



## Newsletter issue 3 January 2018

Dear Agora friends,

Happy new year !! I sincerely wish that the year 2018 brings you joy and happiness.

One of the highlights this year is without a doubt the ACI 2018 Conference in Gent and you can really expect a great weekend surrounded by fun and friendship in the beautiful and romantic Gent.

Be „Very cool“/ „Vree Wijs”

María Erla,

ACI Secretary



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# New Years Greeting

## BYE BYE 2017!

Thank you to all of you who made my year a very special one, not only because I became last October the new ACI President.

Thank you to you who home hosted me during my different travels.

Thank you to you I met around the world,

Thank you to you with who I spent great time, gave so much for charity projects, learnt a lot, became better and had fabulous moments with lot of fun and laughter...

I will cherish all these special moments all my life!

## MORNING 2018!

Can't wait to discover new countries, meet amazing women, have new friends, share new ideas, events, charity projects and more that I don't know yet!

I hope 2018 will surprise us, give us the possibility to be better, to do more... with health, peace, love and happiness!



Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow.

On Behalf of the ACI Board 2017-2018, Anna, Ursula, Yvonne, Maria Erla and Veerle, I wish you and your loved ones an Happy new year bursting with Joy, roaring with Laughter and full of Fun!

*Isabelle*

# Isabelle's Introduction

My dear Ladies,

As my Motto for the year is "Let's Open our Eyes, Let's Open our Heart & Let's Do More!"

I wanted this third Newsletter, the first one for 2018, to be dedicated for **Charity**.

Of course, you will find a report about our Agora Club International Service Project, "Eyes For The World" written by our Convenors Veerle and Sandy, the new missions and more... but not only...

You voted during our last ACI AGM to continue to support the LCI service project, Happy Hearts. As I will visit the hospital for children with cancer at the beginning of February, I will make a report with pictures when I will come back... You will discover it in our NL4.

Well done Ladies! You organized amazing Charity Events in your countries since last October for your Local, National or International Service Project that it is a pleasure for us to share it through our NL3. ACI is really proud of you! I am proud of you!

Please continue to organize all these wonderful charity events to help others, continue to "Open your Eyes & your Heart & to Do More!"

Yours in Friendship and Love,

Isabelle



# Eyes for the world



## The Agora year 2017-2018 is proving to become another succesful International Service Project year

Eyes For the World has reached many Agora hearts; and floormembers, individual members and local and national Agora Clubs see the value and importance of helping people to have good eyesight.



Your two ISP conveners have worked hard to earn the trust you all gave us for managing this ISP for another 2 years, and we gave it our all to help and guide new potential projects with their questions : *how to start a project, how to organise and manage it in the schools, whom to involve, how to invite dignitaries, how to write press releases, etc etc*

The knowledge of problems on the ground we have gathered in the previous projects we guided, helps us in future decision making and planning - each country is different yet the problems they face are often the same.

EFTW itself is working closley with both Veerle and Sandy and our presence on the projects cements that good working relationship.

Result of this much needed moral and project support is that we have 3 great new projects in **Romania, Madagascar and Zambia!**





## **EFTW Mission Romania : 9th-14th of April 2018**

The project in Romania is new in every sense : it is the first ISP project in Romania, and in this case we will -next to schools- help elderly people in the remote villages around Brasov and Sacele. **Mihaela Cracana** and her AC 2 Brasov Club will be responsible for the project.

Mihaela : *"The population of my country decreased in last decades, young people looking for a better life are leaving the country, and a lot of old peoples remain often without help, with low incomes as pension that hardly cover costs of treatments , food and bills. For some of*



*them it is to expensive to buy glasses that might help them to increase the quality of their life helping them to solve things that long ago were not a problem like to read, to see to shave their beard or cutting the carrots, knitting, needlework or repair something in the house."*

## **EFTW Mission Madagascar : 3rd – 9th of May 2018**

**EFTW Mission Zambia : 1st week of July 2018** (exact date to be determined soon)

We highly commend our friends of AC Lusaka (Zambia) and AC Sariaka (Madagascar) to give their time and energy once more, to organise a second mission in their countries.

Both Sandy and Veerle have seen the absolute need for these spectacles in the rural schools. The living and health conditions in the remote areas in both countries are tough. These schools have little or no luxury, sometimes even without proper school equipment. So our work there makes an enormous difference in these children's life, in their future!



**Thank you** again dearest Agora ladies all over the world, for your kind service-mind, your belief in this worthy project, your continuous encouragement. It makes us SO proud to be part of such a wonderful service club!

Yours in Agora friendship,

**Sandy Van Niekerk and Veerle De Jonge**  
**ACI ISP conveners 2015-2019**



YOUR ACI ISP :



Making a difference in so many lives!

# German Convoy



16 years ago members of RT Germany built an educational center in Romania and brought Christmas gifts for children in need.

Today this project is organized side by side by RT, LC, 41 and Agora Club Tangent Germany. Year after year a growing number of kindergartens and schools are participating in this heartwarming project. Children pack Christmas gifts in shoe boxes for other children. These boxes are collected by volunteers of the four clubs RT, LC, 41 and Agora Club Tangent Germany and packed in large cardboard boxes and stored in warehouses. From there all parcels are transported to Hanau where they wait for their final destination in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Moldavia and Romania.

In 2015, as IPP of Agora Club Tangent Germany, I attended the departure of the convoy in Hanau in Germany and promised to be part of it as soon as possible. End of December 2017, I finally could keep my promise!





This year, the 17th **Christmas Parcel Convoy** started on the 2nd of December with **28 trucks, 6 busses and 8 other cars, vans or minivans** to Moldavia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania. On board **132.000 parcels and 236 volunteers** of the four German Clubs and a lot of supplies to feed the participants of the convoy during the long journey to the different destinations.



We had a stop every four hours for the drivers to take their turn, to have a snack and to fuel up the vehicles. On the way, the big convoy was separated in different parts to continue their way to the different destinations.



After more than 24 hours spent in the bus, we reached Brasov town.

At the warehouse, where we had to store our parcels, we were welcomed by representatives of RT, 41 and Agora Romania.

**I was so happy to meet so many ladies of Agora Brasov!**

**I cannot thank you enough, ladies, for your warm welcome!**



The following days, we constantly packed and unpacked and repacked vans and cars to deliver the parcels to schools and orphanages at two or three hours 'drive from Brasov.



The best part of the whole travel was the moment when we could meet the children and hand over the gifts personally. We had gifts for babies, young kids and teens.







I am very happy and grateful that I've got the chance to be part of this wonderful project which will forever stay in my heart and my mind. I saw the living conditions of some of these children and heard about the family backgrounds of others. It was heartbreaking to realize that kids have to live in homes without heating and current water and others had to beg for food until someone brought them to an orphanage where they found a warm home, instruction and food.

It was such a wonderful feeling to hand over so much beautiful gifts and to see all these happy little faces! I would have liked to be able to do more but I also felt it would have been a drop in the ocean. There is still so much to do!

What an experience, what a challenging and heartwarming adventure!







We did not sleep that much, we worked a lot and really had so much fun together!

We started in Hanau as strangers and came back as friends.



**Wonderful project and**

**A super team!**

**See you on**

**WPK 2018!**





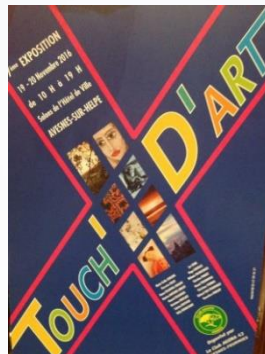


# Charity event AC France

## Club AGORA France

In October 2017 Agora Clubs in France had charity event by selling flowers, organize art exhibition and theater evening, participate in Christmas market and take part in walking race.

All the profit allowed the club to make donations to regional charities or the National Action with the Association "Solidary women" and also to cause like cancer and muscular dystrophy.





# BM2 and side by side party in Gozo

## Side by side....

A great start to the year by hosting the AC International Board in my lovely Gozo.







To celebrate this event, I thought it an opportunity to have an absolute First in Malta and invite the boards of **Ladies Circle Malta, Round Table and 41 Melita**, together with my **Agora Malta** friends to enjoy some side by side time together in a casual but great fun evening.









I'm so grateful that they took the time to come over to Gozo by ferry mid-week but I know that this is the beginning of a great side by side relationship. Till the next event...





# SIDE BY SIDE : 50th birthday of LC Belgium



October 2017 was a very special month for Ladies'Circle Belgium! They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the beautiful town Mechelen. LCB was founded by Jojo Struyven.

They also had a lot of foreign guests: Anna (LCI President), Marleen (The Netherlands) and Zoë Kate (GB&I) and many more.



During their Half term AGM several past presidents informed us about the working of LC in their decade.



And of course also present Agora Club Belgium : Danielle Gardin, Anne-Marie Delsaerdt and the Belgium national board.













# Funta & Cula



Every year RT Germany organizes the Funta & Cula. A week-end where Tablers and Ladies from all over Germany come together to take part in workshops to improve skills concerning tabling and circling life. The different tables offer regional specialties', food and beverages. This year the German **Funta & Cula** was combined with the French **CNR France**, which is a meeting of all French regions. A „crossing-boundaries-event“ organized by tablers of RT 25 in Friburg and their French counterparts.

The theme was **Black Beard, Black Forest and Black Tie**, which allowed different interpretations,- or black forest traditional costumes - or „Pirate“ costumes.



**Board of Agora Club Tangent Germany**

The „Pirate“-welcome party Friday evening was organized by French tablers in Guebwiller. The German lady- and tabler - pirates „boarded “busses to cross the boundary to France and to hijack the French Pirates. And I was one of them!



So many gorgeous and fun costumes, good French and Moroccan food! Every region presented specialties and it was absolutely delicious. One reason more for me to get homesick for my home country of heart!



The most visited stand was, without any doubt, the one of the Champaign region, the one I also preferred!

During the night, different busses brought the groups of happy and tired pirates back to Germany.



Next morning the meeting started in Friburg with speeches from the mayor of Friburg and the representatives of Round Table, Ladies Circle, Old Table and Agora Club Tangent Germany.

The organizing team presented the Christmas Parcel Convoy and the President of the RT foundation gave some information.

After the welcome ceremony ladies and tablers attended different workshops.



The boards of Old Tablers Germany and Agora Tangent Germany caught the opportunity to hold their board-meetings.



In the afternoon, I was invited to join in a panel discussion concerning „lighthouse projects“ in the four clubs LC, RT, Old Table and Agora Club Tangent Germany with other representatives of the four clubs and 41 International IPP Engelbert Friedsam.

What is a „lighthouse project“, who is the target groups of the different service projects of the organizations of the RT-family?

Does it make sense to have a common „Lighthouse project “on national and/ or on international level.

Many interesting questions which have been discussed and deserve to be discussed furthermore.



In the evening a „James Bond“ Gala was organized in Friburg with specialties of the German regions. It was the turn of the French „James Bonds“ to cross the borders to celebrate with the German tablers.



A really nice and well organized event! Well done, guys!

My personal highlight was the fact that I met my - nearly complete - „Christmas Parcel Convoy - Brasov -Town“ team!!

We had – once again - so much fun together and decided that we should make it for -at least- one more time in 2018!

Go for WPK Brasov.





# Agora 1 & Lady Circle Spittal – Side by side !

Offering of the receipt from the Lions-Christmas Market in Spittal:

Side by side we worked together at this market and got a great amount! We shared that receipt for overhanding!

€ 1.000,-- we proudly gave to an old age home for special supervisions and

€ 1.000,-- to a family in our region! Their daughter is 4 years old and has the West-Syndrome and needs special therapies!

We are very happy for our work and to be able to help!



## Lions Market December 2nd 2017

Every year the Lions Spittal celebrates this charity market in the castle Porcia! All charity clubs of Spittal take part and sell their self-made ware! So we do side by side with Lady Circle 5 Spittal!

And, on this day we had the honor to hand over an offering of € 750 to a mother and her handicapped child!





# Side by side meeting: Agora, Lady Circle & Round Table in Vienna

Many thanks to Stephie (LCA) and Julius (RTA) for this idea: Side by side meeting: Agora, Lady Circle & Round Table in Vienna! This charity event „Austern & Champaign“ – organized from RT 32 Austria was a very nice possibility to meet so many friends!

Vielen Dank an Stephie (LCA) und Julius (RTA) für die Idee eines side by side Treffens in Wien. Die Charity Veranstaltung "Austern&Champagner" von RT 32 war Treffpunkt und Gelegenheit viele Freunde zu sehen.

Liebe Grüße Gabi



# Agora Club 2 Brasov – 10th Anniversary

## 10-13 March, 2018

My dear ladies,

I renew my greetings and send best wishes for a Happy New Year, 2018!

For my club, AC2 Brasov, the highlight of this spring is the 10th Anniversary and we will be much honored to have you as guests on that occasion.

There is an event created on Facebook but also you'll find in attachment the invitation.

The price for the program is 185 eur, home hosting is offered, the transfer airport-Brasov (160km) is 40 eur.

Thank you in advance!

And don't forget, you are very welcome!

YIF,

Gabriela Abagiu, IPP AC2 Brasov & VP National Agora Romania

The image is a promotional flyer for the 10th Anniversary of Agora Club 2 Brasov. It features a background photograph of a group of women in traditional Romanian folk costumes. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top left is the logo for 'AGORA club nr.2 Braşov' with a crown icon. The main title '10th Anniversary' is in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the text reads: 'Please join us in celebrating a very special moment, the 10th anniversary of club AGORA No.2 BRASOV ROMANIA! 10-13 May 2018 BRASOV'. The flyer is divided into two columns: 'PROGRAM' on the left and 'EXTRA' on the right. The program lists events for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The extra section offers more information about staying longer and participating in workshops. At the bottom, it mentions that home-hosting is offered if preferred over a hotel or B&B.

**AGORA**  
club nr.2  
Braşov

## 10th Anniversary

Please join us in celebrating a very special moment,  
the 10th anniversary of club AGORA No.2 BRASOV ROMANIA!  
10-13 May 2018 BRASOV

**PROGRAM**

Thursday - 10.05.2018 - "FIRST SIGHT PARTY (or the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 3<sup>th</sup>, ..., the 10<sup>th</sup>...)"

Friday - 11.05.2018  
9:30 "Historic Transylvania Day Tour"  
19:00 "Traditional Diner"

Saturday 12.05.2018  
10:00 "Walking Tour of medieval Brasov"  
19:00 Gala Evening

**EXTRA**

If you'll be interested to know more about life in Romania you may stay 1-2-3 days more and we can offer you:

1. Romanian Gastronomic Workshop
2. Romanian Traditions Workshop
3. Romanian music and dance Workshop

For free, but the donations are welcomed!  
Home-hosting offered if you do not prefer a hotel or B&B



# Charter Haifa 16-19 February, 2018

**Haifa** is the city of tolerance.

**Haifa** is a city where seven different religions live in harmony:

Different cultures and different believes

**Haifa** is a city with spectacular vista, great beach, and Forest Mountains...

**Haifa** is known for the lovely Baha'i Gardens

*We are proud to be a part of this city*

*And a part of making it a better place!*

**After** many months of meetings

**After** hosting agora members from different countries that made life time friends

**After** serving our community proudly in the name of "Agora Club"



*We are proud to invite you all to*  
*The very special charter of*  
*“Agora Club Haifa”*

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of February

**16.2.2018**

Friday morning: Arrival and Getting to know Tel Aviv  
Friday evening: home party

**17.2.2018**

Saturday morning: A Visit to the authentic Druze village and to the colorful market  
Lunch with a Druze family.  
Saturday evening: Haifa at night at

**18.2.2018**

Sunday morning: a trip to the north of Israel  
Sunday evening: the charter

**19.2.2018**

Monday morning: a trip to Jerusalem  
Monday night: drop off at Ben Gurion airport

Price: 240 euro for 4 full days

Home hosting available

For more information please contact Yifat Rom

[yifatrom@gmail.com](mailto:yifatrom@gmail.com)

+972505411403



# Charter Casablanca 16-18 March, 2018



Save  
the  
Date

**CHARTER**

16-17-18 MARCH 2018

*Agora*  
Club Grand Casablanca 5



*Agora*  
Club Grand Casablanca 5

**WELCOME**  
*Party*

www.shutterstock.com - 706225641

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> march 2018 at  
08h00 pm: Ritual and tradition  
of Moroccan Wedding





## CHARTER CEREMONY CLUB AGORA CASA-BOUSKOURA 5 Saturday 17 march 2018

**09h30 am:** Welcome coffee

**10h00 am- 01H00 pm:** Charter Ceremony

**01h00 pm – 03h00 pm:** Lunch at Palmeraie Country Club

**03h00 pm:** Visit souk Habbous



PALMERAIE COUNTRY CLUB  
CASABLANCA



10 sur 12



**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> march 2018 at  
08h30 pm at Palmeraie  
Country Club**

**Fabulous, fantastic, a crazy  
night, the legendary party  
like Gatsby arrives at Club  
Agora Casa-Bouskoura 5.  
Immerse your self in our  
incredible universe**





11 sur 12



HOMEHOSTING OFFERED TO THE FIRST REGISTERED

PRETOUR ESSAOUIRA – MARRAKECH

Departure 14th march 2018

Return: 16 mach 2018

320 EUROS  
All inclusive

FULL PACKAGE  
WHITHOUT ACCOMODATION

230 EUROS

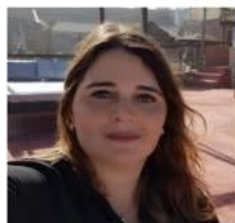
**Visit of Casablanca City + Lunch Couscous on Friday,  
+ Welcome Party + Discount of the Charte with  
Lunch at Golf Palmeraie Country Club + Gasby Party  
+ Brunch**



## CONTACTS



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Gsm : +212 – 661 173 273 ;  
[souadaoudi@yahoo.fr](mailto:souadaoudi@yahoo.fr)

Charter Blois 17 March, 2018



*The magical fairies  
of*



**AGORA Club BLOIS n°57**  
*have the pleasure to invite you to their*

*Charter*

*Saturday 17 march 2018*

## *Program*

### *Lunch*

*12h15 : Restaurant l'Annexe, 18 rue Denis-Papin, 41 000 Blois. Restaurant located in the heart of Blois.*

### *Charter*

*15h00 : Conseil Départemental du Loir et Cher, place de la république, Blois*

### *Gala dinner «Be magic»*

*20h00 : La guillonnière, 3 rue Jules Berthonneau, 41000 Blois*

*For all information : Chrystel +33 6 19 75 08 09/ Anne : +33 6 51 16 47 91/ Nicole : +33 6 37 35 26 57*





# Charter

## AGORA Club BLOIS n°57 Saturday, 17 march 2018

### Registration form

Name : ..... First name : .....

E-mail : ..... Phone : .....

Name	First name	Club	Lunch (25€)	Gala dinner (45€)	Pennant (O/N)	Total
TOTAL						

Attach a check payable to «Club Agora Blois 57», to return to the following address :  
Anne Guillard, 14 Tr rue Lavoisier, 41000 Blois, FRANCE

For all information : Chrystel +33 6 19 75 08 09/ Anne : +33 6 51 16 47 91/ Nicole : +33 6 37 35 26 57

Desired response before February 24, closing of reservations March 03, 2018.

# Charter De Kempe Netherlands 7 April, 2018



## Invitation

**The Agora Club De Kempen Ladies are honored to invite you to their upcoming charter on Saturday April 7, 2018.**

**Location: Hof van Solms, Koestraat 16, 5688 AH Oirschot, the Netherlands**

### **Program:**

#### **Part 1**

- 10.30 uur Welcome: coffee, tea, sweets
- 11.00 uur Official Opening of Agora Club De Kempen Charter
- 12.00 uur Installation, celebratory drinks and group picture
- 12.15 uur Lunch

#### **Part 2**

- 13.30 uur Presentation of Agora Club De Kempen
- 13.45 uur Performance by Karin Bloemen, Dutch comedian
- 14.30 uur Break
- 15.00 uur Performance by Vocal Group Just Us
- 16.00 uur Check Award Ceremony for our Charity Ruby and Rose
- 16.15 uur Closure

**We would love to have join us for this festive day.**

**Costs for joining a full day: €50. Costs for joining us half a day: €30.**

**Please register before March 1, 2018, by sending an email to:**

**agoraclubdekempen@gmail.com. Please mention your full name, name of your Agora Club, phone number, and please indicate any dietary requirements. We will send you an invoice upon your registration. After March 1st, tickets will be available to the general audience.**



 Chairman Eby de Beer: +31 (0)6-22 22 77 22

 [agoraclubdekempen@gmail.com](mailto:agoraclubdekempen@gmail.com)

 [AgoraClubDeKempen](https://www.facebook.com/AgoraClubDeKempen)





THE ACI 2018 CONFERENCE WEBSITE IS  
LIVE ON 2/2/2018

BE THE FIRST TO BOOK AND RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR A  
FANTASTIC WEEKEND IN BEAUTIFUL AND ROMANTIC GENT ...

*"The most authentic historic city in the world and full of life"*

According to National Geographic Traveler Magazine

Go to : [www.aci2018.com](http://www.aci2018.com)

 A banner for the 22nd Agora Club International Conference. The background is a scenic view of the medieval city of Gent, Belgium, with its historic buildings and a canal. Overlaid on the image is the 'VREEWIJS GENT 2018' logo on the left and a heart-shaped logo with the text 'LET'S OPEN OUR EYES LET'S OPEN OUR HEART' and 'ACI 2018-18 Let's do More' on the right. A large, pink, stylized 'WELCOME' text with a yellow smiley face in the 'O' is prominently displayed across the center. Below the image, on a green background, is the text '22nd AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE' and 'Gent Belgium 4-7 October 2018'. At the bottom, there are three circular logos: 'AGORA CLUB BELGIUM', 'REGISTER', and a globe icon. Below these logos is a paragraph of text inviting members to the conference.
 

22nd AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Gent Belgium 4-7 October 2018

On behalf of the National Board and all the members of **Agora Club Belgium**, it is our pleasure to invite you to **the 22nd World Meeting and Annual General Meeting of Agora Club International**.

The conference weekend will be held in - according to Lonely Planet (but also according to us ☺) - Europe's best kept secret : the medieval **City of Gent** !