

Be the Change through Positive Energy



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

Yogi Bhaijan

www.agoraclubinternational.com

6TH ISSUE

Even a small star shines in the darkness.

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Like all good things in life, things must come to an end. But every end is a new beginning and so it is embraced with hope and anticipation for all it has to offer in the new challenges and growth that awaits. This has been a wonderfully blessed year for me but there have been times along this road when I have struggled due to challenges

in my personal life with illnesses and deaths of loved ones. I know this is true for many of you too my friends and it is never easy, but life does move forward and we never forget those that we have lost and carry the best of them with us always. Life will never be the same without them, but it can still be good. I lost my beautiful *Uncle Paul West* just before my recent trip. *Uncle Paul* was my son *Paul's* namesake and called *GrandPaul* by my boys *Paul & Liam* since they were very young. *GrandPaul* was my mother's brother and father to my cousins *Nikkie Grewar, Taryn Galbraith and Sally du Plessis*. He was a wonderful grandpa, great-grandpa and friend to many, incredibly loved and will be incredibly missed. If I had to choose a father other than my own, this is the man I would want to call my dad, for his integrity, honesty, humor, his quite strength and powerful love.

Everyday is a new beginning
Treat it that way
Stay away from what might have been and
look at what can be

Covers @ FirstCovers.com



Let us always remember to let those we love, know that, for tomorrow may not bring another chance. Although saddened by our loss and their absence from our lives, we are so blessed that we had the privilege to love them and have them in our lives, many never have this chance and so we count our untold blessings for their presence and impact in our lives.

I struggled a bit in Iceland, having just received the call shortly after my arrival that my mother *Theresa's* fiancé *Terry*, and a dear friend to our family for decades, had just had a heart attack, was in the hospital and now would require quadruple bypass heart surgery to survive. Well *Terry* came through, has rallied and now is gaining from strength to strength in rehabilitation and should be headed for home in a couple of weeks with a stronger heart and I expect many good years to come. Standing strong together again *Terry & Terry*, lovingly named *TnT* for their dynamite love found in these latter days of honeymooning into the twilight years.

Life is always good, no matter what she offers, we take it and we do the best with it. We cannot appreciate the beautiful life we have without being challenged, we cannot come through the darkness without reaching in and out to find the light in our lives! And always in life we count our blessings for our struggles dim in comparison to many.



What a blessing to be surrounded by all of my lovely Agora friends during these times and always. You truly are my sisters for my lifetime and I appreciate the care and love from all of you!

I arrived in Iceland in the early hours of the morning of August 18 for the installation of their National Board to be held later that evening. I was whisked away by *Dagny Leifsdottir* from the airport to the warmth and welcome of my home host *Helga Hauksdottir*. *Helga* was wonderful and as usual with our Agora families, I felt so welcomed and right at home! I was soon greeted by *Mirela Luchian* from Agora Detroit, USA and also staying with *Helga*.



I was supposed to have a bit of a rest after traveling, but was far too excited to be with my Agora friends in this incredible land and so soon we joined up with our lovely friends *Veerle de Jonge* and *Karin Chaffart*, staying with *Dagny*.

Our adventures ranged from walking on glaciers...



To bathing in the Blue Lagoon, and partaking in the healing elements....



Climbing atop architectural wonders outside....



To the lava fields ...we shared in the wonders of this land....



And inside....



and celebrated the reason we were all here - to share in the exciting event, ***The Installation of the National Board of Iceland!***

Lighting the Candle of Friendship and opening the ceremony



And presenting the president's jewel to *Dagny*



Agora Club Iceland National Board: Maria Erla Hilmarsdóttir, Gudrun Gunnarsdóttir, Dagny Kaldal Leifsdottir, & Herdís Anna Friðfinnsdóttir

Such a lovely time we shared not only during the official events but during the entire time on this incredible island. The welcoming and warmth of the people so graciously sharing this incredibly interesting and unusual land with its moonlike feel in some places and in others seemingly familiar with rolling pastures, hills, mountains and cliffs reaching down to beaches of sands and lava. To have such diversity surrounding you on every turn, to be able to travel from north to south and witness the change in landscape was quite dramatic and amazing.



We found some trolls along the way!



We ventured north to Akureyri for the LCI Conference.

Here we were hosted by our lovely friend *Ágústa Ólafsdóttir* and her delightful husband *Gummi*. *Dagny*, *Mirela* and I all stayed here together and had such a wonderful time sharing our stories and time together and when not attending an official event, sharing the beautiful setting of Akureyri, with the warmth and ambience known to ski villages, from the snow and slopes above to the waterfront below with cruise ships and humpback whales waiting to share their tales and tails!



Ágústa & Dagny – shopping time in Akureyri!



The lovely Christmas Garden



Enjoying a treat of candied apples



More shopping joined by small trolls and large trolls....



Kelly, Dagny, Mirela and our hostess Ágústa getting ready for the home party and the beginning of more festivities with Ladies Circle!

What a spectacular job Ladies Circle did from the beginning of the Opening Ceremony with guest speaker, *Vigdís Finnbogadóttir* former president of Iceland and the world's first democratically elected female President to the culminating event of the Gala Dinner with a local guest singer and entertainer! I felt in awe the entire time of this extremely well organized event, their use of technology from drones flying overhead to the welcoming ceremony to viewing the fun and eventful times we shared on the screens from the first hellos to our farewells! Well done ladies! Such a special time to share with *Chantess Wiggill*, her board and all of the lovely ladies and some gentlemen that came along to share in the culminating event of LCI's year!

Opening Ceremony



with Ladies Circle New York *Princess and Sandy*, and AC USA Detroit members *Mirela Luchian and Anca Nastasa*, AC USA incoming president

Parade to Welcome Party



With *Mirela, Anca and her sister-in-law Manuela Iacob*



With the LC-USA ladies *Princess and Sandy!*

At the LCI AGM



With lovely *Chantess Wiggill* at the LCI AGM, in her culminating event of the year! Such a lovely lady and what an inspiration to all of us to encourage one another, empower those in need and enjoy this precious life together!



Incoming LCI President *Ruth Hungwe* is sure to be a grand diplomat following in the footsteps of an incredible mentor!



Newly elected LCI VP *Gry Haugen* and IPP of LC Denmark. We wish you all the best Gry!



I had a moment on stage...such an honor and a thrill! But even more so wonderful to be joined by my friend and TCI official and member *Janice O'Neill*



And then to present the ACI 10,000 Euro check to LCI President *Chantess Wiggill* for the ISP- Children of the Dump! You ladies have really opened up your hearts!



At the end of the official meeting the group of representatives of all organizations were asked on stage to receive a lovely gift from the South African ladies – a beautiful clock keeping time and encouraging all to venture to the next LCI conference in Cape Town! Now that will be a wonderful adventure!

What a beautiful Gala Dinner with all of the lovely ladies and lights... the wonderful entertainment and the delicious meal! Yes the evening did end with much dancing and laughter! All of the ladies enjoyed the festivities...



With *Ladies Circle USA*



New AC Iceland National Boardie *Herdis Anna* with *Ágústa*



LC Iceland President *Ester Hjartardóttir*



Joined by *Anca Nastasa* incoming AC USA President at Gala



Sharing a moment with *Chantess Wiggill*

With a pit stop in UK to regroup and refresh at family home near London, I also had the opportunity to meet up with *Janice O'Neill*, TCI member and UK representative at the LCI Conference. *Janice* and I had the opportunity to chat and even shared the stage at the LCI conference. In London it just happened she lives quite near my family so we enjoyed a nice lunch together, filled with incredible laughter and so we look forward to many years of shared friendship and interests. We are all so truly blessed to have such strong and wonderful comrades in this world, with whom we can join together in likeminded ambition to strive to bring some goodness together into this world while sharing and continuing in friendship together.



Met up with *Virginia West* at Heathrow, on her way to a family wedding and on return to New York City plans to get *Agora* established there and connect with Ladies Circle and Round Table New York!



So we had to have a little lunch and much laughter together!

It was a lovely but brief time in the UK, then off to Norway, my final destination on this excursion!



With *Hildur Halldórsdóttir*, LCI Conference Convenor and incoming LCI Weblady



Janice O'Neill lived right down the road from family near London!



My stay in Norway although a brief 2 ½ days, was jam packed and action packed the entire time! *Tone Wølstad-Knudsen* and her husband *Stig* graciously home hosted me and much to my pleasure they share their home with a beautiful dog *Mira* who made me feel completely at home!



With *Tone, Stig and Mira*



From the moment my feet touched the ground in Norway we were on a tour of the local countryside from the seas to the mountains, from ferry rides across the seas to quaint villages filled with local artists work to unknown roads with beautiful growth and old buildings.



Touring with *Tone, Aina & Anita*



Tone, Aina and Anita were marvelous tour guides!



Found a comfy seat at a restaurant on our travels

Anita Figved was our narrator of local lore and history and driver and navigator along with *Aina Hodnefjell Østerhus*. We were joined on our journeys the second day by *Kari Ødegård Aas & Elen Thon Østbø*.



We managed to do a little shopping in *Aina's* shop where she handcrafts candles and shares the work of local artists



We found the most beautiful sandy white beaches in *Åkrasanden* at *Karmøy* was voted the most beautiful beach in Norway in 2014!

What a wonderful way to end each beautiful day, in the home of another friend. The first evening was spent on the beautiful seaside farm home of Ladies Circler *Irja Marie Stenby*. I had met the lovely gregarious *Irja* during the parade of Ladies Circle countries to the opening ceremony. For those that did not know Ladies Circle New York is chartering March 10-13, 2016 with Norway as their godmother! Much to my delight Agora Club New York has plans to charter around that same weekend!



Welcomed in *Irja's* home to vibrant conversation and a delicious spread!



The second evening following the wonderful honour and surprise at our being received in the offices of the Mayor of Karmøy's, *Aase Simonsen*, and right hand *Nina Ve Sæbø*, we dined in *Nina's* home in Kopervik a lovely setting above the sea, and to our delight our meal prepared by her chef husband!



With Mayor of Karmøy *Aase Simonsen*, *Elen, Kari, Aina & Tone*



Anita & Nina Ve Sæbø



Aase, Elen, Kari, Aina & Tone

So my friends this is the love of Agora This is the organization that we so lovingly treasure and share together...and my friends this is the last newsletter of this Agora year. What? Did I really hear those huge sighs of relief? Yes I know I have been wordy, believe me I have tried to write less, but it seems such a struggle for me that I have just given in! I have shared myself and thoughts with you in hopes that we would all know each other a little better, and understand that we all have our strengths and weaknesses, challenges and triumphs, and that we are all connected! I hope in this wonderful year that you have felt a stronger and closer relationship with this world, to those friends and family that surround you, and to the Agora family which gives us all a wonderful place to meet and share. With Agora we can continue in the friendships that began all those years ago, persevere through the challenges of this world and help build a stronger tomorrow together, along with our affiliated organizations and friends. My friends this year may be ending, but we are at the beginning of a new and wonderful year ahead!



Let us always feel the wonder of our love and care, the kind and loving hearts and compassion that we have for one another, and especially for those less able to stand up strong for themselves. Let us continue to carry forward in this new year, stronger together and

~ *Forever Young - Forever Friends* ~

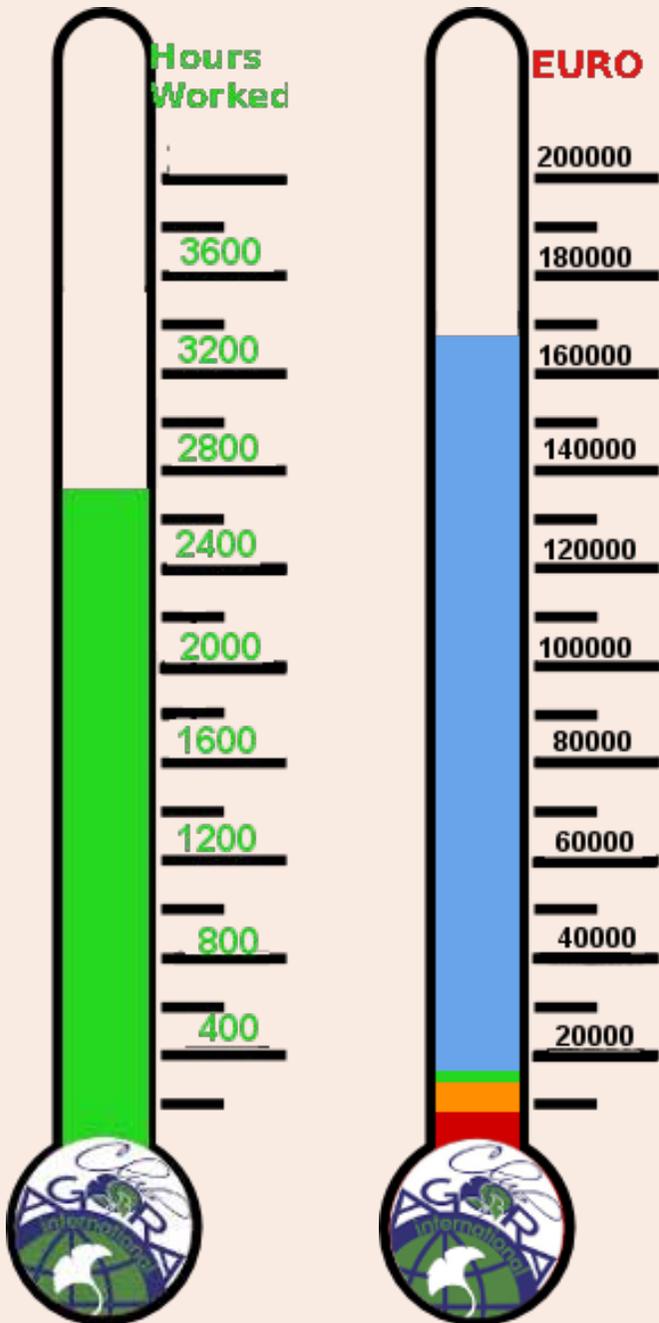
Lots of love
In Friendship & Love

Kelly

KELLY GEISLER
ACI PRESIDENT 2014/15



BAROMETER UPDATE!



So this is the last update on our barometer...

The ladies from AC Botswana were very busy giving service and made our barometer grow in hours given.

AC The Netherland AC Venlo organised a golf tournament to support the research on the terrible disease ALS.

The ladies from AC Romania organised several events for charity... on top of all the work of organising the conference. Congratulations ladies!



AC UK helped at the Colourthon event side by side with RT.

And those ladies from AC Iceland and AC Norway... they keep on knitting 😊

Thank you all for making a difference in other people 's lives.

I know the barometer is not complete... sometimes local events do not reach me... please try to share your beautiful projects with your friends from ACI. Big or small, every kind gesture is one of big importance.

So... for next year... please keep us informed...

REPORT: CHARTER TC 27 HANNOVER (May 30th 2015)

The charter of TC 27 Hannover on May 30th was a small charter with a big amount of friendship.

It started with a small breakfast. This was a good chance for all participants to arrive in time before the charter act and get warm together.

The guests arrived from the neighbour clubs TC 42 Bielefeld and TC 31 Walsrode, LC 27 Hannover, Old Table Hannover and of course the godmother club TC 100 Main Metropolen.

In her speech TC Germany President Antje Mayn compared the charter and club life in a very charming way with a wedding and marriage.

The members of TC 27 Hannover thanked Claudia for the initiative of founding a Tangent Club and leading it to the charter with a present.

The speeches of the guests were full of warmth and good wishes for a successful and interesting club life with a lot of friendship.

Kathrin, who once was a member of LC 27 Hannover, and Monic from the godmother club had prepared a quiz for their godchildren about their hometown Frankfurt. All guests were inspired by the questions and got a lot of interesting information about this city. In the end the ladies of TC 27 Hannover were invited to visit Frankfurt.

After the charter act a lunch followed accompanied by a lot of interesting talks.

Karen von Koschitzky
IRO AC Tangent Germany

And this summer we had other celebrations!!

After the Charter of AC Tangent Hannover the 30th of May, the ladies of AC Tangent Munich also had a fantastic start in July and Thanh Thao, ACI Vice –president, took part in the festivities.

And in August AC Iceland installed their National Board.

Congratulations sweet friends and welcome to the ACI-family



A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.

you were born to
light up the world

REPORT: CHARTER TC 154 MÜNCHEN-GERMERING (July 24th 2015)

The charter of TC 154 München-Germering on July 24th was held in Bavarian style in an old castle.

All guests that had already arrived on Friday evening, where invited to a Welcome in a beergarden to enjoy the Bavarian food and good beer.

On Saturday morning it was possible to participate at a guided walk through the city, a tour on the famous market place Viktualienmarkt or go shopping on your own.

The members of TC 154 München-Germering are former members of LC 15 München and LC 54 Germering.

For the charter act all of them were dressed in beautiful Dirndls. Even some of the guests followed this dresscode.

The ladies were very happy to have ACI Vicepresident Thanh Thao from Italy, Alexandra from LC Switzerland and a lady from LC Austria among their guests.

After the charter document was signed, representatives of Old Table, Round Table, several Tangent and Ladies' Circle clubs brought their best wishes and nice presents with very individual words.

The ladies of the godmother club TC 29 Weinheim had prepared a quiz and a song for their godchildren.

After the charter act a delicious dinner buffet was ready for the guests. There was a lot of time for talking and dancing into the early morning.

Karen von Koschitzky
IRO AC Tangent Germany



TC 154 MUNICH-GERMERING



TC 154 MUNICH-GERMERING



ANNE RICHTER WITH ACI VICE PRESIDENT THANH THAO



THANH THAO OUR EXOTIC FLOWER WITH THE AC TANGENT GERMANY NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

The ladies of AC Southend-on-Sea (UK) have been very busy last summer!



They helped at the colourthon event, organised by the RT Southend on Sea.

Over half a million Pounds pledged and benefiting some 238 different charities to date, this is one of the top charity events in Essex.



-and they did "Boccia" – not quite to Paralympic standard!

Our UK ladies recently learned the skills of Boccia, a Paralympic sport like petanque or bowls, but played indoors with soft balls that you aim at a white jack ball, within a V shaped play area, whilst sitting (to represent the participants usual wheelchairs).



Out 2 teams concentrated hard

...and that was just to understand the rules and work out whose turn it was next!



...Various throwing techniques were tried, underhand, rolling, launching at full speed etc. along with much oohing and verbal encouragement.

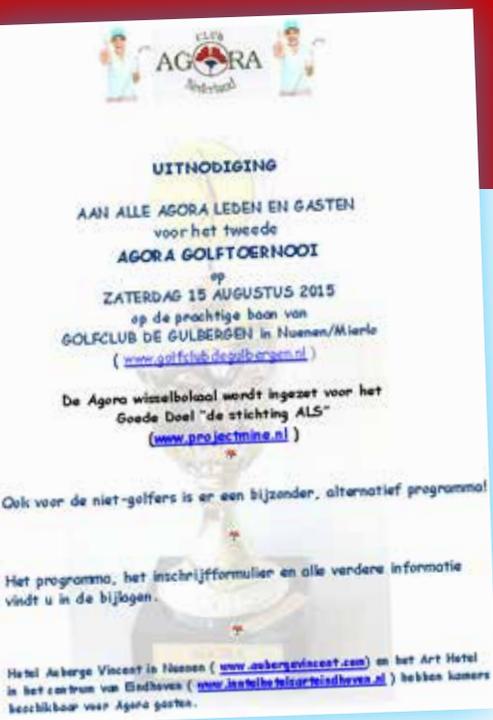


..Many balls went out of bounds and lots of measuring took place to work out who got the points.

And finally Club 1 was victorious!

A very different and fun evening was enjoyed by everyone, if you get an opportunity give it a try!

AC Venlo Golf Tournament



In August the ladies of AC Venlo (AC The Netherlands) organised a Golf Tournament. It was a rainy day but the ladies let the sun shine in their hearts. They raised 5500 euros for the ALS foundation. A lot of members and their husbands had a fantastic day.



AC The Netherlands sporty secretary Antoinette



Carla, President AC The Netherlands at Golf tournament



Golf AC Venlo



5000 euros for the ALS foundation . Thank you AC Venlo



Marleen Bollen singing in the rain



And the winner was a member of the brand-new board of AC Belgium. Congratulations Marleen!

There was a small error in our last newsletter. SORRY!

The pictures of the ladies of AC Malta got mixed up... I think the secretary should read and re-read before sending out the Newsletters ;-)

So here we thank the sweet Maltese ladies one more time for their hospitality and of course Sue who arranged our stay at the beautiful St George Hotel sponsored by the language school where Sue works.

Thank you ladies... we had a great time in Malta!



Learning for Life



Club 1 St Julians and National Board AC Malta.
L-R: Sandra; Kelly; Susanne; Gabby and Simone



Club 2 Ta' Xbiex
L- R: Marie , Elaine, Kelly , Josianne and Ethel



"There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

Edith Wharton



DATES TO DIARISE!!!

**8->10 Oct. ACI World meeting in Brasov
Romania is the place to be!**

7 -11-2015: HYM AC/TC Germany

**13->15 -11 -2015: Charter AC Casablanca 2
and installation NB AC Morocco**

14-11-2015: ACI - day

10->13-03-2016 : Charter AC NY and LC NY

8->10-04-2016 : Charter AC Marrakech Morocco

3->5 -06-2016 : Charter AC AUSTRIA !



Invitation to AGM



Dear Councillors, Dear Members & Dear Friends of ACI,
Please join us for the **19th World Wide ACI AGM** at:

Hotel Alpin, Brasov, Romania
on **Saturday, 10 October 0900-1400**
followed by **luncheon at 1400-1500** and a
Tour of the Beautiful City of Brasov from 1500-1800

**Join your ACI Board at your AGM
and final meeting for the year!**

Share in accomplishments & goals,
Rekindle old and discover new friendships,

Be inspired and renewed!

And when the work is done...

See you in Brasov!





19th World Wide ACI AGM

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of the ACI Board members
3. Introduction of each country's Councillors
4. Introduction of Past ACI Officers and Guests
5. Apologies and greetings and obituaries
6. Statement that the Meeting has been duly convened and that the members form a quorum (ACI Rule 8.2)
7. Speeches by guests
8. Announcement of the two tellers of the meeting
9. Confirmation and adoption of the ACI AGM Agenda 2014-2015
10. Confirmation and adoption of the standing orders governing the ACI AGM
11. Confirmation and adoption of the minutes of the 18th ACI AGM in Heia-Safari, South Africa
12. Matters arising from the minutes of the ACI AGM in Heia-Safari, South Africa
13. Combined Report ACI Board
14. Financial Report ACI Treasurer
15. Application for Full Membership Agora Club Malta and Agora Club Iceland
16. Application for Charter of Agora Club Austria
17. Proposal for extension to the rules by the ACI Board
18. Presentation of the ACI Conference 2016 by AC Milano, Italy
19. Presentation and voting for the country hosting the ACI Conference 2017, Germany & Malta
20. Membership Trophy
21. Presentation and election of ACI Officers 2015-2016/17
22. Report on the International Service Project
23. Reports of the member countries
24. Any Other Business
25. Calendar ACI Year 2015-2016
26. Result and announcement of the voting
27. Incoming President's address
28. Date and place of the next ACI AGM
29. Closure of the meeting