



## Newsletter issue 5 May 2018

Dear Agora friends,

Newsletter #5 is already here ... time flies.

The newsletter is full of amazing reports and stories that shows and proves that Agora is growing and getting stronger day by day.

AGM is coming up....only 5 months until we meet in Gent, Belgium for a lot of fun and joy. I sincerely hope that most of you wonderful Agora ladies will participate.

María Erla,

ACI Secretary

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# Isabelle Intro

My dear Agora Ladies, my dear Friends,

Already 7 Months that I am your ACI President... Time is really flying!

In this fifth Newsletter, you will discover what we are doing during our board meeting, our side by side events with the Round Table Family, the first amazing mission for EFTW in Romania, the women adventure in Morocco through the third edition of Ladies Carvan and the growing of Agora Club worldwide.

Since October 2017, there were 11 charters in :

-France : AC54 Saint Quentin, AC57 Blois, AC55 Meaux, AC58 Béziers

-Germany : ACT56 Lüneburg

-Israel : AC5 Herzelia, AC4 Haifa

-Italy : AC9 Ascoli Piceno

-Morocco : AC5 Casa Bouskoura

-The Netherland : AC9 Twente, AC10 De Kempen



It is amazing! We are very proud of you, proud of your energy, proud of your dynamism and proud of your positivity!

Please continue on this way! We are all at your side... Go, go, go!

Yours in Friendship and Love,

Isabelle

# Board meeting 3 at Spittal, Austria

When you are on the International Board, you have 4 meetings a year:

-the first one, a very short one, is just after the AGM in which the new International Board was elected... as you know, it was in Malta this year.

-The second one, is held in January or February. This year it was at Anna's House in Gozo, Malta, last January.

-The third one takes place between April and June. This year, we decided to combine it with the AGM of the 41 Club International and Tangent Club International (TCI). Our Aim was to work in favour of 5 Clubs 1 Vision instead of 4 Clubs 1 Vision. In this way, Agora Club International (ACI) Board Members had the opportunity to meet and discuss with the Board Members of 41 Club International, TCI and the President and VP of Ladies Circle International (LCI). Unfortunately, Round Table International were not there.



-The fourth one will be before the next ACI Conference in Gent, next October.

-We also had some skype calls in between to discuss different items that crop up - urgent or not, and to keep the contact with each other.

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we all arrived in Austria and I was really happy to meet Anna in Vienna Airport, and travel together to Klagenfurt, where we were greeted by Christine Wernitznig, AC Spittal 1 President. Christine drove us to Spittal where I met Ursula at Christiane's House, our wonderful hostess and Anna went to Sonja's Hotel, another amazing Agora lady, where she met Yvonne and Maria Erla.

After a free evening and some rest, we began our board meeting on Monday at 9 am at Sonja's hotel. We were all very happy to meet again after several months without seeing each other.

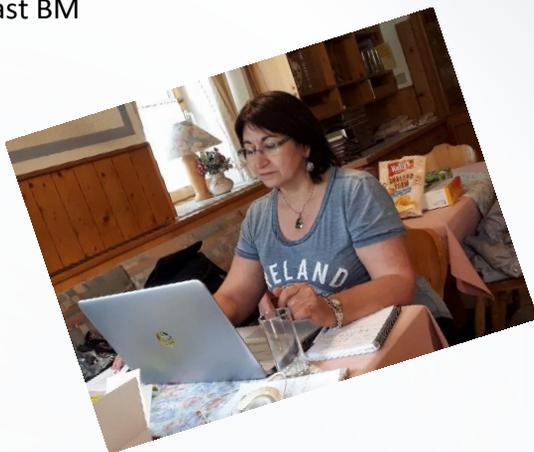
We began the BM (board meeting) after an exchange of little friendship gifts. Maria Erla, who was sick in January and couldn't be with us at that time, lit the candle of Friendship. We met every day for the next 4 days, going through a long agenda. We worked and discussed for hours on end and in fact we did not have the time to enjoy the breathtaking landscape. It was a real pity since the weather was perfect for us to enjoy spring, with the blossoming trees, flowers in the fields, the mountains and the beautiful lake... For sure, we have to come back again to discover them!



Often, Agora Ladies or Friends asked us “what are you doing during 4 long days during your BM”?

Of course, it is very nice to be all together, to drink a glass of Champagne or Prosecco, to have fun and a lot of friendship but we worked and discussed the agenda which included:

- Reading of reports of each board members since the last BM
- Read and corrected the minutes of the previous BM
- communications
- Round Table Family
- ACI Service project: EFTW, Happy Hearts, Together 4 Charity (Earthquake in Italy)
- Financial point
- The APP
- Calendar and travel
- Extension: new Agora Country, next charters, contact...
- Wrote the new amendments to be voted during the next ACI AGM



-Created or updated Guidelines, Info Docs, Application forms

-ACI website

-SWOT Analysis

-Notices & reminders to be sent

-Next Conferences in Gent and Marrakech

-Anna's year

-Combined year report

-How to help some countries that need it

-AOB (any other business)



It seems perhaps not so long, but we discussed each item to do or to write the best for Agora Club International... and with 5 women of character, it does take time...

Every day we finished at 6pm, time to have some rest and fun with the Amazing Agora Ladies from AC1 Spittal.

On Monday, Christine, the AC1 President, home hosted us for a fantastic Pasta and laughter party.



On Tuesday we had the opportunity to attend the Agora Meeting of AC1 Spittal in a nice restaurant and got to know better the fantastic Ladies of this group who introduced themselves. We could appreciate the good cohesion of the group, the positive vibes between them and the great job they are making for Agora.





On Wednesday, Christiane and Stephan, our hosts, welcomed us for a delicious Austrian's dinner in their beautiful house with an amazing view of the lake and mountains. We were very lucky to be welcomed by all these great women during this BM3.



To say THANK YOU to these amazing Ladies is not enough for all they did for us so that we were so well looked after to enable us work comfortably and effectively.

And I will not forget my dear Board Members and friends who worked so much during this BM3... THANK YOU, Thank you, thank you....



# Agora Club Spittal, Austria visit from Agora International Board

April, 22th to 29th 2018 – Visit from our Agora international board!

President Isabelle Seguinot, Vice Anna Tabone, Past Ursula Lejeune,  
Secretary Maria Erla Hilmarisdóttir & Treasurer Yvonne Houben spent that time in  
Spittal/Drau, Carinthia, Austria!

The board meetings were at Sonja's „Lendorfer Wirt“.

The ladies enjoyed the evenings with their home hosting ladies Christiane Schnorpfeil and  
Sonja Penker with finest Carinthian special dinner!



Meeting, April 24th 2018

In honor to welcome our international board as special guests we wore our white Agora blouses at our meeting!

Important moments on this evening:

Ursula & Isabelle lighted our friendship candles

PowerPoint presentation from our charter

Our evening closed with wonderful, funny and nice conversations.



April, 27th April - AGM 41 international

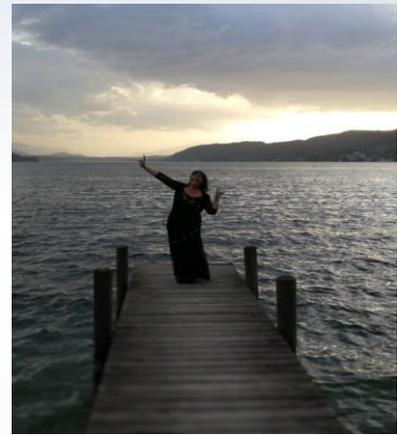
Welcome – Taggenbrunn, Carinthia, Austria On Friday, welcome evening, about 400 people came in their traditional clothes to Weingut Taggenbrunn, St. Veit an der Glan, Carinthia, Austria.

In the middle of all the clubs from all the countries of the world there was our Agora Cub 1 Spittal!





Important final statement of the AGM 41 International  
gala evening – Parkhotel Pörtschach, Wörthersee Agora  
Club 1 & international board Agora were also there!  
Great moments at the lake Wörthersee with the ladies!

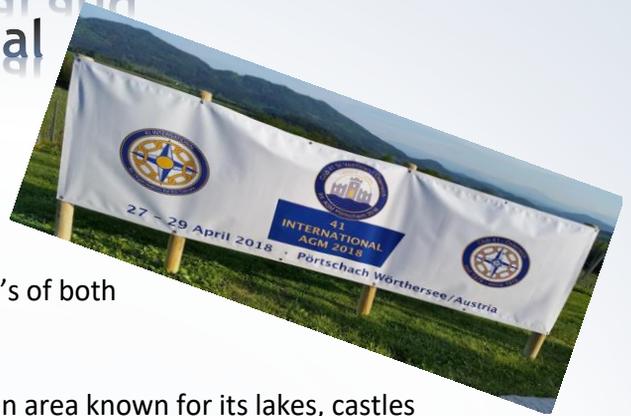


# AGM for 41 Club International and Tangent Club International

## Portschach – Austria

During the last weekend in April we attended the AGM's of both 41 Club International and Tangent Club International.

Portschach is a beautiful Carinthian region of Austria, an area known for its lakes, castles



and mountains. One cannot but think of the film The Sound of Music who had its 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday when we were there! However, we were very surprised to be told that this film is not known in Austria and that they had never seen the film!

On our arrival, the foyer of the hotel was buzzing with people most of who seemed to be greeting both Isabelle and Ursula with hugs and kisses. For Maria Erla and I, it was a new experience. Unfortunately, Yvonne went back home after our Board Meeting in Spittal as she was unwell. Our first item on the weekend's activities was a steamboat trip on the lake. The weather was warm and the food and wine flowed – a great start to the weekend and a great place to introduce ourselves and get to be side by side.





The amazing Agora Ladies from AC 1 SPITTAL, Austria

That evening, the welcome party was a typical Carinthian dinner at the 'Weingut Taggebrunn' where the delegates wore their traditional costumes and where we were entertained to typical Tyrolian music as well as contemporary music and the occasional waltz too... after all we are in Mozart country! A great time was had by all.



Gerd-Inger TCI-P    Isabelle ACI-P    Anna TCI-IPP



Ursula ACI-IPP    Bruce 41 Int-P    Isabelle ACI-P



Isabelle ACI-P    Anne LCI-P

An early start the following day where Isabelle Seguinot addressed both AGM's. In her speech, she introduced our project Eyes for the World, and invited those present to work with us, to see for themselves the difference this project is making, a project that is giving so much joy to the children and elderly that are being given an opportunity to improve their lives. She highlighted that if we all worked together as 5 clubs 1 vision, the impact can be significant. During the AGM for 41 Club International, Isabelle, wished outgoing President Bruce McKay warm wishes and congratulated incoming President Ullrich Suppan success in his year and that Agora Club International look forward to the collaboration.



During the AGM for Tangent Club International, Isabelle thanked the outgoing President Gerd-Inger Kaasen for the invitation to address the event. Isabelle pointed out that although both our clubs are part of the Round Table family, we are not a threat to each other but complimentary to each other and that we can find ways of working together side by side. An introduction to the Eyes for the World Project was given, which captured the interest of some of the Tangent ladies there. It was also very heart-warming to meet old friends made in Ladies Circle and the spirit lives on. Isabelle congratulated Paula Farnfield, incoming President of TCI and she looked forward to further friendship.



The weekend was coming to an end with the banner exchange and the gala dinner where outgoing President Bruce thanked his board especially the ones who will no longer be on the board this year, like IPP Engelbert Friedsam and Treasurer Alex Abela. The incoming president Ullrich Supan then welcomed the new Vice President Luc Trigaux to the board and Didier van Calster as Treasure.



**with the ACI The beautiful Agora Ladies from AC1 Spittal Board : Ursula, Maria Erla, Isabelle & Anna**



**Dr Ullrich Supan,  
the new President of 41 Club Int. and his Board**

The next meeting will be in October 2018 in Marrakech for the HYM.

For the first time, Agora Club International is invited to have a meeting during the next AGM in Brussels in April 2019. This is indeed a great step forward to be 5 clubs 1 vision.

# EFTW Mission Romania 9-14 April 2018



The EFTW team, with beautifully embroidered fleeces, by Mihaela

Mission Romania was a “first” in different ways :

It was the first mission (out of 4!) of this Agora workyear 2017-2018

It was the very first mission in Romania

It was the first mission with a new approach: the focus was on the elderly in Romania, who often suffer from bad eyesight, and have no means to purchase spectacles. Next to the elderly, we also handed out glasses in schools in the rural mountain areas around Caçene.

It can be said, that these EFTW missions always teach you something. The missions are never restricted to only handing out spectacles : we always learn something about habits in local and sometimes secluded communities, about ways of life, about expectations and



dreams, about how the government treats its inhabitants, how schools are managed etc.

A real eye opener (no pun intended 😊) was our work at the biggest gypsy community in Romania, just outside Caçene. The poverty was mind blowing, the need for glasses very high. On 1 morning we helped 126 old people to EFTW glasses! For most of these people it was the first eye examination they had ever had. Poor as they are, these gypsies are proud people, and their gratitude was shown as such too: although very held back and subdued we felt their relief and happiness through a glance and a handshake.

The mission clearly made a serious impact, and given more time, I am sure we could have handed out more than double of the EFTW spectacles.

The next day was completely different with our visit to the mountain community of Holbav,



where the local doctor opened up her cabinet for the mission. So many elderly people were happy to be able to do needle- and embroidery work again, which is their main pass-time. Their show of gratitude was heartwarming, with generous smiles and cuddles and kisses 😊

The children of the local schools were examined too, but the clean mountain air and fresh food clearly have positive impact on these children's health: only a few of them needed glasses, which made us very happy!



The last day of the mission brought us to an Orthodox church community, where the local priest announced the eye-examination for the elderly in his church. Roxana, the priest's wife and local school teacher, made sure that also children with eye problems were examined by our team. We also left this community with all those happy smiles and kisses and hugs on our mind 😊



Roxana also brought us to families who had not shown up for the examination, but who she knew needed help. So off we went -off road- to a small mountain village, to examine a few families. The photos below show we had to be very creative sometimes to do our screening 😊 !

It was there we helped a little girl which stole all our hearts: examination showed she suffered from extremely bad eyesight.

After the EFTW glasses were put on her nose, her eyesight was not perfect yet, but suddenly she saw so much clearer! Her happiness, jumping up and down, her eyes full of wonder and pride is a moment etched in our hearts and minds.

**THIS is what YOU are donating for. These happy moments, that make such a difference in someone's life.**



A special thank you to **Mihaela Cracana**, the driving force behind this project and who - together with husband Petru - home hosted us during this week.

Thank you to the lovely ladies of AC 2 Brasov, who were so generous with their help and support, the invitations for dinners and dances, the yummiie snacks, coffee and drinks during the missions. Thank you for sharing your local customs...and your *local costumes* ☺ !

We truly have made friends for life during this week!

THANK YOU, dear Agora members worldwide, for “**opening up your eyes, opening up your hearts**” ...so we can do more for our ISP !

Veerle De Jonge

ISP co-convener 2015-2019



# Charter Agora Club De Kempen 10 Party time !

Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 we were officially installed as Agora Club De Kempen 10.

Everything perfectly taken care of and a detailed script: nothing could go wrong. More than 150 women and men joined us on this great day. Everything was perfect from the first minute until the last dinner.

The mayor of Oirschot, National and International representatives of different service organizations, held encouraging and heartwarming speeches. They were impressed about our enormous enthusiasm and energy, our commitment for society and charity.

The birth of a newborn Agora Club in Holland was officially celebrated by Dutch traditional sweets (beschuit met muisjes).



After the official installation of Agora Club De Kempen we joined for a group picture and a lunch. Time to chat with Agora members.

In the afternoon we had the benefit concert. During this concert we have enjoyed the impressive performances of the great Dutch singer Karin Bloemen and Vocal Group Just Us. Power woman Karin Bloemen composed a new song for us, that from now on it will be our club song!



At the end of this great day we handed over a check of € 10.000, - to the Ruby and Rose Foundation. A high amount, which really can make a difference in research of gynecological cancer, so said the President from the Ruby and Rose Foundation.

At the end of this fantastic day our guests went home, but not empty handed. Because of the sponsoring by more than 20 companies in our region, we could give everyone a Goodie Bag.

This successful day was a kick-off for many charities to come.



## Agora club de Kempen 10





# Agora Clubs France



**Agora Club France is 30 years old but always continue to grow up!**

Agora Club France is 30 years old but continue to create new clubs because of its energy and engagement. Since September 2017, six clubs were chartered: AC Clermont-Ferrand 53, AC Toulouse Val'Garonne 40, AC Saint Quentin 54, AC Blois 57, AC Meaux 55, AC Béziers 58.

This year 3 other clubs were accepted by the National Board to be in formation and two dates are already planned for the end of the year: AC Saint-Denis de la Réunion on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and AC Perigueux on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

But the list is just opened... Many wonderful women would like to join Agora Club France in: Rouen, Vichy, La Rochelle, Strasbourg, Pornichet, Aire sur la Lys, Reims... Plenty of great events for the next year 2019-2020!

## CHARTERS IN AGORA CLUB FRANCE

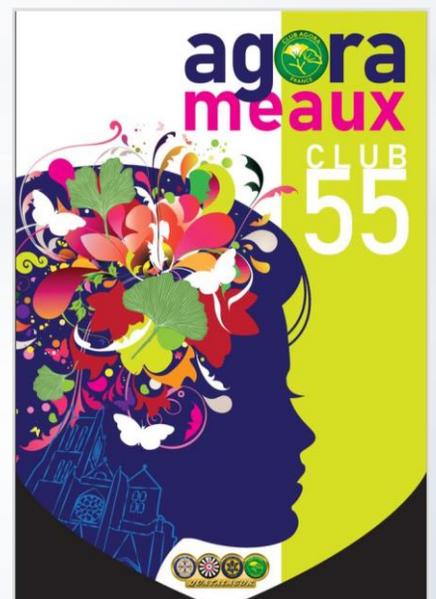
**March and April 2018**

**AGORA CLUB Blois 57** was chartered on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018** during a very nice week end. This club belong to the area 7 under the Presidency of Dany Ras. The Godmother club is Agora Club Paris 50.





**AGORA Club Meaux 55** : The Charter was held on **Saturday 31th March 2018**. This club belong to the area 7 under the Presidency of Dany Ras. The Godmother Club is Agora Club Amiens 46





**AGORA Club Béziers 58** was chartered last **Saturday 21st April 2018**. This club belong to the area 4 under the Presidency of Yvonne Delecourt. The Godmother Club is Agora Club Sète 28



# Charter of Casablanca 5 Bouskoura



Hanane President of Casa 5 receives a silver ginkgo biloba ornament from Narjisse Morocco National President of Agora



Anna Tabone ACI VP giving Hanane the ACI banner

Casa 5 Bouskoura was chartered by the Moroccan National President Narjisse Kaiar, and Hanane Bidouj El Jassifi who was inducted as the President, introduced her board and members. The charter was participated by the Agora ladies from Rabat, Marrakech and Casablanca as well as the Presidents of the Moroccan Ladies Circle, Round Table and Club 41. There was also Kenza Shihbi, VP of Ladies Circle International, who is also from Casablanca and who kindly drove Carine and I through Casablanca.



Hanane receiving the Charter Certificate from Souad



The ladies in the newly chartered club Casablanca 5 Bouskoura together with the International Guest



International Ladies Circle VP Kenza Shibhi and Hanane



Side by side with Ladies Circle, Round Table, Club 41 and Agora

Agora in Morocco continues to grow thanks to the great enthusiasm of the Agora ladies, as well as the rest of the Round Table family. Looking back at my experience in Casablanca for the charter of Casablanca 5 Bouskoura, I was indeed impressed with the friendship and solidarity between all the clubs in Morocco, the Ladies Circle, the Club 41 and the Round Tablers and the respect shown towards each other. The charity projects they have carried out throughout the years are truly commendable.

One such project which we were privileged to be part of was a double wedding for 2 single mothers, who unfortunately were sent away from their homes because they shamed their families.

Hanane Bidouj El Jassifi, President of CAC5B together with the Casablanca Agora ladies, worked closely with the Solidarity Association of Mrs. Aicha Echenna, where these women are given assistance by providing work and shelter. The ladies, not only financed the wedding with all the

traditional rituals, but were personally involved in making the dream a reality and giving them back their dignity.







Mimi, Florence and Beatrice from Belgium and myself from Malta were there to celebrate the Charter of Casa 5 Bouskoura, and were warmly welcomed and home hosted during our stay.



To end the great weekend in style, the ladies organised a Gala Dinner themed 'The Gatsby'. It was super fun to dress up and super fun to see everyone looked the part...



It was my first time in Casablanca, in fact the first time in Morocco and it certainly won't be the last!

For those who have never experienced attending a charter in another country, I would like to urge you to enjoy this experience – it is incredible how the Agora spirit lives in us all and how we all have so many sisters in the world. Take the opportunity, you won't regret it.

We will be enjoying the hospitality of the Moroccans in October 2018 after our AGM in Gent for the MTM for the Club 41 International and the TCI as well as our own AGM in October 2019, both in Marrakech.

Thank you Hanane and family (and Fatima of course) for home hosting Carine and I, and all the lovely ladies who helped make this a memorable occasion.

Bisous Bisous

Anna Tabone

# Charter of TC 56 Lüneburg

It was a wonderful bright sunny day with a crystal clear blue sky on March 3<sup>rd</sup> when the 31<sup>st</sup> Club in Germany was chartered.



It was great to see eight Ladies start enthusiastically into their lives as full members of our community. As national president, Claudia Wollkopf, had the honor to take them through this big step. The Ladies of ACTG Club 56 had invited befriended clubs – and a lot came, to



celebrate this joyous moment with them. As the ladies are well connected in their hometown of Lüneburg, also Ladies Circlers and Old Tablers were present as well as delegates from other service Clubs. Agora Club was represented by Ursula Lejeune.

The official chartering was held before the brunch could start, letting all guests see what a



wonderful group of Ladies was joining our forces. The Candle of friendship was given and lit up and the aims and objectives of ACT Germany were read before Claudia held her speech to welcome the Ladies and finally the Charter document was signed by Claudia, Birgitta Foyer (Charter-president) and their national Godmother-Club President Katharina Kowolik. ACT Germany Lüneburg had asked to get a donation for their service project instead of presents – of which there were still plenty. But even so the sum donated was wonderfully high over 1.000 €!





Der neue Tangent Club mit (v.l.) Präsidentin Brigitta Fojer, Gaby Bartsch, die LC- und TC-Puppen Else und Tessy, Schriftführerin Jutta Anger, Kassenwartin Annette Harbor, Wiebke Neumann, Kerstin Eder, Cordula Niemann und Vize-Präsidentin Susan Kletzin. Foto: be

## Ein Schwester-Club für die Ladies

VON RAINER SCHUBERT

Acht Frauen gründen eine neue Service-Organisation. So wird die Altersgrenze aufgehoben

Lüneburg. Mit 45 Jahren ist noch lange nicht Schluss. Obwohl die Satzungen der international aktiven Ladies' Circles etwas anderes besagen: Die Mitgliedschaft in dem internationalen Service Club für Frauen endet im Alter von 45 Jahren. Nicht aber das Engagement der Frauen und ihre Vernetzungen. Vor knapp zehn Jahren wurde der Ladies' Circle (LC) 56 Lüneburg gegründet, mittlerweile sind drei der Ladies der ersten Stunde über die Altersgrenze gekommen – und haben jetzt mit fünf weiteren Frauen die Nachfolge- und Schwesterorganisation Tangent Club (TC) in Lüneburg gegründet.

Charterpräsidentin und Initiatorin ist Brigitta Fojer, die seit 2007 dem LC 56 angehört. Bei der Charter durch die TCD-Präsidentin Claudia Wollkopf waren jetzt 70 Gäste aus anderen Tangent Clubs in der Diele der Kro-

nenbrauerei mit dabei, aber natürlich auch Gäste vom Ladies' Circle 56 Lüneburg, die in Anlehnung an ihr pinkes Stint-Maskottchen einen silbernen Stint schenkten, ebenso Vertreter des Lions Club Ilmenau und des Club Soroptimist International Lüneburg. Auch eine Vertreterin des internationalen Dachverbandes Agora Club International, Ursula Lejeune, war unter den Gratulantinnen. Nach den Reden und Glückwünschen genossen die Gäste das Buffet und nahmen an einer Stadtführung zum Thema „Lüneburger Frauen“ teil.

Tangent Clubs entscheiden lokal, ob und in welcher Form sie Service-Aktionen organisieren. Die Lüneburgerinnen unterstüt-

zen mit dem Erlös aus ihrem Festakt als erstes Projekt den Freundeskreis Hospiz Lüneburg, 1000 Euro kamen zusammen. Parallel werden auch Sachpreise für die große Tombola im Rahmen der jährlichen gemeinsamen Hauptversammlung von LCD und TCD gesammelt, die Ende April in Lüneburg stattfindet. So unterstützen auch die Mitglieder des Tangent Clubs das nationale LCD-Service-Projekt „Flugkraft“. Flugkraft ist eine gemeinnützige Gesellschaft, die sich zur Aufgabe gemacht hat, krebserkrankten Kindern und deren Familien in der Sturmzeit unter die Arme zu greifen. Ob Therapie begleitend mit Fotos, mit finanzieller Unterstützung oder auch bei Renovie-

rungsarbeiten und im Garten – die Organisatoren helfen vor Ort.

Auf dem Jahresprogramm des neuen Clubs stehen aber vor allem Vorträge und Besichtigungen. Unterstützt wird auch der Weihnachtspäckchenkonvoi, der deutschlandweit von den vier Clubs Ladies' Circle, Tangent Club, Round Table und Old Tablers durchgeführt wird.

Die Verbindung beider Organisationen brachte LCD-Präsidentin Sandra Eilers durch ihr Geschenk zum Ausdruck: Beim Ladies' Club wandert seit Jahren eine Schaufensterpuppe von Charter zu Charter, die die perfekte Lady symbolisiert – kontaktfreudig, gesellschaftlich engagiert und stets für die gute Sache im Einsatz. Diese LC-Ikone bekam jetzt in der Kronendiele eine TC-Schwester an die Seite gestellt, um die Verbundenheit beider Clubs zu zeigen und auch, dass deren Ziele weitergelebt werden.

# 41 Club and Tangent Club GB&I AGM



## 41 Club and Tangent Club GB&I AGM

After the AGM is before the next AGM! That is what ACI-PP Elisabeth Hiller thought after the last conference in Blackpool in 2017 and registered herself, ACI-Past Secretary Brigitte and myself for the next AGM in Belfast 2018. It promised to be another fun weekend together! And it was!

Arriving from different airports, we met in Schiphol Airport where we continued our travel to Belfast. After the registration we spent the evening in a typical Irish Pub.



Next morning we started for a guided tour to the UNESCO World heritage site „Giant's Causeway“ .....



.... and the Bushmill's Whiskey distillery.



The welcome party in the evening happened in the majestic **Belfast City Hall**.



Time to meet again old friends and to make new ones!

Next day Elisabeth, Brigitte and I discovered Belfast on a „Hop-on-Hop-off-Tour“ and visited the very interesting **Titanic Museum**.



The Gala took place in „the Culloden Hotel and Spa“.



**The German Delegation ...**

**with ...**  
39

**stunning ... shoes!**



With TC GB&I member Barbara Middleton and TC GB&I -P 2017-18 Jill Harris

Saturday morning we attended the Conference of TC GB&I and enjoyed the meeting in good company. We shared a table with lovely Past Presidents of Tangent GB& I and we celebrated Morag Daley's Birthday, who was our „Queen of the Day“.



Morag Daley, individual, Member of Agora Club International

In the evening we returned to the „Titanic Museum“ where the long awaited „Fancy Dress Party“ took place. The venue was an awe-some copy of the Titanic Ballroom. The whole evening was placed under the „Titanic“ theme as it was 14th April 2018, 102 years after the terrible tragedy. As we had heard during our previous

In the Titanic Museum, the unsinkable Titanic of the White Star Line Company hit an iceberg in night of the 14th of April 1916 and sunk the

15th of April A minute of silence was observed for the victims of this accident more than 100 years ago.



Stunning costumes of the 1920 and fancy dresses were presented at the „Fancy Dress Competition“.



Sunday morning the last chance to have a beer in the famous Pub „Crown“in Belfast together with Rachel and Barry Durman.

Article: **Ursula Lejeune ACI-IPP, Elisabeth ACI-PP, Brigitte ACI-Past Secretary**

# Unforgettable - Ladies' Caravan 2018 Morocco

All meetings within our organization are special. But if you want to experience something very special – a mix of friendship and adventure and charity – you have to be a part of the Ladies' Caravan of Morocco !

## The adventure:

The Ladies from Agora and Ladies'Circle Morocco organized an amazing car rally in their country over 5 days – the third edition of Ladies' Caravan. We were approx. 90 Ladies (from that 16 guests from Netherland, Lithuania, Belgium, France, Germany and Canada) divided in 38 cars. The cars and we were prepared for a rally along the beautiful Atlantic coast with challenge and off road slopes.



We were rewarded with beautiful landscapes and amazing views. The challenge was not so easy. My team was not always on the right track. Because sometimes we were distracted with talking and singing in the car while reading the route. Some teams drove too relaxed on the beach and needed help to get the wheels out of the sand. But at the end of the day we found always back to our Caravan team.

**The charity:**



The Ladies' Caravan supports the National Service Project 'Madrasti Moustakbali - My school my future'. It consists in distributing food and school supplies to the beneficiaries. A few Ladies also spent some of these packages on the way. As well as the profits and donations generated by this rally have been donated to that NSP.

**The friendship:**

Dear Ladies of Morocco, you have organized an amazing tour. You were full of power and energy. Thank you to take always care of me and my team that we're not missing anything. Thank you for a fantastic time with good talks, singing and dancing. Thank you for the consideration of my miserable French language skills – we found always a language for the common understanding. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for that unforgettable trip!



# International Agora Club in the Ladies Circle Caravan Rally 2018 in Morocco



This third version of the ladies Caravanes Rallye organized by Ladies Circle Morocco. It is a beautiful and vivid illustration of the “side by side” synergy where about fifteen agora

members from Morocco and other countries along with Ladies Circle members from Morocco and abroad , Round tablers and Forty oners’ wives, sympathizers and friends. Not to mention the highly noticed participation of our Agora international president Isabelle Séguinot who never missed the previous Ladies Circle rallyes .She was in the one that explored ” the South” in 2014, she was among the rally participants that



**AC Morocco & French Team**



**AC Casa Bouskoura 5 Team**



**AC Marrakech 3 Team**



**AC Casablanca 2 Team**

headed for ”the North” of Morocco in 2016 and here she was in April 2018 in this “By The Sea” version a rallye along the Atlantic coast. One hundred women all appropriately dressed in blue, women from all walks of life form

different continents. In spite of their high responsibilities, their overloaded schedules , they all managed to get free , to enjoy themselves in this unforgettable human adventure. They set off from

Casablanca to Essaouira for a 4 days trip that will go as far as 1000km. An escape from the stress of our urban life, a quality time spent with other women to exchange with them to get



### **Gifts for the children through Madrasati Moustakbali**

to know them but also to contribute effectively to the ladies circle service project called “**Madrasati Moustakbali**” meaning :my school, my future. A service projects that attempts to alleviate the hardships of underprivileged and precarious children in funding and providing to



### **Solidarity.... Always !**

these kids preschool education. During the rallye we could behold breathtaking landscapes. We enjoyed meeting the local population, distributing the donations to the needy people along the road. What we experienced during this trip reminded us of what is essential in our clubs all the values we believe in such as humility, sharing, tolerance, solidarity, respect, broadmindedness, curiosity and so forth. That does not mean that the atmosphere was tense, far from it, we enjoyed ourselves, we laughed a lot, we danced we sang. Being with these incredibly dynamic women who all took up the challenge of a race that consisted more of a regular speed race rather than high speed race. These highly motivated women participated

to this rally but it was more than a rallye it was side by side precious time, it was helping children with their education, a life changing experience.

Thanks a million to the ladies Circle Morocco and their national president El Boukhari Ikram for the extraordinary organisation of this beautiful gathering. Thanks a million for these moments that will remain vivid in our memory and that shed light on the true meaning of the Agora International current motto “Let’s open our eyes , let’s open our heart & let’s do more”,



**The Agora Ladies present during this 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition from Morocco , Germany and France!**



**The Winners !**



Dear Agora friends,

As you probably know by now, **Agora Club Belgium** has the enormous honour to organise the **Agora Club International Conference** !

The conference takes place from **4-7 October 2018** in the beautiful medieval city of **Gent**, and the Belgian Agora ladies can't wait to show you the legendary, enthusiastic and "Vree Wijs" Belgian hospitality 😊 !

So "TO DO's" :

- Have a look at our beautiful aci2018 website, and register for the conference weekend : [www.aci2018.com](http://www.aci2018.com)  
Arrange a fun weekend to Belgium together with friends of your club, your partner (we've got an exciting partner's programme!), even alone...we are here to welcome you!
- Questions ? Contact us via the aci2018 website



Don't forget :

**Early bird registration = payment before 31/05/2018 !**

