

NEWSLETTER 7
April 2013

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May 2013

The BIGGEST Agora charter month ever!!

**CHARTER AGORA CLUB
UNITED KINGDOM**

5TH OF May 2013

More info :

<http://www.agoraclubinternational.com/news/agenda/UK-charter/UK-No1-Charter-Presentation.pdf>



CHARTER AGORA CLUB ICELAND

11TH OF May 2013

More info :

<http://www.agoraclubinternational.com>



CHARTER AGORA CLUB NORWAY

25TH OF May 2013

More info :

http://www.agoraclubinternational.com/news/agenda/Norway/AGORA_CHARTER_O1NORWAY_invitation_2013_light.pdf





INDEX NEWSLETTER

1. Index newsletter	Page 2
2. Important dates	
• Next 3 months	Page 2
• International charters in 2013	Page 2
3. News ACI Board	
• Report about a Combined Induction Dinner in South Africa by Sandy	Page 3
• Agora Club Madagascar by Veerle	Page 4
• A beautiful story of international friendship and service by Veerle	Page 5
• Report about the British Tangent AGM by Karen	Page 6-7
4. Reports Countries	
• Agora countries in the picture : Italy	Page 8-13
• Agora countries in the picture: The Netherlands	Page 14
• Charter AC 4 Craiova, Romania	Page 15-16
• Report about a Charity concert in Brasov, Romania	Page 17
5. ISP "Viva con Agua"	Page 18



IMPORTANT DATES

Next 3 months	
04. May AGM TC Germany in Norden	
18. May AGM AC USA in Detroit	
18. May AGM AC Romania in Brasov	
25. May AGM AC South Africa in Johannesburg	
01. June AGM AC The Netherlands in Noordwijk	
05. June AGM AC UK in Southend-on-Sea	
08. June AGM AC France in Clermond Ferrand	
08. June AGM AC Italy in Bologna	
08. June AGM AC Zambia in Lusaka	
15.-18. June Boardmeeting 3 in Belgium	
15. June Charter AC 16 Malmédy, Belgium	
22. June AGM AC Morocco in Casablanca	
29. June AGM AC Belgium in Melle	
International charters in 2013	
5. May Charter AC Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom	
11. May Charter AC Akureyri and AC Reykjavik, Iceland	
25. May Charter AC Rogaland S, Norway	

NEWS ACI

A first for Louis Trichardt South Africa

AGORA CLUB 1 AND LADIES CIRCLE 4, combined INDUCTION DINNER APRIL 13 2013

For the first time in Louis Trichardt, South Africa, , Ladies Circle 4 and

Agora Club 1 held a combined Induction Dinner on Saturday April 13 2013.

What a special evening it turned out to be especially as 7 past LC 4

Chairladies were present, of which 4 are founder members of Agora Club 1 and

2, Diane Bannatyne and Lodene Purdon, are also founder members of Ladies

Circle 4. The passion for both organisations was tangible and left one with

the conclusion that Ladies Circle and Agora have members who are SMART,

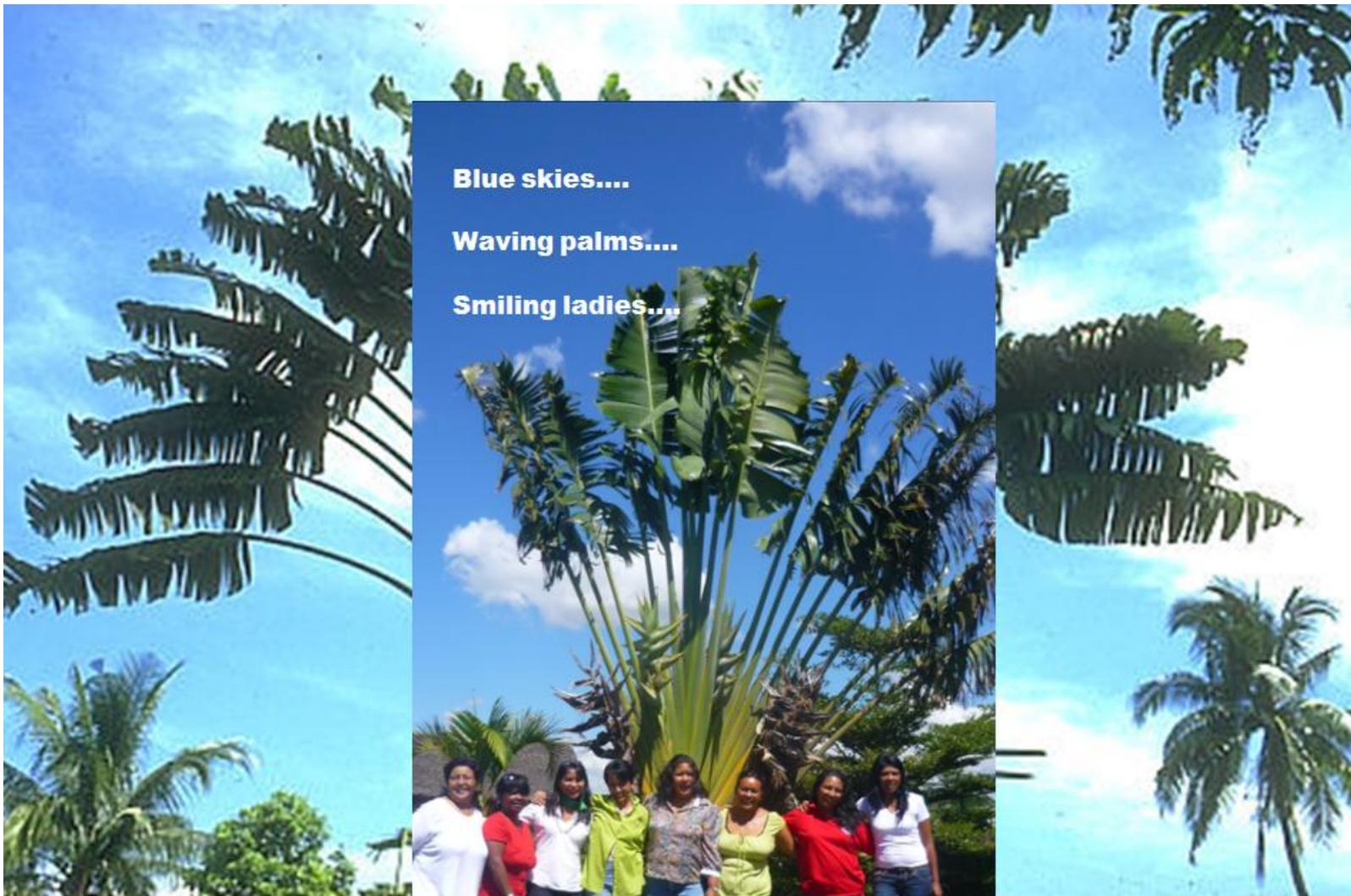
HAPPY, " KICKA**" kind of WOMEN who are PASSIONATE, COURAGEOUS , have a

SENSE OF PURPOSE and most importantly BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES. WOW!! What a feeling!

To top an already special occasion all 7 past LC 4 Chairladies inducted Ria as Chairlady of LC4 2013 -2014. This was to show our continued support and friendship for an organization that gave us so much pleasure and inspired us to Charter AGORA CLUB SA in 2009.

Sandy





Blue skies....

Waving palms....

Smiling ladies....

Could this be...
A new Agora Country in the making???

Looks like a
sunny country!

Could be an
island
somewhere...

And these ladies
said they are *past*
Circlers...

So that can only
mean...!!!

And what's that
exotic tree in
the background?

Isn't that a
Ravenala *Madagascariensis* ?

Oh yes!

It means the ACI Board is very pleased to announce you

The upcoming Charter of

AGORA CLUB MADAGASCAR !

A BEAUTIFUL STORY OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP & SERVICE

Prologue

In February 2013 a lecturer from "Eyes For The World" (EFTW) was invited to my Agora Club in Lokeren (Belgium) to tell us about an invention EFTW is promoting: self adjustable glasses, which have been developed by Professor Joshua Silver, Professor of Physics at the University of Oxford.

These "adspecs" consist of 2 lenses with a transparent fluid in between which can be adjusted to a person's need with just 2 small wheels to change the dioptré. Since these glasses are so easily adjustable, there is no need for optometrists or ophthalmologists.

With these glasses Eyes for the World aims to help underprivileged adults and children who can't get access to eye care.



Chapter 1

In March, I join the rest of the ACI Board in South Africa for our 3rd Board meeting. During our stay, we attend the Charter of a new South African Agora Club : AC 3 Kopano.

Linda Smith, treasurer of AC Kopano tells me she is on the board of directors of the schools in Soweto (former black township around Johannesburg)

.....1+1= 2!

Together with President Lolo and Treasurer Linda we see the opportunity to help the underprivileged children in Soweto. Many of them have learning problems because of bad eyesight. Since there are no optometrists close by, and glasses are far too expensive for many people of Soweto, these cheap "adspecs" might be just the solution for them. (cost : 20€)



Chapter 2

Back in Belgium, I propose my club to sponsor AC Kopano to offer them a strong start for this project. And **I am very proud of my Club members**, because they decided to sponsor this project. 800€ has been set aside for adspecs for the children of Soweto.

With this financial help, AC Kopano has been given a head start, and they will take this project from here to help even more children.

Epilogue

This is the epilogue of this story, but actually it is just the beginning of a beautiful project across continents!

Thank you dear ladies of Agora Club 7 Lokeren-Waasland in Belgium, and ladies of AC 3 Kopano in South Africa, for having "Eyes for the World"!

Veerle,

AC President and member of AC 7 Lokeren-Waasland



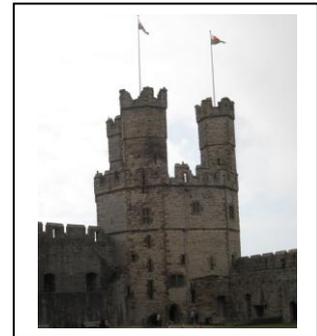
Dungeon and Dragon AGM in Llandudno, Wales

A whole weekend with British friendship and humour



On Thursday 11th April Elisabeth, IPP of ACI and I travelled to Llundadno to experience a British Tangent and 41 Club AGM. Unfortunately we could not make it in time for the International Banner Exchange and the Welcome Party.

On Friday participated at the day trip to Portmeirion, a popular village in Gwynedd, North-Wales. It was designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975 in the style of an Italian village. It has served as the location for numerous films and television shows. On the way back to Llundadno we stopped in Caernarfon to visit its famous castle.



In the evening we met old and new friends at the President's Banquet and Ball. On the photo you see Brigitte(IPP TC Germany), Gunnar (P OT Germany), Elisabeth, Engelbert (IRO OT Germany), and me. After dinner the dance floor was overcrowded due to a fantastic band.



As the AGM lunch on Saturday started at 11 am, there was enough time for a walk along the beach.



For the AGM lunch we were warmly welcomed by TC GB&I President Sue and her national board.

We had the opportunity to talk to our individual members Gill and Morag as well as to the national President of LC GB&I Marj and the 9 !! Danish Tangent guests. During the meeting Karen had the possibility to read out greetings from ACI President Veerle. The majority of the delegates agreed that the executive of TC GB&I should continue to negotiate with Agora Club International on their proposal to form one past Circlers international organization. The new President Karen was given a very special welcome.



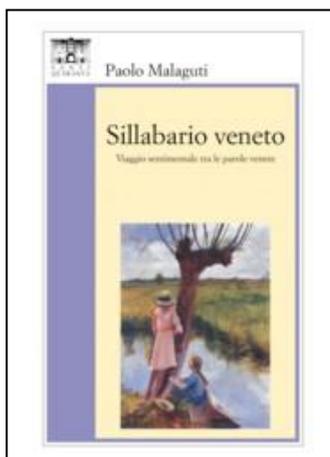
In the evening the theme party Dungeon and Dragon with Fancy Dress Parade was full of british humour and a very special experience for German Tangent ladies. The costumes were so creative and the people full of enthusiasm and joy. Many thanks to the British Tangent board and all ladies. You made us feel very welcome!!!!
 Karen



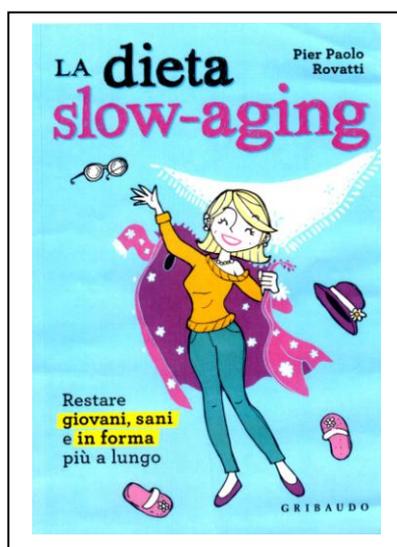
Reports countries



On March 21st Agora Vicenza 2 organized a guest dinner with the writer Mr Paolo Malaguti, who presented us his book "Sillabario Veneto". Our entertainer pleasantly spoke about his last work and took us in a sentimental journey through the ancient family language of Veneto dialect that can't be forgotten. We grabbed this opportunity to mend relations with members of Ladies'Circle, International Innerwheel and Lions by making them know our club and the spirit we are driven by.



On April 15th Agora Vicenza organized a guest dinner with the presentation of the book "Diet slow aging" written by Mr Pierpaolo Rovatti: Stay young, healthy and in shape longer. The slow-aging diet is not intended to be a food program for losing a few pounds, but a "way of eating" that everyone should follow, so that healthy food and the reduction of caloric intake can give the most important nutrients for increasing well-being and safeguard health for a long time.





A special evening was what I wished to organize for Agorà Club Milan. So after a long reflection I decided to speak about “My Vietnam: memories from an ever smiling country”.

The evening was rich of emotions, and above all, of friendship among Agorà Club Milan, Lades’ Circle Milan, Club 41, and numerous guests.

With sincerity and serenity I told my friends how my life was made meaningful by the experiences of the Vietnam War and the Revolution .

I was born in Phanthiet, a sea town, the most arid area in Vietnam. The sea is splendid, the red sand dunes are spectacular. Phanthiet is famous for the production of fish sauce (in Vietnamese it’s called “nuoc mam”), the principal ingredient of all Vietnamese dishes.

From the depth of my heart Phanthiet means vacation, fun, friendship, and especially, the happiness to be with my aunts, my uncles and my grandparents to celebrate Tet, the Lunar New Year, the most important festivity in Vietnam.

During the Tet celebration we enjoy dragon dances, traditional food and firecrackers. Children receive red envelopes with some money inside to wish them a good future.

Moreover, according to our customs, we prepare a rich and abundant lunch to invite our ancestors back home to celebrate Tet with the whole family. The altars are adorned with flowers, incenses, fruit, rice, cakes, cups of tea.

In fact, the Vietnamese people worship their ancestors: in every family there’s an altar for their ancestors.

So the head is considered as the altar. Be careful not to touch the Vietnamese children on the head! They will get offended!

The days seemed so quiet, so joyous . But in spite of my tender age I began to notice the worried faces around me.

The war was ravaging Vietnam, the atrocious war that lasted ten years and claimed thousands and thousands of innocent lives.

I found myself amid the turbulences of this war.

After the victory of the famous battle of Dien Bien Phu against the French colonialism in 1954, Vietnam was divided in two parts: the North under the Communist regime and the South under a government directed by the Americans. The Vietnam War therefore was characterized by the intense military contribution of the Americans. It began in 1964 with heavy bombings throughout Vietnam and ended by the liberation of Saigon on April 30th,1975.

I saw its destructive forces. In 1968, during Tet, the Communists violently attacked the South. A child of six years old, I had to run alone amid fire and bombings in search of refuge; I saw people dying; I saw people screaming out of pain and desperation; I saw people falling wounded.

The South was reduced to ruins. Every family suffered at least a loss. I had to move from one place to another to look for safety.

And once back to school, all I had to learn was how to evacuate in order.

I then realized that life was magical. I was so fortunate, I was so privileged: I was alive! I could run, I could go to school, I could play with my friends.

And when the war finally drew to an end we had to face the arrival of the Communists. On April 30th, 1975 I saw their entrance into Saigon. It was unbelievable! I thought it was a nightmare!

The only thing I was sure was that from that time on my life wouldn't be the same. We had to endure the atrocities of the Cultural Revolution: we had to destroy all kinds of books, of music, of writings, of poetry, of photos that had nothing to do with Marxism Leninism. And as a result the South was deprived of its culture!
At the university, I met Phan thi Kim Phuc, the girl in the picture.



In 1972, during a napalm attack on her village of Trang Bang, Kim Phuc, a then nine year old girl, was severely burned by napalm , on her way to escape. Her memorable photo has become an eloquent testimony of the horrors and the injustices of all wars.

After undergoing numerous operations, she was saved. Actually she has been doing great work to help children, victims of wars.

Kim Phuc and I grew up with the Vietnam War and the Revolution. We have been exchanging ideas on various things. We acknowledge that we can't change history; the Vietnam War has taught us a lot of lessons, the most precious of which is that life is really beautiful.

I firmly believe that my Agorà friends do agree with me and Kim Phuc. So let's keep smiling – life is really beautiful!

Your Italo-Vietnamese friend,
Ly thi Thanh Thao



TORNEO DI BURRACO On 23rd November 2012 Club Agora Livorno 6 organized a Charity Tournament of Cards. 80 people took part in the tournament and a good amount of money was collected in favour of an association which gives domiciliary nursing and medical treatment to terminally ill patients.



On 16th March 2013 Club Agora Livorno 6 organized an event in order to help abandoned dogs. Three experts explained how Italian Laws protect animals, and how vast the problem is.

Volunteers from Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals narrated very touching episodes about mistreated animals. It was a great success and we were proud of helping the Association



A Huge Charity Project

In May 2012, two major earthquakes occurred in Northern Italy around the town of **Modena**, causing death and widespread damage. The violence of the main shocks and the succession of 33 potent aftershocks within a month increased the number of dead people, injured, homeless; historical buildings and modern factories destroyed; a florid economy cancelled.



Club Agora Modena 7 has been working hard since last May to help her own population struck by the succession of shocks and on 14th October 2012 gathered together the other Italian Agora Clubs and presented a charity project: to take part in the building of a house for voluntary services in a little town near Modena disfigured by the earthquake: San Prospero.

In that occasion, teams of volunteers told us what they did in those terrible days in order to help their people, and the deputy mayor expounded us the project for the new Voluntary Service House. In that very moment all the other Italian Agora Clubs rallied around Club Agora Modena 7 and The House for Voluntary Services in San Prospero became a National Charity Project.



The 14 members of Club Agora Modena 7

Painting Auction

On 1st March Club Agora Modena 7 organized an auction in order to raise funds for The House of Voluntary Services in San Prospero. 21 paintings given by well known local artists were sold for an amount of nearly € 3500 !



**Club Agora Modena 7
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

The National President Elisabetta Ferin and the President of Club Agora Modena 7 Letizia Iulli

Getting Crazy about Dancing : rent a gym and have a lof of fun!



While the other dancers are having a rest... the president and the secretary stoically resist...

Next future: Club Agora Italia together with Club Agora Modena 7 is organizing a National Event in favor of Solidarity towards the population hit by the earthquake

The National event involves also Round Table, Ladies' Circle and Club 41 and takes place in San Prospero (Modena) on 19th May .

***"FOUR CLUBS.....ONE VISION -
FOUR CLUBSONE MISSION"***





What can I tell you about Agora Club the Netherlands.....

For one thing: ACN is the living proof that "size doesn't count". For a small country there are quite a lot of Agora things going on.

Enthusiastic and active members of the six clubs contribute on a regular basis to all sorts of regional projects, not only financially, but with practical assistance on different levels as well.

Check us out on: www.agoraclubnederland.blogspot.com



One of the Board's goals is GROWTH. And we are growing....., slowly but steadily! Although it came as a bit of a surprise, last year the Netherlands were joint second in the race for the Danielle Gardin Membership Trophee. Due to the absence at last year's AGM of Zambia and to the kindness of co-runner up Italy the Trophee was taken home from Lubeck.

Also on the Board's list of priorities is the strengthening of the national spirit. Beside our yearly AGMs, we have had a new year's gathering on the agenda since 2010. And we are very pleased that the number of participants to these events is rising.

Not like to the AGM partners are welcome to the New Year's event and on this year's occasion at Paleis Soestdijk (the parental home of Queen Beatrix) quite a lot of partners gave 'acte de présence'. It was a wonderful happening and next day's announcement of Queen Beatrix' abdication certainly gave it an extra dimension!



As President of AC the Netherlands I chose for this year's motto: "CONNECTION". A sentiment I feel strongly about and with the strength coming from connecting with other, mostly very different, ladies both national and international, I feel very connected to Veerle's motto "strength through diversity".

My fellow Board members and I congratulate recent and past members of ACI with the spectacular growth of our wonderful organisation.

I hope that it will be possible for a large Dutch delegation to travel to Hyeres in October, to be able to put my motto into practice and CONNECT with a lot of Agora friends from all over the world.

Conchita Wormer
President
Agora Club the Netherlands

**REPORT CHARTER OF THE 3RD CLUB
FROM AGORA ROMANIA
AC4-CRAIOVA**



5 April 2013 was a special day for Agora Romania through the chartering of the third club by godmother Agora Club 2 - Brasov.

The event took place in Craiova, Romania's 6th largest city and capital of Dolj County.

Giorgiana made our stay so special for us. We had a city tour and so I could discover its beauty.



I was very impressed about Romanescu Park. In 1900, the designs for the park won the gold medal at the Paris World Fair. It covers area of 90 hectares which makes it the largest urban Park in Eastern Europe.



We had an interesting afternoon in a beautiful location at Europeka Hotel.

At the meeting of the charter we were honored by the presence of the Dolj County (possible future member of the club Agora Craiova), members of clubs AC3-Brasov, Romania National LC president, members of LC Craiova, C41- Craiova, C41-Brasov and representatives of the Club Knights of Malta.

We also had with us the ACI Board through a beautiful photo that accompanied the warm greeting received from Weerle de Jonge and her active members of the board.

The chartering was a successful event.

In my speech I talked about Agora Club International and our desire to promote and develop friendship with all the members of Quatalagor.

At the end of the chartering the godmother members AC2 - Brasov together with the 22 members of the new chartered club AC4-Craiova took a nice group picture under the light of a candle of friendship. The ladies of Agora clubs look so happy!!



At the gala evening, about 70 guests have celebrated the birth of the third Agora club in Romania with dancing, good food and an excellent chocolate cake with symbols AC4. Representatives of 41 Clubs delighted us with their song. They created a pleasant atmosphere. We shared laughs which resulted in an overall good time.



Congratulations dear president Adriana and your team for a well organized day!
 You made our stay unforgettable!
 Lots of Love to you all,

Angela Micu-President Agora Club No 2 - Brasov_ Romania



Dear Friends,

in a few words we can tell you the following about our charity concert on 11.04.2013
- A LOT OF AGORA WORK
- A MARVELOUS ROCK CONCERT
- FOUND RAISING OF EUR 3000 FOR HOSPICE - HOUSE OF HOPE

It was great for our new club AGORA 3!

First of all, this was our first big project after our charter meeting in November.

The start, one month ago, was very good as we managed to find the rock band - Compact - which agreed to perform for free, the concert hall - Reduta - which was also on our disposal for free and a common day for both to organize the concert - 11.04.2013.

After this, the work we have done was not easy - as we had to sell almost 400 tickets and all the other "details" for organizing such an event.

On 11.04 all the other clubs from Qatalagor were there and we spent a magic evening listening, singing and dancing. It was finally a big event not only for our clubs, but for our town.

Last but not least - the money! The total amount of funds raised for Hospice - House of Hope - which is doing the best palliative care for incurable patients in Romania - was of 3000 EUR.

We are so happy and proud, that nobody could spoil our joy now! And we know that you, our friends, are all happy and proud with us, too!

Lots of love,

AGORA 3 - Brasov - Romania





New informations about the costs of the wells dwelled by RIGG in Ethiopia

Depending on depth, ground texture and water quality the costs can vary. RIG dwells three main kinds of wells in Ethiopia:

- Flat wells with hand-operated pumps until 110 m depth (costs 25.000,- € for 2500 people in the lowland)
- Deep wells with electric pumps and diesel plants until 170 m depth (costs 45.00,- € for 1250 people in the highlands)
- The VcA team calculates with an average amount of 10.000,- € with a benefit for 1.000 people in the Afar region.

Greetings from the Viva-con-Agua Team, Hamburg:

“On behalf of the complete Viva-con-Agua Team I would like to send you big and sincere thanks. Some days ago we have received the first amount of unbelievable 43.000,- €. WOW! Please express our gratitude to your complete network.



Moritz Meier, Viva-con-Agua, Hamburg, Dec 2012

[this was sent to the ISP team after the entry of the first donation transfer from LCI to VcA]

Actual news from the ISP team in Germany

Until today we were able to transfer more than 73.000,- Euro to Viva con Agua, which roughly calculated can help more than 7.000 people in the Afar region.

This is an amazing amount and we would like to thank every single one of you for that! But we can do more! So please continue your commitment for the current ISP!

But AGORA ladies please remember,

since this ISP will end with the next LCI conference, please be aware that your donation for the ISP has to be transferred till the **15. of June 2013** to the ACI bank account:

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

IBAN: BE 25 001-6811249-82

BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB

LCI closes the books on June 30th 2013 and our Treasurerer Nikkie will also need time to transfer the Agora donations to LCI.