



# AGORA international

Dear Ladies of Agora!

In this newsletter you find the report of our International Service Project on Morocco which was very successful. Madagascar and Botswana are following.

Have a look at the fantastic presentation of Veerle on our project!

And ACI is growing, AC Israel wants to join us and we received new application for individual membership.

Yours in friendship

Brigitte

ACI Secretary 2015-2017

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# REPORT ACI PROJECT N°1 : "EYES FOR THE WORLD" in CASABLANCA



What an amazing experience it was to join the EFTW mission in Morocco and to see what was organized by the Moroccan ladies.







1. They have succeeded in involving the Ministry of Health to provide us with all equipments, two technicians, two ophthalmologists, and nurses.
2. They have succeeded in involving LC Morocco, RT Morocco, and 41 Club Morocco in this initiative.
3. The Moroccan ladies, Chris Helsen, Veerle De Jonge, and Thanh Thao built up a wonderful team to perform tests and screenings to 250 children in 4 schools in the poor areas of Casablanca and in a hospital as well.
4. They gave out 205 adjustable glasses to the kids who were so thankful.
5. Our Moroccan friends also organized a party to entertain the children. They danced, they laughed, they sang, they received a lot of gifts and candies.
6. This initiative had the support of various newspapers in Casablanca.



To know more about how an INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT week evolves, **click on the link below** and learn more about this amazing project with





## VEERLE'S SHORT AND FUN PRESENTATION



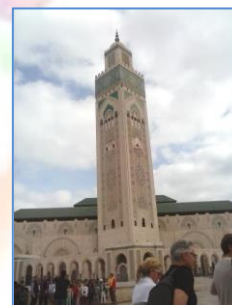
<http://agoraclubinternational.com/organisation/ISP/Eyes-ft-World/Report-on-the-ACI-International-Service-project.mp4>

### REPORT ON THE SIDE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE PROJECT:

Our Moroccan friends didn't only take care of all the details of the hosting of "Eyes For The World", but also showered us with friendship and love.

In fact they made us feel like Princesses!

Our sweet guide Sanaa Tamni took us for a tour in Casablanca to visit the Hassan II Mosque, the largest mosque in Morocco with the tallest minaret at 210m high. It is so magnificent with its mosaics, marble floors, traditional Moroccan designs, and carved and painted wood ceilings.

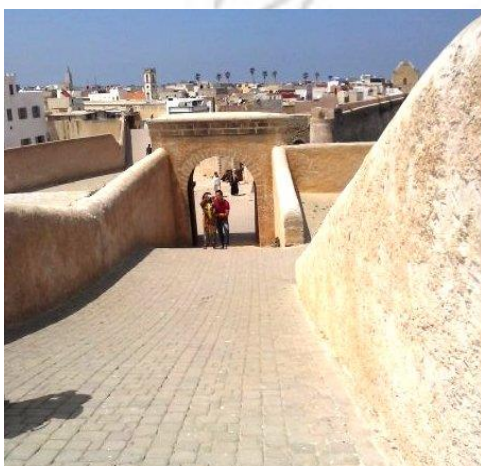


Then it's a must to



have breakfast or brunch at La Sqala, situated in an 18th century fortified bastion with rustic Moroccan interiors

What an emotion to have dinner at Rick's café, filled with architectural and decorative elements reminiscent of the movie "Casablanca".



With the lovely Narjisse, Sanaa and Amina we also visited the Portuguese fortification of Mazagan, part of the city of El

Jadida, a port city on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. It has massive Portuguese walls of hewn stone. The most beautiful aspect in this city is that it is a multicultural city embracing

Muslims, Jews, and Christians.

The most important building from the Portuguese period is the underground cistern.





Our friends spoiled us with gorgeous parties!

The lunch at Hanane's saw

the cooking talent of Lamia.

It's heartwarming to receive the hospitality of Kenza and Mimi, and friends from **Ladies' Circle Morocco, Round Table Morocco, and 41 Club Morocco.**



And to conclude this memorable week, a fantastic party was held at Faty's. We still hear the echo of the typical Moroccan music. It was a real explosion of energy, friendship, fun, and positivity.

Thank you Souad and Faty for your generous home hosting.

Thank you Hanane, Faty, and all Moroccan friends for your endeavors to embellish our world and to build up

friendship. Once again, you have confirmed that life is beautiful and only through service to others can we make the highest difference.



Yours in friendship and love

*Veerle De Jonge*

*Chris Helsen*

*Ly thi Thanh Thao*



## AGM 41 and TC International in Landshut/Germany



What an amazing weekend in Landshut, the capital of Lower Bavaria, a beautiful town rich of Gothic architecture!

It was amazing because Ursula and I attended the AGMs of 41 International and of Tangent Club International. It was a great occasion to make new friends and to reconnect with old ones. It was amazing because for the first time we had had a meeting with the Presidents and the Vice Presidents of our brother and sister associations. We talked about promoting communication among us, and working out plans for future collaboration to give more smiles to our world.

It was amazing because at the Welcome Party and the Gala dinner, we really enjoyed the Bavarian hospitality, music, dance, the Bavarian food and beer, and the gorgeous colors of the dirndl.



How I love the company of my German friends! Only then did I discover that I love drinking beer.

Beautiful smiles!



Then the solemn moment of Banner Exchange at Hotel Isar-



Residenz.

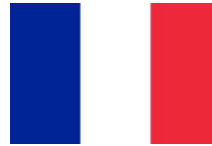
We thanked Makarios and the outgoing Board for a joyful and fruitful cooperation and we wished Engelbert and the incoming Board a remarkable year rich of friendship, positivity, and fun. Indeed, Agora Club International has always treasured all occasions to deepen and enrich friendship with our brother and sister associations. Yours in friendship and love

Ursula Lejeune  
ACI Vice President 2015-2016

Ly thi Thanh Thao  
ACI President 2015-2016



## Charity activity AC39 Hyères



### Chic & Mask Party

Agora club 39 Hyères organizes usually one charity project event in november a play when we could buy the new beaujolais wine, typically french.

This year, as president, I would like to organize another event to earn money to give to another charity project. Because we recieved in march in Hyères the international board meeting and we organized at the same time our agora area's meeting, we decided to make a diner and dance party. To have more fun, I proposed the "Chic & Mask" theme. A lot of our guests came with mask... a nice success !

To earn more money, we found some sponsors for wine, apero time and desserts. Our Disc Jokey, a young man came free too !



We had great time all together and we gave the money, 1.117 €, we earned to an association "le Fil d'Argent" who recieve for the day Alzheimer people. Then, they could buy, for outside space, garden furnitures.



Isabelle Séguinot, AC Hyères 39 President

## AGM AC Tangent Germany



### AGM - Side by side with Ladies' Circle Germany

From April 30th till May 1st ladies of AC Tangent Germany and Ladies' Circle Germany gathered in Dortmund to hold their AGMs.

As usual the organizing club had chosen special venues to make this weekend an unforgettable event.

On **Friday** the welcome took place at the famous "Dortmunder U-Tower", a former building of the brewery Dortmunder Bier Union. Nowadays it is used for art and culture events and hosts a museum. The restaurant on top of the building offers a fantastic view over the city. The building attracts its visitors by the big screens surrounding the tower and showing different movies.



At the welcome it was reported, that the daughter of a member of TC 27 Hannover had recently experienced the earthquake in Ecuador. As she is still living in the area trying to organize some help for the people, money was collected during the whole weekend to support her activities. In the end round about 1000 € were raised.

At an event like an LC/TC welcome there is a lot of noise due to the chatting of the ladies meeting old and new friends and the evening runs rapidly until it is time to say "see you tomorrow".

On **Saturday** morning the meeting led by Monic took place with fruitful discussions and in a friendly atmosphere.

During the meeting ACI vice president Ursula talked about the international service project of ACI and demonstrated, how the special self-adjustable spectacles work.

Everybody was so impressed about their price and effect, that spontaneously 1000 € were collected for this project.

Although there was quite a big package of amendments, the meeting was finished in a record time. So there was enough time to mingle among the soccer fans gathering around the nearby stadium, to have a stroll through the city or have a rest.



Partners and ladies, who did not want to attend the meeting, had the choice to either visit the soccer museum, a former coal pit or participate at the guided walk through the city.



The gala took place at the "Rohrmeisterei", a former pump station, with good food, good music and a tombola to raise money for charity.



The AGM finished with a Farewell on **Sunday**, followed by a meeting of the new national board and advisory board of AC Tangent Germany. For the first time this meeting started together with the members of the national board of Ladies' Circle Germany plus members of their advisory board. The new officers got to know each other and so the AGM was finished side by side with Ladies' Circle Germany.



The new board of AC Tangent Germany and the advisory board members



Karen von Koschitzky  
IRO AC Tangent Germany

## Agora Club Israel



“Fruitful, joyful, positive” are the three adjectives I want to attribute to my visit to Agora Club Israel. Exemplary friendship, good food, good wine, good weather, breathless landscapes! I couldn’t expect anything more.

I should say that my greatest joy was to meet up with about forty Agora Members at Hotel Metropolitan, in the center of Tel Aviv. This conference saw the participation of four Agora Clubs , each club used PowerPoint to present the various aspects of its activities, bearing in mind the spirit of “Service and Tolerance”. I remained enchanted in front of so many warm hearts, and such willingness to be part of Agora Club International.

I presented the beautiful growth of our Association, the upcoming celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary, and above all, our first Service project called “ Eyes For The World”.



*The Conference was really great!*

I further went to Nazareth to meet the other two Agora Clubs in formation. Their Members are women worthy of admiration and love.

I really cherish the beautiful moments with my Israeli friends. I have seen positive and promising steps towards a new and vibrant life in Agora Club Israel.

Yours in friendship and love  
Ly thi Thanh Thao  
ACI President 2015-2016



## **New Individual Members**

It is wonderful that we have many ways to grow Agora! Like a beautiful garden that continues to surprise us and fill us with joy as we watch the new and unusual, and those so comforting and familiar, bloom and unfold in their glorious beauty and unique and welcomed colours!

You are amazing ladies in this world full of challenges ... in this world full of doubt.. yet incredible hope of the possibilities .. you are the energy ..the power ..the voice for those less blessed in circumstance and freedom to be the light..to be the change! Bless all of you in your continued endeavours around the world!!

One way we continue to grow is with new Individual Members. Please welcome our newest Individual Members - growing their gardens and the future of Agora in their way true to their hearts -

Salzburg, Austria

Brigitte Bierbaumer Vergeiner

Brigitte was Born in Austria, studied law in Innsbruck, Austria and spent a few years with her husband, Harald in Los Angeles. There she worked for a large law firm. Since 1990 she has been practicing law in Salzburg. Brigitte and her husband have one son, David who is 24 years old and brings them great joy. In her spare time Brigitte love sports such as running, bicycling and mountain climbing. This physical release is very important to her to balance out stress. She also has a passion for reading and movies (a real movie Junkie!) Welcome Brigitte! We look forward to seeing you at Agora functions!

Grabenstätt, Germany

Sylvia Wunderlich

Sylvia has had the pleasure of living in the ever interesting country of South Africa. She now lives in the beautiful countryside on Lake Chiemsee, between Munich and Salzburg. Sylvia now works as a Real Estate Agent in a bank in the area. When off work she enjoys dancing (Salsa and Ballroom), hiking and cycling, and is looking forward to learning how to sail soon. Sylvia loves to meet people from all over the world and is looking forward to being connected with lovely women of Agora from different countries. Welcome Sylvia! We are happy to have you join us!

Sylvia and Brigitte along with Individual Salzburg Agora member Elisabeth Steinacker are attending (or attended if this goes out afterwards) the charter of Agora Club Spittal this June!

Sylvia, Elisabeth



Brigitte

Barcelona, Spain

Ester Amills

Living in downtown Barcelona, Ester along with family partners manages real estate properties during business hours. She is a marathon competitor as is her husband, Pablo, so they train year round for the next challenge and event! Ester and Pablo share a beautifully blended family with grown son Santiago currently attending university in the USA while the younger sisters Maria and Berta not yet teenagers concentrate on their school work and ski competitively on teams. Ester has at her disposal the beautiful beaches and hills and nearby mountains for partaking in various sports year round. Here is an amazing lady that has completed the Marathon de Sables and Iron Man among her many competitions. She is a model for sportswear and whether it is skinning mountain tops or running in the desert this is a true lady of depth and determination!

Although currently focused on children and their needs and activities, the future and growth of Agora Barcelona is in good hands!



Continue forward and strong always focused on the goal, the purpose deep within, the strength of our HANDS to move mountains, the purpose in our HEADS to change the world & the spirit of our HEARTS to touch each individual soul with our capacity of love and care!

Keep growing your gardens ladies!

Lotsoflove

Kelly ♥ ☐

## **20 years of History of ACI – Memories of AGNES VEILLE-FINET, ACI President 2005-2006.**

When Thao asked me to talk about my ACI presidency, I answered immediately yes without any hesitation. That was exactly ten years ago:



Board ACI 2005/2006



Board ACI Carnaval Paris 2006





Charter meeting Roaselare

Gift ACI 10 years



Then I thought, it was not only a year in the ACI but an experience of five years in the board that marked me for ever. It was true that at this time, we were fewer but the challenge was to make every possible contact so our successors can make the ACI what it has today.

Choosing between all these events and meetings is impossible. But Alkmaar remains me a very important moment not only for the wonderful ambience but also for indelible memories with all the ladies at the AGM. Veerle was there but not yet Agora!

An Amsterdam visit full of surprises including a long phone conversation with Casablanca ...



LCI Morocco Ladies 2006



LCI Annual meeting 2006 - French Ladies



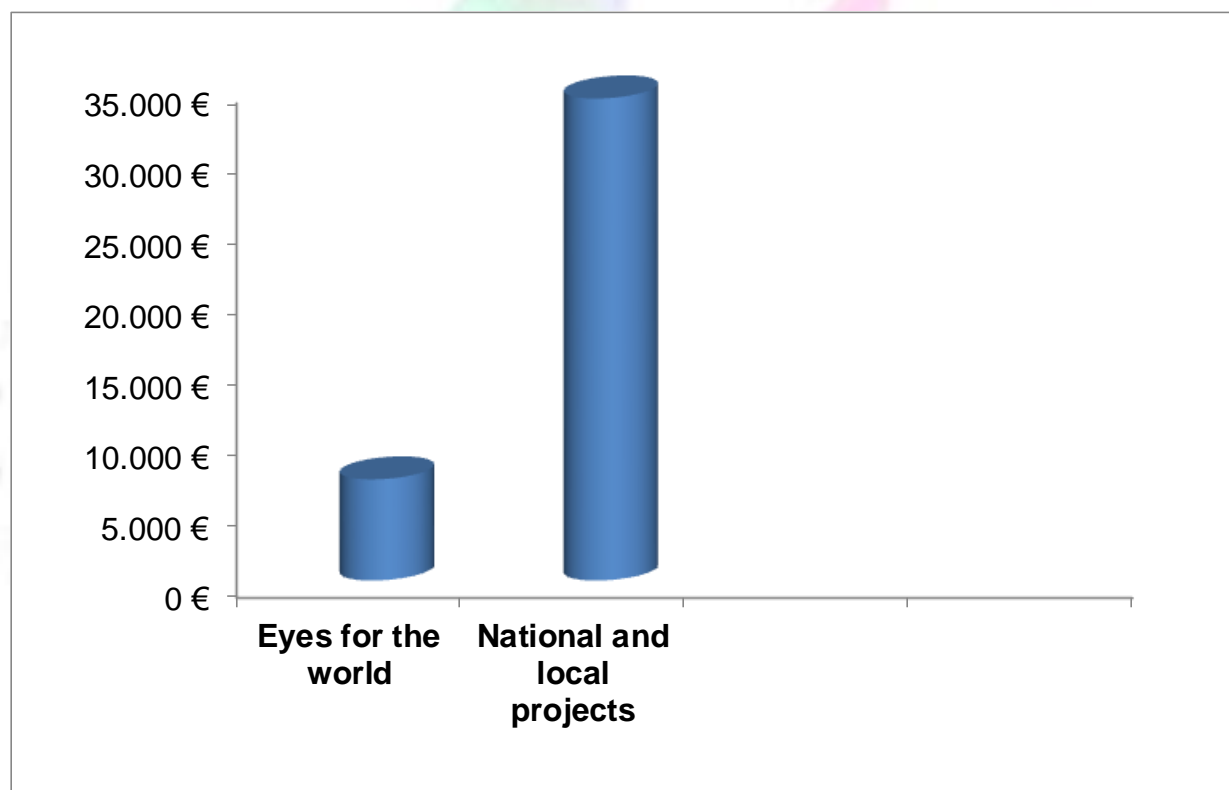
I haven't forgotten Charter Meetings as Vicenza, Albi, Colmar, Leman, Roeselare, Nantes, Thouars, Meaux, Versailles ... The constitution of the first Belgian National Board ! AGM in Namur, Nantes, Montluçon ...

The MTM Ladies in Israel to present the Club Agora International and also the LCI AGM in Aberdeen ... What a joyful!!!! I am waiting impatiently for the moment in Milan celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Agora Club International.

Agnès Veille-Finet

ACI-President 2005/2006

## Our barometer



## Calendar for Agora

AGM AC USA	18 June
AGM AC Zambia	19 June
AGM AC Morocco	16 June
AGM AC Belgium	25 June
ACIC Milan	6-9 October <a href="http://aciconference2016.weebly.com">http://aciconference2016.weebly.com</a>