

YMCA OBSERVATORY, International Edition

-Published by the Young Men's Christian Association / YMCA of the Republic of Argentina.

- July 2017 - Year XIII - No. 32

This publication is sent by e-mail and included in the Internet site: [www.ymca.org.ar](http://www.ymca.org.ar), intends to share, in short, information and ideas with the broad international world of the Young Men's Christian Association /YMCA. Only ten subjects have been selected to be shared.

- - - - -

- ***115<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ARGENTINE YMCA***

**On May 4, in its headquarters YMCA celebrated its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Argentina. Firstly, an allusive plate was discovered in the institution's hall. It gained a wide media coverage. Two hundred personalities were invited from different environments of the country: political, cultural, corporate, trade-union, social and religious spheres and met in the reception offered. The messages of greetings received were innumerable, one of them from the President of the Nation, Mauricio Macri, was read during the act. Within the non-denominational, open and plural frame that characterizes the Young Men's Christian Association/ YMCA there was an interreligious invocation with the participation of (Catholic and Anglican) priests, pastors (the Methodist Bishop and a Baptist Minister), a woman rabbi (of the Bet El Community) and a sheikh (of the Islamic Centre of the Republic of Argentina). The internationally renowned vocal group called "Opus Cuatro" performed for us. The publication edited by the Institution on the occasion of the anniversary was distributed. It included the message of the Holy Father Francis, and of the President of the Nation, several governors and opinion leaders of all community sectors. Also, the message of the secretary general of the World Alliance of YMCAs. Several supplementary activities shall be held this year: master chess and fencing tournaments; golf and tennis tournaments; athletic events; the "24 hours swimming event of YMCA"; concerts and the tango contemporary poet biennial, among other events.**

- ***"JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE" PROGRAMME***

Once more, in 2017, Argentine YMCA shall be part of this activity of the Palestine's YMCA. Our institution will be present through the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Rosario's YMCA.

- ***"YOUTH PEACE NETWORK" PROGRAMME***

Upon the approval of the Argentine YMCA's application, Malena Rosemberg, young leader, will take part of this excellent experience promoted by Vancouver's YMCA.

- ***MEETING/ MISSION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES***

As mentioned before, Argentina's YMCA is strongly committed to the indigenous peoples of our country. Annually, young volunteers develop the mission of accompanying Wichi community in Fortín Dragones, Department of Embarcación, province of Salta, located in the north. This year in January, three young leaders, one of them from the Entre Ríos headquarters took part in this enriching experience: *Solange Seijas, Mariano Tomeo and Maximiliano Cacace*. By mid-year, in

June, it develops at its metropolitan venues the Forum for Indigenous Peoples' Rights tending to raise awareness of the problems of those that suffer oppression and oblivion.

- ***INTERNATIONAL TRAINEESHIPS***

Four Argentine YMCA's professionals shall develop international traineeships during 2017 as planned: *Mario Cenci*, in México; *Patricia Zablosky*, in Perú; *Sebastián Santilli*, in the United States and *Giselle Giacomotti*, in Brazil.

- ***EXCHANGE OF LEADERS***

The exchange of leaders with YMCAs of Latin America is normal. During the summer period in Argentina, young leaders from the YMCAs of Sorocaba and San Pablo, Brazil, visited us.

- ***YMCA's RADIO PROGRAMME***

Argentina's YMCA has its own radio program with two weekly broadcastings. It has been on the air for over five years and its title is: "Dialogues with Value". It is conducted by the secretary general, Norberto Rodríguez, and invites opinion leaders from different spheres of the country's public and private life. It contributes to reflection on subjects that are important for the community.

- ***ARGENTINE YMCA IN THE PRESS***

Argentine YMCA often appears in graphic, radio and television media. This is based on its society-oriented programmes, services and initiatives. It also contributes reflection and debate institutional articles on themes sensitive and critical for the community that are published in largest circulation newspapers as well as magazines and are made public by several other journalistic channels. The institution evades advertising.

- ***YMCA AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE***

The Head of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, invited on May 2, in the Civic Centre, 50 important opinion leaders from religious and lay entities where a project for the construction of an interreligious space in the metropolitan city was presented. The secretary general of the Young Men's Christian Association/ YMCA, a non-denominational, open and plural institution, Norberto Rodríguez, was one of the guests and shared one of the invocations at the beginning of the meal. Furthermore, different actions were suggested so as to deepen dialogue and peace building. Study tables will be created per specific subject and the Young Men's Christian Association/ YMCA defined its participation in the one referred to education.

- ***YMCA AND FORMAL EDUCATION. TEN CONCRETE EXPERIENCES***

Argentina's YMCA goes on growing in its commitment to formal education: *two initial-level establishments, two primary schools, two secondary schools, two professional formation (trades) centres*, all of them in locations with vulnerable population. Also, a *tertiary institute* and now the *YMCA University Institute*. Around three thousand students make up the overall enrolment. The institutional apothegm is that "education is the entrance to freedom and the exit of missed opportunities". We strongly aim at making visible a project of "rich education" for "poor or impoverished communities", that requires adding quality and value to the proposal. For instance, these establishments having part-time school day and without being bilingual, its secondary-level students graduate with command of English as a second language. They also add art, sports, camping and health prevention to their curricula.

-----