

**DEAR FRIENDS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF COEXISTENCES,  
WARM SPRING GREETINGS ON OUR 3D NEWSLETTER**

**THE MONT-BLANC EXPEDITION  
(END JULY)**

On March 26, the mountaineer and adventurer Doron Erel's talk was attended by around 50 people. The first part was a commentary of pictures illustrating his life, before and since the 2004 "Breaking the Ice" expedition in Antarctica. It was followed by the movie of this expedition (see on <http://www.breaking-the-ice.de>).



We met a highly sympathetic, humble and friendly person. We discovered through his testimony that the mixed Israeli-Palestinian group worked perfectly well to achieve the common goal they had elected, the successful climb of the Antarctic mountain, which drove everyone to exceed its own limits. However the return from this long expedition (3 weeks on boat and 5 days of walk until the climb) turned out to be much more difficult as, once the climb achieved, no other goal came in substitution.

The project has become viable with 70% of its budget

secured. The RSR has delegated a reporter-producer to make a movie of the expedition. Contacts are under way with the Italian public television for a coverage which would also allow a duplex in Tel-Aviv; other contacts are under way with French channels to ensure maximum coverage and impact of this initiative and our association.

In another initiative to collect funds, meters of the expedition on the Mont-Blanc will be sold through tickets that have been specially created, using a picture of an expedition in the 19th century. To get hold of these tickets and help us collect funds, contact Massimo Sandri or Francois Feihl. A booth at the Lausanne weekly market (on St Francois square) is planned Saturday May 8. A sponsor diner the 11 June will also be held, about which you have received communications at the beginning of the month.

In Haifa in Israel, end of March the first training week-end took place with the selected students (18 Jews selected among 80, and 20 Arab-Israelis. Only 6 and then 4 from each group will ultimately be selected for the next meetings). In other words the competition runs high! Among them are very promising girls too. This first week-end will be followed by 4 other training week-ends at Mont Carmel, and in Galilea until the end of June, to train as well as to build trust and friendships.

After the expedition, which we hope will be successful, the participants will be asked to communicate on their experience, at universities and in their own respective communities.

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## YOUTH SUMMER TRIP (EARLY JULY)

As since the beginning, the two groups continue to work and progress very well. Here is what their facilitators have to tell us about one of them:

**“The mixed group is composed of 6 Israelis and 10 Palestinians. They come from very diverse backgrounds, to learn, hear and maybe meet new friends. We will meet 15 times, once a week. The themes we will discuss are about society, politics, identity, responsibility in relation to the conflict, and questions around the fact of belonging to such a conflict. The meetings are difficult. Together we try to tell the narrative, to hear it and to let it echo on both sides, as well as allow space for personal stories. We use different techniques: art, interviews in pairs to discover one another, storytelling, and others. The participation is impressive, the group has even decided to do some research during the Easter break to gain a better understanding of the conflict. The themes we tackle are: stereotypes, convictions and stands, identity, a country for all or two separated countries, responsibility in the conflict, personal story ...”**

From Ohad and Haneen, facilitators of the groups YMCA 2009-2010

The groups “Host Families” and “Trip” have started preparing their arrival.

**Contact: [danielahersh@gmail.com](mailto:danielahersh@gmail.com)**

## NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Since their return to Israel, they have exchanged pictures and plan for a meeting during the summer.

## OTHER NEWS

“Coexistences” on Facebook : given the popularity of this communication and social connection tool, we have created a Cause “Coexistences” on Facebook, to make it be known via this dynamic tool. We have to this day 31 members, fairly balanced between Switzerland and Israel, youth from the previous summers, members and supporters. We have also a link to the movie of the 2008 summer explaining the goal of our association and the YMCA program. We will keep it alive with news of our activities.

**Warm regards,**

Fiuna, groupe “Communication”.