



Dear ladies and friends all around the world,

As you in the Northern hemisphere head towards the days of winter with the autumnal colors in trees and bushes,

we in the Southern hemisphere are gearing up for our summer and long summer holidays in December.

Johannesburg is a city of summer rains and thank goodness we have had some, the surrounding country side is looking lovely, lush and green.

A slight change to the format of the newsletter with a column called:

"Tales from the Jungle" – just to give you a little insight into what has been happening to the ACI Board members – hope you enjoy!

My Motto for the Year is "A Circle of Friends Forever"

When I was LCI president my Motto was "The Circle of Life", an African Theme as well as being apt for Circling on the whole and I felt it would be a wonderful idea to continue the theme of a Circle not only because of Ladies Circle and our ties with these ladies, but because a circle has no end and I feel that friendships are the same.



It symbolizes for me the completeness of our friendships and that we are secure within this special circle, and where "Together we are One", working for a common goal alongside and with Tangent countries - "Agora and Tangent together".

History was made at the October ACI Conference in Tallinn Estonia, when Elisabeth was inducted as the first Tangent Vice president of ACI!

We are **all friends together** forever....

The proceeds from the sale of my pin will go to the International Charity Project: ECPAT, which is such a worthy cause. You can read for about this on our renewed website and on www.ecpat.net

*Please support this cause which is close to
all our hearts!*



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Further Good News : after the AGM in Tallinn we created guidelines for ladies who are interested in joining Agora Club International in their individual capacity.

 <p>Individual Membership Form</p> <p><i>Since Agora Club has no branch in her country, the following person applies to the board of Agora Club International for individual membership of Agora Club International.</i></p> <p>Surname: _____ Christian Name: _____ Date of birth: _____ Address: _____ Previously member of Ladies'Circle (if applicable): _____ Country: _____</p> <p><i>I will accept myself to respect the Aims and Objectives of Agora Club International (page2)</i></p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>INFORMATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY</p> <p>Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____ Mobile: _____ Name: _____ Optional: profession: _____</p> <p>Yearly contribution for Individual Membership: 10€ The individual member will receive the international directory, invitations to international events and the monthly international newsletters (email). The contribution to be transferred to: Agora Club International Bank, CREDIT SUISSE Rue du Lion d'Or 37 / PO Box 3720 1000 Lausanne - SWITZERLAND IBAN CH45 0483 1112 0108 2200 1 SWIFT: CRESCHE2204</p> <p>Thank you for sending a copy of this form to the international secretary and treasurer secretary@agoracubinternational.com and treasurer@agoracubinternational.com</p>	<p>What is AGORA Club International?</p> <p>AGORA Club International is a service-club for women from the age of 40 and older with different professions, hobbies and interests. AGORA Club International is a platform where all Part Circles (being Agora and Tangent member countries) and interested ladies can meet. AGORA Club International is represented in many countries all over the world. AGORA Club International is working together in research with Ladies' Circle, Round Table and 41 Club International. The spoken language at international meetings and in correspondence is English.</p> <p>Aims and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To link to gather all National Associations of Agora Club International - To promote, co-ordinate and develop the friendship which unites them, around the motto "Dinner at Table" (Serica and Toleration) - To be non-political and non-sectarian <p>History</p> <p>In 1987 a group of former members of Ladies' Circle created the first Agora club in Lille, France. In 1988 the French National Board was founded. In 1993 the first club in the Netherlands was founded, followed by a club in Belgium the year after. In June 1994, the first Annual International Council took place in Strasbourg, France.</p> <p>Today Agora Club International has clubs in Belgium, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland and Zambia.</p> <p>New clubs are in formation in USA and Poland, and many others show interest.</p> <p>A lot of information can be found on the international website: www.agoracubinternational.com</p> 	 <p>Guidelines for Individual Membership</p> <p>AGORA Club International is a service-club for women from the age of 40 and older with different professions, hobbies and interests. Agora Club International is a platform where all Part Circles (being Agora and Tangent member countries) and interested ladies can meet.</p> <p>However, if a lady wants to join with Agora Club International in a country where there is no membership, she can join as an "Individual Member".</p> <p>To become an Individual Member, she must accept the Aims and Objectives of Agora Club International and pay the international annual capitation fee of 10€. § Individual membership form will be sent to her, to be filled in and returned to the ACI secretary and ACI treasurer.</p> <p>Each Individual Member will be informed of charters and national AGMs and will get an invitation to the International AGM. She will receive all mailings: a copy of the Directory (by mail) and all ACI Newsletters.</p> <p>She will be able to consult official ACI documents online by getting a password for the Agora Club International website.</p> <p>Those individual members affiliated to ACI will have no voting rights and are, until they form a proper group representing their country, not able to put forward any amendments or proposals to the rules.</p> <p>From the moment they form in a country a group of ladies, who are willing to charter officially they will become an associated member country. (art. rule 32 of the ACI rules)</p>
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These documents can be consulted and downloaded on our website

And we are delighted to inform you that we have our first Individual Member : **Gill Young** from Tangent GB, who was present at the ACI AGM in Tallinn.
 Welcome Gill!

We are now busy preparing for the second ACI Board meeting which will take place in January 2011 in **Elizabeth's** home in Germany.

Until next month ladies when we will produce our Christmas newsletter, I wish you all a happy productive month.



A Circle of Friends Forever

Much love

Nikkie



A very moving message from Agora South Africa

Sandy Van Niekerk, National President Agora Club South Africa reports :

Roxy McCabe daughter of **Pam McCabe (Agora Club Amarula 1 member, and National Secretary Agora SA)**, was involved in a horrific car accident on the 10 September 2010, the night of her 24th Birthday. As a result of the accident Roxy has suffered severe brain and physical injuries.

Now, 9 weeks since the accident Roxy is improving daily, and is fighting everyday through the toughest challenge of her life. She now has her speech and use of her right arm partially back and the next hurdle is to learn to walk again, but, with the determination and sheer willpower that she has shown, we are confident that Roxy will make a full recovery.

Roxy will need intensive rehabilitation, care and support in order to see her through this time and achieve her goal of a full recovery.

"The support we have received from everyone (too many to name) has been overwhelming. The support that we have received through this has pulled us through what has been the most difficult time of our lives" said Pam.

Pam, her sister Lois, her partner Gavan, her son Cuan and Roxy would sincerely like to thank everyone for your love, prayers, messages, phone calls and donations towards Roxy's rehabilitation.

Sandy van Niekerk National President ACSA and Lodene Purdon (National Treasurer ACSA), visited Pam in Durban and had this to say 'Pam along with her sister Lois have been at Roxy's bedside since the day of the accident. They continuously touch and stroke her, encourage her to succeed, praise her when she achieves something no matter how small, sit with her, talk to her and love her. To say we were touched would be an understatement, we just realised that Pam and Lois are real angels, and have played a major role in Roxy's recovery.'



Pam has been involved in Fundraising activities in her home town Louis Trichardt for the past 12 years through Ladies Circle and now Agora, and has contributed to the millions of Rands raised for those in need. She is always willing to help and I do not think the word 'No' exists in her vocabulary.

*Dear friends, have a look at Roxy's facebook page: **"The Roxy McCabe recovery page"**, where Pam reports on her daughter's recovery :*

"Rox is awake, but guys she is not awake and chatting away. She hasn't said a word. She is groggy, in and out. Baby steps. The Dr is happy with her progress, she doing well. Breathing on her own, sedation is down. Our princess is doing GREAT!!! Thank you so much for all your love and support"

"Hi All, Rox is in her 3rd week of rehab, and all is going fantastic! The Feeding tube is out and she is on puree and thickened liquids, but has to do a chin tuck when swallowing. Her speech is coming along slowly slowly. Her movements are still quite spastic but the physio and OT are trying to get her body in alignment before they start to practice walking properly."

"Hi all, Rox is Entering her 5th week of rehab and is doing beautifully. She had her 1st pass out off rehab for the day on sat & went to a friend's house on the beach in La Lucia and chilled on the loungers. She loved it. She had her 1st Mac Donalds meal for dinner on sat and got another pass out on Sunday for Lunch."

You might remember from our first newsletter that this Agora year is one with “An African twist”!

Nikkie had the great idea to have each ACI board member write something under the header “Tales from the Jungle”. That way you all get to know your Board a little bit better ☺

So here are the first ...Tales from the Jungle!

Tales from the Jungle

ELISABETH'S TALE FROM AN EXOTIC JUNGLE!

RULES AND CRIME IN HOLIDAYS AT THE „RED SEA“

The fantastic weekend in Tallinn is over and for me the everyday life in ACI starts with learning rules and guidelines. Veerle was so very busy in sending so much.

For that reason I put the new rules and a crime into my suitcase (naturally together with my swimming things) to read and learn during our autumn holidays in Egypt.

I like warm areas, sun & beach, swimming in the sea, walking at the beach, reading crimes on a sun bed and enjoying these relaxing days!

But this year I have to learn as well: rules and guidelines of Agora Club International!

But – don't worry – I had a wonderful week and a lot of fun in sunny Egypt together with my husband Bernd.

„Together in Friendship“

Elisabeth



A little “ Hi ” from **NICOLE** who is with her husband in Beijing –China :

你好

DANIELLE'S TALE FROM A SPOOKY JUNGLE

HALLOWEEN PARTY IN BELGIUM!

As Immediate Past President of Agora I am enjoying the friendship and I am relaxing of last year's hard work! As we all know November is the month were ware remembering the death, but also a month of horror and scare.....!

I was invited by Désire Mornie, a member of Agora Club Roeselare-Houtland 6 in Belgium who thought that a Halloween party should bring friendship at his best!



We were expected around 18.30h were all witches, vampires, zombies and other creatures, met around the huge fires.... the first thirst was quenched with a good glass of champagne.

We took off around 19.30h for a 5km disguised walk in the fields and in dark of the night. I can assure you that walking at night with only the stars and a few little self made pumpkin lamps was creating a special atmosphere. A lot of dogs were barking because of the laughs and giggling... walking and dribbling in the mud and in the fields was fun and exciting !

Luckily the weather gods were good and around 21h we finally arrived back home were a warm homemade chestnut soup was awaiting us.

Super witch Désire invited us in her perfect decorated home.



A nice and tasteful dinner was awaiting and the virgin blood was served in huge quantities! It was a perfect night, a very warm thank you to Désire and zombie Dominique for that very special evening.



Agora is giving so many special moments in life, enjoy them and let us live every moment to the fullest. Every word, how little it might be, can be the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

My dear friends, cherish every moment in life it is worth living for.

Yours in international friendship,

Daniëlle Gardin

VEERLE'S TALE FROM A FAR FAR AWAY JUNGLE

PAST NATIONAL BOARD DINNER...A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE!

What do you get when several past national board members of LC Belgium reunite : lots of sentences which start with "do you remember...", lovely stories, pictures of GRANDchildren (oh yes!), lots of grabbing in handbags looking for reading glasses, some naughty jokes, some advice (we can't help it!), but most of all : lots and lots of laughter!

It has been a long and lovely tradition that each year, some day in autumn, the new IPP from LC Belgium invites "pasts" from LCB's national board for a nice meal, but most of all it is a happy reunion of Ladies (lots of them Agora members now!) who worked together on the National Board somewhere in the near -and not so near- past.

It is such a nice idea, and those who have been there do not want to miss it!

A great way to keep the bonds between Ladies' Circle and Agora Club warm and tight!

...maybe an idea for your country?

Lots of love, *Veerle*



NIKKIE'S TALE FROM THE CAKE BAKING JUNGLE!

A VERY SPECIAL FAMILY MOMENT

Making the Christmas cakes has always been a special time, in our family.

Over the past few years we have used my late mum's recipe and made a big family get together with the sisters, daughters and cousins, and my dad.

This year sadly will be the last for me with both my daughters as my eldest daughter Leigh-Anne and her husband are emigrating to Canada in January 2011.



My daughter Leigh-Anne



Me, my sisters and my Dad. My sister Taryn is secretary of our Agora Club N°2

However the wonderful news is that they are pregnant and expecting the baby in March next year.

How exciting for us all - my first grandchild!

And the very first baby to be born in Canada for the family.

Luckily for us Kelly (my cousin) and the Agora Club USA, No 1, isn't too far away in Seattle so she will have to play "Mum" for me!

So in 2011 lots of wonderful things happening !!!

Nikkie

International news



Half Year Meeting and Charter party in Hamburg!

Every year the first weekend in November AC Tangent Germany has its traditional HYM.

But this year we celebrated two events at the same weekend: HYM and **CHARTERPARTY** of the Hamburg Tangent Ladies.

Explanation: The Hamburg „girls“ got their charter document already in summer 2007 and promised us a „Big Party“ somewhere in the future...



About 45 Ladies, some husbands/partners, the national President of Ladies' Circle Germany Tanja Kracht with her husband and the Vice President of Old Tablers Germany Raphael Herbig with his wife (in total about 65 persons) came together in the old harbour town Hamburg for working, celebrating and for having fun.

We all met in the conference room of a tennis club nearby the very old and famous animal park „Hagenbeck“. All men and a few women gathered for a boat trip to Hamburg harbour. We ladies started with a delicious lunch before working hard for some hours during the afternoon and finished with a glass of champagne!!



After some relaxing time we all dressed for the **CHARTERPARTY** in „Lindner Park-Hotel Hagenbeck“ in *African Style*! It was really great!

Club President and National Secretary **Ingrid** welcomed us in the big and beautifully decorated hotel hall. After having a various cold/warm buffet the guests had the possibility for congratulations. We heard and witnessed a very humorous poem with Godmother **Steffi** and many other nice presentations.

All donations of that evening (550 €) were given for an animal godmotherhip to „Hagenbecks Animalpark“: www.hagenbeck.de.



And finally – LET'S HAVE PARTY!! Two solo dancers presented latin rhythms and „warmed us up“ for dancing as well. We finished late in early morning time.....

Dear Hamburg Ladies: we all enjoyed this fantastic and well organized weekend in wonderful locations!

*„Together in Friendship“
Elisabeth Hiller*





Some news from our soon-to-be member country USA!

Hello Agora Ladies

The USA ladies are so happy to be part of the Agora family and know that this is a wonderful continuation of friendships begun within Ladies Circle many years ago.

To give you a brief history, Mirela Luchian of Detroit, Michigan, started a Ladies' Circle in Detroit a few years back and continues with these friendships and to support them. Mirela was President of LC Romania and involved in her local cities clubs in her home country for many years before moving to the USA in 1999. Mirela has made many friendships worldwide and enjoyed many special and memorable times with ladies in various parts of the globe, and looks forward to the continuing growth and friendships within Agora.

Kelly Geisler of Seattle, Washington was introduced to Ladies Circle in South Africa while visiting family there in 1999/2000. Her cousin, Nikkie Grewar, encouraged her to start a Ladies' Circle in her hometown on her return, and so Seattle, USA was chartered in 2001. Many friendships have grown through the years and across countries and Kelly looks forward to continuing these lovely friendships in Agora also!

Detroit and Seattle have been busy emailing, chatting, and planning back and forth with discussion of cities, dates and events for the upcoming Agora chartering. We finally came to decide that we would really enjoy having a joint chartering of the two clubs in Seattle on Saturday March 26, 2011. This would give our USA ladies a chance to meet and form solid friendships and a foundation for continued growth of Agora in the USA!

We are busily making plans to make this a most enjoyable and memorable time for all of you and hope that you will be able to attend and celebrate this wonderful event with us!

A small taste of what we are considering for our charter weekend are a "Duck Tour" of Seattle, including a visit to the Space Needle, Pike Place Market, downtown Westgate and Nordstrom's shopping, some wine tasting, a tour of Tacoma, including the famed Museum Of Glass, and home to world renowned artist Dale Chihuly, and a bit of fun in the water!

Now some things may not make complete sense right now and we hope that we have peaked a bit of interest here! Please keep watch for upcoming information on our charter weekend and the fantastic fun times we have in store for you!

Until then, we wish you all a most wonderful holiday season full of love and memory making!

Cheers and Au Revoir!
Kelly Geisler & Mirela Luchian
Seattle Detroit



National and international charters:

- 20-11-2010 : AC Milano – Italy
- 19-03-2011 : AC Avesnes-Fourmies – France
- 26-03-2011 : AC Seattle + Detroit - USA
- 24-04-2011 : AC Namur Val de Meuse – Belgium
- 11-06-2011 : AC Gdansk – Poland
- 25-06-2011 : AC Tangent Main Metropolen

The ACI Directory 2010-2011 is coming your way soon!

Have a wonderful autumn season and remember:

**WE
AGORA
FOR IT ...
IN A CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS FOREVER**

Lots of love, Veerle