

AGORA

CLUB INTERNATIONAL, NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

EASTER

**EARTH
DAY**

RAMADAN

**THE TULIP
FESTIVAL**





IN THIS ISSUE

APRIL 2022

06

NEWSLETTER INTRO

08

WHAT IS RAMADAN?

10

WHAT IS EASTER?

12

DID YOU KNOW?

14

WHAT IS PASSOVER?

16

HANUMAN JAYANTI

18

AUTISM AWARENESS

20

BELGIUM

24

NORWAY

26

SECRETARIES' DAY

28

TULIP FESTIVAL

30

PANCREATIC CANCER

32

UKRAINE AID

34

THINKING OUTSIDE THE
BOX

36

EARTH DAY

38

ISP ACTIVATIONS

40

NATIONAL AGM
HIGHLIGHTS

42

ORBITURIES

44

BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS

46

NORWAY INSTALLATION

50

SOS SURVIVORS

54

CALENDAR



INTRO

Dear Ladies

This month of April has been unique in that four of the major religions and belief structures have celebrated an important event/festival this month. This just shows us how diverse the world is and we too, as members of Agora Club come from these different faith denominations, yet we all love and respect each other. We all share the same vision to learn more about each other by making friends with each

other as well as to do service within our communities and worldwide. Truly lighting someone else's candle does not diminish your own light.

In this Newsletter we further explore the important celebrated days worldwide with some quirky information on practices we follow but may not realize the significance of.

Therefore I hope this month's Article show the light of all us unique beings.

#OneLightKeepShining
Love from Chilufya and her team at ACI Board



Chilufya Mwanakatwe
Agora Club International President
2021-22

WHAT IS RAMADAN?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and lasts for 29 or 30 days. During the month of fasting, Muslims are expected to abstain from all bodily pleasure such as drinking, eating, and sexual activity from sunrise to sunset. The last meal taken in the morning is known as Sehri (just before Sunrise) when the fast commences and the meal to end the fast is known as Iftaar (at sunset). Eating is only permitted during the hours between Iftaar and Sehri.

Ramadan is a time for Muslims to deepen their relationship

with God and to learn discipline. By fasting, Muslims achieve greater levels of mindfulness, self-control, and clarity of mind. During this month, it is encouraged to engage in lots of prayer and engage in lots of charity work.

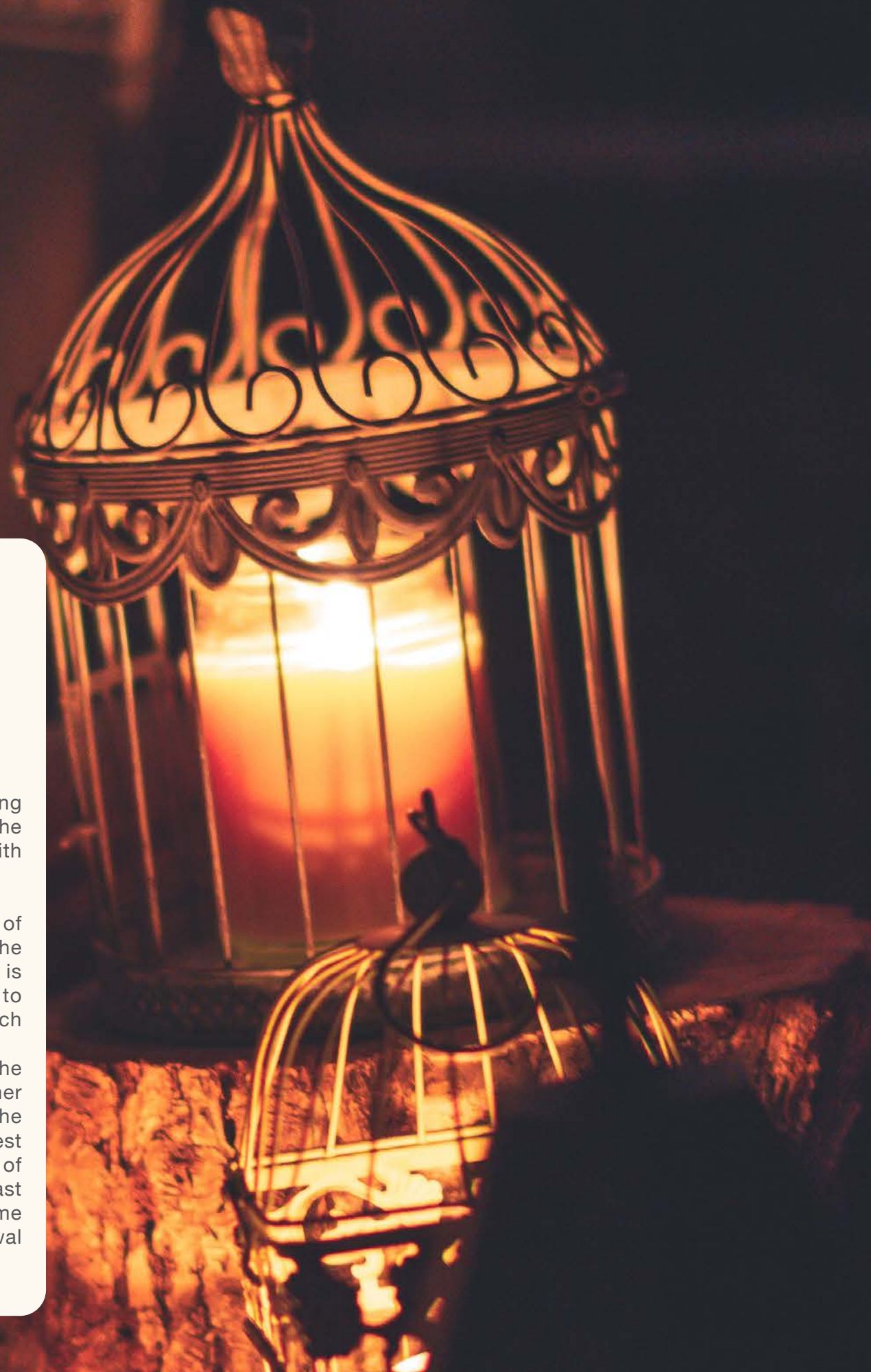
At the end of the month when the new moon is born the month of Ramadaan officially ends and Eid Ul Fitr starts.

Eid Ul Fitr is the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, which marks the end of Ramadan. Eid Ul Fitr is a day of celebration marking the end of the month-long fast. The

day is marked by the breaking of the fast at sunset and the sharing of food and gifts with friends and family.

Eid Ul Fitr is a celebration of the end of the fast during the holy month of Ramadan. It is a time for family and friends to get together and enjoy each other's company.

Eid Ul Fitr is also a time for the community to come together to celebrate the end of the month of fasting. The best way to celebrate the end of Ramadan is to break the fast with a meal and to welcome in the holy month of Shawwal with a feast.



WHAT IS EASTER?

“Easter” is the name of a festival.

This is the traditional name for the Christian feast of the Resurrection. The celebration of Easter is celebrated, as it was in the ancient world, on the first Sunday after the Passover in the spring. The belief is that Jesus was crucified on the first day of Passover. The Resurrection is a central symbol of the Christian faith. It is the first day of the Roman Catholic Church's Year of the Pas (or Easter).

Easter is the first of the four major Christian holy days, is a

time of celebration marking the rebirth of spring. It is observed on March 25 and is celebrated from March 12 until April 19. It is seen as a great day of celebration and a good day to travel. The nature of Easter celebrations and the customs associated with it vary widely between different cultures.

Easter is a fun and exciting holiday. It is a time for family, food and fun. The festive season is often a time for sharing and celebrating with those we care about. It's a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends, enjoy delicious food, and reflect on

what we are grateful for. The best way to celebrate Easter is by sharing special moments with the people we love.

But how do you celebrate Easter? Perhaps you'll have a traditional family meal, or you might head out for a day of fun with your friends.

Whatever the case is, we wish you all a peaceful and blessed time with your loved ones.

DID YOU KNOW? THEORIES AROUND APRIL



APRIL FOOL'S DAY

April Fool's Day, also known as All Fool's Day, is an annual holiday traditionally celebrated on April 1st. Its name originated in France, where it is called Poisson d'Avril, meaning "April Fish".

The joke is that instead of a fish, the person will be fooled with some other kind of joke. The holiday originated as a way to mark the end of winter

and the coming of Spring.

Spring Day, or Spring Equinox, is the time of the year when day and night are of equal length, and the seasons are reversed. It is a time to celebrate the return of the sun and the beginning of longer days.

The Spring Equinox occurs on or around March 20th. It is celebrated with special

observances, festivals, and programs.

Flowers are starting to bloom, the weather is warming up, and people are starting to get out of the house more. It is a great time to take a walk in the park, go for a bike ride, or get involved in more outdoor activities.

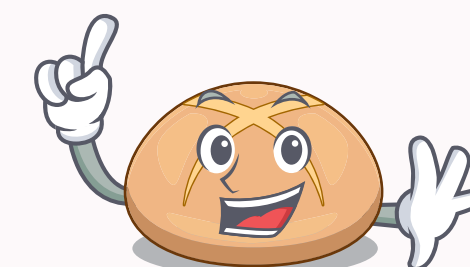
THE HOT CROSS BUN

These are traditionally eaten from the Friday before Easter. They are spicy sweet breads made with currents or raisins. They are marked with a cross on top.

There are some superstitions surrounding this such as :-

1) Baked bread on Good Friday will harden in the oven and keep all year to protect the house from fire.

2) Hanging a hot cross bun in the house on Good Friday offers protection from bad luck and evil spirits in the coming year.



3) Sharing a hot cross bun will ensure friendship – *half for you and half for me. Between us two shall goodwill be.*

EASTER EGGS & THE BUNNY RABBIT

Since Ancient times many cultures have associated eggs with the universe. They were used in ancient spring festivals to represent the rebirth of life. As Christianity grew, the egg began to symbolize the rebirth of man rather than nature. Eggs have been dyed, decorated and painted by the Romans, Gauls,

Persians and the Chinese. To date the most famous eggs are the Fabergé Eggs that fetch a very handsome sum.

The Easter Bunny Rabbit is a cute rabbit that hides eggs as well as sometimes in a basket for children to find on Easter. The origin of the bunny tradition

is unknown, but the rabbit does symbolize fertility in the rites of spring. It is believed that it was first captured in a German book in 1682 and the Germans also were the first to create the first candy bunnies in the 1800's made of sugar and pastry.



WHAT IS PASSOVER?

Also known as Pesach, The Festival of Matzah and the Festival of Freedom, the Jewish Passover is a celebration that marks the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan. It is one of the most significant Jewish holidays and is celebrated in the spring.

The story of Passover is told in the Hebrew Bible in the book of Exodus, which is the first book of the Pentateuch, also known as the Torah. The name "Passover" comes from the fact that the Jews were "passed over" when the Angel of Death killed the first-born Egyptians' children instead of the Jewish people.

It is an important holiday for the Jewish community, and is a time for families to gather together.

The exact date of the Passover varies from year to year because it is based on the Hebrew calendar. The name Passover comes from the Passover sacrifice, which involves the slaughter and roasting of a young goat or sheep.

During the Passover celebration, families gather together to eat a symbolic meal called a "Chag alla", which is the same meal that was served in Egypt. The meal is symbolic of the meal that was served to the Jews in Egypt, and is

also a celebration of freedom. The "Chag alla" is eaten in the evening after the Seder, which is held in the evenings of the first and second nights of Passover.

The Seder is a series of prayers, readings from the Torah, and stories about the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.



FESTIVAL OF HANUMAN JAYANTI

Hanuman Jayanti, also known as Hanuman Jayanti, is a festival observed by Hindus in India, Nepal and other countries on the anniversary of the day when Hanuman, the Hindu monkey deity, was delivered from the grasp of the demon king Ravana in the epic Ramayana, in the battlefield.

The festival is also a celebration of the victory of good over evil and the triumph of truth over falsehood. This year, Hanuman Jayanti will be observed on 16th April 2022. The festival is a public holiday in some states of India, including Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. The festival is also observed by

Hindu communities in other countries.

The way it is celebrated is that devotees have a ritual bath before dawn in preparation for the day of devotional chanting. Offering of Indian sweets and coconut to the deity which is later distributed to the devotees.

AUTISM AWARENESS

AUTISM is a complex disorder that impacts the way a person communicates and relates to others. Symptoms can vary greatly among individuals diagnosed with autism, but there are some common traits that tend to emerge early in childhood. However, the autism spectrum is a wide-ranging group of disorders, with symptoms and traits that can differ from person to person. There is no single test that can diagnose autism, and the spectrum is thought to be genetic in origin.

The first sign that your child may have autism is usually between the ages of two and three. It can be difficult to recognise, as the symptoms can look like any other developmental delay. However, as your child continues to develop, you may start to notice differences in their behaviour. They may not make the 'normal' social or language advancements of their age group.

Some of the most obvious symptoms of autism include difficulty communicating and relating to others, a lack of interest in social interactions, and an obsession with specific,

narrow topics or subjects. Other, less obvious symptoms can include a lack of facial expressions, an inability to make eye contact, and a lack of empathy. Even though autism is often associated with repetitive behaviour, this is often only one of many symptoms. The earlier a person is diagnosed, the better equipped they are to receive appropriate therapy and treatment.

There are many different treatments for autism, but the most common ones are based on the child's age and the severity of their symptoms. In the early stages of autism, the main goal is to try and help the child express and communicate what they are interested in and what they want to say. The first step is to try to build a rapport with the child.

There are several therapies available to help children with autism. Some of these therapies include Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Play and Interactive Therapies (PIT).

It must be kept in mind that the treatment of autism is very different for every individual.

It depends on how much difficulty the child is having in their day-to-day life. There are many different kinds of therapy, including behavioural therapy, cognitive therapy, and speech therapy.

In April every year, the world comes together to celebrate the lives of those affected by autism. The United Nations designated this day as Autism International Day, and it's a day for families to come together and recognise the work that is being done to improve lives across the world.

It is also a day to bring awareness to the fact that autism affects more than three million people in the United States alone. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about autism and to increase the support available for those affected by the disorder.



ARTICLE AC BELGIUM



CHARITY

In the previous ACI newsletter, we reported on the help extended to the South of Belgium, which was hit by heavy flooding. Our local Clubs helped individuals and families with furniture, clothing and financial help.

With Agora Club Belgium we set up a national call for financial help for "Edelweis", a shelter for under-privileged children.

In the meanwhile, this help has made a huge difference for these children. The shelter is now up and running again. We provided them with new chairs, tables and cupboards. Tanks to the generosity of our members, these children have their home back again, which is really heartwarming!

Our Belgian Agora members really have a heart of gold!



WE ARE GROWING!

On the 25th of September 2021, Agora Club Belgium grew from 22 to 23 clubs, with the Charter of AC 23 Hasselt.

And yes, seeds have been planted for next year, with 2 and probably 3 new Clubs in the pipeline, starting with AC 24 Antwerp, which is officially "in formation"!



FOUR CLUBS ONE VISION BELGIUM

A unique corporation: it unites Agora Club Belgium, Ladies' Circle Belgium, Round Table Belgium and 41 Club Belgium.

The bonds of friendship are strong between our clubs and we always make sure to be present at each other's events, which is not only interesting and future forward, but also fun!



Mi AGM 41 Club Belgium



Mi AGM 41 Club Belgium



President Ans present at the Digital Mi AGM of Round Table Belgium

HIGHLIGHTS: THE GOOD ROLL

Every year, it is a tradition in AC Belgium that all past national Board members come together for a nice meal, and an evening of reminiscing, talking and fun.

This year it will place on the 20th of April, and after the long Covid-isolation, it really is an evening we all look forward too!



ARTICLE AC BELGIUM



HIGHLIGHTS: THE GOOD ROLL

It was unmistakably a point of vivid discussion around the table when having guests for dinner: The Agora toilet paper! Was it a unique? YES! Was it a success? Double YES!

Our Agora ladies are clearly a practical bunch: we all need toilet paper, right? Well, we had a profit of 3710€ for our National Service Project!



HIGHLIGHTS: SOLIDARITY FOR UKRAINE

Of course, the terrible war in Ukraine doesn't leave anyone untouched, and our ladies felt we HAD to do something. Next to the many local initiatives, AC Belgium financially supported the convoys, an organization of ACT Germany.

Moreover, one of the Round Table Clubs here in Belgium RT Geel, welcomed several Ukrainian families into their homes for which our 4 Clubs 1 Vision cooperation donated 10000€.



HIGHLIGHTS: AREA MEETINGS

Agora Club Belgium has organized its 23 clubs into 3 areas or as we call it "Zones". Each Zone organizes a yearly meeting for its respective Clubs. Always a fun get-together, and re-acquaintance of friends from the other clubs.

Due to the past covid situation, our National President Ans could not visit the Belgian Clubs, as is normally the case, so she had the brilliant idea to organize a cozy "Meet & Greet" with the club presidents and club vice president just before the Zone meetings - to share ideas, concerns and views for the future. This has proven to be a terrific idea, and certainly to be continued in the next years!



On the magical date of 02/02/2022 we started with the meeting of Zone 2, with as added value a trendwatcher as speaker – we're all up to date now!



On the 19th of March, Zone 3 organized a wonderful walk around the Abbey of Orval, where the monks still brew their own beer!



On the 6th of April 2022, Zone 1 made us discover our inner adventurer with a fascinating evening together with Polar Traveler Sam Deltour, who talked about his dreams and achievements on the North Pole and the Antarctic.

AGORA CLUB NORWAY



CONGRATULATIONS!

Agora Club Norway has installed its National Board. Our Immediate Past President Chris Helsen together with International Treasurer Yvonne Houben attended together with Godmother Country representative, Veerle De Jonge. We welcome you the new National Board!

President
Aina Hodnefjell Osterhus

Secretary
Anne Riska

Vice President
Siri Sparboe

Treasurer
Euthemia Kasarou

SECRETARIES' DAY

The Administrative Professional is responsible for a range of professional and administrative duties to support the operation of the firm, business and or organization.

This may include, but is not limited to: secretaries, administrative assistants, personal assistants and receptionists.

This is also known as Secretarie'

Day. On this day we celebrate those who are an integral tog in the machinery of our individual clubs who make our leaders lives more efficient and easy. We celebrate all you wonderful women!



NICOLETTE
MULERA
MALAWI



IRIS HORON
ISRAEL



UMAYA KHAN
NEPAL



ASHMI JAJORIA
NEPAL



ANN
RAKOTONIRAINY
MADAGASCAR



FRANCINE FEIST
LUXEMBOURG



NAYLA AYVIDOU
CYPRUS



MARIA WIESER
AUSTRIA



SYLVIA WALYA WANSA
ZAMBIA



MIRELA PUNTEANU
ROMANIA



LILIANA CERBU
ROMANIA



VERONIQUE TENA
NETHERLANDS



NAILA RAK
MOROCCO



DIANA CARDELL
ICELAND



NINA GUDRUN EIMISDOTTIR
ICELAND



ULRIKE VON HESSE
GERMANY



FRANÇOISE HERRIGRET
FRANCE



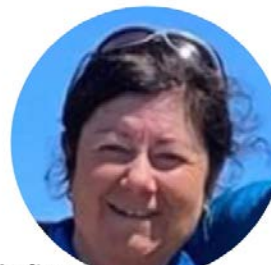
VEERLE DE JONGE
BELGIUM



SANDRA METCALF
MALTA



MAFEDILE MOSEO
SOUTH AFRICA



DIANA CARDELL
ITALY



FRANCA LONGHITANO
ITALY



NORWAY

THE TULIP FESTIVAL

Tulips are one of the most popular flowers in the world. The first tulips came from Turkey and Central East Asia where they were cultivating them from as early as 1000CE.

Upon them being brought to Europe, it was almost immediately Europeans fell in love with these beautiful flowers. The most common tulips in the Netherlands are red, pink, and yellow tulips. The first tulips in the Netherlands were brought from Turkey in the early 16th century.

Did you know how the tulip got its name? Well one theory is that the tulip resembles the turbans worn in the middle East. Turban was written as toliban which when translated into Latin became tulipa.

The tulip became a status symbol and the upper middle class bought them like crazy. The tulip was a symbol of wealth.

Today tulips are the major flower crop in the Netherlands and each year approximately 3 billion bulbs are produced of which about 70% are exported worldwide.

The Festival of the tulip market in the Netherlands is one of the world's largest and most famous tulip festivals.

The annual event takes place in the city of Haarlem, and is known for its spectacular scenery and great diversity of tulip species and varieties.

The festival has been recorded as having begun in the year 1566, though the first recorded

mention of the festival is in a poem by Joost van den Vondel dated 1578. The most important tulip festival in the Netherlands is the Bloemencorso Haarlem, a parade in which thousands of spectators line the route of the parade to admire the tulip displays.

The festival celebrates the annual tulip harvest, which occurred in the Haarlem Valley in early April. The Haarlem Valley is known as the "tulip capital of the world" because it is here that the world-famous tulip bulbs are grown.

The tulip festival is a month-long festival that celebrates the tulip harvest and the tulip bulb trade.





PANCREATIC CANCER

On April 30th 2022 Agora Detroit participated in a walk called PurpleStride to commemorate the loss of one of their own dear friends who lost his fight to this terrible disease.

Pancreatic cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the pancreas. The pancreas is a gland that produces enzymes and hormones that help the

body digest food. When the pancreas can't produce these enzymes and hormones, the patient often experiences severe abdominal pain and may have trouble eating and digesting food.

Pancreatic cancer is a disease that doesn't have a cure. Research is being done because we still really don't understand it.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States. It is the fifth most common type of cancer, with about 43,000 new cases reported each year, and is the seventh leading cause of cancer death in men.



PanCAN PurpleStride
Taking Steps Together To End Pancreatic Cancer
April 30, 2022

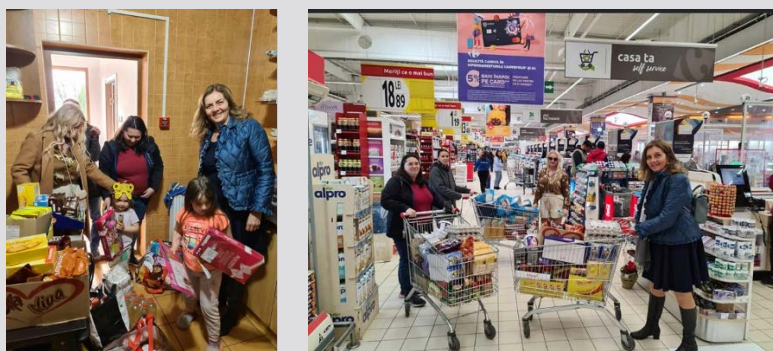
purplestride.org

UKRAINE AID

There are many of the Clubs in Europe that are continuing their good work in supporting the plight of the millions of civilians who have been displaced by the conflict in the Ukraine – those who have fled and those who have remained and here are some highlights of those moments.

AGORA CLUB SUCEAVA, ROMANIA

SOS Survivors purchasing necessities for the refugees.



AGORA CLUB 18 TIENEN, BELGIUM showing their big hearts by handing over Easter baskets to the Ukrainian refugee children in their town bringing smiles to their little faces and reinforcing the belief that they will get through these hard times.



AGORA CLUB MALTA has been collecting essentials which have been distributed through a massive collaboration with Spar Malta and bringing joy to some of the refugees.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

AC 8 Voorne-Putten eo collects €5500 for SeedzZorg.

These last two years have not been easy for all the clubs all over the world. It was a real challenge to find ways to raise funds under the current post covid situation. The situation needed creativity and out-of-the-box thinking.

Agora Club 8 Voorne-Putten organised an online music quiz, sold speculoos dolls (which are typical dutch) for the celebration of Saint Nicholas and second hands objects.

With these actions we managed to raise €5500 for the SeedzZorg Foundation that helps people to find their way back to society by realizing their dreams and training them. On April 6th the ladies of Agora Club 8 were welcomed by a Caribbean band and dancers. And of course they joined in! It was a great reception and a fantastic evening for Agoraclub 8 and SeedzZorg foundation.



Picture: President of Agora Club 8 2021-2022 Jessica van den Dunge Bille (right) hands over the cheque to Marike Groeneveld, Director of Seedz Zorg (left).



22 APRIL EARTH DAY

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated to raise awareness about environmental issues, and to encourage people to care about our planet. It began in the United States in 1970 by US Senator Gaylord Nelson after seeing the ravages of the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

It has since become an international event and over 140 countries worldwide participate in Earth Day. This year, Earth Day was celebrated on 22nd April. It is not only about the environment, but also about reducing our carbon footprint and finding ways to be more sustainable. Why not make every day Earth day and

take time to learn what we can all do in our small ways to conserve energy, reduce, reuse and recycle products in our homes and our communities.



ISP ACTIVATIONS

AGORA AMARULA SOUTH AFRICA

The Club held its second activation with Sumbandila on the 26th April 2022. The Sumbandila Outlier Program provides academic and psychological support to students from outlying rural schools and on Saturdays they are given the opportunity to explore science and computer laboratories with the assistance of Ridgeway College. Something we take for granted having access to the internet, computers and the like. A talk and demonstration was given to the girls on the use of the re-useable pads and they were enthralled to be able to continue learning at school even when on their menses.



AGORA CLUB MADAGASCAR

We commend Agora Club Madagascar for making the effort to make a difference in all the 230 young ladies' lives who received the ISP buckets after having an explanation on how it works together with the demonstration. The young ladies were from the local High School and the CEG Municipality.



NATIONAL AGM HIGHLIGHTS

Agora Club Switzerland held its national AGM on the 12th April 2022 in Lausanne and they had attendance by special guest Ladies Circle Nyon-La Cote.



AGORA CLUB TANGENT

Remember to send pictures of old and new boards at your National AGMs so that we can share with the full membership:

- International Secretary
secretary@agoraclubinternational.com
- Social Media Officer
so-me@agoraclubinternational.com



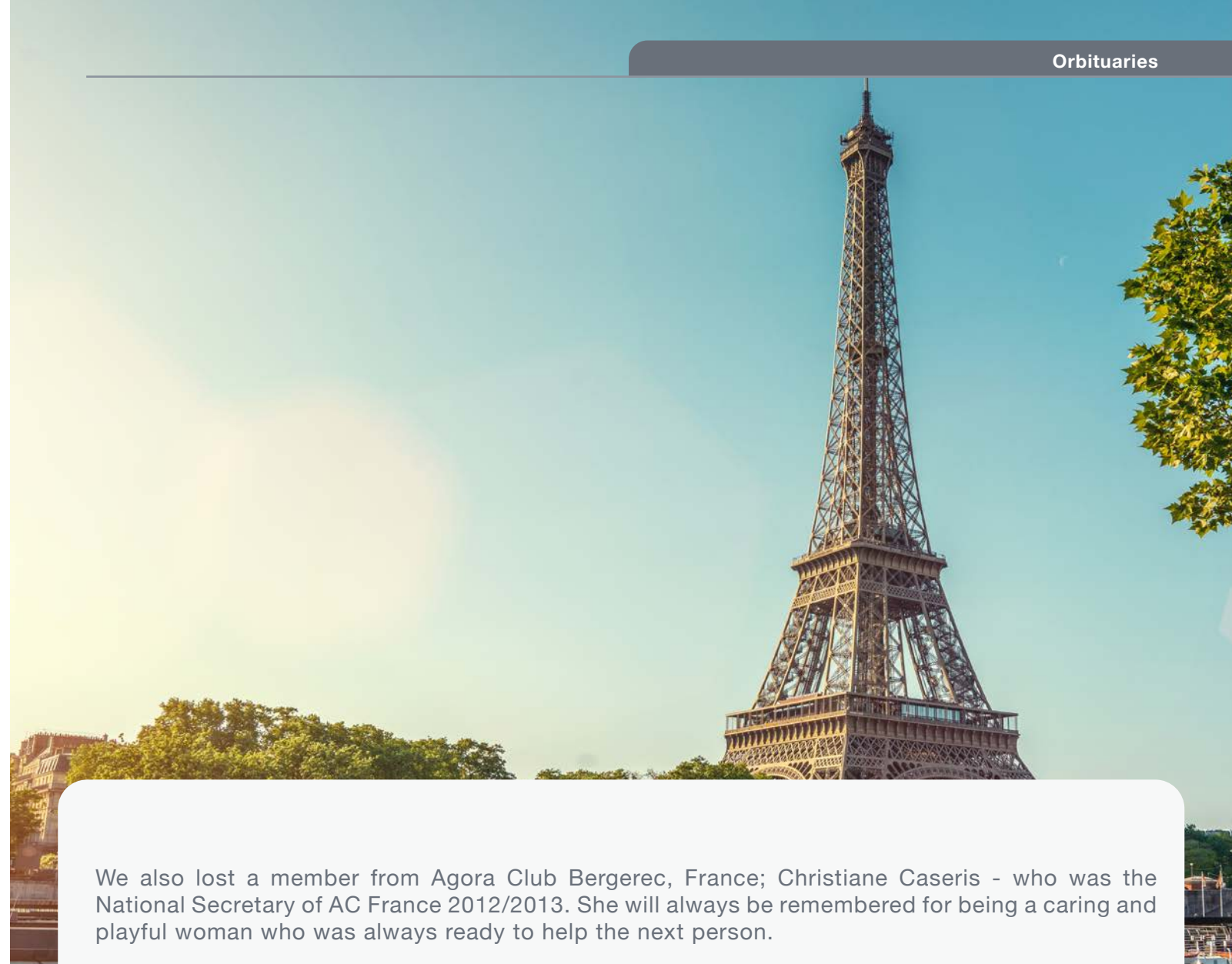
AGORA CLUB TANGENT



OBITUARIES



It is with great sadness we had to say goodbye to dear friend Linda Sierra-Rodriguez a member of ACT Germany as well as the International Weblady. Linda will be remembered for her strong spirit and her deep hearty laugh. With consultation with ACT Germany, her family and her close friends it has been agreed that in honor of her memory and contribution to many peoples lives both as a former member of Ladies Circle International, Agora Club International and in her personal life any donations you would like to give are being directed into a project that was dear to her heart especially in her last few months when she herself was struggling with what to say and leave as audio memories for her family.



We also lost a member from Agora Club Bergerec, France; Christiane Caseris - who was the National Secretary of AC France 2012/2013. She will always be remembered for being a caring and playful woman who was always ready to help the next person.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Agora Brasov Club 2 celebrated its birthday in April. Here are some photos of the club members.

AGORA 2 BRAȘOV

Data remiterii Cartei: 19 Aprilie 2008
Nașă – AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL prin D-na Dominique de Pelou
Board 2007-2008
Președinta fondatoare: Silvia Doriană SOUCA

Motto: „DONNER ET TOLERER”.
Membru fondator „ASOCIAȚIA CLUBURILOR AGORA DIN ROMÂNIA”

Deviza: “Dacă prietenie nu e, nimic nu e!”
Întâlnirea lunară în prima zi de marți din lună



AGORA CLUB NEDERLANDS CELEBRATED THEIR SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 25 YEARS

AGORA CLUB MADAGASCAR – 8 YEARS

The Ladies of the Club celebrated their birthday after a well received activation of the ISP Project. Combining the two events in the same day.



NORWAY

INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD IN NORWAY



Yvonne Houben, International treasurer and Chris Helsen, Past International President started our journey in Belgium. By train to Schiphol, the Netherlands where Carina De Bruyne, National Vice President of AC The Netherlands joined.



Landed in Stavanger, Siri Sparboe, Vice President of AC 1, Sandnes welcomed us and gave us a ride to the city centre through the very scenic route. A beautiful stroll in the village, a very good lunch, some shopping was next on the program. Aina Osterhus, President of AC Sandnes was our guide to drive us to Utstein Kloster Hotel where we joined Veerle De Jonghe, National secretary of AC Belgium and her husband Dirk. What an amazing beautiful road between Stavanger and the island of Klosteroy. So lucky to be here and discover this beautiful scenery, in company of Agora friends.



In honour of our dearest Agora member, Anita Figved, we all went to her grave to remember her. Friendship forever. (right image)



In the afternoon a walk on the Island under the blue sky. Already 3 Agora Clubs in Norway, 2 Clubs in Sandnes and 1 Club in Egersund



A nicely, well prepared, beautiful ceremony to install the National Board in Norway. With Godmother AC Belgium, presented by Veerle De Jonge. Together with Yvonne Houben and Chris Helsen, who presented ACI and Carina De Bruyne who presented AC The Netherlands.

Aina, Veerle and Chris read together the aims and objectives and signed the official document. A heart-warming, emotional moment.

Speech of our president, Chilufya Mwanakatwe, read by Chris

Greetings to AC Norway!



My dear Ladies of Agora Club Norway,

I am delighted that this day has finally come!

I am sorry I can not be with you all this weekend due to circumstances beyond my control.

However, I am happy that our Immediate Past President, Chris Helsen and Treasurer, Yvonne Houben will be with you for the installation of the first National Board of Norway. Many of you may recall that Chris attended the Charter of the third Club in Norway so it is just befitting that she sees the process to the end.

I want to thank and congratulate AC Norway for taking steps to install their National Board and finally become a full member country of ACI

My motto for the year 21/22 is "one light, keep shining" while continuing IPP's motto of "Dare to grow more". We have seen significant growth this year and I can see our bonds of friendship in our Association growing stronger. During the year, our ladies have showed empathy towards one another and to strangers. We have participated as countries in helping the people and refugees from Ukraine. Our Agora ladies are simply amazing. Always remember to put your "light" out for all to see the good works of Agora.

May our Bonds of Friendship be stronger than ever as we continue to burn our "one light and keep shining."

Congratulations once again and please enjoy the celebrations!

Congratulations President Aina Osterhus, Vice President Siri Sparboe, Secretary Anne Riska and Treasurer Euphemia Katsarou. And of course all the members of AC Norway!

A wonderful evening with a lot of laughter and joy, to end late at night, thank you!

NORWAY

INSTALLATION



A cruise in the fjord is inevitable in Norway. The nature is so wonderful, enjoyed every moment of it!



Aina and her husband invited us (Carina, Yvonne, Chris, Veerle and Dirk) to stay at their house and spoiled us with a fantastic meal.



Euphimia invited us all for lunch in Egersund and on the way we did visit Norway's most important cultural heritage site: the vulnerable houses beneath Helleren and one of the special monuments in Hafrsford, Sverd i fjell or the 3 big swords. Surprised every moment of the nature and the monuments!



We met Euphimia's family and enjoyed her house with a view and the lunch. Thank you Euphimia and husband for your hospitality.



Aina, what an artist you are, making such beautiful candles and artwork!

In conclusion, we were spoiled by the ladies of Agora in Norway and I recommend everyone to join International events, whether it is a charter, an AGM, or an Installation. You will get to meet only heart-warming ladies and get acquainted with the beauty of the country itself

Thank you ladies!

With love,
Chris Helsen,
IPP ACI 2021-2022



SOS SURVIVORS



February 2022 Russia attacked Ukraine and generated the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Until end of April more than 5.5 million people, especially women with children were forced to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance, and crossed borders into neighbour countries.

In February - March during a very cold winter, over 750 000 people crossed the Romanian border carrying just a few personal things. The border regions Suceava, Baia Mare, Botosani, Galati faced major, acute, miscellaneous problems caused by the large number of

refugees, lack of translators, lack of identity documents, too few places in accommodation camps, food, hygiene products, baby and pet food, clothing and footwear, etc. The Romanian population, private individuals, organizations and the government mobilized to jump to the aid of those people.

Time has passed and the enthusiasm from the beginning dropped down while the number of refugees has been steadily increasing slightly. People who initially hosted families or people from Ukraine realized the bills for electricity, gas, water food doubled so they couldn't do it anymore.

My Agora Club 5 Sacele, Romania took the initiative to stand in solidarity with cases of women with children refugees and collected donations to sustain well known needs, and bought locally strictly necessary products and services.

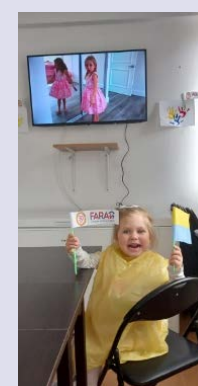
We called our program SOS Survivors, and thanks to generous donation of AC Israel and some private donors who wanted to remain anonymous, we started our work.



By AC USA we get in contact with Masha and her daughter for whom we bought the travel ticket to go back home next to Odessa.



Then we had a request from AC 7 Suceava, Romania, where one of the club member works for the Association FARA who organized 2 refugees camps for long term where they host 66 people in Suceava and 80 in Cacica. We bought for them food, one microwave, a television and some shelves and folding cabinets because they were not prepared with furniture, and people kept their clothes and stuff on the floor. In cooperation with other donators the camp received also refrigerator, kitchen pots and a stove. Side by side with Tangent Club Romania bottled water was supplied to many camps in Suceava and surroundings.



Back in Sacele we found the refugees camp organized by Association FAST, named ZIUREL, where 60 people are still hosted for long term. We bought food, laundry

detergent, and ingredients for traditional meals for Orthodox Easter. The cooks from the Christiana elderly house from the neighborhood cook warm food for them twice a week.

Every time when is possible our club's member, Mira, who is a professional chef, cook cakes for them and we transport them still warm to Center Ziurel.



We were asked by group “#Voluntari in gara Brasov Pentru Ucraina” to help them so we obtained a sponsorship of 40 breads daily for a week for the refugees who crossed by train at 16h10' through Brasov railway station

direction Western Europe.

We provided also some food and colored pencils, toys and plasticine for the children forced to stay at least 30 hours in train to Vienna, and we carried all the food

on the station platform and distributed it to the people.

We helped also some family hosted by private persons in our village with food, clothes, shoes, baby powder milk.



Our program SOS Survivors is still going on, we continue to receive donations and we continue to assist the refugees from Ukraine as long as they can't go back to their homes. For donations, our account is:

Name: Asociatia Agora Sacele

Account: RO05BTRLEURCRT0368891801 – in EUR
RO55BTRLRONCRT0368891801 – in RON

BIC/SWIFT: BTRLRO22

Bank : Banca Transilvania SA

Address: 30-36 Calea Dorobantilor Cluj-Napoca, 400117, Romania

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	CLUB
MAY	
7	AGM OF AGORA ICELAND - REYKJAVIK
11	AGM OF NEPAL - KATHMANDU
14	AGM OF MADAGASCAR - MAHAJANGA
21	AGM OF AGORA SOUTH AFRICA - LOUIS TRICHARDT CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS - AGORA NEDERLAND
23-26	ACI BOARD MEETING - OSLO, NORWAY
27-29	ACI FORUM, AGM 41/TCI - BERGEN, NORWAY
28	AGM OF AGORA ZIMBABWE - HARARE
31	AGM OF AGORA AUSTRIA - SPITTAL
JUNE	
4	AGM OF AGORA FRANCE - ANGERS
5	AGM OF AGORA USA - DETROIT
11	AGM OF AGORA BOTSWANA - GABORONE AGM OF AGORA UNITED KINGDOM - SOUTHEND-ON-SEA AGM OF AGORA CLUB MOROCCO - CASABLANCA
12	AGM OF AGORA ZAMBIA - LUSAKA
16	AGM OF AGORA LUXEMBOURG
18	AGM OF AGORA ITALY - TBA
24	AGM OF AGORA MALTA - VALLETTA
24	AGM OF AGORA ROMANIA - SUCEAVA
25	AGM OF AGORA BELGIUM - MECHELEN
25	AGM OF AGORA NEDERLAND - HAAKSBERGEN
SEPTEMBER	
TBA	AGM OF AGORA CYPRUS - PAPHOS
10	CHARTER OF AGORA CLUB ANTWERPEN - AC BELGIUM
OCTOBER	
22	CHARTER AC ZEEUS - FLANDERS 15 (NETHERLANDS)



