

YMCA OBSERVATORY, International Edition

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

- December 2017, Year XIII, No. 33

This publication is sent by e-mail and included in the Internet site: 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.

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- ***XVI NATIONAL CONGRESS ON VALUES, CRITICAL THOUGHT AND SOCIAL NETWORK***

With an attendance close to 500 people, this Argentine YMCA's traditional activity was held on September 27 and 28. Over thirty lecturers, all of them opinion leaders of the political, social, cultural, educational, economic and religious life of our country, contributed to the participants' reflection process. Its focal point was: *"Education, health, justice and labour: Towards inclusion policies, a challenge to democracy"*. A book was published in December with the complete Congress content which was widely distributed in circles of power, in terms of effective influence, of the Republic of Argentina.

- ***II NATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE***

On November 2, Argentine YMCA held the II NATIONAL CONGRESS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE. Selected subject was *"Violent Society: when age is an aggravating factor"*. Adolescents and young students, together with their managers and educators provided an excellent framework for this activity, which was opened by the UNICEF representative. Subject included different types of violence: structural, street, classroom and home violence. Dynamics included, in each one of the four panels, the voice of adolescents and youths themselves.

- ***THE YMCA OF ARGENTINA IN ANTARCTICA***

In the framework of the institutional decision of supporting Argentine efforts in Antarctica, and as part of the recently signed cooperation agreement with the head of the General State Major of the Argentina Air Force, the secretary general of the Argentina YMCA, Norberto Rodríguez, and the executive of the Administration, Finance and RR. HH. department, Eduardo Rodríguez, traveled from 7 to 9 November at the Marambio Base. They did aboard the portentous Hercules C 130. Participated in an emotional event: the annual change of personnel of the base, with the presence of the authorities of the Air Force. Concluded its mission staffing 48 and began the number 49. The receptivity that took the YMCA was excellent. With the decision taken, the Argentina YMCA fulfills its mission of promoting values in one of the most inhospitable places on the planet. Be close to those who really make homeland. For the YMCA this is a first step in Antarctica, and may have others. The equipment for the gym will run on the central core of Marambio is already acquired. All components of the mission 48 were given credentials as members of the Argentina.

- ***JERUSALEM - THE HOLY CITY***

In December, Argentina YMCA released the following statement:

"The YMCA cannot remain silent in the face of the massive concern generated as a result of the imprudent decision adopted, unilaterally and without consultation, by the president of the United States. It is imperative that institutions add their voices to the strident call of the international community to respect the "status quo" of the city of Jerusalem, as provided for in the United Nations resolutions. Jerusalem is a unique city due to its holiness and special symbology in terms of peace. It is sacred for the Hebrew, Christians and Muslims. It is the place where these religions reverence their holy sites. In a planet riddled with upheavals and dramatic conflicts, it is inconceivable to add new misfortunes that may spread more violence, pain and death. As an international institution, it is our responsibility to fight for the values that give us identity: love, justice, peace and solidarity. We must firmly claim that wisdom and prudence prevail over nonsense and blunder."

- ***FENCING. SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS***

In the South American Seniors Championship held from October 11 to 14 in Santiago de Chile, the Argentine team of women's fencing that includes among its members two Argentine YMCA's fencers: Stefanía Urania and Élide Sandra Agüero, earned the gold medal and achieved the triumph at the event. To reach the highest position it defeated the Chilean team with an excellent performance. Stefanía Urania, in the meantime, took the bronze medal in the individual tournament in this competitive international confrontation.

- ***CHESS MASTERS' TOURNAMENT. 115th. YMCA'S ANNIVERSARY***

Organized by Argentina's YMCA within the frame of the celebration of its 115th anniversary, this tournament took place on August 12 at the institution's headquarters. It brought together the cream of the crop of national chess and foreign guests. Twenty-four (24) masters and grandmasters attended the event. The *Grandmaster Pablo Sarnicki* won the championship, with 7 and a half points scored in nine rounds of the tournament disputed under Blitz mode. He was followed by *Grandmasters Federico Pérez Ponsa and Alan Pichot* (junior world champion, 2014) with six and a half points.

- ***RECOGNITION OF THE ARGENTINA'S SOCIAL SECTOR FORUM***

On December 12, at the Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentine YMCA received a special recognition for "its one hundred and fifteen-year track record". This Forum includes the most important organizations of our country's civil society

- ***G 20***

G 20 (Group of Twenty) will meet in the Republic of Argentina in 2018. Our country assumed the presidency of this cooperation forum in December and consults subjects related to the international financial system with member countries. The so called "engagement groups" work within the framework of G 20. These are groups of consensus that articulate with G 20. One of them, **C 20**, is referred to civil society. Argentina's YMCA takes part in **C 20** and after informing the World Alliance of YMCAs, it received from Geneva the support to engage in the global representation of the institution. Another of the "engagement groups" is related to the youth theme (Y 20).

- ***LAUDATO SI'***

Pope Francis's encyclical is an integral road map with enormous impact. In 2018 it will be a motive of deep reflective analysis in YMCA's Colleges, at the level of managers and teachers as well as of advanced course students. Argentina's YMCA has ten education entities and over 3000 students: at initial, primary, secondary, tertiary, professional formation and university levels (YMCA University Institute).

- ***YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES***

From October 6 to 18, 2018, Buenos Aires will host the Youth Olympic Games. Argentine YMCA is involved in the process and is registering young volunteers to give support to the organizational process, both before and during the event.
