

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2023 | EDITION 5

F CUS

*CHARTERS
PAST &
FUTURE!*

**FOCUS ON
AC ICELAND
AC AUSTRIA
AC ZAMBIA
AC FRANCE**

Agora's big heart for charity

**FOCUS ON OUR
INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE PROJECT**

**Latest info on
the ACI Forum !**

CALENDAR

RTFamily events

and much more..!



Welcome!

to the 5th edition of YOUR

Agora Club International magazine!



Our dear ladies from
AC Detroit (USA)
saying "hi"!

FOCUS ON OUR ACI ISP

ACI FORUM

ACI CONFERENCE 2023

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

FOCUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

COUNTRY'S STORIES

FOCUS ON CHARTERS

AGORA'S HEART FOR CHARITY

ROUND TABLE FAMILY

Activities in the RTF

LCI MTM's

Report LCI Africa MTM by IPP Chilufya

ACI CALENDAR

...AND FINALLY

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Dear ladies, dear friends

I am happy to send you our newest Focus. The 5th one already!

With lots of info on our International Service project, the Forum, the ACI conference 2023, stories from our countries (thank you! They are so interesting to read!), past and future charters and news from our Round Table Family.

Not in the least a big section in FOCUS goes to all the **fabulous events** organized by you, for **your many Charity projects**. Amazing to see our member's commitment and dedication! **Agora indeed has a BIG HEART for charity!**

Do not hesitate to send me pictures + some text (see ex. pages 26 - 42), I will be very happy to include them in the next FOCUS!

Thank you for taking your time to quietly read this new FOCUS, it is YOUR magazine!

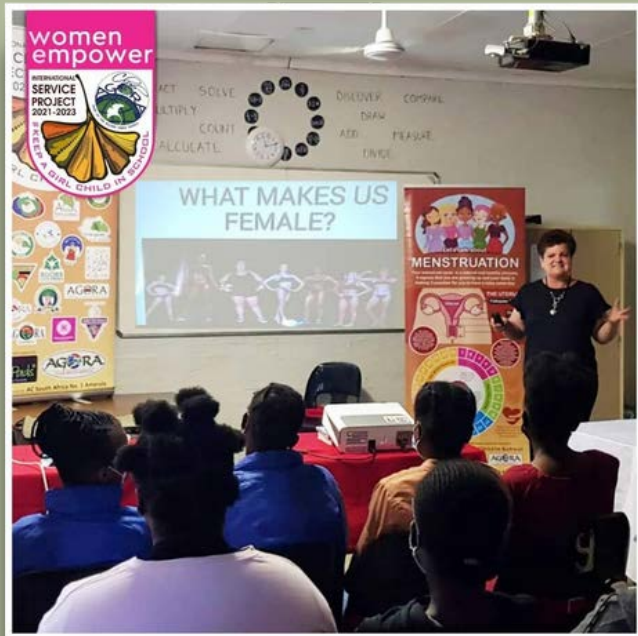
Lots of love,
Veerle De Jonge,

your Social Media Manager/FOCUS writer ☺

Mail me on : so-me@agoraclubinternational.com

FOCUS ON...

Our International Service Project



#Palesa Pads -

KEEP A GIRL CHILD IN SCHOOL

Palesa Pads is a social enterprise that was founded by Shérie 'Palesa' de Wet in 2017 out of a need to provide a sustainable menstrual health product to end period poverty in Africa.

Millions of girls in Africa miss 3-5 days of school each month* during their period due to a lack of sanitary products and adequate sanitary facilities. Whilst at home girls are making use of unhygienic alternatives such as rags, newspaper, toilet paper, even grass and cow dung wrapped in cloth! Girls miss up to 25% of their school days and most end up dropping out altogether, and the cycle of poverty continues. Palesa Pads, together with Agora Club International we have provided over 2,000 girls with a Kickstart Flo Kit.

Each kit contains 6 reusable sanitary pads of various absorbencies, plus a bucket and cleaning products. Palesa Pads can be washed and used over again each month for up to 5 years, a girl's entire high school career. Palesa Pads is locally manufactured, helping to empower women through meaningful employment in South Africa.

(*Stellenbosch University study)



Palesa Pads Is a high-quality, SABS Compliant, reusable sanitary pad brand that:

1 HELPS TO KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL and complete their education

FACT 1:

Girls who can't afford sanitary products sometimes resort to using cow dung, dried into patties and wrapped in cloth, or makeshift pads made from toilet rolls, rags, or foam from old mattresses. None of these solutions are hygienic or reliable.

FACT 2:

*A girl with one extra year of education can earn 10-20% more as an adult. Education is critical to breaking the poverty cycle.

2 EMPOWERS LOCAL WOMEN through job creation and skills development.



3 SAVES THE ENVIRONMENT by keeping single use plastic items out of landfills and toilets

FACT:

Every single Palesa Reusable Pad used keeps 200 single use plastic items out of the environment!



Thank you Agora Club South Africa for your fantastic commitment for our ACI ISP!



DID YOU KNOW?

Palesa Reusable Sanitary Pads can be used for up to 5 years which is a girl's high school career.

#Keep A Girl Child In School



Dear friends, a next big mission is planned for May 2023.

For as little as 15 €, you can make a meaningful difference, and change a girl's life for the next 5 years!

Thank you for your donations (in €!) on our new ACI account :

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL A.S.B.L.

IBAN : FR76 1973 3000 0101 0000 1058 004

BIC : OPSPFR21OLK

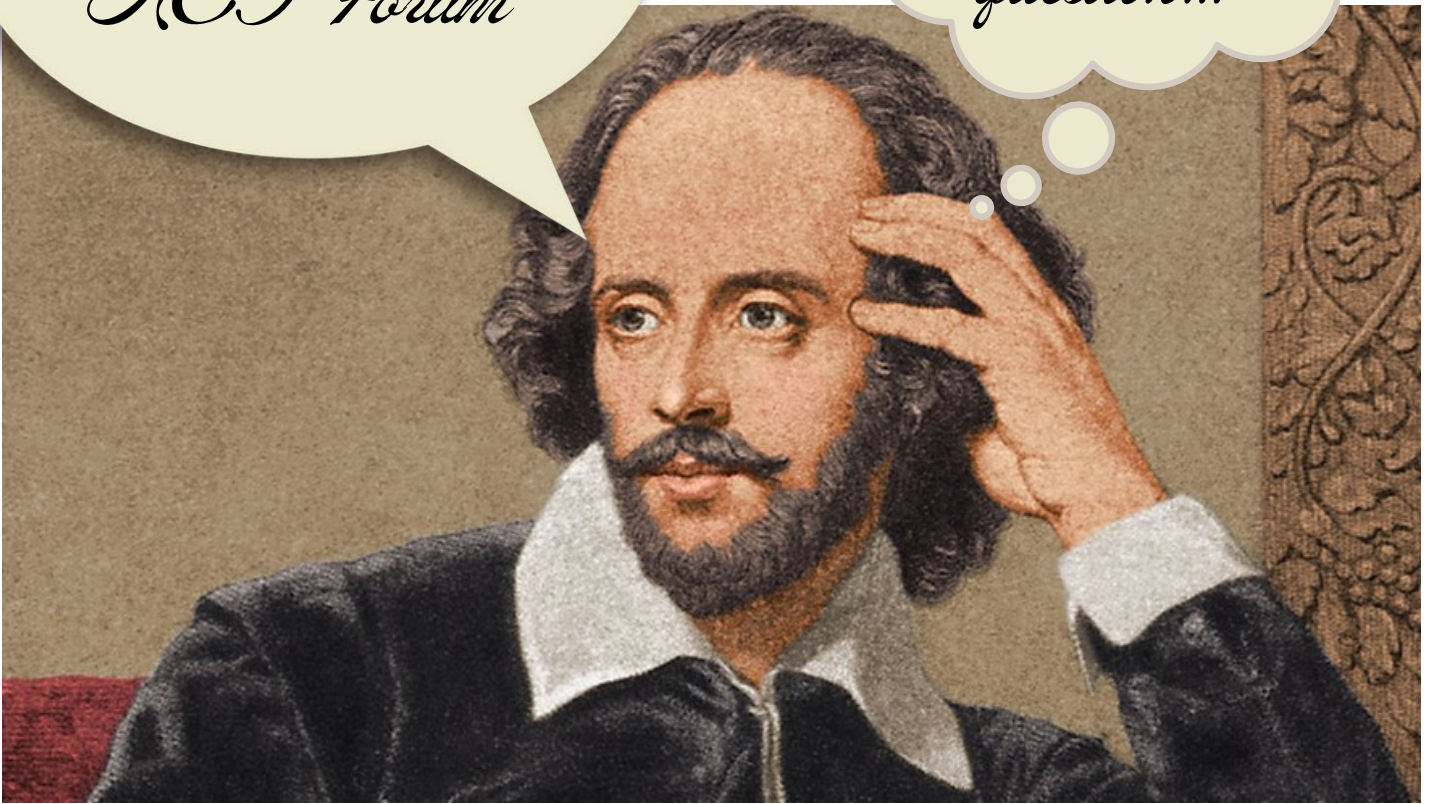
*Please mention your AC Country
and/or Club name*

FOCUS ON...

Our ACI Forum

*To be or not to be
present at the
ACI Forum*

*...That's the
question...*



***Not to worry Mr. Shakespeare!
Many Agora ladies will be coming to your town
and have registered
for our ACI Forum and lunch,
for Nations Night and the Gala night!***

FOCUS ON...

ACI Conference 2023

ACI Conference 2023

Brasov City - Romania

**Thursday 28th of September -
30th of September 2023**

Save
the
date



The Conference website will
be open soon!

FOCUS ON...

The Future

**ARE YOU THE ONE WHO WILL
COMPLETE THE PUZZLE?**



We're looking for a vice president, a secretary
and a social media manager



Interested? Questions? More info?
Contact any of us at the ACI Board.
We'll be happy to help!



FOCUS ON...

Social Media

**Did You
KNOW?**

that much of what
is written
in this newsletter
(and so much
more!)
you will also find on
Social Media?

**THANK
YOU!**

for your "likes", your
sweet messages and
your hearts :)
It makes the
communication on
facebook and
instagram so nice!



So follow us on our
ACI Facebook public page & private group
and on Instagram and stay instantly connected !



FIND US UNDER
"AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL"

See you there! It's fun!



FOCUS ON...

Our countries

Dear ladies, thank you for sending in
your reports each month!

This edition the focus is on

AC ICELAND

AC AUSTRIA

AC ZAMBIA

AC FRANCE

ACIceland



Dear Agora Ladies around the world. In Iceland we have 9 clubs and 148 members. Here are some pictures and information on what some of the Agora Ladies in Iceland have been doing this winter, hope you enjoy.



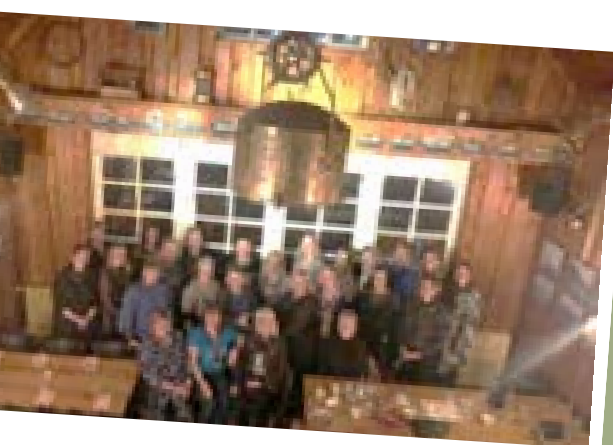
It is customary for most of our clubs to go on a trip in the beginning of autumn, spend one weekend together in a cabin for example and do all sorts of fun stuff. But this winter most of the clubs skipped that and went to Puy de Fou instead. Around 50 ladies had a wonderful time in France.



14 November the Icelandic ladies celebrated the ACI day at two places. The clubs in the south of Iceland went to Bessastaðir the home of the President of Iceland and visited the first Lady Elisa Reed.



In the North the clubs met at Húsavík and went to the FabLab for an Introduction and to Gamli Baukur for a nice dinner.



Our clubs aim to go to either a company visit or a lecture at some sort every winter



Agora 5 visiting
Hveravellir
greenery



Agora 6 visiting
the fire
department in
Keflavik

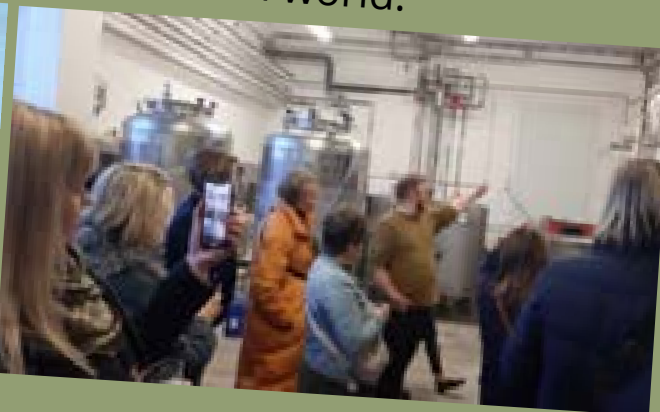


Agora 4 having
a lecture on
sexual wellness
devices



Agora 9 and
Agora 6 at a
French wine
tasting in
Reykjavik,
preparing for
the AGM

We held our MTM at Vökuholt near Húsavík and visited Húsavík Öl a microbrewery that has the best beer in the North of Iceland and the cider is probably the best in world.



All the clubs have Christmas meetings where they have a nice dinner often at some Agora ladies' home and hand out presents to each other or collect money to use instead in a charity project.



And of course, we do have some charity projects going on in Iceland. For example, Agora 8 goes to Konukot a shelter for homeless women in Reykjavik before every Christmas, bringing gifts. They collect warm clothing and cosmetics from various companies bringing joy to our less fortunate women



All the Agora Iceland clubs have members knitting these beautiful little dresses that have for example been given to premature babies in Africa and to an orphanage in Romania. We will keep on knitting as long as it's needed.



We hope you will all have a wonderful Agora year!



AC Austria



*Club Agora Austria 1 Spittal/Drau
Sold homemade products at two
Christmas markets in Millstatt and Spittal*



It's nice to be help.

Agora 1 Spittal/Drau supports Marko Genser for his therapies with a 800 euro.



*Christmas party from
Club Agora Austria 1 Spittal/Drau*



The Austrian "Weihnachtspackeraktion" (WPA)

is a side-by-side heart project with the aim to bring Christmas gifts to needy children in Romania.

*The focus is on one basic idea: Children help children.
Beginning of December, we, the members of round table family
went to Bucharest in order to distribute the Christmas packages directly on site.
All over kids in Austria collected almost 14.500! parcels last year, amazing!*

*Approximately 20% out of it have been distributed by the Austrian guys,
but the majority have been distributed by Mihai Gherghie,
RT Bucharest and his team.
Special thanks to Mihai and his team for their extraordinary efforts!!!*

*Many thanks to all supporters of the WPA, especially
AGT President Mihaela Gracana, who took the time to
support and accompany the project.*

*Gaining the wonderful experience with so many bright
children's eyes and happy faces we're fully committed for 2023 too.*



AC Zambia



President Margaret Mwenya represented AGORA Club Zambia by joining Ladies Circle Zambia at their Second Open National Council meeting in Livingstone.



On the same day, 19th November 2022, was National Project donation at Libuyu East Community School where 2 computers were handed over.

AC Zambia was represented at a Fundraising Gala dinner on 26th November 2023 supporting Lusaka Ladies Circle No.4. Proceeds were for Charities supported by Lusaka Ladies Circle No.4



On 14th December 2022, Preseident Margaret Mwenya, on behalf of AGORA Club Zambia presented a cheque to Toylab Executive Director, Cynthia Makaliki to enable Toylab raise funds towards their annual toy drive. The donation was for children of the UTH Childrens Hospital, Malnutrition ward AO7.



Christmas gift exchange on 16th December 2023. We had such a fabulous time Our Social Convenor ensured that we had fun, we sang, danced, Santa Clause visited us early, what more could we ask for? We were all smiles. We have no dull moment in Agora whether it be Service or fun.
We make things happen.





We had our First Business meeting this year on 8th January 2023.
This was a Business meeting extraordinaire as we saw 14 new members being inducted. We were joined by Past Africa Regional Chairperson, Idah Samulolah who came to witness the induction.



AC France



Isabelle Seguinot, National President AC France reports :

Mid-February, we went to Bretagne, Quimper with beautiful sun shine, to enjoy a week-end :

- Meeting friends from 41 Club and Agora around a Gala Dinner and an Area's night
- Board meeting to prepare our area meeting



Both of them were a success! We were so happy to share all these times and fun together!

For the first time this year the 4 National Presidents were there together which is a good opportunity to strengthen the relationships between the 4 clubs of the French Quatalagor.



Gala
Dinner



Area's
night!



So nice to read about Agora life, in
your part of the world!



FOCUS ON...

Charter in February

11/02/2023 : Charter AC 24 Antwerpen - Belgium



LAST WEEKEND IN ACI



Our ACI boardmembers had a busy weekend!

Mihaela, Gabi and Marian graced the charter of AC 24 Antwerpen - Belgium with their presence!



"Sinjooor" the adoptive little lamb from AC 12 Gelderse Vallei (NL)



Mihaela Cracana,
ACI President



International guests : Claudia Zorila,
Vice President AC Romania and
Marian Florissen, treasurer AC The
Netherlands



Welcome to Agora dear ladies!

(post on facebook)

FOCUS ON...

Charters in March & April

18/03/2023 : Charter AC 2 Glam'Madagascar



24-26/03/2023 : Charter AC 8 Sibiu - Romania



30/03 to 02/04/2023 : Charterparty AC Cyprus



01/04/2023 : Charter AC 72 Bourges - France

**14-15/04/2023 : Charter AC 73
Carcassonne - France**



Welcome to Agora dear ladies!

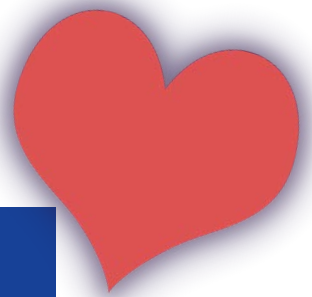
FOCUS ON...

Agora's big ❤️ for Charity

The commitment our Agora members and clubs show towards the communities they live in is amazing. Thousands of Euro's are raised every month.

So we are happy to give these many events the spotlight they deserve!

Don't hesitate to send us info on your events, invitations, photo's etc, so we can report on what you do!



Our ladies from AC 10 De Kempen in The Netherlands really deserve a special mention : The amounts they raised for their social projects are amazing!

Bravo!!





AC Botswana
handing gifts
to needy
children in
Tlokweng

Side by Side
event for charity
in Luxembourg
together with
AC, LC, RT and 41
Club
Luxembourg.



Amazing generosity in AC 1 Spittal (Aus) and
AC 9 Twente (The NL)





Our Agora ladies from AC 5 Casa Bourkoura (Morocco) organised a festive day for 80 children hospitalised for leucemia.



AC Botswana supporting children with Autism art day



our ladies from AC Malta organised such a unique event :

Sponsoring & planting of 54 olive trees, in memory of loved ones.



AC 17 Charleroi (BEL) delivered 150 breakfast Valentine's packages for their community projects





AC Tel Aviv (Israel)
has been supporting
"One Heart Club" in
Tel Aviv since 2014.
This time they
donated warm gifts
for the cold winter.



Agora Club Bergerac
(FR) helped fund a
multisensory room
for people with
autism



Agora Botswana
Ladies in Manyana
having school
children's eyes tested
to donate spectacles
for those who require.





In winter it is really freezing cold in the High Atlas of Morocco. Nobody visits the hamlets of Talatan at an altitude of 2,000 meters. The Berbers who live there rarely, if ever, come down. In Talatan, as everywhere in the High Atlas, almost all children have atypical pneumonia, are scantily clad and malnourished. Every year in winter, toddlers die of the cold.

VERONIQUE STERN : "A friend asked me to send babyhats to the little ones in the Atlas Mountains where winters are harsh. Thanks to Aziz Cherkaoui, distinguished member of 41 Club Morocco and incoming vice-president of 41 club international the babyhats have been handed over to Cherif, a good friend of my friend, who will bring them to the little children. Thank you so much both of you!"



Update : Babyhats have also been sent to Turkey and Syria



and to Kenia, with AC The Netherlands President Carina!

Thank you for your amazing commitment Veronique!



The devastation is enormous, the loss of life heartbreaking.

The forces of nature are cruel,
but the forces of the heart are bigger.

#openup to the people of Turkey and Syria dear members.
Reach out to your local authorities if you are able to help or
assist in any way. Donate clothes, blankets, money...every €
can make a difference and can help to buy food, tents etc



EARTHQUAKE TURKEY & SYRIA



As the death toll rises in the area,
Agora Club International conveys its
heartfelt condolences to the people
of Turkey and Syria.

Dear members, please reach out to
your local authorities if you are able
to help or assist in any way.





FOCUS ON...

Round Table Family

On international, national and local level, many events are shared with the other clubs of our big **Round Table Family**, which is so wonderful!

We'd love to know what your club does!





Wonderful Side by Side charity event in Luxembourg with Agora Club, Ladies' Circle, Round Table and 41 Club!



Traditional Sandwich Party of Agora Club - RT3 - LC1 - Club 41 Luxembourg



SIDE-BY-SIDE DINER 2023

Side-by-Side dinner 2023 in The Netherlands : a wonderful get-Together with AC, LC, RT and 41C

While visiting Paris, Mohamed Cherkaoui, founder President of 41 Club 7 Marrakech, organised a lovely meeting with the Quatalagora Clubs of Paris. Our lovely Jacqueline Guillotin (President AC Paris) was happy to be part of this unique Get Together!





Area's night at Quatalagor
in France: AC, LC, RT
and 41 Club France !



A nice Side-by-Side initiative in
Belgium :
"4 Clubs 1 Vision music quiz".
An event organised by AC, LC,
RT and 41 club Belgium!



Our Agora wishes for
TCI Day

Agora greetings to the AGM of the
National Association Tangent Clubs GB&I





*Our
Agora wishes
for LCI Day
11/02/2023*



WITH LOVE FROM YOUR AGORA SISTERS WORLDWIDE

(post on facebook)



LCI Mid Term Meetings



Some of our ACI boardmembers had a super weekend with our LC sisters!

Gabi at the LCI Mediterranean MTM in Paphos - Cyprus

Marian at the LCI Nordic MTM in Estonia



Thank you for being such great Agora ambassadors!



LCI Mid Term Meetings



Our ACI boardmembers again had a super weekend with our LC sisters!

Mihaela and Marian at the LCI Mid European Region MTM Liège - Belgium



Chilufya and Sumaya at the LCI African MTM in Stellenbosch- South Africa together with delegates from AC Zambia and AC South Africa





LCI Mid Term Meetings



LAST WEEKEND IN ACI



LADIES CIRCLE
SRI LANKA

*Our ACI President Mihaela
in the spirit of sisterhood!*



Mihaela representing
Agora Club International
at the LCI MTM
APAC region in Sri Lanka



"Ayubowan" means : "wish for a blessed day"



Lighting of the candle of friendship
with the representatives of LCI, ACI, RTI and TCI





Report IPP Chilufya Mwanakatwe on the LCI Africa Region MTM

I had the privilege to represent Agora Club International at the just ended Africa Midterm Meeting, from the 17th to the 19th of February, 2023 held in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The Mid Term Meeting(MTM) took place on the 18th of February and was **attended by four of the five IPPs of the Round Table Family.**

Graham Cornellissen (IPP RTI), Liat Wallenstein(IPP TCI), Anna Elmqvist (IPP LCI), Past President Femke van Raam (LCI) and myself were in attendance and supported by ladies from Agora Clubs Zambia, Botswana and South Africa !



The main discussion in the MTM was on the **Three Pillars:**

- Implement and Strengthen
- Grow and Develop
- Sisterhood and Side by Side



Going by the LCI theme for the year "We can, we will" the Circlers were encouraged to seize the moment and make a decision. The moment is now.....They were encouraged to work together and growth would be inevitable, to spread the word about Ladies Circle and grow their association.



After a colourful Nations Parade to the House of JC Le Roux in the afternoon, we attended the Banner Exchange, Cocktail and Gala Dinner in the evening

At the Dinner, I was asked to **speak on "Service and Tolerance"** which happens to be the motto of ACI. These two words help us to "Promote, co- ordinate and develop the friendship which unites us around the motto - " Service and Tolerance"

In my Circling and Agora life, I have been involved in several service projects . As a Circler, my former Circle, built a ward for TB patients who were treated under a big tree as tuberculosis is a very contagious disease and patients are normally isolated.

The "Malnutrition" Ward A07 was voted an International Service Project for LCI, we managed to completely refurbish the ward as it was in a dilapidated state and provided nutritious food and other consumables . We later partnered with the Health Ministry and identified a center where mothers are taught to make healthy meals for their families with little resources.

I shared my experiences with the two ISPs that Agora has had since 2015. **Eyes for the World** and **Ending Period Poverty** using good quality reusable pads.

ACI has been involved in various other service projects like the Christmas Convoy, helping the displaced refugees from the Ukraine war, the Waste Challenge not forgetting our knitting Project from our ladies from the Netherlands and Iceland done with lots love♥



Sometimes, being of service or helping others may cost lots of money and sometimes it doesn't cost anything to bring a smile on someone's face. Be a blessing to someone, "open up" and "keep shining!"

*In Friendship and Service,
Chilufya Mwanakatwe
IPP 2022/23*

ACI & Round table Family Calendar

October 2022 ★	29/9-1/2	AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL AGM PUY DU FOU - FRANCE
		OCTOBER ROSE
	21-23	RTI CEETM – NOTTINGHAM UK CHARTER AC UK & NORTHWICH CHARTER AC 16 THE NETHERLANDS - ZEEUWS-VLAANDEREN
	27-30	RTI – REGIONAL MEETING NEA – NORWAY
November 2022		MOVEMBER
	5	HYM AC FRANCE – VITRE & 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AC VITRE HYM ACT GERMANY
	7-11	CHARTER CLUB 41 MADAGASCAR
	14	AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL DAY
	15	Q&A COUNCILORS ZOOM MEETING
	19	ANNIVERSARY AC HIRSON, FRANCE 30 YEARS
	30	ACI EGM COUNCILORS ZOOM MEETING
January 2023	27-29	LCI MTM NORDIC REGION – PARNU, ESTONIA - MARIAN LCI MTM SOUTHERN EUROPEAN REGION – PAPHOS, CYPRUS
February 2023	3-5	LCI MTM MIDDLE EUROPEAN REGION – LIEGE, BELGIUM
	11	CHARTER CLUB 24 ANTWERP, BELGIUM LADIES CIRCLE INTERNATIONAL DAY
	12	Tangent Club International Day
	17-19	LCI MTM AFRICAN REGION – STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA
	24-26	LCI MTM APAC REGION – SRI LANKA
March 2023	1-5	HYM RTI – TALLIN, ESTONIA
	18	CHARTER AC 2 GLAM - MADAGASCAR
	25	ANNIVERSARY AC AMIENS, FRANCE 10 YEARS
	★ 31-2/4	CHARTER CEREMONY AGORA CLUB CYPRUS-PAPHOS
April 2023	1	CHARTER AC 72 BOURGES, FRANCE
	14	CHARTER AC 73 CARCASSONE, FRANCE
	28-30	RTI ASPA REGIONAL MEETING – INDIA RTI SEM REGIONAL MEETING - TUNISIA
May 2023	11-14	AGM 41INTERNATIONAL & TCI
	13	AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL FORUM – STRATFORD UPON AVON, UK
	12	AGM AC MADAGASCAR – ILE SAINTE MARIE
	13	AGM ACT GERMANY – MANNHEIM
	20	AGM AC ICELAND – REYKAVIK
	27	AGM AC SOUTH AFRICA - MULDERSDRIFT AGM AC ZIMBABWE - HARARE
	TBA	AGM AC LUXEMBOURG
	TBA	AGM AC NEPAL – KATHAMANDU
	TBA	CHARTER AC LA ROCHELLE-ROCHEFORT – FRANCE
June 2023	3	AGM AC BOTSWANA – GABORONE AGM AC THE NETHERLANDS – VOORNE AAN ZEE
	3	CHARTER AC 25 MEETJESLAND, BELGIUM
	10	AGM AC NORWAY AGM – HAUGESUND AGM AC UK – SOUTHEND ON SEA AGM AC FRANCE AGM - ROUEN
	11	ANNIVERSARY AC ICELAND 10 YEARS
	16-18	AGM AC ROMANIA AGM – BRASOV
	17	CHARTER AC 7 CASABLANCA - MOROCCO
	23	AGM AC MALTA AGM – VALETTA
	24	AGM AC BELGIUM AGM – WILLEBROEK
	TBA	AGM AC ITALY AGM
	TBA	AGM AC ZAMBIA – LUSAKA
July 2023	21-23	RTI AMI REGIONAL MEETING – EASTERN AFRICA
August 2023 ★	18-20	CHARTER AGORA CLUB INDIA, DELHI
	24-27	LCI AGM – JAIPUR, INDIA
September 2023	TBA	AGM AC CYPRUS – PAPHOS
	TBA	AGM AC ISRAEL
	7-10	RTI WORLD MEETING – STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA
	★ 28- 01/10	AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL AGM - BRASOV - ROMANIA
October 2023	12-15	HYM 41 INTERNATIONAL & TCI – PAPHOS, CYPRUS

REMEMBER!



W PARTY TIME

*You can feel it deep in your bones
because it is older than your senses:
The end of winter
The earth sliding toward spring*



**Articles, editing & lay-out :
ACI Media Manager Veerle De Jonge**

**Send your country's story to
ACI secr. Sumaya Khan or Veerle**