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COEXISTENCES / FEBRUARY 2022

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### Yet another year accompanied by a small tenacious virus who refuses to let go

We hope you have been able to cope as well as possible, adapt yourselves to the imposed constraints and, who knows, maybe you have had new projects inspired by these upheavals.

For Coexistences, 2021 has been a year of constant adjustments between preparations and cancellations... a good balancing act!

Whatever, we hope for you that this new year 2022 will be filled with little and big pleasures and we look forward to resuming our activities with two projects.

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ADRESSE  
COEXISTENCES  
CH-1000 LAUSANNE  
INFO@COEXISTENCES.CH

COVER: DELPHINE HORVILLEUR  
PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDRE ISARD

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ACTIVITIES 2021

As in 2020, we had to postpone certain host projects. However, we have remained in contact via virtual meetings.

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### MEETINGS WITH OUR PARTNERS

In January, 25 of us reconnected via video-cast with the Women of the Cracks group who we hosted in 2019 and who participated in a demonstration organised at Beit HaGefen to take part in it together during the violence and confrontations in May 2021 in Israel.

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### MEETINGS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF COEXISTENCES

Certain members of the Committee and the fundraising work group contacted this spring the less active members in order to appraise their opinion as regards the association's activities and to maintain relations. The initiative was received very positively: in general the association is considered to be very well managed, active and to have good knowledge on the ground. This contact approach resulted in several people joining certain work groups and receiving recommendations for fundraising.

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### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In June we held an Extraordinary General Assembly 2021 during which the 2020 accounts were presented and the 2021 and 2022 budgets were validated. It was the opportunity to present a new project which Fiuna Seylan Ongen and Laurent Enser have been working on intensively for 18 months: a multi-year project dedicated to the mediators of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in order to federate it and enable an exchange of experiences and the constitution of a support network and collaborations (see below).

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### MEETING OF HOST FAMILIES

Cancelled in spring, we were able to organise the meeting of host families on 3 October with the aim of thanking them for their commitment over the years. In the rural setting of the Chalet de Mivy in the commune of Corseaux, many were pleased to meet each other once again and reconnect.





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### CANCELLATION OF PROJECTS

In view of the development of the sanitary situation we had to postpone the hosting of the **Roots** group once again and the first session of our landmark project for the **Israeli-Palestinian** dialogue mediators.

### PUBLIC MEETING

**Combatants for Peace** had planned a tour in Switzerland with a stop in Lausanne for a public meeting with Coexistences entitled "Dialogue, why, in whose name?". The imposition of a quarantine on arrival in Switzerland led to the postponement of this tour, replaced by a virtual round table on 7 December that you can find on You Tube with the link [https://youtu.be/fDXjtizFU\\_Q](https://youtu.be/fDXjtizFU_Q) and from which these images are taken.



FILM A YEAR OF FIELD ACTIVISM, 2021, COMBATANTS FOR PEACE

- 1 SUPPORTING JORDAN VALLEY COMMUNITIES / RIGHT TO WATER CAMPAIGN
- 2 RIGHT TO WATER CAMPAIGN, SOUTHERN WEST BANK
- 3-4 SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS, TREE PLANTATION, SHOSHALAH VILLAGE, CENTRAL WEST BANK

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### PRESS MAY 2021

Menaces of unilateral annexation of the West Bank and pressures in Sheik Jarrah led to new violent confrontations in May. Coexistences was contacted by the news decryption programme, *Le Point J* of RTS1, and by the newspaper 24Heures for an article in its week-end edition (see the section Reflections/Press on our website).

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### CAFE COEXISTENCES 18.02.2021

Under the title **Dialogue and its place in the Texts**, we had the pleasure of following via Zoom the conference of the liberal rabbi Delphine Horvilleur. It was followed by an hour-long exchange of questions-answers. Approximately 50 participants were moved by her intelligence, sense of humour and the central place she attributes to dialogue and meetings in her reflection and practice.



FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN / PHOTO: CHANTAL DERVEY FOR 24HEURES  
DELPHINE HORVILLEUR / PHOTO: ALEXANDRE ISARD



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### FUNDRAISING DINNER

The fundraising dinner, planned for spring had to be postponed, but we hope to renew this enjoyable gourmet and festive reunion soon.

### NEW YEAR'S GRAND BALL

Although autumn seemed to offer us a moment of respite, just as last year we had to finally cancel the "Bal Jaune" planned for 14 January 2022. However the preparation team for the Ball got together and received the new volunteers, Nathalie Katz, Miriam Kuelling Lazega and Joseph Python. Welcome! Rendezvous is taken for a next edition on 13 January 2023.

### CONCERT EN FAVEUR DU JERUSALEM YOUTH CHORUS

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus organised a fundraising concert on 12 September. On this occasion they sang a whole new repertoire composed of texts written during the pandemic, and unfortunately also during the confrontations in May, with such exceptional and prestigious guests including David Broza or Ziggy Marley.

We could attend virtually from home or meet together to share the projection live joined by some fifteen people.



JERUSALEM YOUTH CHORUS  
SHALOM SALAAM WITH ZIGGY MARLEY AND  
THE JERUSALEM YOUTH CHORUS IMAGES TAKEN FROM THE SITE  
[HTTPS://JERUSALEMJUVCHORUS.ORG](https://jerusalemjuvchorus.org)

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Although nothing is certain, we nevertheless hope to be able to resume hosting groups between the waves of decline and vaccinations. We will communicate in due course as the projects are confirmed.

**We are looking for host families for the two projects described below. If you are interested, please contact Halina Sandri ([halina\\_sandri@bluewin.ch](mailto:halina_sandri@bluewin.ch)).**



EVA HALAHMI, DURING THE TALI-JCJCR STAY IN 2013

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### TALI-RECD FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JULY

The class twinning programme, entitled **Dialogue and Identity**, benefits since January 2021 from the support of the European Union, which has enabled the federation of new schools thus passing from 26 to 38.

Eva Halahmi, director of the programme, would like to allow principals of the newly engaged schools who have heard of the previous visits to Switzerland, to establish relations between each other, to broaden their mutual knowledge and think together about how to expand the “Dialogue and Identity” programme and its impact within their respective communities.

During their stay, meetings with actors of the interreligious and multicultural dialogue will broaden their perspectives and bring new reflections. The public presentation of their work will reinforce their identity as principals of Jewish and Arab schools committed to dialogue and mutual comprehension. The stay will take place according to the model of previous years, a stay in the mountains together in a chalet followed by a few days with families in Lausanne.

Just as here, they are juggling with the absence of teachers and all the problems linked to the pandemic. The Education Ministry has cancelled all the extra mural activities since December, hence interclass meetings could not take place. We think it is all the more important to propose a stay in Switzerland so that their motivation – which was strong at the beginning of the year – can be resumed. The group will be facilitated by Eva Halahmi and Hussam Elias.

**We are looking for volunteers to participate in the organisation of this visit. If you are interested, please contact Daniela Hersch ([danielaherschmail.com](mailto:danielaherschmail.com)).**

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BJORN KRONDORFER

### REINFORCE THE MEDIATORS' DIALOGUE FIRST SESSION, 4-13 SEPTEMBER 2022

Between 2006 and 2019, Coexistences hosted, 33 dialogue groups and their 15 mediators from Israel and Palestine. They often they do not know each other, have diverse approaches and face a lack of support. There is no umbrella organisation which could enable a sharing of experiences, approaches and achievements.

The “reinforce the mediators' dialogue” project aims at creating between professionals a dynamic of sharing experiences and achievements, to form between them a support network, and to back their psychological needs in a difficult context.

The project was initiated with the participants: an online questionnaire was sent to them in February 2021 and their answers have confirmed the interest in this initiative and made it possible to target objectives. The programme was developed in detail with the help of three long-standing professionals: Michal Levin, Saber Rabi and Sylvie Berkowitsch-Gassenbauer. More than half of the potential participants accompanied the groups we have hosted since 2006.

It will take place in five steps:

- an introductory meeting in Israel / Palestine on 13-14 May 2022
- seminar 1 in Lausanne from 4 to 13 September 2022
- an intersession with a programme of activities in Israel / Palestine from October 2022 to July 2023
- seminar 2 in Lausanne end of August / beginning of September 2023
- followed by the project on the ground during autumn 2023

The seminars will be facilitated by a respected professional, Bjorn Krondorfer, and proceed like the other stays we organise: a few days in a chalet followed a few days with families in mixed pairs.

This project has received the support of the DFAE (*The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*) both on a moral and financial level.

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### 10 YEARS OF BREAKING THE ICE

Planned for 15 to 23 March 2022, unfortunately the project has had to be cancelled for the third time. This decision is of course linked to the present wave of the pandemic. We hope to be able to hold it in 2023. 40 people were interested in this stay which aims at assessing their participation in one or the other of these first ten visits, the impact on their lives and the lessons to be learnt.



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### **CHANGE IN THE COMMITTEE**

Christian Sinobas, our treasurer since 2013, ends his mandate at the 2021 closing of books to devote himself to other associative activities. He remains of course a member of our association. He is replaced as from 1 January 2022 by Valérie Jennings who will continue the excellent work carried out by Christian over the last years. Thanks to him and welcome to her!

We hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter once again and we look forward to meeting you all soon.

FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN AND THE COMMUNICATION GROUP  
TRANSLATION: JENNY RICE