



NEWSLETTER 3 December 2010



Christmas Greetings everyone!

Well Christmas will soon be here – my best time of the year!

Lots of wonderful family, friends and FOOD!!!

As we head towards the last minute rush of shopping for presents and the festive foods, please spare a moment to think of those less fortunate than us and also those who have been suffering with ill health over the past months.

We have in the International Board been busy with preparations for the 3rd board meeting and we have had lots of correspondence from all over the world. Plans are all in place and on track for the 2 new country charters and the many national ones too. I am looking forward to 2011 – this is going to be a “bumper” year for ACI !!!

So we head towards **2011** let's put in place steps to ensure that this coming year will exceed our expectations:

- 1. Have clear objectives for the year ahead*
- 2. Create a passion*
- 3. View problems as challenges*
- 4. Seek advice if you are unsure of what you must or need to do*
- 5. Motivate everyone around you.*

I would like to wish you all a wonderful and special Festive Season.

A Circle of Friends Forever
Much love

Nikkie

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Agora = Friendship



Suddenly the world can be a small place : ONE appeal for emotional support from ACI secretary Veerle ... and Yifat Rom (president AC Israel) , whose house was threatened by the huge fire in Haifa (Israel), received so many sweet smsses and emails from around the Aroga world! Thank you all!

Here is her reply :

Dear sisters!

Finally I am home...

The fire is not yet over but we were allowed to go home!

We are sitting at our balcony ignoring the bad smell in the air, and looking at the black smoky view

...

We are very sad, and we are very thankful ... for being here... UN harmed no damage...

Only a big warning from god saying that we should remember that material things can be gone in a minute, but human life and our family and friends are our main assets.. We should cherish them always!

My house is locates in the first row (and the first row that was evacuated.)

Sitting in our balcony we see all the Carmel forest (what was) we are looking into The sky which is full of foreign airplanes- about 25, which are fling to the sea, fill their water tanks with water and then fly over the fire and drop the water there.

It is an overwhelming sight...

I don't know if you know but many countries sent special airplanes or fire fighters...

We can point which airplane is from what country according to the color and shape...

And it is heartwarming to see with our own eyes the global help... now we know what "being on the other side" means!

The e-mails, sms, and phone calls that I received filled my worrying sad heart with happiness and warmth!

Until you are in a situation like this you don't know how much these small gestures are important!!!

I thank you all for brightening my life!

As you all wrote to me... I feel now that I have a house wherever I go....

And I would like to invite you all to my home... and tell you

My door will be always open!

When the fire started Zvika – my husband took all our albums, memories and packed some clothes for all of us (we were stuck in Tel Aviv not allowed to come home) and put them all in our car...

So now we are going to put everything back in place

I will stay in touch

And pray for life

Love

Yifat



Agora = local initiatives



Agnès Veille-Finet from AC 24 Paris Villages reports :

A First!! The four Parisian Quatalagor Clubs are present at an oenological conference on Thursday, November 18, 2010, "Nouveau Beaujolais" day, for "Les Tout Petits Association" organized by the Agora Club Paris Villages No. 24 in The Mastaba 1 and led by two Agora and 41 Bergerac speakers.

Firstly, what is the Mastaba, a prestigious place, reserved free for us by La Garenne Colombes City.

In 1986, the artist Jean-Pierre Raynaud built at La Garenne Colombes (town near La Défense in Paris western) a house with the architect Jean Dedieu. Inspired by the structure of the tombs of ancient Egypt, this ¾ buried house is illuminated by a huge skylight. Outside, a monumental pot of red sculpture contrasts with the whiteness of the terrace.

On this Thursday evening, a wine conference is opened by Mr. Yves Perrée, Mayor for culture, and presented by Catherine Veille, President of Agora Club Paris Villages.

At first, a DVD is presented with a brief history about Bergerac Area and its vineyards. Then Gerard, our speaker, situated the two properties, one "the Mascottes" at Sainte Croix du Mont, the other "the Borderie" at Monbazillac. For nearly 45 minutes, they will show us their passion: the vine work throughout the year, harvest and the "refract meter", and different winemaking for each wine.

Many questions fuse in the room. Then a surprise waiting for us, 10% of the revenue will be donated to "Les Tout Petits Association"!

After warmly thanks, Catherine Veille invites all the presents to go the buffet prepared by all the Agora Paris Villages members; the drinks have been selected and offered by our speakers on the based dishes.

Thanks for this unforgettable evening! At next Thursday, April 5, 2011 with Edgar Allan Poe Conference!



Thank you dear Agnès for this report!

Agora = international initiatives

Don't forget ECPAT, the International Service Project 2010-2011 you have chosen during the AGM in Tallinn.

Some ideas: your club could organize a fun evening, an afternoon tea, a lecture, etc

Every contribution -big or small- will be so much appreciated!

Donations for the International Service project ECPAT can be transferred to the ACI account:

Agora Club International Bank CREDIT SUISSE
Rue du Lion d'Or 5-7 / PO Box 5720
1002 Lausanne - SWITZERLAND

IBAN CH45 0483 5112 0198 5200 1
SWIFT : CRESCHZ80A

Please state your Club's name so we can report about your Country's or Club's contribution on the next ACI conference!

AGORA = STARTING IN POLAND

Our friends from Agora Poland i.f. are very busy with their preparations. Here's a little report from President Yolanta from AC 1 Gdansk i.f. :



Dear Agora friends,

A little news from Poland :

Agora Club 1 Gdansk i.f. has now 15 members (On the picture you already see 7 of our members).

Now our first and the most important goal is the Charter Meeting which will be 11 June 2011. All this entertainment will be from the 10th of June to the 12th of June 2011. We are preparing a special and representative place for these days in the town of Sopot. In January I will send you some more news.

You can be sure we want to organize the best Charter Meeting in this part of world ☺

Jolka Kowalska



AGORA = GROWING IN ITALY!

CHARTER AGORA CLUB N°5 MILANO :
report by Daniëlle

On Friday 19th of November I left for what I thought would be a warm and rain free weekend.

After 1.20h flight I arrived in Bergamo where a shiny warm sun was expecting me. I took a shuttle to the Central station of the beautiful city of Milano where Tin Thao and Nicoletta were expecting me.

As we had some spare time before the Welcome Drink we visited "La Galleria", the place to be if you want to shop in Milano. It is close to the Dome and Prada had its first shop there. La Galleria has a beautiful architectural construction and is of the beginning of the 19th century.



Nicoletta in La Galleria



In front of the Cathedral

Around 19h all the members and friends of AC Milano gathered together for a Happy Hour, and this was the start of for a beautiful weekend.

Milano is also a city with a fantastic history therefore on Saturday morning we had a guided tour in the old city.

It was a very interesting tour for me, especially since the explanation was held in Italian. I can assure you that the best way to learn the language is to spend some time with the Italian ladies.

After this fantastic visit we had some time off, were most of us enjoyed the beautiful shops of Milano. This already is worth a visit ! All top designers and brands are represented.

Finally, at 17h we were expected for the charter of this new born club. All ladies were very excited and ready for the baptism. Friends and family gathered to witness this event.

The candle of friendship was lightened by the very proud Godmother club Bologna. I was very happy to realize that national boards and local Board of LC and 41 Club were also represented. A real pity that RT couldn't make it. You don't know what you missed guys!

Speeches, happy faces, laughter's and fun. The charter was signed, every single member of the new born club received their pin and was proud to be member of our association.

The number 5 Club in Italy was born . Congratulations girls !

After the reception we were invited in the nice Palacio for the Gala dinner, were a wonderful supper was served and were we danced and chatted until the early hours.

Congratulations to the National Board of AC Italy for their wonderful job. As IPP I am looking forward to the charters of Livorno and Modena.

Keep up the good work! Also a huge thanks to LC and 41 club for their contribution.

Daniëlle Gardin



Agora = A Circle of Friends



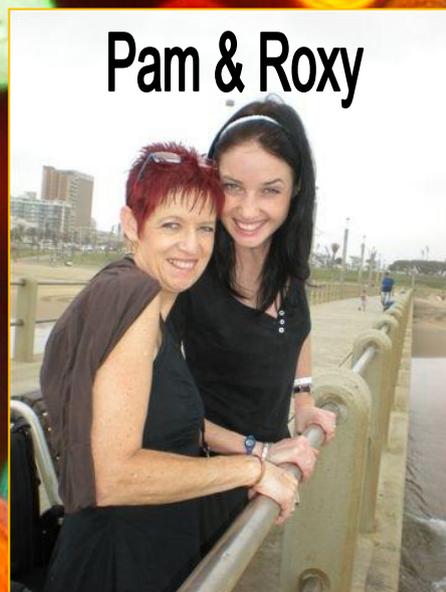
Agora = Good news!

We were all so touched by the brave battle of Roxy Mc Cabe, daughter of Pam McCabe from AC South Africa.

Here is an update on Roxy's healing:

Roxy is still coping well in rehab and surprising her Doctors and Therapists every day. She has now been promoted from a wheelchair to a walking frame for the day and may only use her wheels for outings. Her speech is coming along nicely. We have just been told that med aid will pay for an additional 2 weeks so Roxy will be home in Johannesburg for Christmas

Pam & Roxy



It has become a monthly tradition this year to inform you on fun and interesting club –and family activities of the ACI Board, so you get to know us a bit better.

So here's the second edition of ..

TALES FROM THE JUNGLE



Nikkie's Tale

In November I attended the Ladies Circle South Africa National Executive Meeting. It is lovely to keep in contact with Ladies Circle. The meeting was after Agora and Ladies Circle helped out at a Round Table Trolley race. Lots of side by side.

The last Sunday of November was the Toy Run. Thousands of Bikers in SA get together and ride along a mapped out route. At the end of the route they give toys for those less fortunate.

Ladies Circle, Agora and Round Table mainly, then help by receiving the toys, sorting them, packing them and then distributing them, to various organizations. These organizations in turn give them to their communities. It is a lot of hard work but good fun and in the past we have received well over 50 thousand toys in one go! Not sure of the numbers yet this year.

A wonderful initiative!



Elisabeth's Tale

4in1 Christmas Barbecue

Jungle Report December 2010



Every year on last Sunday before Christmas lots of Ladies, Tangent Ladies, round/old Tablers and children meet somewhere in the wood for the yearly Christmas Barbecue which is organized by OT (41 Club) Walsrode. For about 2-3 hours we have a lot of fun with drinking mulled wine for the adults or hot chocolat for the children. All hungry people can chose between grilled sausage or well tasted soup. For warming up we have a campfire. It is always a very harmonious atmosphere between young and old and we really enjoy it! Hopefully many other clubs will follow on national/international base with this wonderful idea/custom of 4in1 feeling!

Wishing you all a **Merry Christmas**
and a **Happy New Year 2011**
Yours in international friendship
Elisabeth Hiller, ACI VP/Germany



Veerle and Daniëlle's combined Tale



No so much an "African Jungle" in my own Agora Club meeting on the 7th of December...but we were submerged in plants!

My club organized a flower arrangement evening, and since Daniëlle's "jungle address" is not far from mine, she came to join our artistic exploits!

With laughter, good wine and quite some inspiration we came to this result!

Not bad hey !!

