

DEAR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERS OF COEXISTENCES,

ON APRIL 14, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS ELECTED OR REELECTED ITS COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT, MASSIMO SANDRI. THE PROPOSITION ON THE OPTIMISED STRUCTURES OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS VOTED TOO (TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS AS WE HOST MORE GROUPS ON TOP OF THE YOUTH GROUPS FROM THE YMCA). FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE REFER YOURSELF TO THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DATED 22/04/2011.

WE WISH TO THANK HEART FULLY ALL THE EXITING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR FANTASTIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ASSOCIA-



2011 PROJECTS

Our three projects, and our preparations to host them, are progressing very well.

YOUTH GROUP

In Switzerland between the 1st and the 10th of July, they will spend 2 days in their host families before going up to a chalet in the Marécottes family mountain resort for three days of reflection, work and discovery of the area. They will continue their dialogue work and discover the region upon their return to Lausanne.

TALI, "IDENTITY AND DIALOGUE"

These teachers, who take part in school exchanges between Jewish and Arab schools in Galilee, will be our guests between the 7th and the 14th of July. The group will be in a chalet for 4 days for an internal seminar and discover Switzerland, and then will be welcomed in mixed pairs 3 days in host families in Lausanne. They will meet Swiss teachers dealing with integration of minorities too as well as professionals actively involved in the multicultural dialogue.

TOUR OF THE MONT-BLANC, 14-17 JULY

Out of the 30 Arab and 50 Jewish applications, a group of 14 was formed and a first week-end of meeting and training took place the 6-7 May. 10 among them will form the final group. 6 other encounters are planned to get begin form a cohesive groupe, dialogue, train and prepare the trip, under the experienced leadership of their Palestinian facilitator Olfat Haider, holder of a degree from the Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sports.

During their trekking in Switzerland, the group will be guided by the mountaineer Jean Troillet, who already led the climb of the Mont Blanc in 2010, members of Coexistences and a doctor throughout the 10 days trek across Switzerland, Italy and France. They will sleep in tents and will have the responsibility to carry their equipment, ensure food supply and meals preparations. Olfat Haider will manage the group dynamic and organize daily dialogue activities. Upon their return, Olfat and the group will be hosted 3 days in la Fouilly at a Coexistences member's chalet for a crucial debrief following this intense experience.

To conclude this newsletter, as we had announced Francois Feihl and Christian Sinobas from the Mont-Blanc group 2010 took part together with a colleague from the CHUV in the Jerusalem half Marathon in March, together with a few from the Breaking the Ice group and Olfat. Francois and Christian also met Lobna, Malek, Shiri (who is pregnant!) and Golan, and were very warmly and generously welcomed in their houses.

In the following links you will see many telling pictures from their stay:

The marathon

<http://imageevent.com/feihlfamily/jerusalemmarathon> ;

François' stay in Malek's family

<https://picasaweb.google.com/malekbutto/NazarethWith-FrancoisFeihlTheShooal> ;

The week-end in Ein Guedi where the youth open up their group to friends and family and expand the reach of their experiment:

<http://imageevent.com/feihlfamily/eingedi>

Furthermore, Francois Feihl, as president ad interim of our association, took the opportunity to meet our Israeli partners of the Tour of the Mont-Blanc 2011, in the persons of the directors of the Jewish-Arab center of the Haifa University, its sport center, and Bet Hagefen. He also met some of the Peace Bomb group of last summer and one of their YMCA facilitator.

With our warmest greetings on such exceptional spring, and looking forward to seeing most of you on one of the encounters with this summer's 3 groups,

Fiuna, for the Communication group