



## NEWSLETTER 5

Dear Ladies of Agora Club!

This newsletter shows the colorful world of Agora. And remember to register for our ACI Conference in Malta. The deadline is the 30<sup>th</sup> of June!

Yours in continued friendship

Brigitte Colberg

ACI Secretary 2015-2017

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My dear friends,

our last newsletter was mainly dedicated to our Charters. As we continue to grow beautifully we want to share these happy events with you.

You are all doing a very good job and I am very proud of you.

Most importantly, I want to highlight the fact that AC France, on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary this year, have broken all records: by the time of their national AGM, they will have 3 clubs chartered and they will have 10 more clubs in formation.

Dear ladies, you have set up an example for all of us; you have generated energy and enthusiasm for all of us!

You cannot imagine how happy and proud I am to be part of our **positive** and growing organization.

Love  
Ursula

"Stronger United"



## **CHARTER AC TANGENT KULMBACH**

For a long time we (7 members of TC 14 Kulmbach in foundation) were waiting for this weekend, and finally it was there. From 31st of March until 1st of April 2017 we were celebrating our franconian-italien Charter Weekend. Our motto was „Sempre contente come Tangente“, what means „We always will be content, as we now are a member of Tangent“.



Our international guests Anita Figved from Norway (AC 1 Sandnes) and Dagny Leifsdottir (AC-2 Reykjavik, current National President of AC Iceland) from Iceland, already arrived on Thursday and enjoyed a little pretour in the city of „Bamberg“. Both of them were members of the LCI board, when our Gitta Kestel was incoming LCI-P around 15 years ago. That's a real proof of ongoing friendship!

And on Friday, another international guest arrived, namely Aina Hodnefjell Østerhus from Norway, also a member of AC 1 Sandnes. Anita and Aina were representing our international godmother Club AC 1 Sandnes.

What a privilege!

On Friday evening we met in an Italian for a cozy come together. Existing refraished and new ones easily



Restaurant in the center of Kulmbach friendships immediately were developed.

On Saturday at 1 p.m. was registration Bräu“, were also the Charter act and break with coffee, cake, Prosecco an „beer royale“, there was a guided tour through the oldest part of Kulmbach.

time in the restaurant „Kommun party took place. After a little welcome

From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. all guests were following and listeing to our guide, who was telling interesting stories about „historical women of Kulmbach“. Due to our international guests, the guide did speak in English – and if he was missing a word, there were lot of assistants supporting him. And the wonderful weather supported us, too!

Again a little break, re-collecting at the „Kommunbräu“ at 5:30 p.m., saying hello to some new guests from LC, RT, OT and Kiwanis Club Kulmbach – and of course to our national godmothers from TC 44 Jever, who spent the day in the city of Bamberg. In total we were 50 people, expecting a special evening.

And finally – at 6 p.m. the serious part of the weekend started.

We presented our welcome speech in German, English and in „Franconian“, what was big fun.



godmother club AC1 Sandnes.

Inspired by this, the national TC Germany board, namely TCD-P Sabine Zange, TCD-VP Claudia Wollkopf and TCD-PP Antje Meyn spontaneously did their Charter speech also in German, English and in „Low German“.

That made our charter ceremony so unique! After lightening the candle of friendship, the charter document was signed by TCD-P Sabine, our chairman Birgit Feyerherd, Anja Dernick, chairman of our national godmothers from LC 44 Jever and Anita Figved from our international



And suddenly TC 14 Kulmbach was not longer „in foundation“, but an adult TC member! □

The fact, that there is not only fun, but there are also some duties from now on, was told by our international Agora-President Uschi Lejeune in a very charming way. What an honour, that we even had Uschi as our guest!



After the official ceremony we received a lot of lovely, personal and warm greetings from all our guests, and our LC 14 Ladies surprised us with a birthday cake and a birthday song.

And WE surprised our guests with a song, too. We had prepared a special english „Tangent-text“ to the song „Azzurro“ from Adriano Celentano. Thanks to the help of our fantastic Live-Band

„Barfly“ and our Anita from Norway, we Tangents performed this song, following the motto: „Safe occurrence whilst total ignorance“.

We were enjoying the franconian-italian food, lot of beer, lot of laughter, huge fun and of course we were dancing and celebrating the night away - happy, relaxed and grateful!

What a charter weekend! Dearest guests, thanks a million for being with us!

*Warmest Greetings from your TC 14 Kulmbach members Birgit F., Bea, Barbara, Bianka, Birgit O., Heike and Gitta* □



## Rabat, MOROCCO April 2017

The charter of the fourth agora club in Morocco: Rabat Agora Club 4

We promised an enchanting time in Rabat and so it was according to all our guests, a really amazing Agora event.

We were happy to welcome our Agora friends from Belgium, Lokeren the godmother club, from France, from Germany. Special thanks go to our friends who have come a long way from Romania and from the USA. And very special thanks to the Agora international board members : our international president Ursula and Vice president Isabelle Seguinot.

We were happy to provide most of our guest with home hosting.

Thursday everybody set off for the pre-tour and headed to Fes one of the most beautiful cities in the Kingdom.

Never heard of Fes? Well a spiritual capital a cultural Centre a place where al Karawiyyine university the very university in the world built by a woman. A jewel in terms of architecture. An enlightening walking tour in the narrow and very colorful streets of the old Medina (city in Arabic).



Our guests could admire at leisure the beautiful Moroccan and Islamic architecture of traditional houses known as RIAD as well handmade items from the renowned traditional Moroccan art craft leather, weaving, copper.....

On Friday another walking tour in Rabat which led to the discovery of charming places and historical sites in this very attractive and antique city; Hassan Tower, the Shellah typical neighborhood, and others. A very nice welcome party took place in the evening and there our guests got acquainted with Moroccan typical food with music traditional caftans, an insight into the Moroccan colorful traditions and way of life.

As for the charter ceremony on Saturday, it was a tremendous success, perfectly organized with a perfect



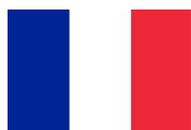
timing. All performed by gorgeous smiling and efficient Rabat Agora ladies. This ceremony was attended by our Agora friends from abroad by all Agora clubs representatives from Casablanca and Marrakesh and many other participants from Lady Circle, Round Table or forty one clubs. Their being there, their infallible support given to the side by side philosophy its true meaning.

After a tasty lunch we headed to the pleasant and enchanting party with dancing. That was a gorgeous time. spare no effort to please their guests and to make of that moment an unforgettable landmark in the history of Agora Morocco. We all went back to our respective homes and countries happy with stars in our eyes and our heads full of sweet memories.

house of a Rabat Agora member to enjoy a very tasty food, nice music, henne rituals and lots of Special thanks all these fantastic ladies who

*Narjisse Kaicer*

*National President*



## **The French Agora Boom**

Together we want to.....

This year and next year we have and we will charter 10 new clubs.

Club AGORA France had for several years been a little sleepy, no or few new members, dare I say that we live a little on our laurels? I think so.

But thanks to several good astral conjunctions..... !! The groundwork, being close to the clubs, responding to the various requests for information that arrived by the site, by listening and communicating importantly, by choosing our National Action, by the fact that AGORA is a service club, attracted around us voluntary women, wanting to be engaged with us.

Villeneuve / Lot and Arcachon opened the march. Then SAINT DIZIER 56 - PÉRIGUEUX 59 - BEZIERS 58 On 16 September Clermont Ferrand Chamalières 53, in the summer there will be TOULOUSE VAL GARONNE 40, 23 September, then SAINT QUENTIN 54, 25 November 2017, BLOIS 57- Club on 17 March 2018 - Meaux 55 on 31 March 2018 ...



All these women who want to join us are volunteers, dynamic women who like to be engaged for our ideas and will make other women want to join us and create other clubs. The Club AGORA France is particularly proud of these training sessions.

We also wished, after questioning the clubs at our last National Committee in Nantes, to establish a rapprochement with the Ladies' Circle, Our next National Committee in 2018, will be an AGORA-LADIES Joint Committee to continue to inspire ...

*Marie SERVAIN, national secretary*

# INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT EYES FOR THE WORLD



## MISSION MADAGASCAR 24-27/03/2017

from 3 points of view

One year to prepare it, cause of pré screening. We thought everything is alright when the Dr Koenraad, Veerle and their team are landing in Antananarivo on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.



Most of students weren't be presents. They don't know what they missed. However, most of those who are there have some problems.

In Madagascar, especially in the country side, parents are not realized the problem of sightseeing of their children.

250 pairs of glasses were distributed, not in the previous school (most of children are absents) but in the other surrounding school and the orphanage.

We noticed their face lightened when they wear the glasses.

Our duty is to follow up those children, who get glasses, if they progress in their education.

EYES IN THE WORLD IN MADAGASCAR is a grand and immense action; it takes a long time for preparation. You can feel the satisfaction when you saw children happy to see well.

**Nanie Ann RAKOTONDRAJY**  
**Président 2016 – 2017 AGORA CLUB SARIKA MADAGASCAR**

After the missions in South Africa, Morocco, Botswana and Zambia, **our International Service Project** found its way to Madagascar, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of President AC1 Sariaka **Nanie Rakotondrasanjy and her wonderful Club**. They filed an application for the ISP and did all the preparative groundwork: visited schools, pre-screened children and motivated teachers.

How special it was to share this experience together with our Malagasy Agora friends, and an international delegation: Isabelle Séguinot (ACI Vice President), Kristien Verhaeghe (AC Brugge – Belgium), Chris Helsen (AC Belgium Past President), Veerle De Jonge (ACI ISP Convener), the EFTW team, and Dr. Mathieu, a young local optamologist.

We already know the workflow:

1. Screening of the children – 2. Children with bad eyesight pass through to Koen (EFTW) and Mathieu - 3. The specs are adjusted to the needed dioptric – 4. Happy children leaving the class wearing their cute spectacles AND a huge smile on their faces 😊

The reactions of the children are the same everywhere in the world: sometimes cheerful, sometimes amazedly looking around, but always, always grateful and happy. **It is so endearing and touching to witness these reactions.**

They are an instant reminder of why we do this, and what an impact our ISP makes in these young people's lives.



The needs in Madagascar are substantial. Pupils sometimes walk 2 hours to reach their school. The dedication of the teachers is truly amazing: despite the fact they have only the blackboard to work with (hardly any paper and pencils, only a few books !) they motivate the children in such an enthusiastic way. We saw nothing but very polite, sweet and smiling children.



The commitment and solidarity between the Agora Club 1 Sakaria is heartwarming. They gave their all to make the project successful. They opened their homes to us to host us (thank you Dominique!) and wine and dine us after a busy day of hard work on the project.



Thank you dearest friends! We fell in love with your country, but most of all with you all and your warm hospitality!

Misaotra anao !

*Isabelle, Chris, Veerle*

After learning about the EFTW project in Madagascar from Veerle De Jonge at the Agora Club Brugge gathering in January of this year, I became enthused and impassioned to participate.

Having visited what must be one of the most beautiful but unfortunately also one of the poorest countries in the world, I can now say it has been an indescribable and very enriching experience. Children walking for miles to meet us on bare feet, some of them are carrying their smaller siblings, in order to receive help. It was truly heartwarming to see their happy and smiling faces when they gratefully put on their new glasses. I sincerely hope that the EFTW project will continue to exist and that Agora will be able to fund many children to get the opportunity to learn to read and study and to help them out of poverty. I am so happy that I was able to participate in the EFTW project.

Thinking of the children, the Madagascar whodid a lot of friends, I am certain that I will recommend it to anyone, not.



enthusiastic, tireless ladies of Agora preparatory work, my Belgian and French partake in any future project. I can whether you are an Agora board member or

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Kristien Verhaeghe

## Blackpool ROXX Conference 2017

AGMs TCI, Tangent GB&I and 41 Club GB&I from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of April

What a fantastic and well organized AGM weekend and wonderful celebrations!

On 20<sup>th</sup> of April ACI President Ursula and I flew over to Manchester from where we took first the train and for the last kilometers the bus to Blackpool/Lancashire, which is situated in the north east of UK at the west coast of the Irish Sea.

The Blackpool conference team organized a three days' lasting event for approx. 550 members and guests from all over the world for the TCI AGM, the Tangent GB&I AGM and the 41 Club UK AGM.

Our first (arrival) evening started with the "Elvis" Party/an "Elvis" singer in an "Elvis" dress. Imagine all the old Elvis Presley songs, image you were young, image you danced through the nights....that is what we and lots of others did till the early morning hours! During the breaks we sat at our tables and chatted with ladies/partners from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, Romania, and lots of other nations. We laughed, joked, and we all had a lot of fun – in continued friendship.

The following day in the early afternoon Ursula and I attended the TCI AGM. We have been warmly welcomed by TCI President 2016/2017 Anna Åkersson from Sweden. Nearly all of the full and associated member countries took part: GB&I, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Israel (associated). New elected TCI President 2017/2018 is Gerd Inger Kaasen from Norway, Vice President Paula Farnfield from GB&I, Treasurer Niina Hämäläinen from Finland and Secretary Jeannette Korch from Denmark. Congratulations to the new Board.

The traditional Friday evening Gala Dinner took place in the famous Blackpool Tower.



You feel as if you are sitting in a theatre of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Good temper, a fantastic service team for the 3 course menu and again an excellent life band completed the evening. On Saturday morning we attended the Tangent AGM. National President Paula welcomed all members and guests from abroad with warm words. Approximately 130-150 women took part. The AGM was well prepared so that we already finished in the early afternoon.

IPP 41er Engelbert & Ursula

Anna Åkersson & Ursula



National President 2017/18 is Melody Brookes, VP Jill Harris, IPP Paula Farnfield, Secretary Glynis Sutton and Treasurer Ruth Lamp. We wish the new elected Board a lot of fun and a successful year.



Gruy, LCI-P, Ursula, ACI-P, Janice O'Neill Individual ACI Member, Elisabeth

The Tangent and 41 Club's highlight is every year the Saturday Night's Motto Party! *YOU* should participate if you have the possibility! It is absolutely incredible what you experience!

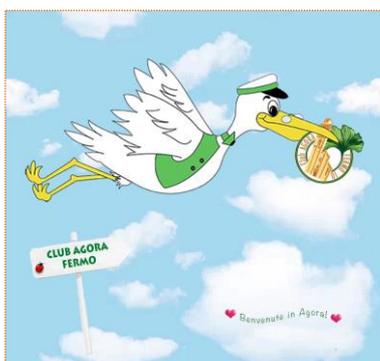
So many crazy costumes, so many "crazy" ladies and tabler.....Ursula and I enjoyed by heart and danced again till early morning....before we had to leave very early on Sunday morning.



Thanks to the UK organization team for a fantastic weekend!

*Together in Friendship*

Elisabeth Hiller,  
AC Tangent Germany, May 2017



## AGORA CLUB ITALIA

### Charter of AGORA CLUB 11 - FERMO

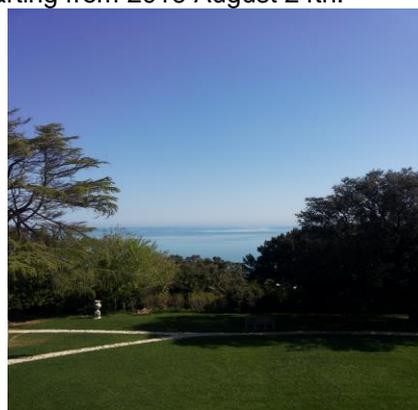
**A new** A new Agora Club was expected to born in Fermo (the 10th one) on September 2016, together with the new Agora Club Ascoli Piceno (the 9th one). It was two years or something more, that a little group of lively Ladies from Fermo started to meet in order to found a new Agora Club. At first, they have been involved by Letizia Iulli, PNP of Agora Club Italy, together with members of Modena Agora Club. It would have been a great challenge: lovely and energetic new Ladies would have established the first local Agora Club in italian middle east regions! Modena Club Ladies have been formally asked to be the

godmothers and everything seemed to be set up for last autumn charter ceremony.

Unfortunately a long lasting earthquake event shooked all the area of central Italy, starting from 2016 August 24th. Consequences of this event made fear, hesitation and uncertainty grow up in people of this town, even if it has not been damaged as hardly as other places in the surroundings. So, every initiative and venue event was cancelled and a long and strenous winter took place. Everybody there was waiting for hard snow and shakes to quit. We kept in touch with Ladies from Fermo especially because that series of incredibly hard events seemed never to finish and discourage everybody,

As the shakes lost day by day their strengthness, a renewed positive mood suggested to start again to plan for a joyful venue, such as a charter ceremony. In few weeks, Fermo Agora Club 10 has been held for Saturday April 8th.

The venue took place at 11 o'clock in the morning at Villa Lattanzi, a beautiful ancient, fascinating and aristocratic XVII century villa, set on the hills surrounding Fermo and raising on the Adriatic Sea coast. The weather has been fantastically clear, sunny and warm and many people, together with a lot of friends, came from different Agora and 41 Clubs, reaching from various parts of Italy.



Under the extraordinary conduction of an excellent Convenor that performed a wishing poem of Kahlil Gibran, the Charter Ceremony has been really involving and touching: 12 Ladies joined the Club after the President Marina Bellabarba. Their enthusiasm and positive mood captured our attention, while also a Regional Council Member, Marzia Malaigia, wished to the Club all the best.

Anna Teresa Tubini, Marina Bellabarba, Federica



Letizia Lulli, IPPN and PPN Diana Brioschi, P Agora Club Modena 7 Anna Teresa Tubini, Marina Bellabarba, P of newborn Agora Club Fermo 10, Federica Ferrari Ferrari PN and Marina Caselli, NT, ended the charter ceremony drinking a toast with all the guests.

Amicitia, nihil mlius homini datum, said Cicero once upon a time.

We all committed to observe this motto and to make it true every day.

*Federica Ferrari NP AC Itay*

## AGM AC Tangent Germany

Carnival of Venice in Lippstadt .... and a surprise guest

This year the motto of the combined AGM of Ladies' Circle and Tangent Club Germany at the end of April was "Carnival of Venice". This motto was chosen, because the AGM was held in Lippstadt, a picturesque town with over 115 bridges.

The AGM started with a Welcome on Friday evening. Unfortunately the weather was a little chilly for the barbecue, but everybody had the chance to warm up on the dance floor.



Under the motto "Back to university" the annual general meeting was held at the University of Lippstadt. The participants were greeted by the national presidents of LC and ACT Germany, as well as by the mayor of Lippstadt. Members of Round Table, Old Tablers Germany and ACI were present and foreign guests from Austria and Luxemburg extended their greetings and presented our surprise guest Christiane Loos-Schong, an ex-circler from LC Luxemburg, who shares a long lasting friendship with some German Tangent ladies. She had come to inform herself about our organization. Of course we worked on her and hopefully Agora Club International will have another member country soon.

Real friendship "Side by Side" AC Tangent Germany president Sabine with Old Tablers president Peter!

The most heart touching report during the AGM was the report about the Christmas parcel convoy. Round Table, Ladies' Circle, Old Tablers and Agora Club Tangent Germany worked side-by-side and had filled 23

lorries with 106 000 Christmas parcels for children in Romania, Ukraine, Moldavia and Bulgaria last December. Round about 150 members of the four clubs had taken a week of holidays in order to help delivering the presents personally.

The meeting was very well prepared by NP Sabine Zange and her board. In a very professional way Monic Ahnsorge led through the agenda, so that in the end we could finish 100 minutes before schedule and that with the big issue of introducing a Members-App.

For those, who did not attend the meeting, an alternative program was offered, such as canoeing, beer tasting at a brewery, a visit to the department of forensic psychiatry and a visit to a local chocolatier.

The day finished with a masked "Carnival of Venice" gala, which took place in a discotheque. As all speeches were held before dinner, there was a lot of time for chatting and dancing after the meal.



Those, who wanted to say good-bye to each other the next morning, participated at a breakfast with sparkling wine. At the same time the national boards and the advisory boards of LC and ACT Germany met to get to know each other and to express the mutual aim of working together in the coming year.

Karen von Koschitzky, IRO AC Tangent Germany



The new board:

Sabine (T), Sabine (IPP), Claudia (P), Linda (VP), Silke (S)

