

AGORA international

Dear Ladies of Agora!

My last newsletter for this social year! Time is flying and soon our 20th ACI Conference and our 20th anniversary of ACI will take part. Without saying too much...it is going to be a huge party!

Now enjoy the pictures of Africa and the reports from the countries!

See a lot of you very soon in Milan!!

Yours in friendship

Brigitte

ACI Secretary 2015-2017



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My dear Agora friends,

With awesome nostalgia, I should say that my presidential year is nearing its end. This is the last newsletter of the social year 2015-2016.

I have re read all your articles; I have been thinking of each and every one of you. Your simple yet touching words, your lovely and vibrant photos make me smile. You have shown your loving heart in your local and national service projects, you have been wholeheartedly engaging in our Service Project “Eyes For The World”, you have been fostering and enriching the spirit of Side by Side with our brother and sister associations, you have untiringly made known Agora Club International to all women who treasure the values of “Service and Tolerance”. You have beautifully and harmoniously involved “Hand Head Heart” in all your Agora commitments. Through your articles, I’ve got to know you more, thus appreciate you more, and love you more. “THANK YOU”, my Boardies and my Agora friends, for your efforts and precious contribution to make our newsletters so informative, so nice and pleasant.

“THANK YOU”, ACI Past Presidents, for your special contribution to the newsletters of this year. Your articles have helped us relive some lovely moments of the 20-year history of Agora Club International.

Last but not least, “THANK YOU”, Brigitte Colberg, for your excellent and artistic job in planning and crafting our newsletters.

Yours always in friendship and love
Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI President 2015-2016
“Hand Head Heart”

JOURNEY TO SOUTH AFRICA

My visit to **Agora Club South** that it’s hard for me to find First of all, I want to deeply for her efforts to make me feel also want to wholeheartedly Strelitzia, and AC Kopano for showering me with affection



Africa (20-24 August) was so beautiful proper words to describe it. thank Sandy for her lovely friendship, home and to spoil me every moment. I thank my friends of AC Amarula, AC dedicating their time to me and and fun over that period. Everything was beyond expectations.



My meeting with my friends from AC Strelitzia and AC Kopano was so joyful and heart- warming. It’s friendship that keeps us forever young and makes us smile so beautifully.

Beverly Patterson took me to Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton City, Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela is really great in all senses.





We visited the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication and read the Freedom Charter. I felt so moved, thinking of all the sacrifices this people had made in order to gain freedom.



“Waiting for a change – Waiting for a miracle”



I remained wordless in front of the statue of “All National Groups Shall Have Equal Rights”. How true!

We went to the house of Nelson Mandela at 8115, Vilakazi street, Johannesburg. It has bullet holes in the walls and the facade has scorch marks from attacks with [Molotov cocktails](#). The inside hosts some original furnishings and memorabilia and a lot of photographs.



I relived, for some moments, all the things I’ve read on this hero. I deeply honored his struggle to lead his people towards freedom.

When leaving Johannesburg, I began my full

immersion in the South African nature. After five-hour drive, Beverly took me to Pezulu, Sandy’s tree lodge house.

It’s the first time for me to stay in a tree lodge amidst a game park. An indefinite sensation! Awe and strong emotions!



I could never imagine to be one day at a Lion Tree Top Lodge. I welcomed this experience with a big smile. 😊



This is the picture I love. This picture says that miracles can happen to cheer us on. ☺ At Guernsey Private Nature Reserve – Pezulu tree lodge, we toasted our friendship with Italian prosecco at sunset. Memorable indeed it was!



We couldn't miss the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. This centre takes care of injured animals with the intention of returning them to nature.



A joyful evening at Sandy's house with all my smiling friends from AC Amarula. We enjoyed each other's company and we exchanged some ideas on the development of our Service project, Eyes For The World.

I thank Agora Club South Africa for the precious contribution to the history of Agora Club International by beautifully adhering to the spirit of "Service and Tolerance", by generating hope, joy, and positivity to people around. Long live Agora Club South Africa!

Yours always in friendship and love
Ly thi Thanh Thao
ACI President 2015-2016
"Hand Head Heart"



What a pleasure and honor to represent Agora Club International at the Conference of Ladies' Circle International held on 25-28 August in Cape Town!

I loved every moment of this AGM. It was an occasion to renew old friendships and to strike up new ones; it was an occasion to generate fun and enthusiasm among friends all over the world; it was also an occasion to rejoice at the achievements of Ladies' Circle International.



I feel so happy and grateful to have Sandy's company during those days.



It was the first time I had met my Batswana friends, who have

been fully engaging in hosting Eyes For The World in their country in September. What a pleasure!



Friends from South Africa and Italy never missed the occasion to build up closer bonds. So much fun! So much vibrancy!

For some seconds I was part of this fabulous musical group.



won the hat contest with this it so beautiful and poetical.



Ladies' Circle Morocco "balloon" hat. I've found



Agora Club International has contributed to the joint Service project All4Nepal. It was so heart-warming to meet the Nepalese ladies and to know that things are getting better in their country.

The Batswana ladies, Sandy, and I wore adjustable glasses at Gala Dinner. We were so "trendy", weren't we?





This is the photo I like. It highlights the Side by Side spirit between Ladies' Circle International and Agora Club International. In spite of the fact that since this year we have embraced our own Service, we continue to support the Service of our sister association. We have pledged 2400€ for LittleBigHelp.

My Agora friends, your loving heart makes me fall in love with you, I should say.

Last but not least, I take to heart the logo and the motto of LCI 2016-2017:



"Expand your Angel Heart"

Yours always in friendship and love
 Ly thi Thanh Thao
 ACI President 2015-2016
 "Hand Head Heart"

VISIT AC THE NETHERLANDS

My visit to Agora Club The Netherlands was so lovely and heart-warming. Els Clevis, Fransje Kemper, and Cobi Loeffen kept me company. We had a nice lunch together, and we exchanged ideas on how to improve life in Agora and how to increase members. Of course we discussed everything with big smiles and we were full of hope and joy for the year ahead.



How nice of my Dutch friends to dedicate time taking me to visit Van Abba Museum in Eindhoven! I am wordless. This museum houses 2700 contemporary and modern works of art, among which there are works of Picasso, Kandinsky, Mondrian. Moreover, it has one of the largest collections of works by El Lissitzky.



Thank you for being the friends I wanted and appreciated.

Thank you for showing me the beauty and the treasure of Eindhoven.

Lots of love

Ly thi Thanh Thao

EYES FOR THE WORLD AGORA BOTSWANA September 2016



Botswana ladies, Kgomotso, Fuzlin and their teams prescreening 500 students from 7 schools, identifying children that needed the focus specs. Joined by Koen, Chris Helsen NP Belgium, and myself, we tested a further 831 children from these 7 schools plus an orphanage for boys. All in all 1331 children were tested, 168 children received spectacles immediately.

All 250 focus specs allocated to Botswana will be well utilized. The project is not quite finished as the Botswana ladies will be visiting the elderly and handing out focus specs to those that need over the next few weeks.

Thank-you to the following. Koen from EFTW for his wonderful invention, his dedication and passion and absolute amazing rapport with the children. To Chris Helsen NP Belgium, for travelling to Botswana and giving so much support, as well as the hardwork and commitment to the project. To Agora Club Botswana – well done ladies it was just MAGIC!!!! Thank-you for the organization, commitment, dedication, passionI could go on and on. You are the motivation behind my passion.

Thank-you to each and every Agora member, and club who has contributed to our ISP. Your contributions are life changing. To the ACI board thank-you for believing in this project and driving it on a board level, for your unconditional support and constant messages of encouragement. To my co-convenor and dearest friend, Veerle, thank-you for been there every step of the way, for your dedication, commitment and passion for everything AGORA.

We shared some fantastic Side by Side moments with Ladies Circle along the way and were pleasantly surprised by the visit from Ruth Hungwe, LCI past President. Ruth quickly got involved in the testing and even brought us a volunteer to help out, Eve Laurent who was visiting from Cameroon.

Looking forward to the project rolling out in Madagascar and Zambia In February 2017
Love Sandy van Niekerk
ACI ISP co-convenor

Another successful EFTW Agora project has been completed. My impressions.... AWESOME!!!!
The Agora Botswana ladies were so well prepared, so organized and so enthusiastic – it took my breath away. Well done ladies, you worked so hard on this project, your dedication and time that you gave up was so worth it all.
The project began with the





Agora Club Iceland **FIRST AGM 2016**



For Agora club Iceland it was our very **first** AGM as our national board had been formed only 10 months earlier. so now it was time for the AGM. The meeting was held on the evening of friday 27th. May 2016 at Fjorukrain restaurant in the Viking village area in Hafnarfjordur, only 15 minutes from Reykjavik.



All of us on the national board were thrilled to see that we had 25 ladies attending the first AGM, as we were unsure of how many would turn up, would it only be the councillors or would there be more ladies interesting in coming to our first AGM, so having 30% of our members to turn up at the first national AGM was a good start.



As we were in the viking restaurant we had several visits of musicians coming to our meeting room to break up the meeting for a few minutes to play and sing for us and sing with us, so that did put an extra fun factor to our meeting.



Along with regular AGM items on the agenda we had a lottery as we asked the all of the five clubs to bring two packages each for the lottery and the national board members had a few packages too up their sleeves.



In Agora friendship,
Dagny Kaldal Leifsdottir,
National resident Agora Club Iceland

27/6/2016 – AGM of Agora Club Belgium

We were glad to welcome international guests.

The AGM took place in the President's Garden in Genk, Belgium.

The proceeds of the sale of pepperplants were donated to the project « Eyes for the World ».

Sp. Thi Thanh Thao was present



Steinunn Gunnarsdottir Vice President of Agora Club Iceland



and was in a very good shape



Et. Chris, President of Agora Club Nederland



Meetings and lunch in the garden

Presence of the brother and sister clubs



Agora Club Belgium



Round Table Belgium



AGV Belgium



Club 41 Belgium

Agora Club Belgium



Some images of the AGM and



Mimi de Maere (AG 7 Lokeren) and Béatrice Demeroux (AG 13 Namur Val de Meuse)



The Dutch Delegation of AG Nederland with Marteen Bollen and Chris Selen

of the National Committee



The Former National Committee



The New National Committee, freshly elected



Members of AG 9 Roselare



The Former and the new President of Agora Club Belgium



Once again the ladies from [Agora Club UK](#) helped with The Colourthon event on behalf of our local Round Table club. This year was a celebratory event as it was the 10th anniversary; we had some special afternoon entertainment from local charity bands and school choirs as well as a brand new afternoon event [The Paint Run](#).



[The Paint Run](#) was a run/walk totalling 5 km, each time the runner completed a 1km circuit they passed through the paint station area and got powder paint thrown at them by the 'bandits'.



With a different colour representing each 1km completed, the aim was to cover their white t-shirts in lots of colour!

Much fun was had by the 'bandits', (Agora Ladies, who are in the white protection suits in the pictures, including some with multi-coloured wigs).





We had bottle of different coloured powder paint that we squirted the runners with as they passed.

We saved the best for Round Table GB&I National Chairman – Mark House!

Then at the end everyone gathered together and threw paint into the air creating a mass cloud of brilliant colour!



And the best bit was for the whole event (The Paint run and the evening Twilight (10K) and Colouthon (1/2 marathon) walks £118,211 was pledged for 192 different charities, making a difference for quite a few small local and some larger national charities.

Agora Club UK - Not to be missed Fashion Extravaganza on Friday December 2nd in aid of EFTW.

We are working hard with our local college, to put together an entertaining fashion evening and want all our sisters in Agora to enjoy it with us and help to raise some funds for our ACI project EFTW.

EYES FOR THE WORLD FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY THE 2ND OF DECEMBER AT 19:00 LIVE STREAMED INTO A VENUE OF YOUR CHOICE.

So yes we are going to live stream our event to a place of your choice, so you can join in the FUN! Of course if you want to attend in person we would love to welcome you in Southend. 🤗

LIVE STREAMED

YES, LIVE
STREAMED INTO YOUR
HOME,
A RESTAURANT,
A BAR
ANYWHERE YOU CHOOSE.



Just follow steps 1, 2 and 3.

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL-FOLLOW

Step 1

BOOK AN EVENT

AT HOME, IN A RESTAURANT, AT A
CINEMA TURN UP IN PERSON (AT
THE ATRIUM SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA)

Step 2

DONATE LOTS OF MONEY

PAY TO ATTEND YOUR EVENT,
DIRECTLY TO EFTW. BUY OUR GOODS
@ WWW.AGORACLUBUK.CO.UK

Step 3

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH US

ATTEND YOUR EVENT SIT BACK,
LAUGH AND HAVE A FINE TIME
WATCHING US!

What will it be a PJ party, a Champagne evening (or maybe Prosecco and donate the difference in cost to EFTW!), a supper party, YOU CHOOSE - just pop the date and time in your diary now - Friday 2nd December at 19:00 (UK time, so 20:00 central Europe).

BE PART OF AGORA
CLUB'S HISTORIC LIVE
STREAMED EVENT.
ALL OF US TOGETHER
NO MATTER
WHERE YOU ARE

SHARING OUR TIME
FOR OUR COMMON
PURPOSE



The extravaganza will be a fest of colour and sound, with different clothing sections (general ladies wear, Streetwear -Nuffunk, Nutro by Fange - African themed, as well as upcycling) intermixed with music and dance, so lots to keep you entertained!
More information will follow as we prepare the event with the assistance of South Essex College. Just let Agora Club UK know if you want to be part of this exciting evening and we will keep in touch with arrangements re the live streaming. You can do this via our facebook page **Agora Club UK** where you will also find the latest gossip re the event, or email sandras345@gmail.com.

We look forward to putting on a show for you!

Agora Club UK



ACT GERMANY

Cooking with refugees

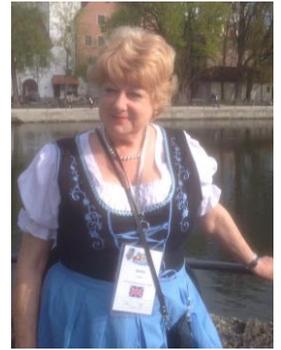
TC 10 Hamburg enjoyed an evening together with refugees from Syria, organized by our lady Iris who is engaged in refugee relief and team-members of this organization. A cooking together with some refugees was planned but not really a chance for the ladies to help in cooking. The three men from Syria whirled around in the kitchen and we just could offer a small helping hand. Fascinating to see how joyful and with proud they celebrated their meals and our table was overloaded with food, so delicious and various. For the men it was an evening where they could forget their problems and could give something back to the

people who support them.



New individual Member

Janice O'Neil is our newest Individual Member and comes from the UK. She is a most dynamic and energetic character of a lady. To know Janice is to love her with her wonderful sense of humour, her unending energy and her willingness to try new things in life. Janice has enjoyed traveling to many places and has experienced many adventures with her many friends in Ladies Circle and Tangent Club locally, nationally and internationally. Janice has served as the Tangent UK National President and been on the TCI board. Janice's husband accompanies her on many of her adventures and she also has a lovely daughter and Granddog puppy that keep her grounded. Her goal is to do everything to excess as life is too short to miss out on anything, and to challenge herself to do something every month out of her comfort zone. Wow Janice! Welcome to Agora dear friend, I hope we can keep up with you!



20 years of History of ACI – Memories of VEERLE DE JONGE, ACI President 2012-2013 and HONORARY MEMBER



My International adventure started in 2008, when I was asked to join the ACI Board as ACI secretary. Next to **feeling very honoured**, I felt it was a unique opportunity for me to learn, develop new skills and to feel how it was to serve our association on international level.

My first 3 years as ACI secretary (2008-2011) helped me to locate the weaknesses and strengths of our organisation, and this helped me to fine-tune a work plan for my year as ACI President.

As my year motto I chose “STRONGER THROUGH DIVERSITY”, a sign to the world that with our open membership we prove to be a **modern and trendy** club, which is in touch with times.

I was -and still am- convinced that our open membership is our biggest strength. Fascinating and committed women who never had the opportunity to join Ladies' Circle, can join our Agora ranks. They bring fresh ideas and enriching diversity to our clubs worldwide, and Agora Club's **continued growth worldwide** is proof of the success of this open minded approach.



I was fortunate enough to serve in 6 wonderful Boards...but that one Board...*my Board 2012-2013* I will never forget.

Together we achieved amazing things. We **chartered 3 new countries** (AC Iceland, AC Norway and AC United Kingdom) and **launched ACI Day** (14th of November, in honour of the day the very first Agora Club was chartered in France in 1987).

To enhance and develop communication and bring the ACI Board closer to the national and local clubs we started a **Facebook page** (which is still very vibrant today) and renewed and modernised the **ACI Website**.

A travel fund for and the new still helps the ACI new Agora As my thank-you-pretty ACI scarf Diversity” logo countries logo’s, boardies and pride ☺. My dear Agora Membership of end of my years on the ACI Board humbled me beyond words. This is an honour I will treasure for ever!



AC members was set up, extension support fund boards to visit potential countries. present, I designed a with the “Stronger Trough and all the member and I still see “my” presidents wear it with

friends, the “Honoured ACI” you offered me at the

Last but not least...thank you to my Board 2012-2013 Sandy, Nikkie, Elisabeth and Karen for the wonderful cooperation, the plans we made, the laughter we shared. Each one of you brought your own vibe, unique charisma and special energy to our Board ** You are friends FOR LIFE!! **

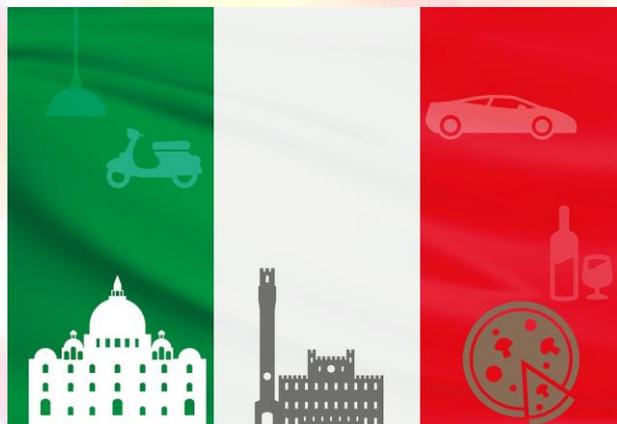
Veerle De Jonge
ACI President 2012-2013



ACIC Milan 6-9

SEE YOU

Ladies from 18 coming!!!!



October 2016

SOON!

countries are

And listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eizDJkUXgdw>