



Marhaba



Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Ravi Ravindran

RC Sri Lanka

District Governor

Mustafa Nasreddine

RC Amman

Deputy Governor

Kamal Katra

Assistant Governor

Rami Majzoub

RCBC Officers

2015—2016

President

Marie (Mimi) Hamam

President Elect

Joe Boulos

Vice President

Lina Shair

Secretary

Amal Talhouk

Treasurer

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Directors

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George Beyrouti

Nora Haddad

Adib Mounla

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RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker: Mr. Elias Aractingi, General Manager BLOM Bank
Topic: " Banking in Lebanon and the ME -- The Current Outlook".**

Mr. Aractingi holds a BBA (with Distinction) from AUB and a MBA in Finance from Columbia University, USA. He has had an illustrious career in banking: Bank Audi and Banca della Svizzera Italiana in New York between 1983 and 1990; then BLOM Bank SAL since end 1995 where he is General Manager since 2013. In 1990, he joined Booz Allen and Hamilton, the US international management consultancy; when he left in 1995, he was Manager of the Bangkok Office and a Principal of the firm.



Mr Aractingi believes Lebanon is experiencing morose times: GDP growth, the PMI index and tourist arrivals are all down, and reflected in the results of banks, all of which are diversifying geographically. But then, so is the whole area experiencing weakness; indeed, the world is flirting with deflation.

However, Mr. Aractingi believes that Lebanon is not doing so badly, relatively speaking. The currency is stable and enjoys attractive returns; US Dollar deposit returns are also good; oil fluctuations are somewhat hedged; and the security situation is acceptable. Furthermore, Mr. Aractingi believes that our financial reserves should be sufficient to weather short-term turbulence. Longer term, he believes the future could be great:

- The end of the war in Syria would result in major rebuilding opportunities for Lebanon;
- Offshore gas drilling would generate new revenues for the Lebanese government as well as increased profits for the economy;
- The détente in the local political situation would lead to a prosperous Lebanon as a safe haven in the region as well as increased tourism and business activity;
- An end to Middle East tension would result in a Lebanese tourist boom, increased Arab investments, and new markets & opportunities.



P Mimi Hamam handing over his membership certificate to PP Michel Mansour, MD, who transferred recently from RC Bahrain to RCBC (Classification: Hospital Management).

**RCBC meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut
Business Meetings at 7:00 PM — Dinner Meetings at 8:30 PM**

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.



**Tuesday, April 12, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker: Dr. Mona Fawaz -- Topic: "Beirut Madinati — Beirut My City".**

Dr. Mona Fawaz (see photo LHS) is an Associate Professor in Urban Studies and Planning at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her work spans across urban history and historiography, social and spatial justice, informality and the law, property and space, as well as planning practice, theory and pedagogy. Dr. Fawaz is the author of over 40 scholarly articles, book sections, and reports that span across these topics.

She is the main coordinator of the Beirut Madinati (BM) project, a volunteer-led campaign to elect an independent municipal council with a six-year program centered on making Beirut a more livable city by exploiting opportunities for change. "Over the years, our city has declined on every livability index including traffic – e.g. 70 % of the people want to walk but feel unsafe". The core values of BM are the public good; social justice; transparency; and stewardship of the city for future generations.



Its candidates for election to the municipal council all live/work in Beirut; are diverse in age, in gender, in profession, and in religious affiliation; and they are all politically independent and bound by its code of ethics. Its program is in 10 points -- see www.beirutmadinati.com:

1. Improve urban mobility;
2. Improve greenery and public space;
3. Make housing more affordable;
4. Implement an integrated solid waste management strategy;
5. Protect and develop Beirut's natural and cultural heritage;
6. Build community spaces and Services;
7. Integrate social justice, poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development;
8. Integrate principles of environmental sustainability;
9. Prioritize the health and safety of all city dwellers;
10. Improve the organizational structure and managerial effectiveness of the municipality.

BM associate Ms. May Daouk referred to the unmet needs and problems that people have and want met/solved by other than politicians. She emphasized that BM offers responsive programs and transparent finances. In turn, BM associate Dr. Walid Alami, MD, back from the USA after an absence of many years, deplored the fact that only 20% of those eligible to vote actually do so: "If we want change, we must change" he stressed.



RCBC RT Sona Kourtian (RHS in the photo above) is back in Lebanon after a several month work assignment in Dubai. She is shown presenting RCBC P Mimi Hamam with a banner from RC Dubai Cosmopolitan, D 2452.

Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

RC: Rotary Club

RCBC: Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

RT: Rotarian

P: President - IP: Incoming President - VP: Vice President - PE: President Elect - PP: Past President

D: District - DG: District Governor - IDG: Incoming DG - DDG: Deputy DG - ADG: Assistant DG



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**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker: Ms. Lina Khoury -- Topic: "Oum el Nour: The Organization; Follow-Up Program; Projections and Goals".**

Ms. Lina El Khoury (see photo RHS) holds a Bachelor in Education degree from the Lebanese University and a Certificate in Mental Health Counseling from the University OF South Dakota, USA. She is, since 1977, Follow-up Director for Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation of NGO Oum el Nour (Arabic for "mother of light").

Addiction is a disease that takes a variety of forms in today's society. Some of the more common such forms include dependence on alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, as well as other compulsive or pathological behaviors.

Recovery from addiction being a long-term process, the Follow-up Program provides support beyond the treatment phase to:

- (1) former residents of inpatient centers;
- (2) former participants in outpatient rehabilitation centers.

Such support includes:

- (a) refinement of acquired tools;
- (b) heightened awareness of the need to prevent relapses;
- (c) guidance towards enhanced autonomy.

The tools used include:

- (i) individual counseling;
- (ii) family counseling;
- (iii) group discussion meetings;
- (iv) motivational exercises.
- (v) medical, social, psychological and judicial follow-up and support.

Since 1995, Oum el Nour has aided 600 beneficiaries.



R to L above are RCBC RT Nora Haddad and PP Mounir Jabre; then his spouse RT Riman Jabre and guests RT Effat Abou Aassali and PP Gisele Malouf, all of RC Beirut Cedars.

RCBC recently established contact with **RC Valencia (D 4380) in Venezuela** through Marhaba, our monthly publication. We are now pleased to publish this note -- courtesy of our new friends' **PDG 2009-2010 Andrés A. Baffigo Fuentes** (see photo RHS) in behalf of RC Valencia President Milciades Patacho Rodriguez. RC Valencia -- chartered in 1938 – has been and still is a leading club in its district. Its members are all Paul Harris Fellows; it has provided six District Governors; and it has contributed almost one million US Dollars to worthy causes. RC Valencia and its Rotaract and Interact affiliates together constitute a large family of close to 60 members.



Many Happy Birthday Returns to

PP Joe Boulos : April 02



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Tuesday, April 26, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Hotel Vendome
Guest Speaker: RT Mrs. Diana Cotran, RCBC -- Topic: "Malaria: The Silent Killer"

RT Diana Cotran of RCBC (see photo RHS) holds a BA and a MA in Business Administration from the America University of Beirut (AUB). She was with Medicines for Malaria Venture in Geneva from its inception in 2000. As Executive VP Operations, she was accountable for human resource management, governance, administration and project management. Since early 2014, she is a lecturer in the Advanced Management Program, AUB School of Business.



Malaria (Italian for bad air) is spread by infected mosquitos; it is referred to as the "silent killer" because it is a disease of the poor, who have no voice in society. Ms. Cotran noted that Malaria kills over 400,000 people every year, the vast majority children, and accounts for 40% of worldwide public health

spending. Malaria occurs essentially in the hotter and more humid areas of the Southern Hemisphere, with the highest transmission being in Africa South of the Sahara. Its symptoms include fever; shaking chills; headache; muscle ache and tiredness; nausea, vomiting and diarrhea; anemia and jaundice. Its control and eradication demands a multi-faceted approach: medicines; rapid diagnostic tests; insecticide treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying; plus (future) vaccines. Malaria prevention measures include vector control; use of treated bed nets; taking prescription medicines; sleeping in screened or air-conditioned rooms; covering (or using insect repellents on) exposed skin. Treatment (a) must be based on proper diagnosis, (b) must be prompt – within 24 hours of fever onset, and (c) requires strict compliance.

In 2000, halting and beginning to reverse the progress of malaria by 2015 was declared one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the UN. Significant success has been achieved towards this goal: 1.2 billion cases of malaria and 6.2 million deaths from malaria were averted. Furthermore, Malaria has been embedded in one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 as adopted by the UN in September 2015 – that relating to Good Health.



From L to R above, RCBC PP Joe Boulos; guests Mr. Elie Touma, Ms. Serene Touma & Mr. Ramzi Cotran — respectively brother, niece and son of our speaker.

Meeting the 2030 malaria goals will be costly: an estimated US \$ 100 billion of which \$ 10 billion for R&D. The good news is that the UN is providing Sustainable Development funds and that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is the biggest donor.



Shown LHS is visitor HE Dr. Anis Al-Qaq, Ambassador Plenipotentiary, and a member of RC East Jerusalem, D 2452, located in AL Bireh, Palestine.

PP John Edde of RCBC (shown R in photo to RHS) exchanging banners with P Colin Burke, RC Newlands, Cape Town, South Africa on April 25, 2016.

