

Be the Change through Positive Energy

www.agoracclubinternational.com



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

Yogi Bhajan

## 4th ISSUE

Even a small  
star shines in  
the darkness.

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Dear Friends,

This is such a beautiful time of year when April Showers Bring May Flowers, and so this season is filled with gorgeous and stunning flowers of all colours and varieties. It is a time of year that carries with it the promise of new life and new growth. We plant our seeds with expectations of a full harvest throughout the summer and into the fall, as our sun shines warmer and longer on our days, filling us with much needed rejuvenation and optimism.



Now we have been called to plant seeds of hope, to grow and build again, towns and villages that have been destroyed leaving many lives lost and altered forever. We have been asked to reach in and reach out with the hopes of helping alleviate some of the despair following the tragic devastation in Nepal. Once again this organization along with its affiliated organizations, has risen to the call and come together for this greater cause. You have met this challenge already with such positive energy and willing spirits and I encourage you to continue with your giving hearts, in whatever way you can.



*"There is a saying in Tibetan, 'Tragedy should be utilized as a*

*source of strength.' No matter what sort of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose our hope, that's our real disaster."*

*— Dalai Lama XIV*





*“You can cut all  
the flowers but you  
cannot keep Spring  
from coming.”*

*— Pablo Neruda*

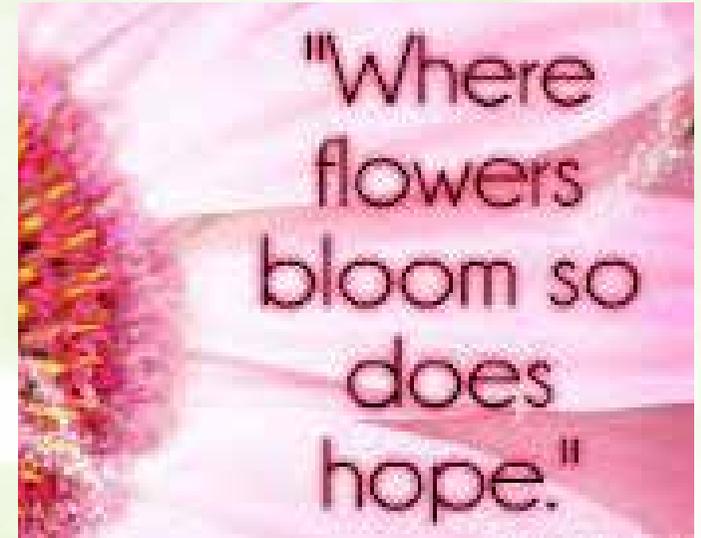


This devastation reaches far in to many communities. As time progresses and we learn more about the needs of the people, Round Table along with Ladies Circle Nepal, have plans to focus on rebuilding schools and help to bring back as much normalcy as possible to the youth of their country and so invest in the future of Nepal. Please look for updates as this joint initiative continues to evolve as needs are known and shared. You can purchase All4Nepal pins, make your club or personal donation and view ongoing efforts in Nepal on the website –

[www.All4Nepal.org](http://www.All4Nepal.org)

*“The things you do for yourself  
are gone when you are gone,  
but the things you do for others  
remain as your legacy.”*

*— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu*



*“There are only two ways to live  
your life. One is as though nothing  
is a miracle. The other is as though  
everything is a miracle.”*

*— Albert Einstein*



KELLY AND SANDY – HEARTS IN THE PARK AGORA  
LOKEREN-WAASLAND 2015

*As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer.*

— William Shakespeare

*“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.”*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

*“Hope is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul And sings the tune without the words And never stops at all.”*

— Emily Dickinson

I have to share with you that this devastation in Nepal has touched our local Agora club personally. Two young 19 year old girls from Seattle, Washington, Bailey and Sydney, took a gap year after graduating from high school in June, 2014. Bailey had been traveling to various countries and recently met up with her childhood friend in Nepal to start on a trek from the village of Langtang. Our local Agora member and my dear friend Vandana Deodhar, knows Bailey's family personally having worked with her mother Rochelle for years and has had the family in her home. Bailey is an only child and her parents were doing as all parents do, trying to do the best for their daughter and give her the wonderful gift of travel to other lands before her formal education began. A beautiful gift has now turned in to a tragedy as Bailey and Sydney along with many others in Nepal, have not been seen or heard from since the earthquake on that tragic day. Sydney's brothers have now traveled to Nepal to try and help locate these two girls. I am sure they are among many searching with broken hearts trying to find their loved ones.

I believe in miracles and will continue to hope and pray for all of those lost and those left behind to rebuild again in Nepal. In the meantime let's continue to Be the Light and generously share our gifts in hope of renewal, growth and healing where needed.

*In Love and Hope always*

*Kelly*

KELLY GEISLER  
ACI PRESIDENT 2014/15



*Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun.*

*Kahlil Gibran*



# ACI DONATES 500 EURO



donate on : [www.all4nepal.org](http://www.all4nepal.org)  
or order the "All4NEPAL" pin

**Let's unite and give hope to the Nepalese people; help them to rebuild their country**

Dear Friends,

All4Nepal is a joint venture of Round Table, Ladies Circle, 41 Club, WoCo Foundation, Tangent and Agora Clubs to get resources and relief when and where it is needed to the people of Nepal. Round Table and Ladies Circle of Nepal are coordinating relief hands on where it makes a difference!

The long term plan is to help rebuild schools and so invest in the youth and the future of Nepal.

We encourage all of you to read the joint initiative, embrace it, share it and help us put in to action this positive intention where it is so desperately needed.

You can donate funds directly to this ground zero effort on the established joint initiative website [www.all4nepal.org](http://www.all4nepal.org) – All4Nepal pins are also available for purchase to help support this cause. Please visit the website often to see your funds in action and we encourage you to continue to give what you can when you can.

Every little bit can make a big difference! Your board members have donated 500 Euro on behalf of ACI, fundraisers have been held and we encourage all members to follow these efforts and do what they can.

~Fundraise globally and give locally to Nepal~ Let's go my friends and BE THE LIGHT!

Your ACI Board – Karin, Sandy, Martine, Thanh Thao & Kelly



# Six Clubs in Partnership for the Future

Dear Friends of

## **ROUND TABLE, LADIES CIRCLE, 41 CLUB, WOCO FOUNDATION, TANGENT AND AGORA**

As you are aware, Nepal was recently struck by a major tragedy and with many lives lost and many more lives being affected by this event, the people of Nepal have to pick up the pieces from what remains, which we all know will take months of rehabilitation before Nepal can return to its former self. This can only be achieved through much needed assistance and resources.

Many organisations across the world are helping financially and sending relief into this grief stricken country and we therefore call upon each of you in our amazing organisations, to add support to this. We are already seeing great work being done especially by the members of RT Nepal who through all this, are making a difference where it matters in the epicenter area!

Together with Round Table, Ladies Circle, 41 Club, WoCo Foundation, Tangent and Agora, a joint logo has been designed to show that globally we can work together for the greater good through our Round Table family for the good of the community of Nepal. The intention is also to produce this into a pin for sale as an example, and can be purchased by each association and then to be sold on to your members, family and friends!

We ask that you the members embrace this in the way you do best by utilising your experience in raising funds locally and nationally but also raising awareness of your club and organisation at the same time!



**Any donation, small or large, will make a significant difference in the rehabilitation of Nepal and the lives of those families affected. We need you! Nepal really needs you!!**

We are naming this All 4 NEPAL and it's about empowering for the future... We ask that you collect the donations nationally and then be paid through the webpage once at [www.all4nepal.org](http://www.all4nepal.org) this is to help us manage to make sure the funds get to those members working on the ground. Once received we will be looking at where best this is split and coordinated by what's needed...

**“Hope”  
is the thing with feathers**

BY EMILY DICKINSON

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops - at all*

*And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm*

*I’ve heard it in the chillest land  
And on the strangest Sea  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.*

For purchasing the pins which we hope will be available in two weeks or to ask a question you can email [info@all4nepal.org](mailto:info@all4nepal.org)

***This is the time to show our strength and reach out to help those in need. By standing together, we will be strong, and embracing together globally like this we can achieve even more in making a difference!***

We thank you in advance for your support and generosity to All4Nepal!



Jason Thomson  
Round Table International President



Chantess Wiggill  
Ladies Circle International President



Makarios Charalambides  
41 International President



Vineet Parikh  
WOCO Foundation President



Susanne Norager  
Tangent Club International President



Kelly Geisler  
Agora Club International President



## Letter from Thanh Thao our VP

**It is 40 years since the end of the Vietnam War  
(30 April 1975 – 30 April 2015)**

The memories of those long and hard days are still vivid in me. I grew up with the Vietnam War and spent thirteen years under the oppression of the Communists.

On this occasion, Myriam Defilippi, a notable journalist of Donna Moderna, the most popular women's magazine in Italy, asked me questions about my life in Vietnam.

I answered her with the utmost sincerity and serenity.

The result of the interview is this beautiful, and insightful article.

<http://giornimoderni.donnamoderna.com/donne/40-anni-guerra-vietnam>

Don't worry if you don't understand Italian! Because I have no intention to accompany you back to my past among fire, death, bombardments, sufferings, and humiliation.

Instead, I want to bring into focus the fact that I have survived the war, the revolution. I can still embrace life.

I feel so blessed, so happy, so honored.

We can't change the course of history! But we can learn a lot from history.

My war experiences have taught me to cherish life. Life is so beautiful!

Life is so beautiful! My friends of Agora Club have further strengthened this belief in me. I really appreciate and treasure the values of Agora Club.

And I feel so proud to mention Agora Club International in this article.

***Your Vietnamese Italian friend  
Ly thi Thanh Thao***

**I can  
still  
embrace  
life...**

# AGM IN CYPRUS

On the way to our destination, we kept on talking, laughing. Chantess and Ruth are more than my friends; they are my angels.



**I should say that my trip to Cyprus to attend the AGM of 41Club International and the first AGM of Tangent Club International is definitely special.**

Everything was just perfect: the flight was nice, the weather beautiful, the landscape breathtaking, the food delicious, and the people amazing.

There was even the working of some magic wands: on the plane from Athens to Cyprus I was seized with anxiety. I didn't like at all the idea to get on a taxi alone, at midnight, to go from the airport to the Conference Hotel. At that precise moment I saw Chantess and Ruth. Nothing could make me happier. I began to believe in magic!

The AGM of 41 Club was solemn. All 41ers were so elegant. Makarios greeted me warmly and enthusiastically, which, to some extent, gave me courage to make a simple but beautiful speech.

First of all, I made a brief presentation of myself. Then on behalf of the ACI Board, I wished all 41ers a successful AGM and a new social year rich of friendship, fun, and interesting initiatives. I further said that we would try to create more occasions to meet 41ers in order to foster and enrich the friendship stated in "Four Clubs One Vision".



I availed myself of the occasion to invite them to the joint AGM in Italy in May and to the ACI Conference in Brasov in October.

Then I attended the first AGM of Tangent Club International. It was such an emotion. On behalf of the ACI Board, I wished our friends a splendid adventure of friendship, of creation, and of positivity. I also said that their first AGM confirmed my belief that whenever and wherever women meet, they can work wonders. Susanne and I exchanged banners, which means so much to me.



# AGM IN CYPRUS



One of the greatest pleasures was to meet again so many friends after such a long period. Seetha Venkatesh and Elena Charalambidou added a pleasant and joyful note to my one-day stay in Cyprus. Elena kept me company during the Gala Dinner. She kindly explained me the traditional Cypriot dances and songs.

At this point, I have to reveal you a secret: the most beautiful word in my dictionary is “friendship”.

Can you guess what I have in mind now? I wish I could execute paintings dealing with all the memorable moments of that special day- 25 April 2015- to give more significance to my collection.

Your Vietnamese Italian friend  
Thanh Thao



# Agora Club Tangent Germany turned 20!



## Agora Club Tangent Germany turned 20! Celebration with International Guests

During the AGM of Ladies' Circle and Tangent Club Germany from April 24-26 2015 in Stuttgart, Agora Club Tangent Germany celebrated their 20th anniversary of Agora Club Tangent Germany.

During the Welcome, which took place in a café situated at a lake in the beautiful gardens of Stuttgart, it could be noticed, how well members of Ladies' Circle and Agora Tangent Club mixed, while chatting about old stories and events, renewing friendships as well as enjoying new contacts.

The next morning all participants were welcomed by the First Lady of Baden Württemberg, Mrs. Kretschmar, who gave a very charming speech. Furthermore it was a special honour to have Karin Chaffart, ACI Secretary and Veerle de Jonge, Honorary Member of ACI, with us, who had made their way through a very big traffic jam from Belgium the day before. The longest way travelled was by Dagny Leifsdottir from AC Iceland. Dagny, you deserve a special applause. Anita Figved from Norway met some of her "children", as her club AC Rogaland is godmother club to TC 44 Mölln. So this was a good chance to make plans for a German visit to Norway. Round Table Germany and Old table Germany had also sent representatives who gave speeches and thanks for the good side by side comaraderie. Raffael Herbig from Old Table Germany already represented his organization for the fifth time on this floor.

Honorary member Herbert Kaiser and his wife Birgit were surprised by a long line, while they showed 20 Christmas cards from the last 20 presidents of

TCGermany. During the meeting all former presidents of Tangent Club Germany as well as their mottoes were mentioned, many of them were present. Elisabeth Hiller had put a power point presentation about the history of Tangent Club Germany together. She was also honoured for her constant commitment to the organization. The meeting continued with good discussions and ended with the handover of the jewels to the new president Antje Meyn and her board (Sabine Zange Vicepresident, Manuela Sokolowski Secretary, Sabine van Vultehuis Treasurer and of course Ursula Lejeune IPP).

In the evening a gala took place with a lot of participants and very active ladies on the dance floor.

The Farewell on Sunday morning was held in the Youth Hostel of Stuttgart, a place with a fantastic view over the city and very special architecture.

**Karen von Koschitzky**  
**IRO AC Tangent Germany 2015/16**



**Agora Club Tangent Germany turned 20!**





**Do I smell birthday cake?**

*So we had a lot of Birthday parties in ACII!*

**A lot of clubs celebrated their Birthdays:**

**AC Italy had their fifth anniversary, AC Madagascar blew out one candle.**

**AC UK, AC Iceland and AC Norway came to celebrate in Belgium.**

**AC/Tangent Germany had their 20th Birthday and AC1 Diest in Belgium too.**

**AC Romania had a Birthday party at their AGM , with cake and candles.**



**PRESIDENT OF AC BELGIUM PASCALINE WITH ANNE MARIE FOUNDRING PRESIDENT OF AC DIEST – THE FIRST AGORA CLUB IN BELGIUM**



**20 YEARS AC BELGIUM**



**AC ROMANIA 1 YEAR**



**1 YEAR MADAGASCAR**



**AGM**





AGORA CLUB UK



AC NORWAY IN BELGIUM



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AC ICELAND

AGORA BOLOGNA

AGORA CLUB ITALIA

Club Agora Bologna  
e  
Club Agora Italia

Vi invitano a festeggiare il loro  
**5° COMPLEANNO**

14 marzo 2015  
ore 20

Locanda dei Cinque Cerri

Via Val di Setta, 121  
Località Cinque Cerri  
Sasso Marconi (BO)



ANGELA MICU; SORINA BARBU & GEORGHE FLOROI  
1ST ANNIVERSARY AC ROMANIA

R  
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As you know, Agora Club Romania had their National AGM in Brasov at the end of April.

Our first anniversary of one year after the chartering of national association was a fruitful meeting full of joy and friendship in which members of the three clubs Agora from Romania had the opportunity to meet again.

At this meeting we decided by unanimous vote, that the Agora of Romania to be involved in international projects:

- **Children of the Dump:** We would like to “Be a little light” for these kids.
- **Knitting for Love:** Each member of the Agora will donate at least one woolen knitted or crochet item to help needy children. Our aim is to donate these clothes in October on the occasion of the ACI Conference in Brasov.

After the meeting we spent a wonderful evening together with our guests from Quatalagor who honored us with their presence at the ceremony of “Passation of Pouvoir”. We felt very well and we were sweetened with a slice of cake that contained our national logo of club Agora Romania.

I look forward to seeing you all in Brasov at the Conference in October.

Yours in friendship,

Angela Micu-Past President Agora Romania



# CHANGING LIVES FOREVER

– an International SIDE BY SIDE project

The joint project undertaken by Eyes For The World, Agora Club Lokeren (Belgium) and Agora Club Amarula and Kopano (South Africa) was truly a humbling experience. Koen von Pottelbergh, the founder of EFTW, had a vision that brought real vision to impoverished underprivileged children in South Africa. His motto that everyone has a right to good eyesight was the trigger for the ladies of Agora Club Lokeren raising 5000Euro that ensured we could test and give away spectacles to children from under privileged backgrounds right here in South Africa.

Over 1180 children were tested – and 200 spectacles were given away on the day of testing. Children identified with stigmatism and specialist treatment were helped and 12 children from Louis Trichardt area alone received specialist eye care and spectacles addressing their special needs.

This has been a very rewarding project – that is not yet complete. Thank you so very much to all concerned for the part you played in CHANGING LIVES FOREVER.

Sandy van Niekerk  
Agora Club Amarula





**CHANGING LIVES FOREVER**





trans-continental coöperation



AGORA  
CLUB SOUTH AFRICA

club  
*Agora*  
lokeren  
waasland

EYES FOR THE WORLD®

During the Agora year 2012-2013, when I was international president, 3 new Agora countries were chartered : United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway. The 3 countries baptised me their "Mommy" and as is expected from a good Mommy, I had to make some promises, one of which was to organise a tour to Chocolicious Belgium for my "babies" ...the "Mommy-Baby Tour" was born ☺

**WELCOME TO  
CHOCOLICIOUS  
BELGIUM!**



No less than 28 ladies came over to what ended up being 4 days of fun, laughter, culture, dancing, singing, crazyness, good food and drinks and of course plenty of chocolates! Some brave ladies even seriously expanded their boundaries during a "firewalking experience".





Thank you my sweet babies, for your friendship! Thank you my dear friends from my Club AC 7 Lokeren-Waasland and our partners, for your immense help, generous homehosting and enthusiasm to make this weekend so succesful! Mommy Veerle xxx



**NO, TAKE ANOTHER, I THINK I BLINKED.**



*Please share your photo's with us!*

Every time you **subtract** negative from your life, you make room for more positive.

LESSONS LEARNED **Wife**



LADIES FROM AC NORWAY...  
KNITTING ALL OVER THE WORLD

AC Norway and AC Iceland handed over a lot of knit-wear while they were visiting Belgium on the "mommy-baby tour". These are to be sent to SA for our International project.



## LCI

Isabelle Seguinot d'Agora Club Hyères –France represented ACI on the Charter of Ladies Circle Tunis.

It was a memorable Charter since LCI had their first Club Chartered via Skype : AC Ukraine!

So it was a double Charter in Tunis. What a joyous occasion.

Congratulations LCI with two new countries joining your wonderful organisation.

## Ladies Circle Belgium

Mimi Croonenburg, secretary of AC Belgium and Karin Chaffart, secretary of ACI, attended the charter of a new Club of Ladies Circle Belgium: Ladies Circle Waterloo.

It was a wonderful event with a 'pink touch'. During the gala evening Round Table Waterloo had the installation of their new board. Congratulations to both Clubs!

## 4C1V Belgium: president's dinner 41 Belgium

Yvonne Houben, past president of AC Belgium; Mimi Croonenburg ,secretary of AC Belgium; Carine Everaert, treasurer of AC Belgium and Karin Chaffart ACI secretary spent a wonderful evening in Brussels with Stéphanie Parizel, secretary of LC Belgium and Yann Tavernier, president of RT Belgium during the annual dinner of the president of 41 Belgium Luc Trigaux. An evening filled with meaningful discussions, friendship and lots of fun.

We cannot  
accomplish  
all that we  
need to do  
without  
working  
together.

Bill Richardson



CHARTER LC TUNISIA



CHARTER UKRAINE



LC FRANCE THE GODMOTHER OF LC TUNISIA WITH ISABELLE SEGUINOT ACI DELEGATE



SOIREE GALA-BANNERS EXCHANGE



CHARTER LC TUNISIA



CHARTER UKRAINE

# ISABELLE SEGUINOT REPRESENTING ACI IN TUNISIA



TUNISIA - CHARTER LC - ISABELLE SEGUINOT



## Charter LC Waterloo and President's Dinner 41 Club Belgium



# Charter LC Waterloo and President's Dinner 41 Club Belgium



# DATES TO DIARISE



**AGORA CLUB  
BOTSWANA  
CHARTER  
26-28 JUNE 2015**



<b>23 MAY 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC USA</b>	<b>Tacoma</b>
<b>22-31 MAY 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC ITALY</b>	<b>Rovato</b>
<b>30 MAY 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC SA</b>	<b>Louis Trichardt</b>
<b>06 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC THE NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>Apeldoorn</b>
<b>05-07 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC FRANCE</b>	<b>Blois</b>
<b>19 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC MALTA CHARTER 2nd Club Installation NB AC Malta</b>	<b>Malta Valetta</b>
<b>14-18 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>Boardmeeting 4</b>	<b>Malta, Valetta</b>
<b>16 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC UK</b>	<b>Southend-on-Sea</b>
<b>27 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>AGM AC BELGIUM</b>	<b>Namur</b>
<b>26-28 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>CHARTER AC</b>	<b>BOTSWANA</b>
<b>18 AUGUST 2015</b>	<b>Installation National Board AC</b>	<b>Iceland</b>
<b>19-23 AUGUST 2015</b>	<b>LCI AGM</b>	<b>Akureyi-Iceland</b>
<b>12-16 AUGUST 2015</b>	<b>RTI AGM</b>	<b>Visby-Sweden</b>
<b>05-07 OCTOBER 2015</b>	<b>Boardmeeting 5</b>	<b>Ostend-Belgium</b>
<b>08-11 OCTOBER 2015</b>	<b>ACI AGM</b>	<b>BRASOV ROMANIA</b>



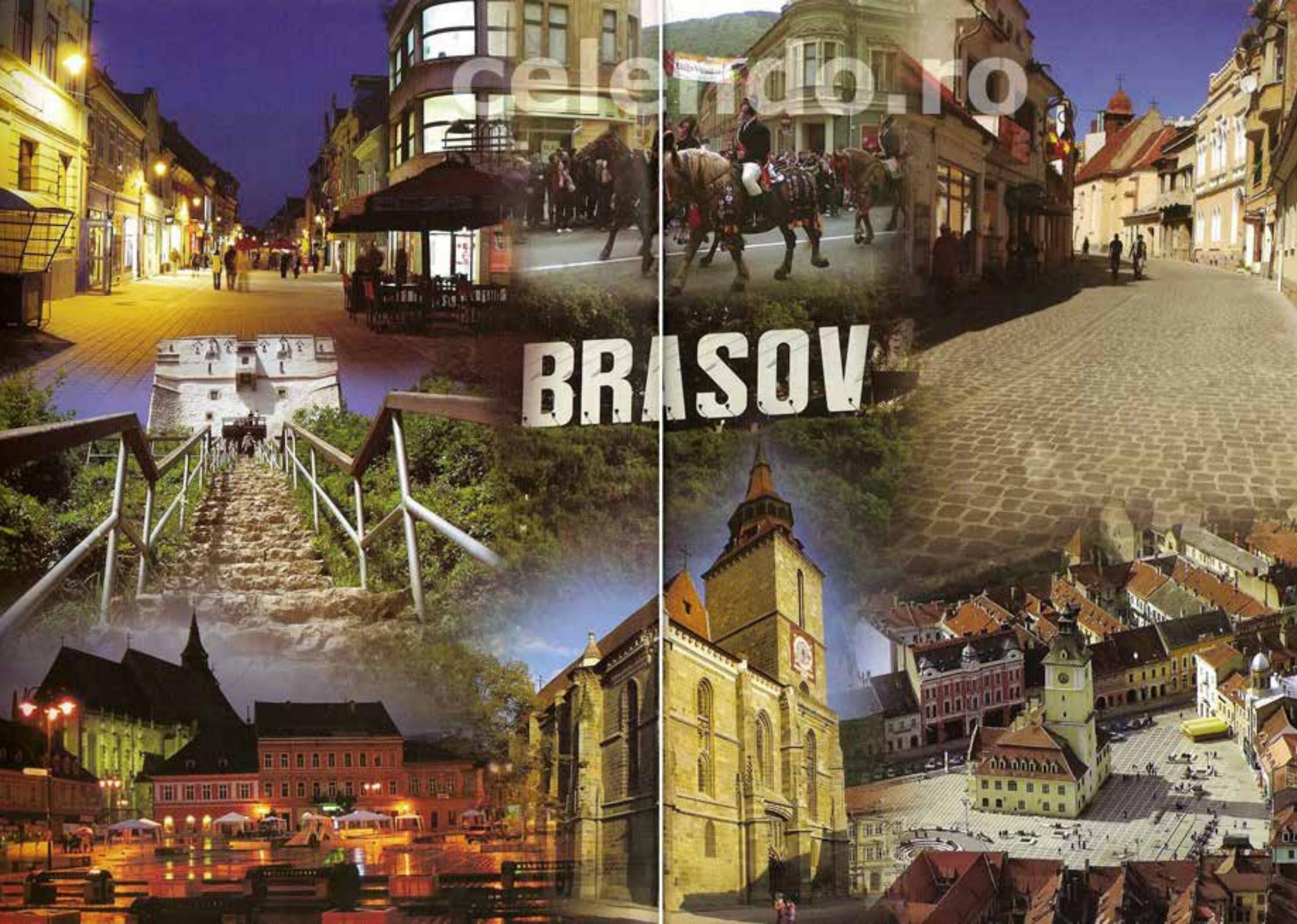
***ACI conference***

***Brasov 8-10/10***

***Register now!!***



**CENTER OF BRASOV**



celebration.ro

# BRASOV

Fun and mystery



the 19<sup>th</sup> 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:  
Angela Micu - AGORA club national president  
micuangel@yaho.co.uk

Sorina Barbu - AGORA club national vice president  
sori\_na@yaho.com

Simona Centiu - Conference Convenor  
simona.centiu@yaho.com Phone Nr.: 0040 744 538 147



## 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

