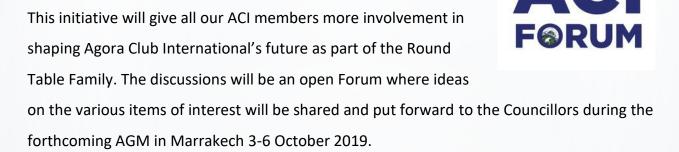
Upcoming Events

ACI Forum April 26th - 28th of April 2019

41 International AGM 2019 Belgium

Our very first ACI Forum will take place in Brussels the last weekend in April. At the same time as the AGM for the 41 club international and Tangent Club International.

Introducing the concept of our ACI Forum.



It will also be an opportunity to enjoy the social aspect of the side by side with the Round Table Family and meet up some of the friends made in ladies circle who are now Tangent.

We hope that you will join us in this 1st Forum.

Please get more information about registration on the below website:

http://www.41international.net/event/agm-41-international-2019-belgium/

Thank you.

Lots of love & friendship

ACI International board 2018-19

Anna, Chris, Isa, Maria Erla and Vandana

Next ACI Mission will be in Moldova 6th – 9th of May 2019

Agora Brasov 2 will carry out this mission side by side with RT Moldova in formation.



Application for hosting ISP IP next two years is now open.

Due date is 30th of June.



The Webpage has now been launched!!

Have a look for more information, tours, program and registration.

http://www.aci2019.com/







Charter Zimbabwe

The charter weekend of AC Zimbabwe will be on the 17th – 19th of May 2019.

The registration is now **open** - For more information please visit the Agora Club Zimbabwe website

https://agora-zimbabwe.club/



Charter Luxembourg

The charter weekend of AC Luxembourg will be on the 14th-16th of June 2019.

The registration is now open – please visit the Agora Club Luxembourg website

www.agoraclub.lu





We are looking for new

Agora International board members

Get involved ... make diffirence and join our fantastic team



We need two enthusiastic women in Agora

A secretary (2019-2021) and a vice president (2019-2020)

If you want to apply or just get further information then please contact us

President; Anna Tabone, AC Malta, Phone: +47 4863 4091, Mobile: +356 7980 0222 E-mail: president@agoraclubinternational.com

Vice President; Chris Helsen, AC Belgium, Phone: +32 8984 3898, Mobile: +32 476 221284 E-mail: vp@agoraclubinternational.com

Past President; Isabelle Séguinot, AC France, Mobile: +33 611 893934 E-mail: ipp@agoraclubinternational.com

Secretary; María Erla Hilmarsdóttir, AC Iceland, Mobile: +354 853 85 15 E-mail: secretary@agoraclubinternational.com

Treasurer; Vandana Deodhar, AC USA, Phone: +Mobile: +12536537345 E-mail: treasurer@agoraclubinternational.com

Weblady; Tone Skretting, AC Norway, E-mail: weblady@agoraclubinternational.com



Clubs Activites Club Agora France











THOUARS National Comity 2018

The 16 and 17 November 2018, in the nice city of Thouars, it's the first French National Comity side by side Club AGORA France and Ladies' Circle France.

Each club is doing separately their comity, but we have together party. Friday friends party and Saturday Gala's dinner with the theme: Music Award. The members of Agora France and LCF passed 2 magic's days and evenings. Think you, very much to the two Thouars's Clubs.

The 9 November 2019, the second side by side Club AGORA France and Ladies' Circle France stand in the city of **Périgueux**









Clubs Activities Agora Romania



January,

the month named after the ancient Roman Janus, the god of new beginnings.

Well, so are we, to our first meetings, trying to figure new agenda for 2019 and having fun as well!







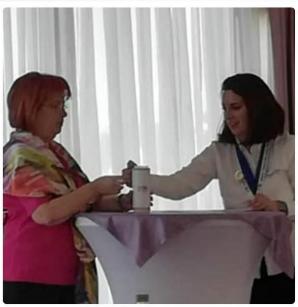
The highlight of this spring is Charitable Ball



February is Friendship month, Kindness month, Side By Side month!

It was a great pleasure to be invited to Mid Term Meeting, Middle European Region Ladies'Circle, in Bucharest. What an wonderful occasion to meet dear friends or to make new contacts in LCI or Tangent, an opportunity to talk about AGORA ROMANIA. Thank you, Ladies'Circle Romania!

And what a big honour to light the Candle of friendship!





Pictures with our dearest Chris Helsen, Criss, Ioana, Ruxandra, Daniela from LC Moldova – in formation, Anne (Germany) Mihaela and me (AC2 Brasov), Luminita (AC3 Brasov).















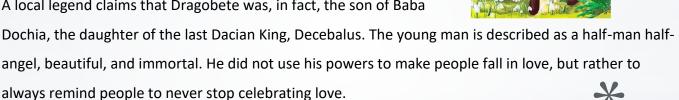


February, Love month...

Valentine's Day versus Dragobete's Day

Despite the great worldwide success of Valentine's Day, Romania is quite attached to its tradition of celebrating love on 24th of February.

A local legend claims that Dragobete was, in fact, the son of Baba



Dragobete is not only about roses, heart-shaped chocolate, jewelry, and love letters. Is about being tender to your significant other, showing them your appreciation and your love.

We are lucky to celebrate LOVE twice! Don't you think?

With much love,

Gabriela Abagiu

Nat. Pres. AGORA ROMANIA 2018-2019PS

Thank you, Chris Helsen for yummy-yummy chocolate!



ISP Happy Hearts



My Dear Friends,

Happy to be catching up with you all in 2019! Sometimes we take small mercies like catching up with sister-friends for granted but like being healthy, having a bed to sleep in, and a few bucks in the bank, it is a gift that I am learning to cherish daily:

I trust that as you are reading this all is well with you and your loved ones. Some days ago Anna asked me to share a little about the LCI ISP 2017-2019 Happy Hearts here in Botswana and as usual I am always very delighted to do so.

As I set out to start to share some news about the project, I received a text message that our friend, 13 year old Kgosi who was afflicted by Spinal Cancer passed away this morning. Just a month ago we had secured a wheelchair for him from Rotary Botswana because we had been advised that he could no longer walk.

We called him our young Warrior because whenever he travelled from his home to get treatment he always made contact with our Convenor Melissa and when we got to see him and we told him it would get better soon for him and all the other children who have been unfortunate to be diagnosed with Cancer. We always shared with him and the other children in the Oncology ward that we and all our friends from all over the world are working hard to ensure that the interim home is built. We comforted them with the reassurance that once the home is built they would be able to rest a while until they were strong enough to travel back home. He had a dream within a wish that Kgosi would fight on and kick the horrible diseases behind and be the Warrior Keeper of the sanctuary we have set our hearts on building.

There are so many brave little souls like our Kgosi in our country and with the awful news this heartbreaking loss for his family and those who knew him, we have felt today we are more resolute in

ensuring that this home is build sooner rather than later, so the children of Botswana who are cancer patients can have a fighting chance to recuperate and get stronger before travelling and towards conquering the terrible disease. Some of the kids travel distances of over 1000km one way on a bus in order to access treatment for 4-6 week periods and the chemo and radiotherapy take their toll on these



little bodies. Having a decent place to stay to rest a little while will make a vast difference in our children's lives as travelling these distances immediately after treatment can lead to all sorts of complications including blood capillary raptures leading to a number of deaths because the bodies are delicate. One also tries to imagine what a relief for the parents and caregivers that they do not have to live the nightmare of finances whilst the child is getting treatment and the double nightmare of moving an unwell child for long distances to get back home. I can only imagine the prayers that would be said over 1000km journey.

Thank goodness for the gift of HOPE. I prefer to live there (in hope) all the time so our heads our not cast down for long[©] At LC Botswana we have a mission to accomplish and it is our belief that it will happen because we are not walking alone in the great adventure of friendship and service.

On behalf of the ISP I would like to extend our gratitude to all our friends in Agora who have participated in raising funds for Happy Hearts. At the AGM in Gent many ladies supported the Buy-A-Brick campaign and bought the ISP Pins and we raised Euro 1400 during the weekend. We have plans to start the physical building in month of March but still a bit far off budget wise in relation to our plan of building a 12 Patient bed facility to accommodate the child and a care-giver. Our budget is Euro 250,000 and so far we have managed to raise Euro 121,000 through LCI, Agora and LC Botswana.

The Buy-A-Brick campaign is now online and should you want to assist us further in this fight against childhood cancer please visit the link https://ladiescircleinternational.org/projects/buy-a-brick-campaign/ and do what you can so this big crazy dream by your little sisters can come true and help the Warrior Kgosi's of this world. A little help makes a big difference

Sonja - Updates and Fund

On behalf of Sonja Trojer – who was affected by a flood in the south of Austria in October - we would like to thank you all for your help, your donations and a wonderful Christmas present of Agora Club 2 Brasov!!!

We would like to inform you about the today's situation of Sonja.





In Austria we had a lot of snow, so Sonja couldn't do anything at her fish farm because of humidity.

Now, spring has sprung and she is organising a lot and wants to start a new beginning!

The restaurant is still very wet. Experts are checking the situation of walls and door frames.

Maybe some of them must be removed. Next week they will start to clean the walls infested with mould. The ponds have to be cleaned once again, and then she will order fish to open her business in May.

Fortunately Sonja could heat her house through the wintertime. So here the process will go on and within the next weeks she will paint the rooms and lay floors. This will be very important to set



up an office. Sonja has lost all of her furniture and electrical appliances. The gas line was repaired, but the gas oven is broken. Lot of things to buy!

The financial situation is very tense. The damage of the farm, the restaurant and the house was estimated at 500.000 Euros. Sonja sought for help from the



state government. Her first application was rejected! Now she is getting help from the mayor and a second expert will come and assess the situation. We hope that she will get money from the disaster fund – otherwise it will be very hard for her.

In closing, and on behalf of Sonja and Agora Club Austria, I wish to seize this opportunity to warmly thank all those who helped and will help!

Gabi Golger-Oberwinkler Agora Club Austria

28th February 2019

We want to remind you that there is still opportunity to make a difference and give some donation to the following account number:

Agora club international

IBAN: BE25 0016 8112 4982

BIC / SWIFT : GEBABEBB

Bank : BNP Paribas Fortis

Country Lokeren, Belgium

Sonja flood damage

It is as well possible to use the Revolute app to transfer money globally in an easy way.

A little help makes a **BIG** difference

Please share this information

The Agora International board

Elena – Ladies Circle Fund

The end of 2018 was a sad one having lost one of LC International's most loved President Flena.

We worked on the LC board together and ever since stayed in touch as dear friends. She was strong, intelligent and full of cheer.

She was a teacher and loved children but her family believes that her first love is LC.

Keeping both her loves in mind, her husband Makarios - Past 41 International President and her children want to set up a beautiful fund titled: *Elena - Ladies Circle*.

The first project is to set up playground for the Special School Evangelismos and Caterina, daughter of Elena, who is an architect, will do the design of the playground complementary free of charge and after getting the approval from the Ministry of Education, they will proceed with the construction. Due to required procedures, we set a preliminary date of the playground operation in September 2019.

About Special School Evangelismos

The Special School "Evangelismos" is a public school, for children aged 3 to 21 from Nicosia District, with multiple and complex disabilities, such as severe mental retardation, severe mobility dysfunctions, cerebral palsy, sensory disabilities, auditory disabilities, developmental disorders, genetic syndromes, autistic spectrum disorders, epilepsy and feeding situations.

The school offers special education services, therapy, care and entertainment to students with multiple and complex needs.

The school promotes of comprehensive and functional development of the personality and skills, within the abilities and needs of each person, in order to ensure, Safety, Prosperity/Wellbeing, Learning, Quality of Life, Autonomy, Social integration and access to community services.

Although it is a public school, many of the schools need are as well funded by donations. The money donated in the memory of Elena will be used to do a special playground for the children with autism, which will be named Elena-Ladies Circle Children Playground.

If you would like to donate to the project then kindly find the bank details as follows:

Account Name: SINDES. GON. EIDIKO SX. EVANGELISMO

Bank: Bank of Cyprus

SWIFT: BCYPCY2N

IBAN: CY4400200111000000104802200