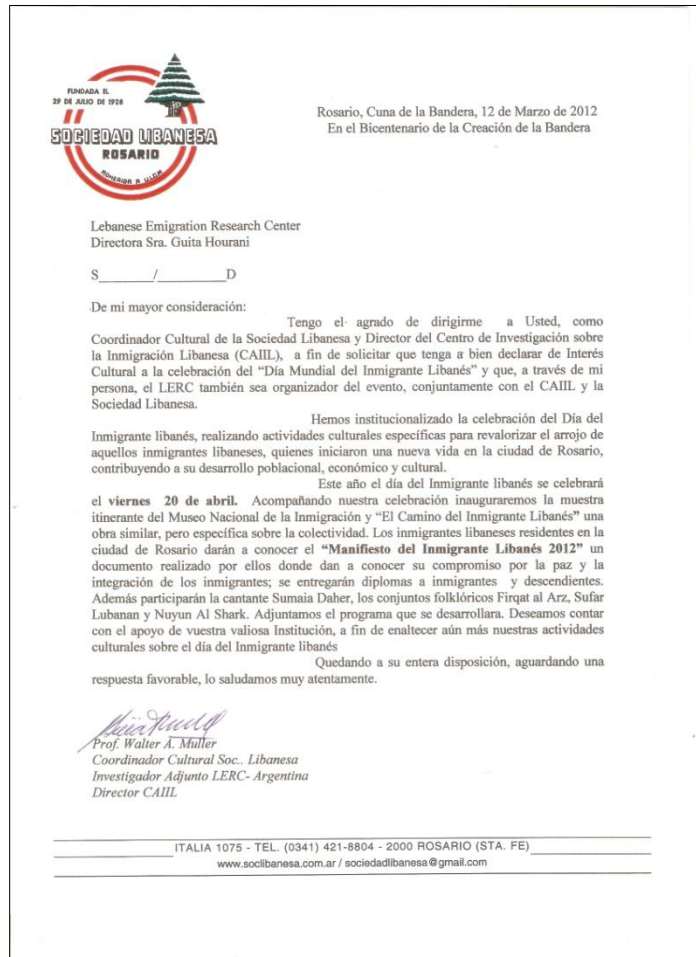


LERC participates in the Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina

Friday April 20th, 2012

Reported by Victoria B. Huerta

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University-Louaize had the pleasure of participating in the Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina via a live Skype video call. The festivity was organized by the *Centro Argentino de Investigacion de la Inmigracion Libanese* (Argentinian Research Center for the Lebanese Immigration) and the *Sociedad Libanese de Rosario* (Lebanese Society of Rosario) through Dr. Walter Muller Moujir, LERC's Liaison Officer in Argentina.



Letter sent by Dr. Walter Muller Moujir to LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani requesting LERC's participation in the Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina.

The Lebanese community in Argentina has been remembering the Lebanese Immigrant Day for eight years. Each year the celebration includes cultural, educational and artistic activities. This time the festivity was accompanied by two exhibitions, one from the National Immigration Museum and another one called *The Path of the Lebanese Immigrant*, in which pictures of the diaspora were shown with the aim of recalling the struggles the first Lebanese went through.



**Disembarkation of the passengers at the Port of Buenos Aires.
Part of "The path of the Lebanese Immigrant" exposition in Rosario, Argentina. April, 2012.**

In addition, the organizing team made an agreement with the National Directorate of Migrations and the *Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos* (Center of Latin-American Migrations Studies), which brought the Immigrant Data Base to the public participating in the event, in order for it to be consulted by everyone interested.

As requested by Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, Ms. Victoria B. Huerta, LERC's international intern, was chosen to deliver a live message via Skype to the audience gathered for the inauguration of the celebration. This is the first time since its foundation more than eighty years ago that the Lebanese Society of Rosario has had a live connection with Lebanon.



From left to right: Mrs. Liliane Haddad and Ms. Victoria Huerta at the Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina. April, 2012.

Ms. Huerta gave a message to the Lebanese community and presented an earlier recorded video, where she herself and Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist, recalled the journey that the Lebanese of Argentina went through at the time. They invited the Lebanese community to collaborate with LERC's Lebanese Migration Nucleus Museum by sending documents or pictures about themselves and their families. They both also congratulated the Lebanese community of Rosario for commemorating this day and passing on the Lebanese culture and traditions from generation to generation. The video was recorded in Spanish and Arabic and is available at LERC NDU channel on YouTube. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUCj3EPz9TQ&feature=player_detailpage.



The audience gathered at the inauguration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina. April, 2012.

After the audience had been entertained with typical Lebanese dances and the video *Through the streets of Beirut* the inauguration ended with the reading of the *Lebanese Immigrant Manifesto 2012*. In this, the Lebanese community of Rosario acknowledged their commitment with peace and the full integration of the immigrants.



Traditional Lebanese *dabke* troupe, Firqat Al Azr performing at the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina. April, 2012.

The Celebration of the Lebanese Immigrant Day in Rosario, Argentina reportedly had more than 300 attendants. Once the Celebration was formally inaugurated, the Lebanese community enjoyed a night filled with Lebanese flavor. The singer Sumaia Daher performed as well as the folkloric dancing groups Firqat al Azr, Sufar Lubnan and Nuyun Al Shark.