



Newsletter issue 4 March 2018

Dear Agora friends,

The spring is almost around the corner and the Agora newsletter 4 is here ... what more can we wish for ☺

I hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter that is once again showing how great and powerful we all are.

Happy Easter to you all and your family and friends.

María Erla,

ACI Secretary



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Happy Women's Day

My dear Agora Ladies,

As March is the Women's Month, it is your month, our month... The month during which we can do everything!

Then, don't hesitate to do things you never tried and you would like to do, don't hesitate to "Do More by opening your Eyes and your Heart" to help others...

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face" Eleanor Roosevelt

Be strong, be you... an amazing woman, a fabulous Agora Lady!

And let us know who you are and what you did... for our NL5



This fourth Newsletter of ACI 2017-2018 will tell you more about the LCI ISP "Happy Hearts" in Gaborone, the different missions for EFTW, how Italy reconstructs after earthquakes, a part of the ACI Board working for our side by side relationship with the Round Table Family, and the stories from your Clubs or from your Countries...

I hope you will love reading it!

Yours in Friendship and Love

Isabelle Séguinot

ACI President 17-18



Dear Agora Ladies,

During our last ACI Conference in Malta, you voted to continue to help and support the LCI ISP 17-19 “Happy Hearts”.

Please read what it is for, just below and organize some charity events in your country to help them... and send the money to the ACI Treasurer before the end of July. Thank you!

Isabelle

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

For the period 2017 - 2019, Ladies Circle International will support the ‘Happy Hearts’ project in Botswana. The project seeks to raise funds to build an interim home. The home will accommodate children undergoing treatment at Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone and their caregivers. The home intends to cater for those patients that live far from the treatment center. Ladies Circle Botswana has collaborated with the Cancer Association of Botswana; an organization dedicated to supporting and caring for the sufferers and survivors of cancer and recognizes the lack of such a facility for children in the country.



The mission of Happy Hearts is to provide temporary accommodation for childhood cancer patients and their care givers from remote areas who have to undergo cancer treatment in Gaborone.

After its completion, the plan is that home will further provide a range of services to address patients' physical, psychological, social and educational needs.



Place where the accommodation for children with Cancer will be built

Objectives:

To offer a dignified home away from home accommodation for patients during their treatment period and avoid exposure to further side effects and risks.

To provide an alternative place that will help ease the financial and emotional problems and relieve the stress of logistics, allowing caregivers to focus on giving moral support to their children

To provide an environment that will support and mitigate against psychosocial burdens for the patient and caregivers and equip them with better coping skills.

BACKGROUND

Childhood Cancer is on the rise in Botswana and the main treatment center is located in Botswana's capital city, Gaborone, at Princess Marina Referral Hospital. A majority of the diagnosed cases are from children who reside outside of the capital city (Gaborone) where the main treatment center (Princess Marina Referral Hospital) is located.



Princess Marina Referral Hospital

Ladies Circle Botswana came to the realization that there were some childhood cancer patients and their caregivers that have to travel long distances of over 1000kms using public transport to Gaborone for treatment. As a majority of the diagnosed cases is children from very low-income families, travelling the long distances and finding accommodation in Gaborone to access the treatment can prove to be very costly for the affected families. At times, they have to travel on a monthly basis for treatment, and given their health, financial means, the children and caregivers are subjected to extremely tough, unfavorable conditions of travel and care during and after treatment.

Projects EFTW 2017-2018



PROJECTS EFTW 2017-2018

- **MISSION ROMANIA : 9-14 APRIL 2018**
First mission. Help to the elder in remote villages + help in schools
- **MISSION MADAGASCAR : 4-9 MAY 2018**
Second mission. Visit to schools we previously helped + New project in rural areas around Antananarivo
- **MISSION ZIMBABWE : 5-7 JULY 2018**
Beautiful Side-By-Side coöperation between AC Zimbabwe i.f. and LC Zimbabwe in a first mission in this new Agora country!
- **MISSION ZAMBIA : 9-11 JULY 2018**
Second mission. Help in schools in rural areas around Lusaka

Would you like to join us for a Mission? Let us know!

Veerle : Veerle_de_jonge@yahoo.com or **Sandy** : svn@mweb.co.za

Agora Club Italy



Dear Agora Friends,

One day this strange winter will be over and on that very day, right here, our support for ARQUATA will begin to take shape.

The project of a polyfunctional building is ready; the area is ready.

The project is supported by

ANA = Alpini National Association

Construction Systems by Moretti

4 Clubs, 1 Vision

As soon as the Civil Engineering Office signs the beginning of works, CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS will start to prepare the concrete bed and after 28- 36 days they will start to build and assemble the polyfunctional center.

Ladies' Circle, Round Table and Agora Club Italy have designed Club 41 Italy as their official representative to sign the tender.

All legal aspects are followed by Martin Harl (Club 41 Rome, lawyer) and Luca Colombo (Club 41 Verona, fiscal expert).

The building will cost 450000, 00 €.

4 Clubs, 1 Vision can offer up to € 150,000: Round Table offers 40,000€, Ladies' Circle 10.000, Agora 6,000. Club 41 is ready to cover the remaining amount.

Construction Systems and, above all, ANA will supply the necessary amount of money to complete the building.



Hopefully, early next summer we might pop in Arquata and proudly see the results of Agora efforts.

Once again Agora Club International has helped us consistently. Thank you very much for your solidarity, generosity and true Friendship.

Letizia Iulli

Club Agora Italia

National President



Charity events Iceland

The members of Agora Club Iceland have participated in three charity events in past few months.

They volunteered in a telethon for the Icelandic heart association.

They also made handcrafted bracelets for Kraftur, the support group for young cancer patients and their families. Kraftur sells the bracelets as a fundraiser.

Finally yet importantly, Agora ladies knitted baby caps for Neistinn, the Icelandic Pediatric Heart Association, during its awareness week. Moreover, the ladies knitted caps and vests for premature children in Africa.

Knitting for Africa, members of ACÍ 2, ACÍ3 and ACÍ4



Members of ACÍ 3 came together and knitted for baby hats for "Neistinn" some other did knit these caps but we do not have pictures of all our great knitters.



The bracelet "LÍFIÐ ER NÚNA" means THE LIFE IS NOW, this is the slogan for young people fighting cancer.



Our national president, national secretary and our past president among other Agora women making bracelets for Kraftur.



Some Agora women are in the crowd.



With warm regards,

Ása Jóhannsdóttir

Secretary Agora Iceland

Agora Spittal 1 - Charity

Agora Spittal 1 works together with a school class for charity! – January, 20th, 2018

Our ladies spent a Saturday morning working together with a school class on the presentation day of this gymnasium! Stones were painted and beton bowls were built! We were able to sell lot of our creations on this day!

Together with the pupils our club will make a charity project!





Agora Israel charter



AGORA ISRAEL
Service • Friendship • Tolerance

Agora Israel is growing and expanding.

On 17/2, a charter was awarded to Agora Herzliya under the leadership of Ruhama, the leader and her wonderful friends, who began their voluntary activities in the community for girls at risk about a year and a .half ago



Despite the rain, the stormy weather, and the location of the events were in the Carmel and Haifa came to greet the president of the International Agora Isabelle Seguinot.

With representatives from the United States, Germany, Belgium, Romanian and Israel Rector of the Tangent Israel Ricky Ashin and Sigal



Rafaeli, Vice-President, and President of the Israel lady Circle Racheli Sela and Keren Badani vice president lady circle Israel.



In 18/2, a charter was awarded to the Agora Haifa in the presence of guests Ariel Eldor from the organization of a round table and a Sagit gareini from the chairman of the Tangent Haifa. The group was founded about a year and a half ago, led by Leah Avisar and its deputy Leah Zoref

Among their projects





A cookbook with recipes from the group of ethnic groups and religions of " Neve Yosef" melting pot quarter in Haifa .



And that's just the beginning

This is the opportunity to personally congratulate each and every company that chooses to volunteer in an organization that is entirely dedicated to giving and continuing to cooperate for a healthy society in Israel - Thank you all !!!

Amazing Africa

As I needed to go to Botswana to attend the 2nd LCI MTM in Gaborone, I decided to take this opportunity to visit the Agora Ladies in South Africa... I had a connection in Johannesburg!

Then, after some trouble with my flight (one missed connection in Amsterdam due to a delayed departure in Marseille because of the fog there), I safely arrived in Johannesburg and was warmly welcomed by Lolo Mofolo, the National President of AC South Africa.

After a short shower, we went to Soweto for a lunch meeting with the Agora Ladies from the two clubs around Johannesburg. I learnt that it was the first time they had this kind of meeting together... We had so much fun that it will not be the last one, for sure!!!



RIP Linda Sandra Smith (the beautiful woman in the middle of this picture). We will never forget you. It was a great pleasure to meet you. Rest in Peace... Deepest condolences to your family and friends

Then, I met 10 wonderful Agora Ladies. All of them presented themselves and we all discovered why they decided to join the Agora Club, who they were and what they were doing in life and for Agora. It was really interesting and we had a great time all together....



It was so hard to leave that some of us stayed a little bit more in the restaurant to have more time to talk.

After a nice evening with Lollo, I went to Johburg Airport where I met Beverley, IPP AC South Africa, who was coming back home from UK and was waiting for me there.



It was really nice to meet her again and we enjoyed chatting together a lot.

Then, I had to leave to Hoedspruit in the North of South Africa where I was really warmly welcomed by Sandy Van Niekerk, past ACI President and EFTW Convener and her husband Vaughan.



I was home hosted in their lodges: Wild Dog Lodge and Pezulu Lodge, 2 amazing places close to Kruger Park.



I had the great surprise to be also welcomed by four other nice Agora Ladies from AC Louis Trichard (Lorene, Laura, Daphne and Dye) who came especially there with their husbands to spend time with me. Vaughan and Sandy took 3 days for free to have time with me and with the other Agora Ladies, to show us some of the beautiful parts of South Africa, the Kruger Park and other private Parks in the same area. It was really amazing to discover wild animals in their own habitat, to have a wonderful African picnic, near the river...and next to a crocodile!



I loved and will cherish for a long time all these minutes we had together and specially the



time in the swimming pool during which we had great discussions about Agora and about Life! Without forgetting the “Amarula” time every night during the apéritif... Amarula is a special South African drink made with Amarula fruits, fruits that are loved by Elephants and Monkeys!

After these amazing days, I went back to the airport to go to Gaborone. I was warmly welcomed by Khurshida and Kgomotso and had the great surprise to also meet Sandra Murahwa, the LCI Secretary and Ruth Hungwe, Past LCI President and LCI MTM Convenor.





We had a very nice time in Gaborone by night during which we took time to get to know each other better... the same, the day after with Charlene, Birkiss and Kgomotso during which I visited the city, a beautiful one.

Then, the LCI MTM for African and south of Europe areas began with a very festive Welcome Party. It was great to meet all the Ladies from Africa, from France (my country!), but also Kenza Sbihi, LCI VP, Sandra, LCI Secretary and



Anne Ahlfelt, LCI President, and some friends with whom I had chatted through Facebook or others I met a long time ago... During this party, we had amazing African dance, good wine, food, and a lot of fun!

The day after was the meeting day, well organized by Anne Ahlfelt, the LCI President. We had a lot of information about LCI world life and some discussion-groups. I attended the group about the "side by side" issue. All the ladies really wanted to have good relationships



Round Table Family in their country but they really wanted to understand the success of Rotary Club and how they communicated worldwide.

and Lions



After a quick lunch, we visited the “Happy Hearts Home” which is the LCI ISP 2017-2019. As



the hospital to host Children with Cancer is too old and too small, “Happy Hearts” could give to these ill children who lived far from Gaborone the possibility to be well hosted with one of their parents in a comfortable house during their treatments. The Gala dinner closed this Week-End Meeting with African Theme and I won the first price for the Head Gear... a big honor for me and for Agora Club International! A big thank you to Ruth who made it for

me!!!



On Sunday, I had a very nice brunch with all the Agora Ladies from Botswana. They all presented themselves, their lives, their implications in the Agora Club Botswana... and so on. After we visited an orphanage created by Khurshida's Uncle in which boys had the



opportunity to have a better start in life.

It was really interesting to hear the problems of each Agora club, their solutions, their



dynamism, their friendship all together and their implications in a lot of local charity projects... That is Agora Spirit!

A big THANK YOU to my hostess who made me feel like at home: Lollo, Sandy, Charlene and Khurshida.... Thank you so much for everything you did for me... Love you!

LCI MTM 2018 - Luxembourg

Staying young

Ursula our IPP, and I attended the LCI MTM in lovely Luxembourg last January.



Ursula arrived by train earlier in the day, while I arrived late evening where I was warmly greeted at the airport by the Lux Ladies with prosecco! It promised to be a good weekend, which it was.

With bags still in the car off we went to the welcome party where



Ladies from LC Luxembourg



ACT-S Germany and LCI-P Anne

I was very happy to see Ursula, who was already enjoying the evening amongst friends, in a great atmosphere.

During the MTM the next morning, we had the opportunity to meet with Anne Ahlefeldt, President of LCI, and her board, with Paula Farnfield, VP of TCI, and the Mayor of Luxembourg, who is also the minister for education. Since this was the first occasion where I was the VP, Ursula very kindly guided me through the meeting and procedures and gave me the honour to address the ladies with a short greeting on behalf of Isabelle our President and the Board.



Our compliments to Anne for the impeccable way in which she handled the meeting, providing the right forum for the active participation of all to discuss important topics such as the strategy to continue growing LC worldwide. Various workshops were held during the meeting with a summary of ideas, which will be discussed during the AGM at Haugesund, Norway.



The meeting was closed with promises of a great time in the upcoming AGM in Haugesund, Norway by the Norwegian lady Vikings.



The gala dinner was very enjoyable and felt we were amongst 'old' friends.



Anna- ACI VP, Anne LCI President, Ursula- ACI IPP



ACI-IPP, ACT GERMANY P, ACI-VP

It is amazing how deep rooted our sense of belonging in LC is, and how time is of no consequence...once a circler, always a circler. We opened our eyes, we opened our hearts and we did that little bit more fun!

Thank you Ursula for my induction and the friendship.

Anna, ACI Vice-President 2017-18

RTI HYM In Beautiful Gent

After having met the Ladies in Gaborone (and Luxembourg) during the LCI MTM, I went to Gent to meet the Tablers and their RTI President, Yann TAVENIER during their HYM.



It was a double opportunity:

The first one was to attend to a RTI meeting first time ever, to present Agora Club International and our ISP EFTW to these young men worldwide.

I had the pleasure to also meet the LCI Board:

Anne, Kenza, Sandra, Pracha and Criss (Gry was ill and then, not there), the 41ers International VP Elected Luc Trigaud and the 41ers Belgium National President, Philippe Paty.

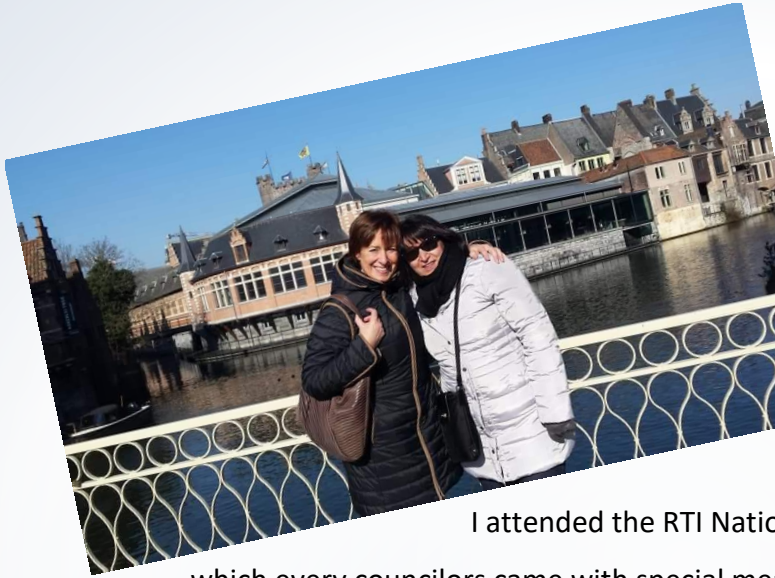


The second



one was to visit Gent with my dear friends and the ACI Conference Convenor 2018, Veerle De Jonge. She showed me the different locations for our ACI Conference. I loved everything!!! It will be great!!!

The city is very very nice, a little bit cold but in October, the weather will be nicer.... And I loved the Belgium waffles!



I attended the RTI Nations Night (a kind of welcome party during which every councilors came with special meat and drink from their countries) which was held where we will have our Gala Diner and their Gala Diner was where we will have our Welcome Party!



It was great to meet Tablers worldwide, to discuss with them and to explain them who we are, what we are doing and what the difference is between Tangent and us... For this task Carine Everaert and Ingrid Ediers, Belgium National President and IPP joined us for our big pleasure!



The Gala dinner closed the RTI event. A very nice one during which they honored me by giving me some flowers... some real Gentlemen!



Thank you Veerle to home host me and to make it possible!

LC and ACN back and forth presented on their special meeting

It was a very busy weekend, you can say, for both clubs.

Ladies Circle the Netherlands organized their VOL on 20 January and the next day was the New Year meeting of Agora club The Netherlands.

Always worth to see and speak each other!

The last few years we keep in touch very well, and that results in expansion of Agora.



LC NL board with guests from Round Table NL, Agora Belgium and Agora NL



And the next day:



Two members of LC NL are coming to our New Year's Meeting in silver town Schoonhoven and as always (not to see on the picture) our Belgian Agora friends Carine and Marleen.



A Collage of our New Year meeting in Schoonhoven.



Side by side - Iceland

Round Table Iceland in cooperation with RT-12 invited Ladies Circle, Agora and Tangent on “We invite you for a dance” festival, 3rd of February 2018.

The evening was very successful and everyone had a great fun side by side.



Carnival in Spittal/Drau

Carneval in Spittal/Drau – February, 10th, 2018

Agora bee met „Bee Maja“!

Side by side with Lady Circle 5 Spittal
on their truck trough the carnival of
Spittal!

Great parade with much fun!



Easter Card

