

**DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF COEXISTENCES,**

**Time flies and the fine weather is back again. Just after the benefit dinner which reunited many of us, and before the summer recess, here is a preview of the events coming up very soon.**



**SUMMER PROJECTS**

**HER VOICE – 16 TO 25 AUGUST 2015**

Her Voice (Kole'h-Saoutek, in Hebrew and Arabic and in the feminine), her own voice, that is how they chose to call themselves, 14 students from Haifa aged between 16-17 years old. Accompanied by Olfat Haider and Raz Parker, under the supervision of Sylvie Berkowitsch-Gassenbauer, they form a multicultural team. Ethiopians, Arabs, Jews and Armenian, they chose this name so that each voice can be heard referring on the one hand to their feminine identity and on the other to their national identity. These constitute their two centers of reflection. Apart from their first and last meetings (getting to know each other and introducing themselves to the group at the beginning, then at the end, the conclusion, dreams, hopes, etc...), the dialogue programme is centred on three themes: feminine and national identity, interpersonal communication and listening, the conflict (both narratives, the impact of the conflict on their lives).

After experiencing communal life in a chalet in Trient, they will come and stay in Lausanne by pairs in the guest families who are no doubt eagerly awaiting their arrival and with whom they will share their activities over an entire weekend. Their programme in priority will consist of daily dialogue sessions, but also a day visit of Geneva (Red Cross Museum and Bains des Pâquis) and a day devoted to touristic activities between Trient and Lausanne.

If you would like to meet them, listen to their adventures, share with them the emotion of the final evening, it will take place **at the CPO (multicultural and social center of Ouchy) on Monday 24 August at 7 p.m.** You are very welcome!

**BREAKING THE ICE  
27 AUGUST TO 10 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The group comprising twelve participants accompanied by Olfat Haider and Asaf Ron, director of Beit Hagefen, will be arriving in Switzerland on 27 August.

The itinerary which is scheduled from 29 August to 6 September has not yet been finalised. It has to conciliate a number of imperatives: laps which are neither too technical, nor too long in order to leave time for the dialogue activities, possibility to get fresh provisions en route, as the food has to be carried for a maximum of three days and crossing our borders (always a memorable experience for the participants to notice that they are not guarded). The option under examination is a hike between Verbier and La Fouly, by way of Italy. The return flight to Israel is scheduled for 10 September. The farewell evening to which you are cordially invited will take place **at the Refuge des 4 vents, in Pully, on 9 September.**

## FUNDRAISING DINNER

**You came along in large numbers to join us on that Sunday to share a gourmet and musical dinner concocted by Dominique Benmuvhar, Juliette Brull and Tatiana Honegger. One of the originators tells us about this event.**

On 14 June, the Refuge des 4 Vents starts rustling with happy reunions around the welcome aperitif; two adorable little girls offered pistachios and appetizers... The atmosphere was festive at our traditional fundraising dinner. The lamps shone on delightfully laid tables, the space which served as a stage was decorated with Middle-Eastern rugs, lamps and copperware, and, surprise, professional sono equipment: once again the music was to animate our evening. In her speech, our president Fiuna Ongen was happy to find so many faithful guests, reminding us that the benefits of this evening would contribute to the funding of the projects organised for this summer.

The refuge was truly full, such fidelity, such solidarity, since it was already our sixth fundraising dinner. Thanks to our members and their friends, to their generosity; thanks to Dominique, heart and soul of this evening, her ever renewed creativity, accompanied by Juliette and Tatiana. An oriental buffet concocted with love gave rise to as many compliments as there were colourful, inventive and delectable dishes. Alongside the physical food was woven the spiritual food: Einat Betzalel, from a Jewish family, born on a kibbutz in Israel, and Hakim Boukhit, from a Muslim family, born in France, remarkable musicians, played for us.

Since their encounter in 2007, they share together in their life and on stage a coexistence open to the world, offering through their music a message of love and humanity. Einat's voice rose, so pure, so warm and graceful, so ample, so powerful. Her infinite beauty and grace illuminated her singing. Ardently she interprets Yemenite and Arab songs, ancient Jewish prayers; alternated tenderness, interiority and strong rhythms, deeply moving music, a Salam which Einat invited us to sing in unison with the talent and humour of the singing teacher she is too. Hakim accompanied her on the guitar with the delicacy of a true virtuoso, attentive to his companion's singing, attentive to back her, or retreating when the voice rose. A difficult art that Hakim performs to perfection. What complicity, what respect between these two wonderful artists who literally radiate... and who were applauded again and again. It's difficult to imagine a more perfect symbol of embodied coexistence, corresponding to the ideals of our association.

Thank you Einat and Hakim for the love you gave us, for your luminous presence, which enchanted all those who exchanged with you. Such beautiful energy resonated throughout that evening, so many emotions, bonds were strengthened between us, so many wonderful encounters. How good for the heart and the soul. How that filled us and inspires us to continue in our lucid commitment. How precious. To all of you, for your presence and support, thank you and thank you.



Einat Betzalel and Hakim Boukhit

## NEWS FROM THERE

We received this email from Rami, participant in Breaking The Ice 2014, which we think you will enjoy reading:

"I'm happy to tell you that in the past month Fares and myself were requested to give a presentation on Breaking The Ice and on our experience there.

We, of course, were happy to do that, and since the first presentation was a success, we were asked to do it again in front another group. The groups are mainly international students and journalists, and they were really excited about the project as a whole, and from all of you in the Coexistences foundation and your true and honest will to give for this project.

We told them how it all started, how in the beginning we only got to know each other, and how it ended up in a true and honest friendship.

We also shared with them (as they were really wanting to know) about our harder moments, and the delicate topics that we also dealt with, mainly regarding the political situation, identity issues and the individual feeling of each of us in the current situation in Israel. We explained how we were working hard, under the supervision of Ulfat and Asaf, to build bridges out of it instead of shutting out as usually happens in other situations when these kind of topics arise.

Besides that, our group keeps on meeting, and just few days ago, Fares invited all our group to our flat (we became roommates right after we got back), and we all spent really good time together, as we always do. I'm glad to share with you our recent progress, because I consider it as a symbol of success to this magnificent project.

Unfortunately I don't have the e-mail addresses of the rest of the Coexistences members, so I trust you to inform them in the last happenings.

Wish you all - all the best, big hug to each of you and my honest appreciation."

Rami

## TAKE UP YOUR AGENDAS

**Don't forget that the general assembly will take place on Tuesday 17 November.**

**You will receive the annual report three weeks in advance.**

In the hope of seeing you at one or the other evening scheduled in August and September, we wish you an invigorating summer!

The Communication group

WWW.COEXISTENCES.CH  
INFO@COEXISTENCES.CH

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**RELATION BANCAIRE**

BCV  
PL ST-FRANÇOIS 14  
CP 300, 1001 LAUSANNE  
CCP 10-725-4  
CLEARING 767  
BIC/SWIFT BCVLCH2LXXX  
IBAN CH29 00767 000C 5207 3545

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