

# NEWS

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COEXISTENCES / OCTOBER 2020



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**We hope that this troubled period has spared you as far as possible, that you are as well as can be expected and that these enforced changes have been beneficial for you in spite of everything.**

As we stated in our message dated 29 May, we decided at the beginning of the month of May, in view of the exceptional health situation pervading at the international level as well as in Switzerland, that it was preferable to postpone until 2021 the three projects scheduled by our association for this summer. The evolution of the pandemic has alas reaffirmed this decision. The groups involved by this postponement were comprehensive with this decision, although somewhat disappointed.

However, we have remained active, have kept in touch with our members and partners. We have also updated our site which you can consult and appreciate as from the end of October, over all media platforms.

Tatiana Honegger, faithful among the faithful, left us in July. We pay homage to her in this newsletter.

We were hoping to invite you on 15 January 2021 for our traditional “Petit Nouvel An Grand Ball”. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this. Remember the one of 31 January 2020, how magnificent it was! We promise you that it will be kept on hold for the next time, all being well.

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## VIRTUAL MEETINGS

### KEEPING IN TOUCH COME WHAT MAY

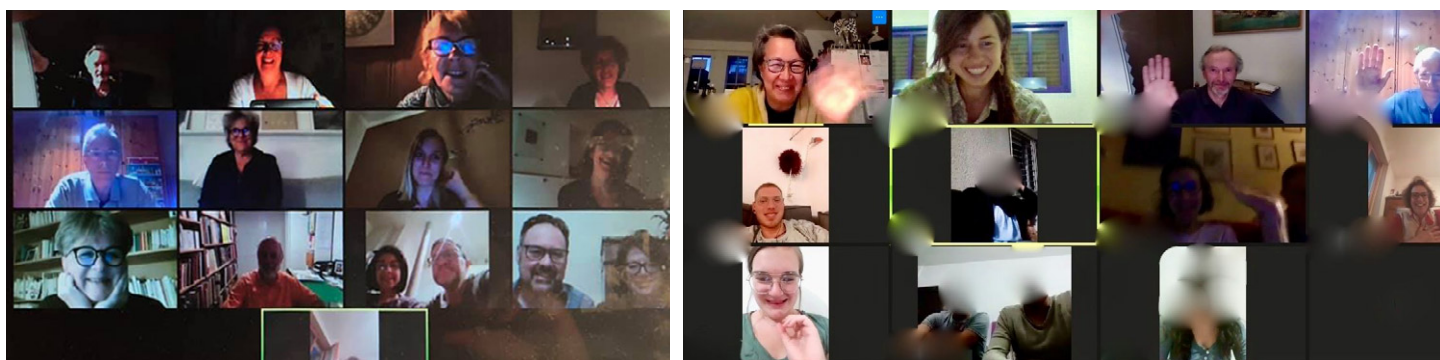
**24 May 2020**

We organised a Zoom meeting with the members of Coexistences. Around fifteen of them connected and appreciated the initiative. Different proposals of themes for Zoom meetings were made and explored.

**11 June 2020**

The committee and the host families of the 2018 Roots group met via Zoom: 16 people connected, 10 youngsters and 6 members of the committee and host families. The participants were very pleased. This was a touching and exciting moment. We had the impression that it had been a long time since the youngsters of the 2018 group had not seen each other. The gratitude of the participants was huge and they were unanimous in their strong and happy memory: the youngsters repeated how they felt welcome as in a second family; they felt safe and had the impression that Coexistences made no difference between the Palestinians and the Israeli Jews. The committee noted, after this first successful experience, all the interest of organising a first Zoom meeting with each of the groups before their arrival Switzerland.

Numerous virtual conferences have taken place, organised by the many local NGOs who we know, all very interesting and for which we have relayed the announcements on our Facebook page.



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## 37 / COMMUNICATION

### **SPEAK OUT AND AFFIRM OURSELVES**

#### **Project of annexation in the West Bank**

In the face of this project, we felt that it was important the association should not remain silent. Below is the text we published on our site and our Facebook page:

#### **For a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fair and viable for all.**

- Because we believe in dignity, justice and rights,
- Because silence, indifference, scepticism would be the worst of surrenders,
- We, members of Coexistences, Swiss of all origins and convictions, who actively support exchanges between Israeli Jews and Palestinians (in Israel and the occupied territories),
- By receiving in our homes in Switzerland since 2006, in order for them to further their dialogue on an equal footing, away from the conflict, in a neutral, supportive and friendly environment,
- We reaffirm our conviction that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be subject to unilateral decisions. On the contrary, this resolution must be negotiated with and by all those involved, so that their aspirations and security needs be satisfied in a just, viable, exhaustive and durable resolution.

#### **New site and refreshed logo**

Since our first announcement at the general assembly, the redesign of Coexistences' site has made good progress and will be online at the end of October. This new site will be available under all media platforms (smartphone, tablet or computer) and the content update can be made without recourse to coding, directly executed by ourselves. We want to constitute a work group of three people to take care of the updates and we are presently looking for volunteers. If you are interested please contact us by writing to the following address: [info@coexistences.ch](mailto:info@coexistences.ch).

The redesign of the site has given us the opportunity to modernise and refresh our logo, graciously offered by our graphic designer Alain Kissling, as you will discover in this newsletter.

Finally, on 1 March 2020, our president was invited on the broadcast Les Barbouzes by Florian Barbey on Radio Chablais. You can listen to the broadcast by searching with the keywords: les barbouzes/fiuna seylan-ongen or clicking [here](#)

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## 37 / NEXT YEAR'S PROJECTS

### PROJECTS 2021

We regularly keep in touch on the ground and there are many uncertainties linked to the development of situation. We intend to give the priority to the groups scheduled for 2020, unless any withdrawals or difficulties arise.

For the time being, the 10th anniversary of **Breaking the Ice** has been confirmed for 15-21 March 2021.

**Roots:** after many months of virtual meetings, the group concluded their year by an event at the Karama Centre during which they painted a beautiful fresco enriched with references to texts advocating justice for all.

**David Yellin:** the meetings, which had become virtual since March, have just ended. The project to go to Switzerland is dear to the members of the group and creates a truly positive emulation, making it possible to dream of another place.



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## 37 / HOMAGE

### TATIANA HONEGGER

We are very sad to announce the death of Tatiana Honegger on 5 July after a long illness confronted with courage.

Tatiana was extremely active in Coexistences and hosted with a unique generosity and passion. She was particularly involved in the hosting projects of the TALI primary teachers, the fundraising dinner and the Breaking the Ice group.

Tatiana, who had been a high school teacher, wrote with extraordinary ease and knew how to communicate her enthusiasms eloquently. We will long remember her presentations of the group of the Ministrings musicians and the couple Einat Bet-Zalel and Hakim Boukhit. It is difficult not to be moved on rereading the accounts of these events in our newsletters of June 2014 and July 2015.

Over the last year she became more discreet but glad to hear the news from our association to which she was so attached. From the bottom of our hearts we share the sadness of her family and friends.



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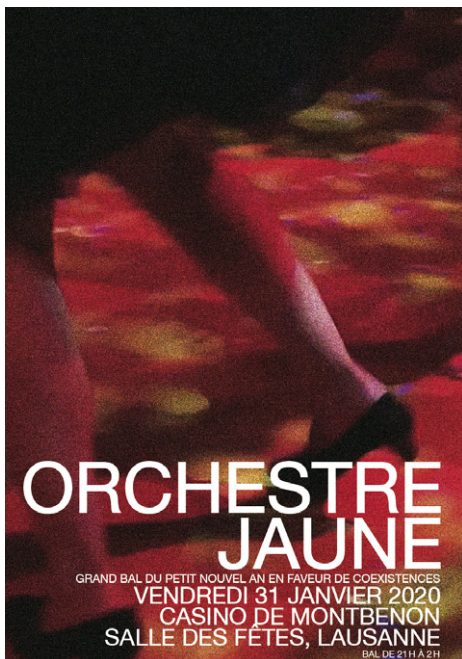
## EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

### **“THE FRIENDS OF YARA” ASSOCIATION**

During the trip marking the 10 years of Coexistences, a group of members spent a week at the home of Jamal Meqbil, member of the **Wounded Xssing Borders** group who came to Switzerland in 2009.

Moved by their daughter Yara’s intelligence and in consideration of the precarious situation of the family, Sandra Modiano, member of our association, wanted to support her in her medical studies. In this respect she has just founded the “The Friends of Yara” association which aims at raising funds with foundations and individuals to finance her studies.

Considering her and her family’s engagement in the bi-national dialogue (Yara participated in the very first dialogue group from the young people of Roots and in a Seeds of Peace camp), we take the liberty of sending you very soon a more detailed presentation of the “The Friends of Yara” association.



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### **FUNDRAISING DINNER**

The fundraising dinner has been postponed to the spring of 2021, likewise the host families’ day to more auspicious times.

### **CAFÉ COEXISTENCES ON JUDAISM/SIONISM**

We are examining the possibility of organising a virtual café get-together. If not, we will do it as soon as the health measures allow it.

### **“PETIT NOUVEL AN” GRAND BALL**

On 31 January 2020 our annual ball took place. Around 500 people came to admire the talented “Jaunes” musicians and let rip on the dance floor. From the beginning to the end, a pleasure shared, knowing exchanges, the pure happiness of being there, together. In the middle of hugs and kisses, we agreed to meet on 15 January 2021, for an even more festive Ball. We had no idea then that it could be cancelled. Yet that is the decision we have just taken in view of the enduring health crisis. However, we are reserving a surprise for you: look at your emails, you will be hearing from us!

FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN AND THE COMMUNICATION GROUP