

Be the Change through Positive Energy

www.agoracclubinternational.com



3rd ISSUE

Even a small
star shines in
the darkness.
FINNISH PROVERB

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Dear Ladies,

Each time I have the opportunity to meet up with you, my Agora friends, I am so renewed and filled with the kindness of your hearts and the care and time you take to share yourselves, your families and your beloved homes. This is such an incredible opportunity for all of us, to share in each other's lives, to partake in local traditions and celebrations. What better to share than ourselves.... nothing else really matters at the end of the day, does it? We become so much more connected to one another and the world we live in, while trying to make a difference one person, one touch, one smile, at a time. I feel that I have grown in many ways on this journey, and have certainly been blessed and made better because of all of you! So thank you from my heart to yours for all of your generosity of spirit and kindness of heart!

My first pit stop on this recent rally race around Europe began in the UK!! Hurrah for the UK the homeland of my mother! I am always thrilled to have my feet on your terra firma! It was a quick connection hub for me, but enough time to take the train with family from the West End and meet up with AC South-End ladies toward the Middle End of London!



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

Yogi Bhaajan

Also known as Home Slice Pizza in London!

What a great reunion with the South-End ladies!



Following our oven fired pizza, Maria took us on a tour of the National Portrait Gallery off Trafalgar square!



And we enjoyed the sites of Trafalgar Square and downtown London...





Oh what a super time! Thanks so much & Cheers my lovely UK ladies until next time!



On to Lokeren Belgium to the Hearts in the Park fundraiser!

Be the Light

With lovely ladies serving hors d'oeuvres from their puff skirts



While a gallant gentleman announced the arrival of local gentry.....

What a fairytale come true for all..... and what a super successful fundraiser!

Well done ladies and thanks once again Veerle and Karin for your hospitality to Sandy and me!

Can you imagine this setting? Decorated exquisitely...



A local Counts grounds...



Au revoir – until we meet again!!

Onward to Germany

by Karin's car (thank you Karin!) What a beautiful drive across Belgium to German lands... heritage of my father and my husband. Heidelberg bound to Ursula Lejeune's home for a slumber party with more Agora friends! Can you imagine the wonderful husband of Ursula, Bernard, having six ladies in his home for a few days, and In addition to the LC district president Anne and LC VP of LC Heidelberg Sadya! Yes he is a saint and a super host!



While in Heidelberg we walked the beautiful city, ate snowballs visited shops of colour and creative works including Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas shop where we had to buy some decorations for our trees next year! We also visited the castle, had spectacular views and later on were able to share in more local traditions when partaking in the Heidelberg Carnivale parade.....

And Weinheim Carnivale celebration with dancing in the streets and a lovely dinner off the piazza with more Agora ladies from local clubs

The stay was wonderful... sweet and satisfying! Thank you Ursula and all of the AC Tangent Ladies that welcomed us and shared with us!

Time to say tschüss!

Then a quick stop in Lucerne at the Jail House Hotel, where we met up with a friend of Sandy's and chatted about possibilities....



And my favorite the spectacularly gorgeous Bellagio on Lake Como....surrounded by mountain alps and lush greenery, walking cobbled streets and following all the nooks and crannies up to the high street of the local shops, taking a secret turn to drop us off once again lakeside... mountains peering down with peaks reaching for the skies...unbelievably breathtaking...



Then on to our Board Meeting in Milano and finally meeting up with the rest of our dear boardies! The board meetings were long and fruitful with our angel Thanh Thao taking such good care of us...



With a couple of breaks to see Milano and enjoy gelati, the Duomo and the palace...



I did not want to leave...

But we got back to our board meeting until late that night to make up for this wonderful truancy!



We had so much more to enjoy with lovely meals made daily by our lovely and gracious host Thanh Thao, and a special dinner at "Il Cavalliere" with ladies, partners and friends from Agora Milano



And to finish off this beautiful trip to Milano, we were taken on a lovely tour and luncheon at Villa Borromeo in Senago hosted by 41 club Milano, with many in attendance from around the globe.

Ciao e addio miei cari amici vi hanno sempre il mio cuore



Then it was time to head for home with a quick stop in Salzburg where I visited Liz and shared some R&R with her at a local health spa in Germany...Liz is still hoping to get a club going locally and maybe with the recent Ladies Circle starting up there we will soon have more support to draw on....



What a fabulous trip with wonderful ladies and exquisite sites and celebrations!

I wait in anticipation for the next journey and wonder where it will take me!

The flowers are all blooming early, the sky does not seem to know

That we usually have more rain this time and at times a little snow

The birds are singing softly as the hummingbirds delight

That buds are opening sweetly to them with naught a cloud in sight

I envy you that found the snows and slopes to glide around

But still I am happily in the green with my feet upon the ground!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

may your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go
-Irish blessing

Happy Spring



Happy Days, Many Blessings & Lots of Love to all of you!

Kelly

KELLY GEISLER
ACI PRESIDENT 2014/15

**TRAVEL LIGHT,
LIVE LIGHT,
SPREAD THE LIGHT,
BE THE LIGHT.**

Yogi Bhajan

No matter how
educated, talented,
rich or cool you
believe you are,
how you treat people
ultimately tells all.
Integrity is everything.

Life is like riding
a bicycle.
To keep your
balance, you
must keep moving.

Albert Einstein

LIFE'S A DANCE™

HAPPINESS
starts with you. Not with
your relationships, not
with your job, not with
your money, but with

YOU.
-Mandy Hale

LESSONS
LEARNED
LIFE

ACI BAROMETER

And here is the good news! Our barometer is growing steadily .

Hours you and your clubs gave to a good cause: **up we go to 303 hours.**

And then there 's the money you raised for local charity and the ISP.

76.000 euros for local projects; 1310 for ISP and 328 for emergency disaster fund.

During the ACI AGM the councillors decided to keep 20% of the ISP funds for an emergency disaster fund. When there is no urgent apply for help in case of natural disasters , the total amount goes to the ISP project.

So now you can see on our barometer **red** for the ISP, **blue** for local charity and **yellow** for the emergency disaster fund (not visible yet ...but you can change that ☺)

I am sure only a fraction of what all clubs are doing reaches us. Let me remind you : ACI is about all of you. Even small Clubs can do grand things.

Here is a short review on your activities ☺

AC Iceland , AC Norway and AC SA knitted... knitted and knitted... heaps of baby clothes.

AC Belgium worked together with RT in food distribution for the poor. AC Namur sold lasagne, AC Aarschot sold hand made puppets and raised 1680 euros, AC Lokeren organised a Valentine's party and raised 12 000 euros for several projects, AC Diest raised 2500 euros for research on ALS.

AC/TC Heidelberg-Germany raised 1300 euro for a local project

AC Detroit raised 5000 dollars for an orphanage in Romania

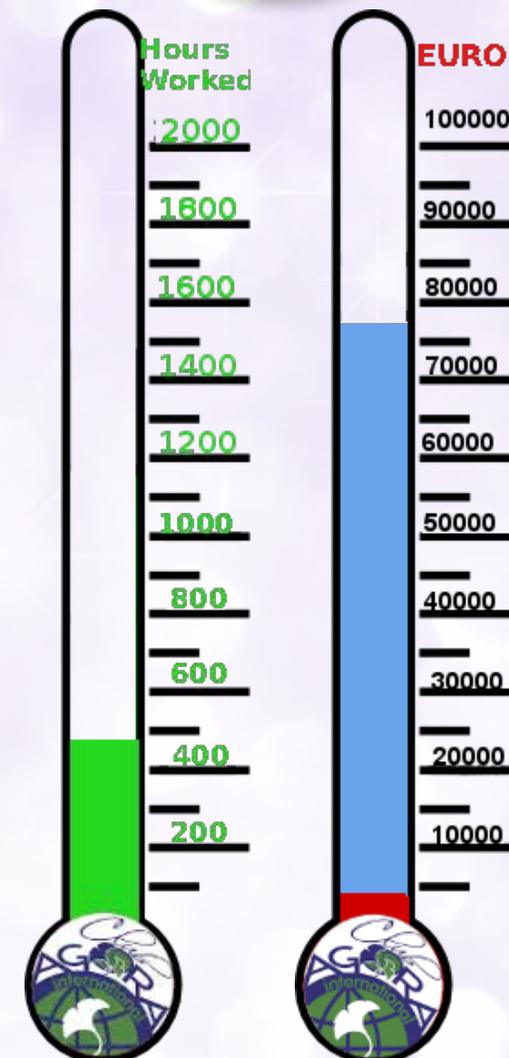
AC Hyeres France had a theatre evening and sold Beaujolais wine; good for 1800 euros.

AC France raised 17.530 euros for the National project: a lot of clubs organised a sale of flowers and hand made products.

AC Morocco worked on a side by side project with Ladies Circle.

In the Netherlands AC Flevoland and AC Noordwijk raised a nice amount of money and gave time to mental patients. Look at the nice photo's further in our Newsletter.

You ladies spread the light! Thank you.



CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TOO! CHECK OUR WEB SITE TO SEE OUR BAROMETER GROW! AND ...KEEP US INFORMED!

AC Belgium

As a (late) tribute to her stay in ZA Anne Marie Delsaerdt from AC Aarschot cooked for her club...

It was meant as a 'sandwich-meeting' so they paid the price they would normally pay for a meal in a restaurant but of course the cost was much less... so a nice amount is saved for the international project!

In December the club participated in a Christmas market and sold a variety of selfmade dolls, little animals etc... half of the benefit was also meant for Children of the Dump. Anne Marie made 70 pieces and sold 51 of them!

Now she still gets orders, so she goes on making little dolls to support the International project.



Congratulations AC Aarschot... the living proof that a small club can make a difference.



AC Iceland is growing

The double charter of Agora Club 3 -Reykjavik and Agora Club 4 -Reykjavik took place on March the 7th, we now have 24 new happy members of Agora Club Iceland.



5th Anniversary AC Italy

A splendid Anniversary rich of friendship, fun, harmony, and joy.

An enormous thank to the first five Presidents of Agora Club Italy: Teresa

Agostini, Donata Piccini, Elisabetta Ferin, Letizia Iulli, and Diana.

Brioschi.

Long live Agora Club Italy!



Agora Club Lokeren

Last year Veerle De Jonge, our past ACI IPP, organized a magnificent event 'Dark in the Park'.

The profits of the party went entirely to the organization 'EYES FOR THE WORLD'.

This year, Koen Van Pottelbergh, the founder of 'EYES FOR THE WORLD' will go to South Africa to give these self-adjustable glasses to children in need in Sowetho and Louis Trichardt. He met Sandy at Veerle's house to discuss practical arrangements.

The 14th of February, Agora Club Lokeren, the club Veerle belongs to, organized a fantastic Valentine's party "Hearts in the Park", and our president Kelly and our IPP Sandy were there to rock!

We had lots of fun and we raised a large amount of money for charity.

Once again Agora Club Lokeren will support the project 'EYES FOR THE WORLD' and the project in SA.

So we can speak of a great Trans-Continental cooperation between two Agora Clubs!

EYES FOR THE WORLD



MEETING WITH KOEN VAN POTTELBERGH

HEARTS IN THE PARK



Eyes For The World® will be visiting South Africa 12-19 April 2015



Eyes For The World® is a non profit foundation that believes everyone, all over the world, has the right to see well.



LIKE AGORA SOUTH AFRICA AND SHARE THE JOY

www.eyesfortheworld.be

Self-adjustable glasses allow users to alter the power of the lenses in order to correct their own eyesight.



Eyes For The World® wants to distribute as many glasses as possible all over the world with the help of ophthalmologists and School Based Projects in collaboration with Child Vision.



These glasses are filled with Dow Corning optical fluid, so that the power can be determined by filling the membrane with silicone. This is how we obtain a positive or a negative lens. This technique has been invented by Pr. Jushua Silver.

Thank you Agora Club 7 Lokeren for your generous donation!

Hearts in the park



Hearts in the park



AC CASABLANCA

Activity Report 3 A Visit to a Youth Center,

Among the activities planned and achieved this year we can mention the visit to a home for delinquent young teenage girls. Four of us went to visit this place they met the teenage girls their teachers and the staff of this home. The objective was to define the different needs of this center and how our club could contribute to the comfort and enhance the learning process of this population. As a matter of fact all these girls have been arrested and because they are under of age they have been put in this center to get some vocational teaching such as language classes mainly French, how to sew to achieve embroidery works, to learn hair dressing or use cosmetics. To enable these girls to benefit thoroughly from this learning, these workshops should be fully equipped with sewing machines and all the necessary devices and materiel for hairdressing to provide them also with cosmetics and all the teaching material for the language center. With the emerging of a new Casablanca Agora Club it was agreed that the new Casablanca Agora Club 2 in process will be in charge of this project service with this teenage girls home. So far a good job has been achieved by the new members of this club. Several visits have already taken place , clothes, cosmetics and other items have been given to the girls. A schedule will be set up to organise and plan Casablanca Agora Club 2 in process contribution to this home. This project service action will likely be one of the major events and happenings of the coming charter of the new agora Club 2 in Casablanca.

AC Morocco Side by Side

In accordance with the spirit of the side by side attitude, to celebrate CAC1 3rd anniversary we opted for a common meeting with Casablanca 41 Club4. A nice woman and a very talented coach gave a lecture on how coaching could promote our professional competences and skills and highly contribute to our personal development.

Tasty food, melodious music and rhythm a friendly atmosphere with our friends from Lady Circle clubs Round tables and 41 Clubs made of this side by side event a real moment of closeness and friendship between clubs sharing so much in common.



ACI Day Morocco

Be the light

Activity Report 1 ACI DAY

The first Notable important inaugural outing our club organized this year was to celebrate the ACI DAY, October 14. I know it was ages ago, meaning my report is not issued at proper time, but I could not send this report without mentioning this significant date, for not only do we enjoy doing something all together at the same moment well at least the same day considering the jet lag, but it is also a perfect opportunity for all Agora Clubs to set up the first draft of the activities of the whole year.

For our ACI DAY we held a meeting in an Italian club where we enjoyed tasty Italian food and above all enjoyed being together ready to achieve things that will make us proud of ourselves.





**NEW YEARS DRINK
AC THE NETHERLANDS**

Activities Agora Clubs the Netherlands, March 2015

On Sunday January 25, 2015 **Agora Club the Netherlands** had a **New Year Gathering** for all her members with partners in the **Railway Museum** in Utrecht. It was so great to meet many of our ladies, most of them with their husband, from all parts of the country, having lunch together, walking a guided tour through the museum and having a toast with each other to Agora and all her members. A marvelous start of the Agora year 2015.



Agora Club Flevoland in the Netherlands has wrapped up chocolate and peppermint for a company in business gifts. They had a lot of fun together, talking to each other, eating some candy, and the most important thing... with those activities they also earned some money.

Recently **Agora Club Noordwijk** had its yearly service dinner, this time as a winter barbecue. The partners of the Agora members donated as usual with a deep purse: Euro 1.000,- for the Voedselbank (Food Aid) Noordwijk.



The members of **Agora Club Noordwijk** are by turns involved with the events of "Mariënhaven", a psycho geriatric institute in Warmond, for about 15 hours a month.

AGORA CLUB Detroit USA – Giving

AGORA Club Detroit hosted a charity fundraising event to celebrate International Women's Day 2015 with funds going to a Romanian orphanage. The event took place at "Descent of the Holy Spirit" Orthodox Church in Warren, Michigan on March 7, 2015.

The event was very a great success. It was very well attended and it proved once again that people are very generous and care about the ones less fortunate.

An event like this is the result of work of many hands, heads and hearts but it cannot be done without the generous participants who kindly donated for the ones less fortunate. Everyone that showed up made a difference! We thank from the bottom of our hearts to all who helped make an essential contribution to the success of this project.

Here are shanpshots from the event. Lots of generous people having fun while supporting a great cause!







Revival of AC Zambia

Last month AC Zambia had a kick start! A fruitful meeting with enthusiastic ladies. From left to right: Sylvia Mwansa, Bwalya Mulonga, Florence Kaunda, Kalenga Mulenga, Chilufya Mwanakatwe and Dorothy Ntengrenji
Not in attendance with apologies: Prisciila Choonga & Charity Ngandu.





AC SA LOUIS TRICHARDT KNITTING



36 Sets of baby outfits were donated to **Hands of Hope** who will distribute to various Safe Houses. The next batch will be sent to **Vutshilo Aids Care** – a care group in Venda that assists mothers with Aids.



Agora Louis Trichardt were very kindly given a load of knitted baby sets – thank you Pat! The sets still needed to be sewn together so we spent a lovely afternoon of friendship and work preparing 36 sets which were sent to Hands of Hope.



AC Iceland knitting project

A friend of Dagny works in a big bank and there are a lot of hobby clubs. Her friend had seen some of the baby knitting at her place in October, she asked for the pattern and here are the results. The knitting club collected money, bought the yarn and this is what they have produced so far; 32 sets of vest-hat-socks, plus a lot of extra hats and socks. They are still at it.

SIDE BY SIDE



In Brussels-Belgium Round Table and Agora Club joined forces and helped with the food distribution to the homeless in a Metro station.

LCI DAY CELEBRATED IN ROMANIA WITH AGORA CLUB ROMANIA AND LC ROMANIA



SIDE BY SIDE

LC AFRICAN REGIONS MTM was held in Gaborone Botswana on the 23rd Jan until 25th Jan 2015.

Agora Botswana was represented by Kgomotso Tshekiso. Fuzlin Egner and Sofia Figueroa. Kgomotso also had the opportunity to talk to LC ladies individually about Agora as well as distributing the flyers for more information.

Countries present at the MTM were RSA, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

LC NORDIC REGIONS MTM was held in Copenhagen Denmark. Tone Wolstad Knudsen went as our representative. At the welcome party everybody was searching for an exotic looking lady from "Agora -land" Big was the surprise when they discovered Tone was Norwegian and from Agora Club: an elegant representative of ACI!

LC SOUTHERN REGIONS MTM was held in Cascais where our Martine Monzo was warmly welcomed by the Portugese ladies.

I went to Vienna to the **LC MID-EUROPEAN REGION MTM**. It was a fantastic MTM and the Gala Dinner was held in a beautiful setting. I want to thank the Austrian Ladies for their warm welcome and Maria Orsolc for guiding us in Vienna.

KARIN



MTM LC AFRICAN REGION

MTM's Are On Their Way ...

MTM - AFRICAN REGION
GABORONE, BOTSWANA
23 - 24 JANUARY 2015

MTM - SOUTHERN EUROPEAN REGION
CASCAIS, PORTUGAL
29 JANUARY - 02 FEBRUARY 2015

MTM - NORDIC REGION
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
23 - 24 JANUARY 2015

MTM - MIDDLE EUROPEAN REGION
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
5 - 7 FEBRUARY 2015

SIDE BY SIDE



KARIN IN AUSTRIA



KARIN WITH BELGIAN DELEGATION AT GALA DINNER IN VIENNA.



WELCOME BY LADIES FROM LC WIENER NEUSTADT



TONE GIVING SPEECH AT MTM LC IN COPENHAGEN



TONE WITH LADIES FROM LC NORWAY AT MTM IN COPENHAGEN



VISIT VIENNA WITH MARIA ORSOLIC AND GITTE, CLOTHILDE AND MARIAM



MTM NORDIC REGION



ITALIAN LADIES AT MTM IN CASCAIS



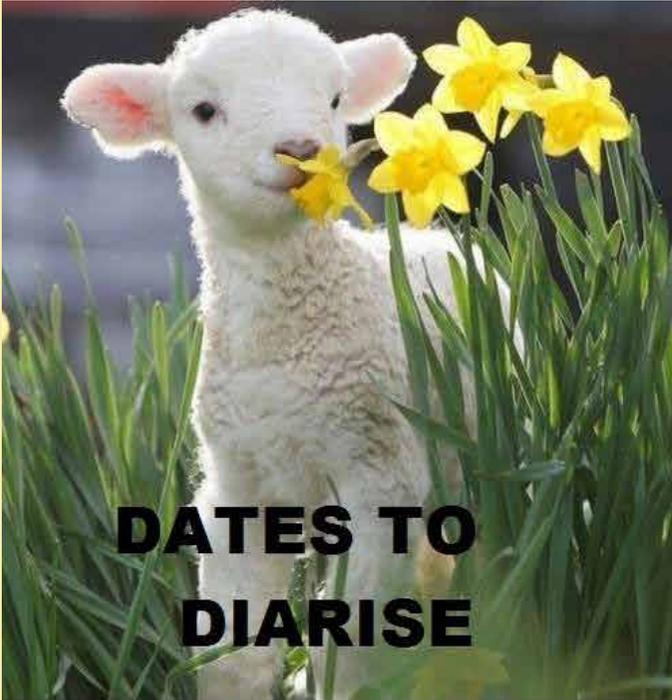
MARTINE MONZO WITH THE FRENCH LADIES IN CASCAIS



KGMOTSO AT MTM LC AFRICAN REGIONS



KGMOTSO AT MTM BOTSWANA



DATES TO DIARISE

24-04-2015 : AGM AC Romania - Brasov

24->26-04 2015 : AGM AC/TC Germany-Stuttgart

23-05-2015 : AGM AC USA -Tacoma

30-05-2015 : AGM AC Italy - Milan

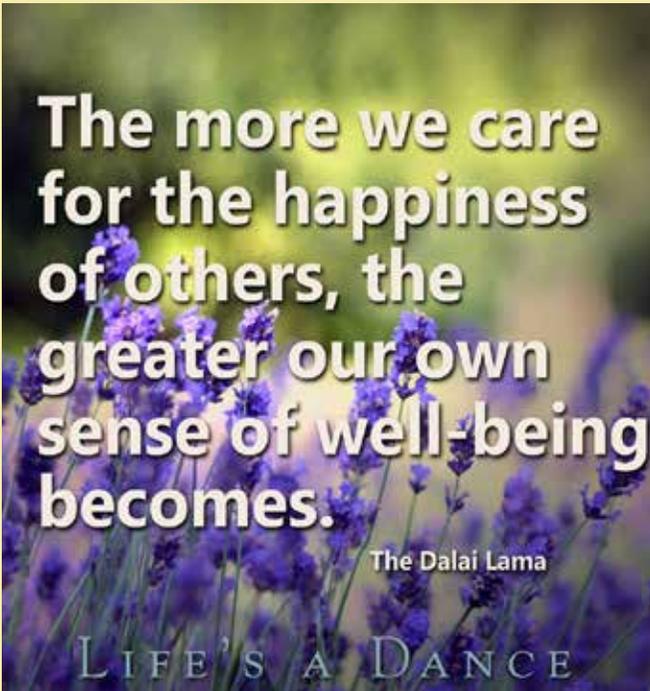
30-05-2015 : AGM AC SA- Louis Trichardt

!! NEW DATE CHARTER AC BOTSWANA!! 27-06-2015 !!

24->26-04-2015 : AGM 41 I Limassol Cyprus

24->26-04-2015 : AGM Tangent I Limassol Cyprus

!!!7->10 october 2015: AGM ACI Brasov Romania!!!



The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater our own sense of well-being becomes.

The Dalai Lama

LIFE'S A DANCE

There are only 3 things that can make your dreams come true:

your thoughts

your words

and your actions.

Be the spark!

-Mike Dooley

about4business



Fun and mystery



the 19th Agora Club International
Conference

8-11 oct. 2015
Brasov, Romania

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

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

Lots of love,
AGORA CLUB ROMANIA

Contact:

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Sorina Barbu - AGORA club national vice president
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Simona Centiu - Conference Convenor
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Program

08 October 2015 - Thursday

Pre Tour - Sinaia Resort – Peles Castle – Royal winery

09 October 2015 - Friday

International Board meet & greet – Registration

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

14.00 - 17.00 Councillors Meeting at Hotel Alpin

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

19:30 - Welcome Traditional Romanian Party

10 October 2015 - Saturday

09.00 - 14.00 - AGM

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

14.00 - 15.00 Lunch

15.00 - 18.00 Brasov City Tour

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

20:00 - GALA DINNER - the official banner exchange

11 October 2015 – Sunday

9.30 - Post Tour - Sighisoara & Viscri Village





**HAVE A HAPPY
EASTER**

*Kelly, Karin, Sandy
Martine, Thanh Thao*

