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COEXISTENCES / DECEMBER 2017



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Dear All,

Coexistences' eleventh year, i.e. the first of its new decade, is coming to an end. Once more, the satisfaction of what has been achieved prevails. The last important meeting of the year was the general assembly. Required by law, defined by our statutes, it is not, however, a monotonous and boring formality. On the contrary, it is the opportunity to take stock of the year together by voicing our opinions freely. Below you will find a broad outline of this assembly.

Good reading!

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31 / GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Under the presidency of Fiuna Seylan-Ongen, our general assembly was held on Thursday 9 November at the CPO in Lausanne.

One of the items on the agenda was the traditional presentation of the accounts for 2016. The events which marked the 10th year of Coexistences represent a supplement of charges resulting in a decrease of our capital at the end of 2016. But the Fundraising group is working hard to raise it. Another regular item: the election of the president and the committee. The latter was increased by the presence of Delphine Friedmann, member of the association since 2008. Furthermore, the president and the outgoing committee were re-elected.

The success of the three summer projects were evoked: YMCA Chorus, Her Voice and Breaking the Ice. A sale of designer garments also took place under the appellation of "Co Habit Action".

The In Between project having significantly progressed, the three prize-winning films were shown to the assembly, as well as "We can talk" which had served as a source of inspiration. The projects for 2018 were presented. They are outlined below. Moreover, they will be the object of a special meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2018.

Another project is being elaborated: "Musicaligraphie", a show associating Arab and Hebrew music and calligraphies which should reinforce the visibility of Coexistences.

Finally, it was decided to contact by telephone most of the members of the association; this action will be preceded by an email.

With its animated discussions and convivial reunions, this was a long, rich and satisfying meeting.

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In pursuit of its ideal to sow seeds of peace by supporting initiatives which combat prejudices and develop an in-depth understanding of the other as well as non-violent communication in both populations, Coexistences is going to organise a new series of visits in 2018.

TALI/JCJCR

After having received in 2011, 2013 and 2016 two groups of teachers and a group of school principals involved in “Dialog and Identity”, a twinning programme of Christian Arab and Jewish primary classes, we will welcome in the summer 2018 a new group of teachers.

Anticipated result: consolidate the commitment of the teachers in the twinning programme, reinforce their mutual in-depth understanding, reflect upon “living together” from a common experience of life together, reconsider the educational programme with a new perspective, critical and often gratifying.

Date of the trip: 4 to 10 July 2018

Number of participants: 15-18 men and women + 2 facilitators

Duration: 7 days

ROOTS

Founded in 2014, ROOTS is a unique collaboration between Palestinians and Israelis which aims at building a model of coexistence through non-violence. The centre encourages understanding, confidence, non-violence and transformation between Palestinians from the region of Bethlehem and Hebron in the Occupied Territories and Jews in the settlements of Gush Etzion. It involves simple citizens and religious leaders from both sides, supporting and reinforcing moderate voices and creating new ones.

Initiated in March 2015, a programme specifically intended for young adults between 16 and 19 aims at reducing fear and reinforcing a partnership and friendship between the parties through the apprenticeship of Arabic and Hebrew, the study of the respective cultures and beliefs, activities of public interest and field trips for a better understanding of the complexities arising from a double heritage. Over time, the Young Adults group aims at initiating within each group a critical reflection on identity and their relationship with the other and developing leaders and ambassadors of dialogue, non-violence and coexistence.

Anticipated result: construction of a shared space outside their comfort zone, in-depth understanding of the other made possible by a cohabitation 24h/24 – 7/7 days, realisation of their points in common in contact with the third Swiss culture, elaborating enlargement strategies of action, being recognised and approved in their transforming decision to have had the courage to meet the Other and non- violence.

Date of the trip: 20 to 30 August 2018

Number of participants: 30 youngsters + 4 facilitators

Duration: 10 days

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BREAKING THE ICE

On the model which has worked so well since 2011, treks in low-mountain ranges will again be proposed to Jewish and Arab students from the University of Haifa, accompanied by professional mediators, of which Ulfat Haider. Director of programmes in Beit HaGefen who has a vast experience as a facilitator and who has been present since 2010 in the project. The latter is still made in partnership with the University of Haifa which has integrated it in its action programme aiming at improving intercommunity relations on the campus.

Anticipated result: to consolidate the dialogue and promote meetings of the other, motivate the participants, supervised by the University, to become involved in concrete actions, to improve intercommunity relations on the campus.

Dates of trip: September 2018

Number of participants: 12 students + 2 facilitators

Duration: 14 days

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BREAKING THE ICE



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AND STILL MORE...

“PETIT NOUVEL AN” GRAND BALL ON FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2018

Save the date! Once again, on that Friday, we are going to dance all night to the sound of the 'Orchestre jaune'. What could be better than enjoying ourselves in order to fill up our association's funds and finance at least the realisation of one annual project!

From one year to the next, we reserve our evening, talking about it all round us, inviting friends, nothing could stop the aficionados from coming to the festival hall in the Casino de Montbenon, in Lausanne, to find the convivial atmosphere, the musicians jam-packed with energy, the delicious food and the smala at the welcoming bar.

Come rain, come wind, come snow, come along! And if you feel like it, you can give us a helping hand: between two dances there is always something to do ...

Contact : carole.guinard@coexistences.ch

Wishing you a wonderful festive season, we look forward to seeing you next year to collaborate in these projects.



**ORCHESTRE
JAUNE**

GRAND BAL DU PETIT NOUVEL AN
EN FAVEUR DE COEXISTENCES
VENDREDI 12 JANVIER 2018
CASINO DE MONTBENON, LAUSANNE

BAL DE 21H À 2H
PORTES, BAR ET PETITE RESTAURATION DÈS 20H
ADULTES 30.- / ÉTUDIANTS 15.- / SOUTIEN 50.-

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