

Be the Change through Positive Energy



Travel light, live light, spread the light,
BE THE LIGHT

Yogi Bhaajan

www.agoraclubinternational.com

5TH ISSUE

Even a small star shines in the darkness.

FINNISH PROVERB

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svn@mweb.co.za

Dear Friends,

This is a time of change and excitement with the reports of the past year coming in, new boards stepping forward in their time to serve, along with the reflection of the past boards and accomplishments during their year. It is incredibly encouraging and heart-warming at how many lives have been touched in so many diverse ways.

How fortunate this world is to have you and your kind giving hearts ~ you who step forward and say ~ **“Yes I can and I will do my best”**.



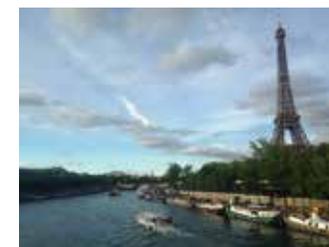
What more can we ask of one another than this ~ to say yes and then to take action ~ and then watch the beauty of that which unfolds in your love and your light!



“i imagine that yes is the only living thing.”

— E.E. Cummings

I had the opportunity traveling to the June ACI board meeting in Malta, to stopover in Paris, France. What a most wonderful time with one of our lovely ACI past presidents, Agnes Veille-Finet, and her charming husband, Jean Pierre, who opened their home to Elisabeth Steinacker and me, sharing their elegant and timeless city ~ renowned as “The City of Light” & “The City of Love” ~ an image and endearment that has endured over time and brought many to visit with their hearts and minds full of anticipation at her beauty and all she offers.



During the two night stop we enjoyed sharing stories and lovely meals in the home of Agnes & Jean Pierre,



Shopping in the local markets,



Dinner on the Seine while viewing the spectacular sites including Notre Dame the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and the Musée d'Orsay,



and a superb luncheon at the meeting place of Paris Club 50, Le Royal Villiers, with members Catherine, Patricia, Christine, Agnes, and Evelyn, joined by Agora National President Florence Lheritier, Francoise Perichet both from Dijon Club 42, along with AC France avid supporter of Agora projects for women in need, the lovely and charming singer ~Jil Caplan! What an absolute gem to have on their side to assist in fundraising and awareness of the ongoing needs of women in distress!



During our first tour day in Paris we even managed to meet up with Veerle de Jonge and Dirk Podevyn who happened to be in town! Isn't Agora wonderful!



On our last day in Paris, Elisabeth and I spent our last day shopping with Agnes and looking for treasures to take home, a little for ourselves in remembrance and a few for our loved ones at home!



Aux revoir beautiful Paris, I shall return to you soon I hope!

My next stop was beautiful Malta,



Where Anna Tabone and Susanne Micallef made sure the ACI Board had wonderful accommodations for their board meeting complimentary of the Language School Sue works for. What a generous gift to our board and so appreciated by all. So if you know of someone in need of learning English, we know a renowned school to send them to. And they take students of all ages, one of their most recent was a 94 year old gentleman!



We were taken care of with lovely evening parties in the homes of Anna Tabone,



Simone Busuttill



Each gathering, the meal we shared and the location of event was amazingly different in the variety of foods and the views we enjoyed. What fantastic hospitality!

Our board did manage a half day tour to Valletta



& Joanna Gatt.



and a tour of the island of Gozo



In between our meetings, which lasted all week and sometimes well in to the evenings.



We ended our stay on a very high note with attendance to the Agora Malta AGM,



What a well-deserved break for a hard working board!

Charter of Agora Club 2 Ta'Xbiex by Club 1 St. Julian's, and the Installation of Agora Club Malta's National Board!



Club 1 St. Julian's & National Board
Club 2 Ta'Xbiex

What wonderful events which were followed by an exquisite meal. We will fondly remember our brief yet fulfilling taste of your beautiful island of Malta ladies and look forward to our return! You have left us wanting more!

Final stop was a dream fulfilled to visit the beautiful city of Casablanca, Morocco with Sandy van Niekerk. While here we were cared for by Agora Club 1 President Narjisse Kaicer, who took us on daily tours, visiting many of the treasured sites of Casablanca including the Mosque of Hassan II situated on the waterfront,



What a wonderful giving lady is Narjisse to have shared so much of her time and self with us! We stayed in a lovely flat complimentary of member Sanaa Tamni.



We spent our first evening in magical Casablanca by breaking the Ramadan fast with a feast of flavorful dishes in the home of Lamia Hassani.



What a wonderful evening of friendship and sharing!



While in Casablanca we toured two projects, one is a Ladies Circle 7 project that Agora Club Morocco supports - a daily evening "break fast" meal for 500-1000 of the poor and underprivileged every evening during Ramadan. They also provide and serve these meals frequently throughout the year.



The following evening a gathering at La Terazza an oceanside restaurant with Agora Clubs to celebrate Hanane's birthday and to enjoy the beautiful light of the evening reflecting on the Atlantic Ocean and horizon.



Our final day began with shopping in the markets taking in all of the colours and fragrances of spices and teas,



Appreciating the handmade goods of woods and leathers, pottery and art



And the challenge and joy of bartering and a good bargain struck for both parties.

We ended the day at a senior facility where Agora Club Casablanca has installed air conditioning, painted and installed a big screen TV in the common area for the seniors. Here we enjoyed a “break fast” meal with the residents followed by a joyful love-filled energized celebration with singing and dancing!



This has all left me with such incredible joy and feeling so honored and privileged to be a part of this wonderful organization full of friendship & love!



Thank you so much Agora ladies and Ladies Circlers of Morocco, Malta and Paris for sharing your lives, your time and your love! What a precious gift! You have opened my heart and mind even more with your beautiful countries, your homes and your hearts! I shall treasure these moments always!



What an incredible feeling of love and warmth this left us with as we finished our evening in the home of Hanane Bidouj El Jassifi for a dinner and birthday celebration in her home.



Once again dearest friends, you have done much with your orders of the All4Nepal pins. How true to your word you all were in purchasing and supporting this cause.

As action and plans continue to help rebuild the schools,



Please take time to look for progress and updates as this joint initiative continues to evolve.



Please consider continuing your support on a monthly or as possible basis. With many we can do much, and it is those donations from the many that will make a huge impact and difference in those lives still in so much need. You can continue to purchase All4Nepal pins from your clubs, make your club or personal donation on the website ~ www.All4Nepal.org

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next conference in Brasov!



If you have traveled to Brasov before, you will know how lovely the people are, how vibrant the energy, how wonderful the hearts are and how beautiful the sites and still you are in for a lovely time with our ladies in Romania! It is so satisfying to know I am returning to what feels like a dear friend's home and share in making more beautiful memories for what promises to be a time of Fun & Mystery

I look forward to seeing you there! If you haven't registered yet, it is time!

Time for Brasov my friends!

See you there...and until then continue to Be the Light and generously share your gifts and time in a way only you know comes right from your heart!



*~In Love and friendship always~
Forever Young ~ Forever Friends*

Kelly

KELLY GEISLER
ACI PRESIDENT 2014/15

BAROMETER UPDATE

We are proud to present you with an update on our barometer. Thanks to the contributions of all members we recorded great results last year. And there is more to come... AC Botswana; SA; Romania and Morocco have been very active lately... so we will keep you informed. And of course... you keep us informed...

And check our Facebook page and website!

We received several reports from ACI countries. What a pleasure to read that Agora Club is worldwide active and trying to make a difference in people's lives.

- In Belgium Agora Club joined forces with RT41 and LC and distributed food to the homeless, in local projects of different clubs money was collected for the project 'Eyes for the world', Shelter houses for women, support of one –parent families, 'Think-pink' organisation, 'Finado' project in Ethiopia and many many others. Then there was a direct transfer to the ISP project and All4Nepal.
- AC France supported the project 'Solidarité Femme'
- AC Tangent Germany raised a lot of money for local projects such as food distribution to less fortunate and many charity organisations. They had a NSP together with Ladies Circle Germany and pledged a large sum for the ISP project.
- AC UK had a lot of local projects and had a "pink tea party" to raise money for research on breast cancer. And they donated to the ISP
- AC Morocco supported "Soleils d'Afrique" to help single parent families with clothing, blankets and many other things. They helped LC during the Ramadan to distribute food to the poor.
- AC USA raised money for local charities and donated to the ISP
- AC The Netherlands had several projects: Wish ambulance, Third World Foundation, Food for poor, a project in Bolivia and many hours of charity work...
- AC Lausanne had a local charity project
- AC Malta donated to the ISP project
- AC Italy raised a large sum for different charity projects
- AC Norway and AC Iceland knitted for premature babies in Africa.

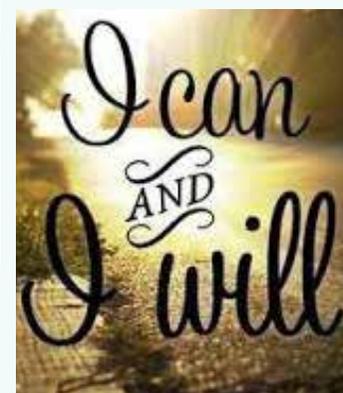
Well...and that is just what has reached us so far....and then there is still the many hours given by all you ladies to helping others...



I stopped looking for the light.
Decided to become it instead.



BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY.



FESTIVE OCCASIONS IN JUNE

Installation National Board of AC Malta

The ACI board had their board-meeting in Malta where they warmly welcomed by the Maltese ladies. During our stay they had the Charter of a second Agora Club in Malta an the installation of the national Board.



INSTALLATION NB MALTA AND BOARDMEETING IN MALTA



Charter of Agora Club 2 Ta'Xiebx by Club 1 St. Julian's, and the Installation of Agora Club Malta's National Board!



Club 2 Ta'Xiebx



Club 1 St. Julian's & National Board



We want to thank the Maltese ladies for their hospitality and the language school where Sue works for our fabulous lodging and the great organisation.



AC Botswana Charter

During the last weekend of June we welcomed a new member in our ACI family: **Agora Club Botswana** Chartered. It was an entertaining weekend and Godmother country AC South Africa joined in the festivities.



AC Botswana Charter

As proud Godmothers, we set off on 27 June to Charter a new Member Country – Agora Club Botswana. What a joyous occasion it was! At the meet and greet dinner on Friday night, we were treated to tasty snacks and a delicious meal. Lasting friendships were soon founded as we huddled together around heaters and under blankets, engaged in warm conversation to keep the winter chill at bay.



Love was overflowing at the Charter Ceremony on Saturday morning with beautifully written letters of welcome and encouragement from many member countries, warm heart-felt speeches from councillors and service clubs and gracious acceptance speeches from our dear new sisters.



After such an auspicious occasion, it was only fitting to visit the Orphanage where Agora Club Botswana take care of nine orphaned children. Our respect for our new godchildren grew. The love that these children showed for their caregivers was a joy to behold.



Thai Cuisine was on the menu for lunch where we got to know each-other more intimately, sharing stories, family photos and email addresses.



The Gala Dinner was a grand occasion. Everyone looked so beautiful, the food was sumptuous and the rhythm of African music set the perfect vibe. The President of Botswana Inner Wheel gave a very encouraging speech, congratulating Agora Club Botswana for all they have achieved in such a short space of time.

For Friendship, Love and Respect – these words on the Agora Club Botswana logo were certainly held true during their charter weekend. Welcome to the family Agora Club Botswana, we know you are going to be a beautiful bright light in your country.

With love and friendship from your Godmother Club – Agora South Africa





AC Botswana Charter

And then we had several AGM's too...

Kelly attended the AGM in the US, Sandy in SA, Thanh Thao in Italy, Martine in France and Karin in The Netherlands and Belgium.

AGM in Rovato Italy

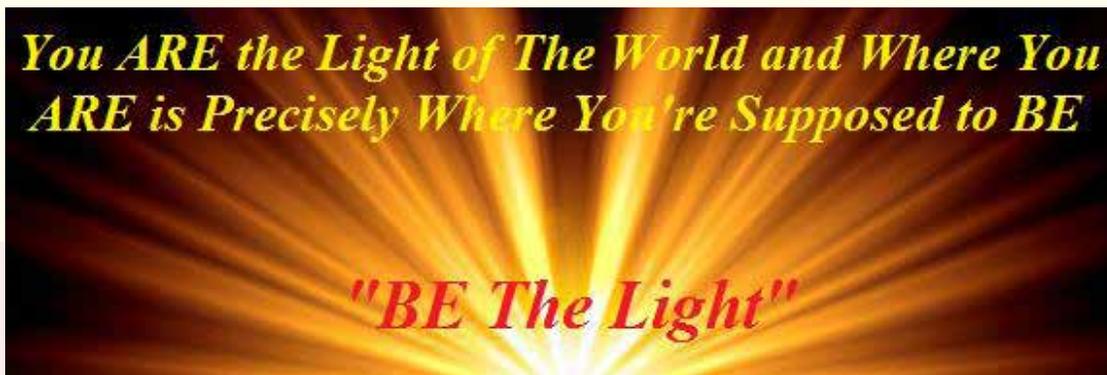
The AGM in Rovato from 22 to 31 May has entered the history of Four Clubs One Vision: it was the first time that Italy had organized a joint AGM of 41Club, Ladies' Circle, and Agora Club. It is the demonstration that Italy firmly believes in the positivity and in the striking force of this union.

'Beautiful' and 'meaningful' are the proper adjectives to describe this event.

It was beautiful because we enjoyed fine weather, delicious food, super wine and breathtaking landscapes. The program was so rich and varied: it included tours to visit Bergamo, Brescia, Mantua, Milan, Lake Iseo, and famous wine cellars such as Berlucchi, Cà del Bosco.



BANNER EXCHANGE



CLUB 41 MEMBERS

But above all, it was beautiful because on that occasion we all rejoiced at the explosion of friendship. We met and greeted old friends, we struck up new friendships, we exchanged circling experiences. This spirit of friendship was joyfully and vibrantly manifested through banner exchange.

It was beautiful also because we elected passionate and enthusiastic Members of National Boards: Domenico Vannicola, President of 41 Club Italy; Diana Brioschi, President of Agora Club Italy; Lorenza Romano, President of Ladies' Circle Italy.



BOARD MEMBERS

It was meaningful because amidst joy, laughter, and abundance, we didn't forget our friends in Nepal who have been struggling hard between life and death after the earthquake.

As we all know, Round Table International, Ladies' Circle International, Agora and Tangent Clubs International, 41 Club International, and WoCo Foundation have been working out an ALL4NEPAL pin: the proceeds of its sale will be entirely donated to the reconstruction of some schools in Nepal.

Italy, thanks to the help of Christoph Weismann, was among the first countries to have this pin to share during the AGM.

The ALL4NEPAL pin was at the center of our interest, I should say.

I put that pin on my jewel. I felt moved and proud. And more than ever, I am convinced that the spirit of friendship imbued in Four Clubs One Vision can work wonders, in other words, can embellish our world with smiles.

Finally I deeply thank 41 Club Italy, Agora Club Italy, and Ladies' Circle Italy, for having, once again, enriched my circling life with joyful and warm memories.



And this wonderful and delicious cake says all!

In friendship

Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI Vice President
2014-2015

AGM Netherlands



KARIN AT AGM AC THE NETHERLANDS



CHRIS HELSEN AC BELGIUM AND CARLA KESSLER AC THE NETHERLANDS



THE OUTGOING BOARD OF AC THE NETHERLANDS

THE BELGIAN DELEGATION WITH AC THE NETHERLANDS PRESIDENT CARLA

AGM Belgium



THE NEW BOARD OF AC BELGIUM MARLEEN, YVONNE, CHRIS, PASCALINE AND INGRID



KRISTEL COCQUYT, PRESIDENT LC BELGIUM WITH PASCALINE AND CHRIS OF AC.



CHRIS, KARIN AND PASCALINE.



THE NEW BOARD OF AC BELGIUM MARLEEN, INGRID, CHRIS, PASCALINE AND YVONNE

AGM Belgium



THE HAPPY DELEGATION OF RT AND 41 AT AGM AC BELGIUM



KARIN, ANNEMARIE & VEERLE ON FRONT ROW AT AGM



MEMBERS OF AC13 NAMUR VAL DE MEUSE



MEMBERS OF AC7LOKEREN

AGM South Africa



AGM France



AGM AC FRANCE



AGM AC FRANCE HANDING OVER OF CHEQUE OF 15.000 EUROS



AC FRANCE AGM ISABELLE SEGUINOT ET MARTINE MONZO

Les voiles de l'espoir



2015
8^{ème} édition

Du 26 juin au 4 juillet
Une semaine pétillante en Champagne

Armel Le Cleac'h
parrain de la 8^{ème} édition

TABLE RONDE
PROTECTION ET INNOVATION SOCIALES

KLÉSIA
LA BANQUE QUI DONNE ENVIE D'AGIR

AC France and AC Casablanca helped Side by Side with Ladies Circle , Round Table and 41 to the great event "Les voiles de l'espoir " in France to bring joy and happiness to children suffering from leukaemia, by initiating them into the pleasure of sailing. This event is organised by the French RT with the participation of many clubs from France, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco.



LES VOILES DE L'ESPOIR

Belgium 4 C1V Dinner

In Belgium 4 C1V had his yearly dinner.

It was a huge success thanks to the efforts of RT Belgium IPP Xavier Velghe and the organisation by Jan Colson of 41 Club Belgium



4C1V BELGIUM (JAN COLSON AND HIS LADIES)



4C1V (2 AC DELEGATION)



DELEGATION OF LC AT 4C1V



**4C1V BELGIUM DANIELLE GARDIN
TREASURER OF 4C1V**



4C1V



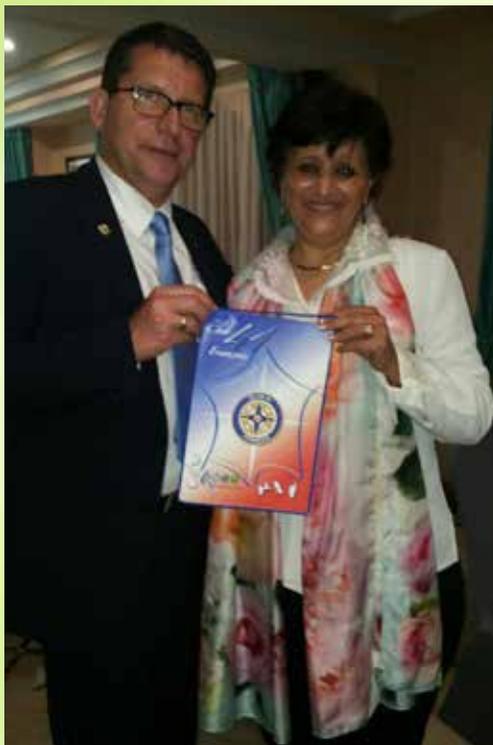
**XAVIER VELGHE IPP RT WITH AC AND LC
LADIES**

Casablanca

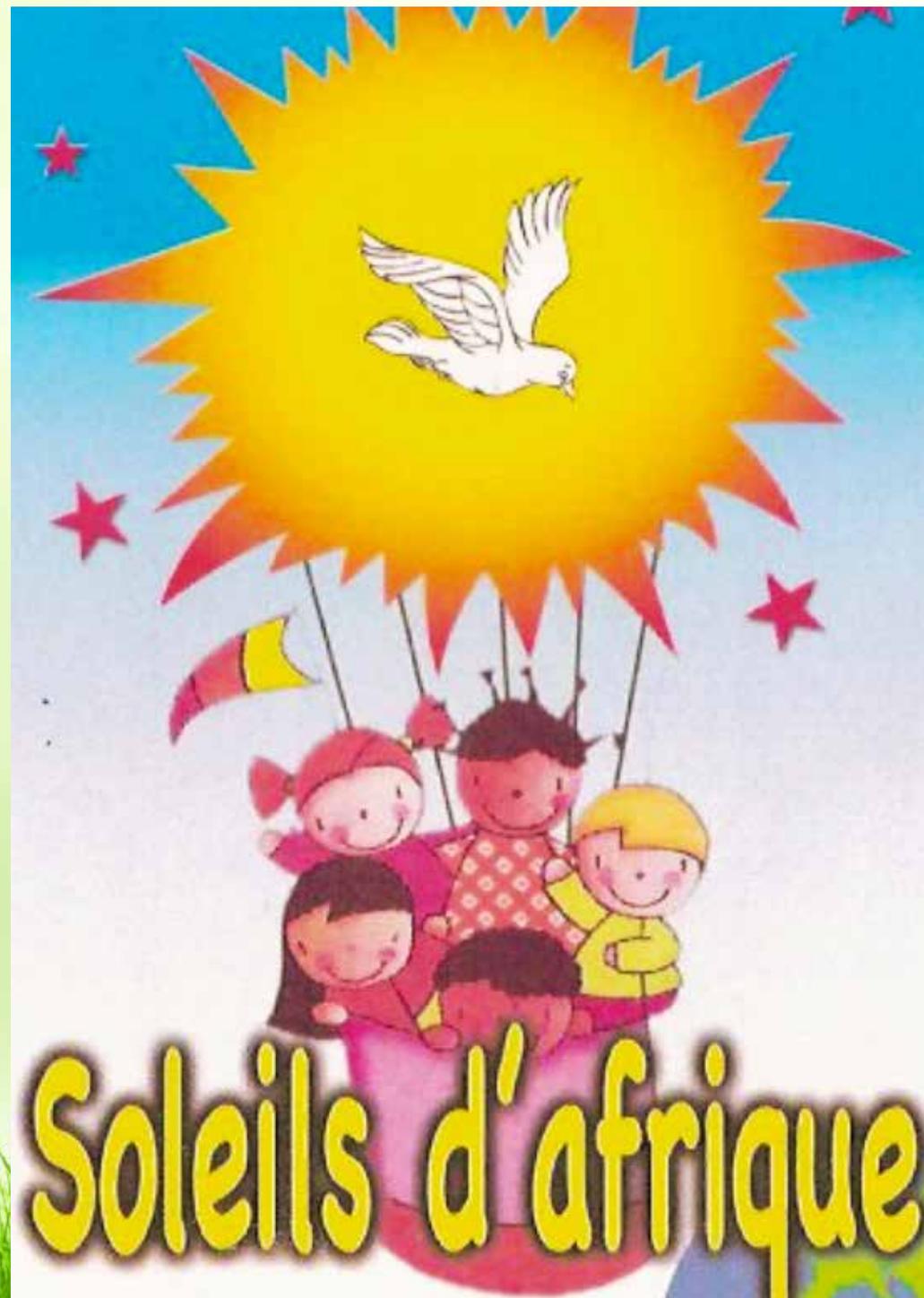
AC Casablanca and LC Casablanca worked side by side during the period of "Ramadan" to distribute food to the less fortunate.



AC CASABLANCA ATTENDING CHARTRE LC



ATTENDING 10TH ANNIVERSARY 41 C BY AC CASABLANCA



DELEGATION LC BELGIUM & AC BELGIUM VISIT

ISP Project



ACI supports the ISP project of LCI

This year 10.000 euro was given by ACI; AC Tangent Germany pledged 2253 euros and AC Belgium donated 6890 euros directly to LCI. In January, a delegation of LC and AC Belgium visited Cambodia and the Children of the dump project.

Another great example how we can make a difference if we join forces.

CHILDREN OF THE DUMP - CAMBODIA



LET'S UNITE AND GIVE HOPE TO THE NEPALESE PEOPLE; HELP THEM TO REBUILD THEIR COUNTRY



donate on : www.all4nepal.org
or order the "All4NEPAL" pin



All4Nepal is a joint venture of Round Table, Ladies Circle, 41 Club, WoCo Foundation, Tangent and Agora Clubs to get resources and relief when and where it is needed to the people of Nepal. Round Table and Ladies Circle of Nepal are coordinating relief hands on where it makes a difference!

The long term plan is to help rebuild schools and so invest in the youth and the future of Nepal.

The reason for building schools is:

- * It is for the community not for individuals.
- * Schools can be used as shelters at night for those who are homeless.
- * Kids who stop going to school now may never return to school.
- * Provides stability for youth that have been traumatized by the devastation and uncertainty and even death of loved ones and friends.

* When kids go to school parents are free and can involve in productive work.

Our aim is to build 100 classrooms and 50 TLC's (temporary learning centres). We have chosen Nuwakot which is about 2 hours from Kathmandu, as its one of the most affected areas not too close to Kathmandu but not too far as well. We have to build schools as per design approved from govt, also we need to build schools after receiving permission for DEO (District Education Office). Schools are scheduled to start from 31st of MAY and we are already falling behind.

Photos included are some of the building projects that have started and of the devastated areas.

You can still visit the website All4Nepal and make donations.



Let's unite and give hope to the Nepalese people; help them to rebuild their country

You can donate funds directly to this ground zero effort on the established joint initiative website www.all4nepal.org All4Nepal pins are also available for purchase to help support this cause. Please visit the website often to see your funds in action and we encourage you to continue to give what you can when you can.

Round Table Nepal's TLC Being built at Shivalaya School in Nuwakot. The outer structure is ready and surely looks sturdy as these metal frames are safe during Earthquakes.



*Give light,
and the darkness
will disappear
of itself.*

Desiderius Erasmus



DATES TO DIARISE

18 AUGUST 2015	Installation National Board AC Iceland
19-23 AUGUST 2015	LCI AGM Akureyi-Iceland
12-16 AUGUST 2015	RTI AGM Visby-Sweden
05-07 OCTOBER 2015	Board meeting 5 in Ostend Belgium
8-10 OCTOBER 2015	ACI AGM in BRASOV ROMANIA

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer



AC LC BOTSWANA PHOTO AT AGM LC



AC LC BOTSWANA

ROMANIA

Time to register for our World conference!



the 19th Agora Club International
Conference

8-11 oct. 2015
Brasov, Romania



Welcome!

8-11 oct. 2015
Brasov, Romania

We hope to provide a meeting point where all participants will have the opportunity to take contact with many AGORA friends, to share together ideas, friendship and fun.

Also we want to show you a few glimpses of our beautiful country!
So, don't hesitate, join us in October 2015 in ROMANIA!

Lots of love,
AGORA CLUB ROMANIA

Contact:
Angela Micu - AGORA club national president
micuangel@yahoo.co.uk

Sorina Barbu - AGORA club national vice president
sori_no@yahoo.com

Simona Centiu - Conference Convenor
simona.centiu@yahoo.com Phone Nr.: 0040 744 538 147

Fun
&
Mystery





Program

08 October 2015 - Thursday

Pre Tour - Sinaia Resort – Peles Castle – Royal winery

09 October 2015 - Friday

International Board meet & greet – Registration

09.00 - 13.00 – Trip at Bran “Dracula’s castle” for Councillors

14.00 - 17.00 Councillors Meeting at Hotel Alpin

14.00 - 18:00 – Trip at Bran “Dracula’s castle” for Non Councillors

19:30 - Welcome Traditional Romanian Party

10 October 2015 - Saturday

09.00 - 14.00 - AGM

09.00 - Trip at Sinaia & Peles Castle Wine tasting at
Royal Winery – Halewood (for partners)

14.00 - 15.00 Lunch

15.00 - 18.00 Brasov City Tour

19:00 - Presidential Drink at Aurelius Hotel (for Councillors)

20:00 - GALA DINNER - the official banner exchange

11 October 2015 – Sunday

9.30 - Post Tour - Sighisoara & Viscri Village



INFORMATION

Personal information	
Name	
Partner Name	
Country / City	
Club / Function	
Email / Phone	

Arrival / Departure information			
Arrival date		Departure date	
Flight		Flight	
Arrival Time		Departure Time	
Otopeni - Poiana Brasov	yes / no	Poiana Brasov - Otopeni	yes / no
(number pers.)		(number pers.)	
** Bucharest airport Otopeni is situated at 165 km from Poiana Brasov, 3 hours drive, transfer price Otopeni – Poiana Brasov – Otopeni - 40 € / person			

Accommodation in Poiana Brasov			
Conference Hotel Alpin 4* - BB		check in	check out
single / night - 55 €			
double* / night - 65 €			
Hotel Miraj 4* - BB		check in	check out
30 rooms			
single / night - 29 €			
double* / night - 38 €			

CONVENOR: SIMONA CENTIU - simona.centiu@yahoo.com

All confirmations should be received by Elena Rosu only on : agorabrasov@yahoo.ro

All services(accommodation, transfer, trips, conference)should be paid in the bank account

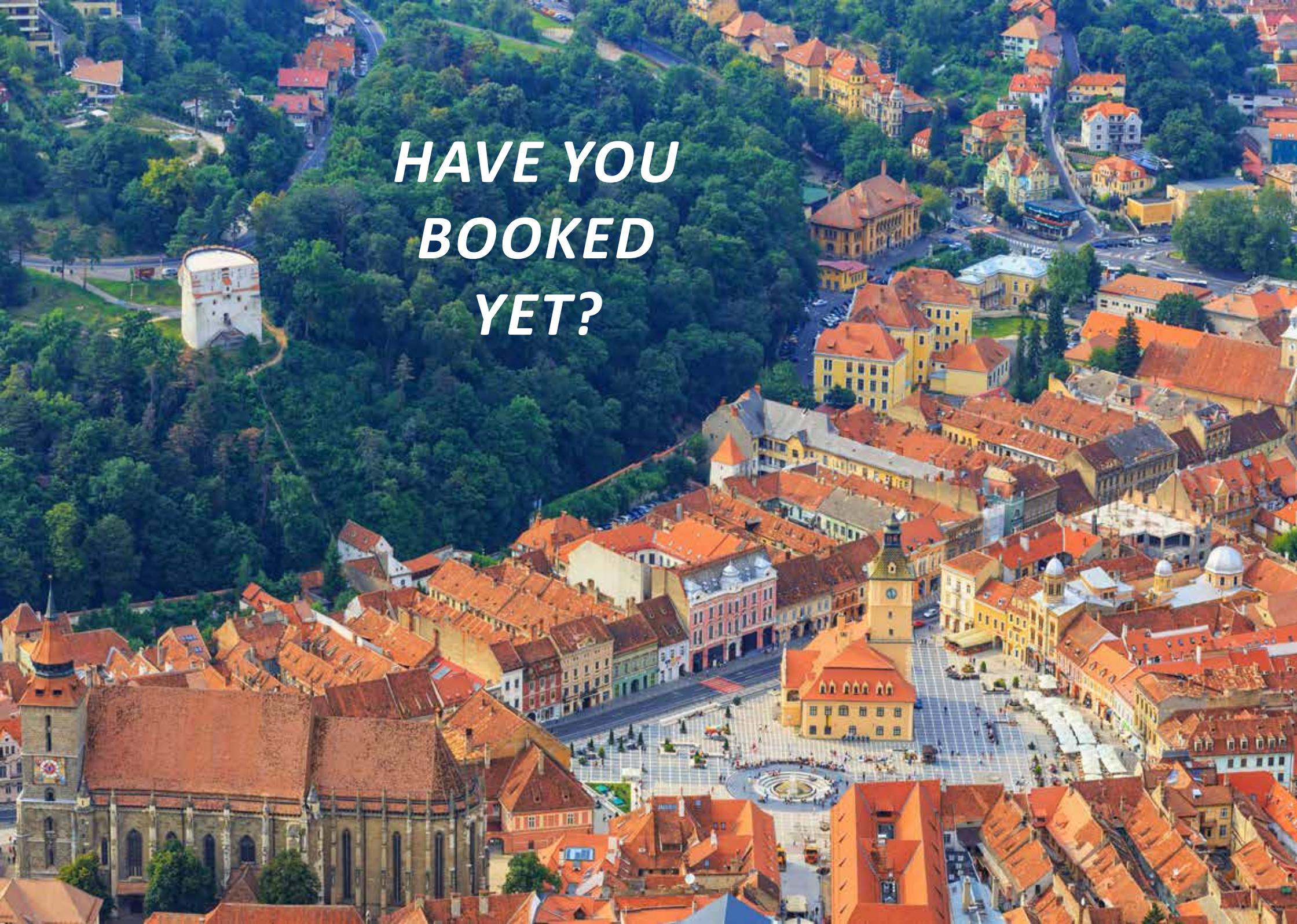
Deadline for registration & payment is 08.09.2015.

Events / Costs	Price	Nr.	Total
08 October 2015 - Thursday / Pre Tour			
Sinaia Resort - Peles Castel - Royal Winery (with lunch) 09:00	45 €		
09 October 2015 - Friday			
Trip at Dracula Castel 09:00 and 14:00	35 €		
Registration at hotel Alpin 12:00 – 19:00			
Traditional Romanian Dinner at Hotel Alpin 19:30	45 €		
Councillors Meeting (coffee break) 14:00	10 €		
10 October 2015 - Saturday			
AGM Conference & Coffee break included Hotel Alpin 09:00	20 €		
Lunch at Hotel Alpin Poiana Brasov 14:00	20 €		
Sinaia Resort - Peles Castel - Royal Winery (with lunch) 09:00	45 €		
Brasov City Tour 15:00	15 €		
Gala Dinner at Hotel Aurelius Poiana Brasov 20:00	85 €		
Packs			
Councillors from Friday afternoon till Saturday night	180 €		
Non Councillors from Friday evening till Saturday night	170 €		
11 October 2015 - Sunday / Post Tour			
Trip to Sighisoara & Viscri Village (with lunch) 09:00 – 17:00	50 €		
TOTAL conference costs			
TOTAL with accommodation and transfer (if needed)			
Payments	Name:	AGORA 2006	
IBAN: RO48BRDE080SV37013200800 - EUR	SWIFT:	BRDEROBU	

Fun & Mystery



***HAVE YOU
BOOKED
YET?***





DON'T MISS THE SUNDAY POST-TOUR



FUN AND MYSTERY FOR EVERYONE...



See
you in
Brasov!