

Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Gary C.K. Huang

District Governor

Khalil Alsharif

Deputy Governor

May Chmaytelli

Assistant Governor

Samir Hammoud

RCBC Officers

2014—2015

President

Lina Shair

Immediate

Past President

Mounir Jabre

President Elect

& Secretary

Marie Therese Hamam

Vice President

Joe Boulos

Directors

Rabab Safieddine

Rana Salhab

Adib Mounla

Tony Asfour

George Beyrouti

Joe Boulos

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

**[www.facebook.com/
beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)**

Tuesday April 7, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker Mrs. Carmen Chahine Debbane Topic: "The Lebanese Center for Special Education"

Mrs. Carmen Chahine Debbane (see photo RHS) is the founder (in 1999) of the Centre Libanais Pour l'Education Speciale (CLES) -- the Lebanese Center for Special Education -- that provides support to children with special learning difficulties, free of charge. The Center concretizes her conviction "that the road to peace goes through the education of children and the opportunity to give every child the right to achieve his/her full potential".



CLES, a non-governmental and a non-profit organization, now spans across six centers in Lebanon, starting with Beirut in the year 2000; followed by Tripoli in 2008; Sidon in 2009; Zahle in 2013; Zouk Mekayel in 2014; and Nabatieh in 2015. In 2013, CLES signed an agreement with the Lebanese Ministry of Education committing the latter to fund the establishment of learning support classes in each of 200 public schools across Lebanon.

Spreading awareness helps early detection of, and prompt provision of support with, learning difficulties. Prompt support is crucial if learning difficulties are to be prevented from turning into learning disabilities. Learning disabilities include Dyslexia; Dysorthographia; Dyscalculia; Hyperactivity and Attention Deficit; Verbal Language Disorders; Memory Deficit; Dysphasia; and Dyspraxia.

Failing early awareness and care, children with learning difficulties often recede to the back benches of the class; risk becoming "forgotten children"; and often become socially excluded.

Editor's Note: See also "The Forgotten Kids" by Don Bergman, Principal of International College, later in this issue (May 5, 2015).

Pinning of New Member (see photo RHS)

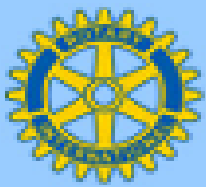
RCBC P Lina Shair pinned new RCBC member Mrs. Diana Cotran, who was sponsored by RT Rana Salhab and whose classification is Non-Profit Organizations. She holds a BBA and MBA from the American University of Beirut.



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

Marhaba Editor: Kamal Saad (knsaadrcbc@gmail.com)

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



April 14, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker Dr. Robert Sacy -- Topic: "Quarantina Hospital Rehabilitation"



Dr. Sacy (see photo LHS) is Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatology, Balamand University, and Past President, Department of Pediatrics at the Saint George Hospital University Medical Center. Dr. Sacy's talk was given in his behalf by Mr. Aboud Shami (see photo RHS).

Dr. Sacy estimates that 60% of the Lebanese live on about US \$ 2,000 per person per year, and that 8% of them live on less than US \$ 1,000 per person per year. About 500,000 of those needy Lebanese (30% of them



children) live in an area where the Quarantina Government Hospital is the only medical facility in the neighborhood. This area consists of Quarantina, Gemmayze, Saifi, Bourj Hammoud, Nabaa, Daoura, and Sin El Fil. Only about 350,000 are covered by the Ministry of Health or the National Social Security Fund, whilst private hospitals do not admit those who cannot pay.

Lebanese premature babies add up to 9,000 of the 70,000 babies born annually; if Syrian and Palestinian refugees are included, the number doubles to 18,000. Special facilities are required to deliver premature babies at a cost from US \$ 20,000 to 30,000 each. In Greater Beirut, only two government hospitals are so equipped: The Hariri Hospital in which only six out eight existing Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and 16 of 24 incubators are operational; and the Baabda Hospital in which there are no ICUs and the three incubators are not operational.

All of this is about to change as a result of the establishment in 2014 by Dr. Sacy of an NGO "Birth and Beyond", also known as the Association d'Aide a la Mere et a l'Enfant a l'Hopital (ASSAMEH). With help from the Lebanese Government and a number of private benefactors, including notably the Carlos Slim Foundation, ASSAMEH will rehabilitate the Quarantina Government Hospital to create a modern pediatric department that will provide the best medical service for both mothers and children at a fraction of the cost in private hospitals.

PP John Edde of RCBC Visiting Rotary Clubs in Mauritius -- late April - early May 2015

PP Edde shown (LHS) addressing members and (Middle) exchanging banners with P Jean Yves de Floriot of RC Haute Rive; then (RHS) exchanging banners with P Lewis Mouton of RC Grand Baie.



ROTARY CLUB

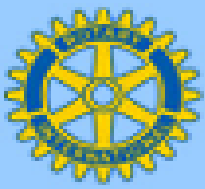


HAUTE RIVE



ROTARY CLUB

GRAND BAIE



Tuesday April 21, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Vendome Hotel -- Guest Speaker Dr. Louis Hobeika -- Topic: "The Economic Prospects of Lebanon"

Dr. Hobeika is a Professor of Economics and Finance at Notre Dame University - Louaize, Lebanon and former Chairman and CEO of Sodetel. He is a widely known speaker and writer and has held a number of important advisory and managerial positions in regional and international organizations. He holds a BA in Economics (Major: Business Administration) from the University of Paris 2, France, and a PhD in Economics and Finance from the University of Pennsylvania in the USA.



Dr. Hobeika deplored the fact that there was no joining of hands in Lebanon to counter the extremely serious external situation; that no work is being done to redress the Lebanese infrastructure; that security is a major worry; that tourism is way down and the trade deficit way up; and that the budget deficit and the public debt are out of control. Indeed, the only factors that are still favorable are remittances from Lebanese abroad and Government reserves.

Of particular concern is the high rate of unemployment, particularly among the young. Of the 38,000 odd Lebanese who graduate from University each year, only some 5,000 find jobs at home; it is estimated that half the balance seek jobs abroad.

The situation in Syria has always had a crucial influence on Lebanon -- since "Lebanon needs Syria for almost everything". The Syrian problem being what it is does not bode well for Lebanon in the foreseeable future. Nor does corruption, another big problem in Lebanon.

In answer to the question whether raising taxes could help achieve recovery, Dr. Hobeika said he was not convinced this would be an appropriate approach; it would be better to work on reducing corruption and controlling expenditures.

Editor's Note: In the February & March 2015 issue of Marhaba, it was stated that the Joint Rotary and Rotaract Presidents Meeting on March 5, 2015 was held in Bahrain. In fact it was held in Portemilio, Kaslik, Lebanon.



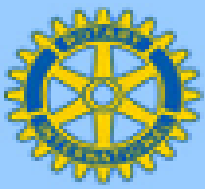
***Tablet Computers in Public Schools
Lebanon Computer Literacy Project
Approved by TRF, April 2015.***



***Banner Exchange, April 21, 2015:
RCBC P Lina Shair & RT Dr. Michel
Mansour, RC Sulmaniya, Bahrain.***



***RCBC P Lina Shair and fellow
members attending D 2452
Bahrain Conference, April 2015.***



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Publication -- April/May/June 2015 -- Page 4

Saturday, April 25, 2015 -- RCBC Brainstorming Meeting, Al Bustan Hotel, Beit Meri

RCBC Incoming President Mimi Hamam (see photo RHS) welcomed RCBC members and spouses to the traditional Brainstorming session that precedes the taking over of a new management team on July 1.

IP Hamam then moderated the presentations and discussions that folowed -- concerning:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| a. The RCBC Board | b. Club Administration | c. Club Programs |
| d. Fundraising | e. Public Image Relations | f. Service Projects |
| g. RCBC Newsletter | h. Digital and Social Media | i. Membership |
| j. Rotaract | | |

Member suggestions and concerns will help shape 2015 -- 2016 plans.



From L to R above PP Habib Saba, PP Joe Boulos, PP Tony Asfour, Mrs. Lolita El Khoury, Mrs. Samia Hakimian, Mrs. Mary Asfour, RT Samir El Khoury, P Lina Shair, RT Josef Akl and Mrs. Norma Akl.



From L to R above PP George Beyrouiti, RT Rabab Safieddine, PP Raouf Malak, P Lina Shair, PP Habib Bassoul, IP Mimi Hamam, Mrs. Norma Akl, Mrs. Adella Bassoul, Mrs. Rita Rassie, RT Sona Kourtian-Doniguian, PP Edouard Rassie, and RT Nabil Challah.

Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

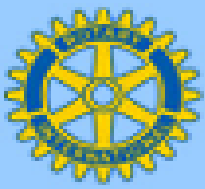
RC: Rotary Club

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



Tuesday April 28, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Speaker RT Sona Kourtian-Doniguian--Topic: "100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide"

The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, founded in the 11th Century, fell under Ottoman domination in the 16th Century and together with Western Armenia became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century, with Eastern Armenia part of the Russian Empire. A large number of Armenians lived in Constantinople and other parts of the Ottoman Empire where it is estimated that the total number of Armenians in 1878 was three million.

The Turkish genocide was triggered by the defeat of the Ottoman attack of 1915 on the Russian Caucasus Army. The Ottomans blamed the Armenians for causing the defeat by siding with the Russians.

The genocide caused the death of 1.5 million Armenians; those in the Ottoman military forces were demobilized and Armenian notables in Constantinople were arrested; both were later executed. Entire village populations were disposed of by burning; women and children were loaded onto boats and drowned in the Black Sea. Thousands of Armenians perished after they were uprooted from their homes and forced to march in the desert without food or water.

Today, after 100 years, the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide is not a day of mourning any more (in fact it has not been a day of mourning for many years now); on the contrary, it is a day of survival, victory and pride, a day celebrating life, existence and continuation. It is a day summarized as "I Remember and I Demand", meaning remembering the historical facts, and demanding justice and compensation for all the physical, moral, psychological, cultural, financial and territorial losses. "It is a source of satisfaction that 27 nations acknowledge the Genocide, despite continuous denials and threats of the Turkish government. On its Centennial, the Armenian Church canonized the 1.5 million victims of the Genocide; thus Armenians now have 1.5 million Saints in heaven, and I, a grandchild of the Genocide, now claim that I AM THE GRANDCHILD of a SAINT".



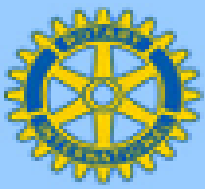
Genocide photo below



Map of the Genocide Deportation

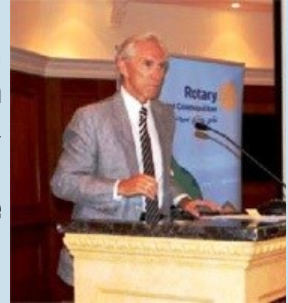


RCBC RT Sona Kourtian holds a BE in Electrical Engineering and a Project Management Diploma from the American University of Beirut. Her experience in electrical and mechanical engineering & construction spans across design, supervision, site administration, project management and quality assurance -- in Lebanon and the region.



Tuesday May 5, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel – Guest Speaker Dr. Don Bergman, President, International College (IC), Beirut - Topic: “Invisible Kids”

Dr. Bergman (see photo RHS) holds a BS in Geography and Social studies and a MS in Health and Physical Education from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, USA, and an EdD in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Arizona, USA. Before his appointment at IC in June 2014, he had served over a period of 25 years as International School Head in four schools: in Chile, the Philippines, Singapore and Japan.



School kids referred to as invisible are typically withdrawn, insecure, and often alone; they typically occupy the back benches in class. The reasons may be difficulties at home, lack of self-confidence, or feeling neglected. Dr. Bergman believes there should be no invisible kids in school; that teachers and school administrators have a responsibility to look for and ensure that such children do not remain “invisible”; and that philosophically, kids should come before content -- we should teach them first and content second.

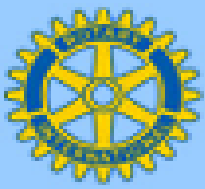
Many children who grow up in privileged home and school environments believe, mistakenly, that they are thereby entitled in future to the same success and life style they enjoy as children. It is important that they understand that success, wealth, and a comfortable life style must be earned. Children must also understand the importance of ethical behavior; the corporate world is full of examples of those who use their education to exploit the less educated and underprivileged. Those privileged to receive an excellent education must have the ethical values to not misuse their education to the detriment of others.

Success has infinite definitions and is as diverse as the kids themselves. As for leadership, be it in the family context, the work place, or as a perspective on life, Dr. Bergman believes it falls into one of two main styles: creating an environment of compliance or one of commitment. In his opinion, relationships and environments based on commitment are far more productive than those based on compliance.

Furthermore, parents must share responsibility for and participate in the formal education of children if we are to maximize opportunity and potential in young people. Parents are far more involved in the school life of their children when they are very young; yet it is in their adolescent and teen years that they most need parental guidance and involvement.

A variety of questions and a lively discussion followed. Regarding the spread of violence in schools, he believes one contributor is the concept of “invisibility”, isolation, and a perception of not being part of anything meaningful; overdependence on non-personal communication (e.g. email, texting) can lead to isolation from the real world and from meaningful human interaction. Concerning teaching, he said the old traditional approach was “one size fits all” in which emphasis was placed on the *teaching* process, whereas nowadays the priority is on the *learning* process. Regarding students, society and drugs, he believes it important for parents to ensure they communicate and stay involved with their children -- not always easy or convenient in today’s society. For a small nation with a turbulent past and challenging surroundings, the number of its expatriates who come back to make a life in Lebanon *“is an optimistic sign for the future”*. As for possible changes at IC: *“Everything around us is changing all the time, so change is inevitable; there are No Sacred Cows”*.

Editor’s Note: See also “The Lebanese Center for Special Education” by Mrs. Carmen Chahine Debbane, founder of CLES, earlier in this issue (April 7, 2015).



Tuesday May 12, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Speaker HE Samir El Khoury of RCBC, Past Lebanese Ambassador -- Topic: "Lifting Restrictions on Palestinian Refugee Employment in Lebanon -- a Win-Win Scenario"

RT Samir El Khoury, see photo RHS, RCBC Program Committee Chair and a former Ambassador of the Lebanese Republic is the Chairman of The Committee for Employment of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (CEP). Founded in 2006 with funding support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the CEP and its supporters work together to dispel misconceptions in Lebanon regarding Palestinian refugee employment. Current funding support for CEP is provided by the Norwegian Peoples' Aid and The Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

The talk was attended by HE Francois Barras, Ambassador of Switzerland and a long-time supporter of Palestinian refugee employment as well as by Ms. Corine Grumblatt, newly appointed UNRWA Protection and Advocacy Officer.



The speaker pointed out that the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is between 260,000 and 280,000 -- and not 500,000 or more, as often cited; less than one-third of them are able to satisfy nutritional and other basic needs.

The Palestinian refugee workforce numbers approximately 120,000 -- less than half of whom actually work in Lebanon. Registered Palestinian workers are charged social security tax at the full rate of 23.5 %, but are not thereby entitled to health, maternity or family allowances; they are only entitled to benefit from the end of employment indemnity.

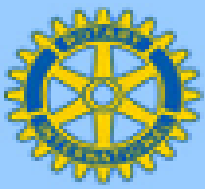
Ambassador Francois Barras (RHS)
Guest Speaker (Center)
and son Samy El Khoury (LHS).

Moreover, the amended laws of 2010 exclude Palestinians from practicing any of the professional activities regulated by law, i.e. doctors, lawyers, engineers, and nurses.

We should remember that many Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, just like their Lebanese brethren, have members of their families working abroad who send them remittances regularly, thereby contributing to the Lebanese balance of payments and helping uphold the value of the Lebanese pound. And finally, we should not to forget that many wealthy naturalized Palestinians have over the years contributed to the wellbeing of the Lebanese Economy (eg Gargour, CCC, FNB , INTRA).

Former Ambassador El Khoury concluded his presentation by explaining why formalizing the employment of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon would be a "win- win scenario":

1. Palestinians are already part of the informal market workforce. Legalizing their status would result in their receiving full salaries and their employers paying taxes;
2. Lifting restrictions on their employment will strengthen their will and determination to exercise the Right of Return;
3. Providing Palestinian refugees with full rights to employment and social protection in Lebanon will contribute to Palestinian wellbeing and reduce security risks in Lebanon.



Tuesday May 19, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Vendome Hotel -- Guest Speaker Mrs. Yvonne A-Baki, past Ambassador of Ecuador to the USA -- Topic: "Peace and Conflict Resolution"

Born in Ecuador of Lebanese parents, Mrs. Yvonne A-Baki is renowned internationally for distinguished accomplishments in the arts, in social and economic development, health and education, politics and diplomacy, and conflict resolution. A candidate for the Presidency of Ecuador, she served as her country's Minister of Foreign trade, Industry, Regional Integration, Fisheries, and Competitiveness. She also served Ecuador as its Ambassador to the USA and was instrumental in the successful negotiations for Peace between Ecuador and Peru. In 2006, she was elected to the Andean Parliament and became its President in 2007.



She holds a Master in Public Administration and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government in the USA. She is married to Mr. Sami Abd-El-Baki and they have three children: Mohammad, Faisal and Tatiana.

Mrs. A-Baki is a passionate believer that the process followed in negotiating Peace between Ecuador and Peru can lead to Win/Win results in other contexts -- including the Arab-Israeli conflict. The essence of the process is to avoid confrontation and start with one-on-one discussions between negotiators on either side to build trust and goodwill between them as individuals. Breaking the ice before negotiating is crucial. It is equally important for each side to the conflict to see what is at issue from the opponent's perspective. Furthermore, for the solution to be enduring it must be Win/Win for both parties -- thus to preserve the dignity and self-respect of each.

She is also a firm believer that women make far better political, public affairs, and business leaders than men -- if only because women are used to dealing with several problems at the same time.

RT Bryan Ahmad (RC Livonia AM, Michigan) presenting 4 Way Test football to RT El Khoury, May 12



PP John Edde delivers Mauritius RC banners to P Lina Shair, May 12



Photo composition May 10 Arnaoon Village Visit Fellowship Event



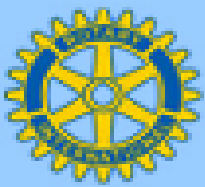
Many Happy Birthday Returns to

PP Joe Boulos: April 2

PP Edouard Rassie: May 2

PP Mounir Jabre: May 22

PP Tony Asfour: May 28



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Publication -- April/May/June 2015 -- Page 9

Tuesday June 2, 2015 -- RCBC Handover Dinner, Phoenicia Hotel
Guest of Honour Ms. Paula Yacoubian, TV Anchor / Host



A first of its kind RC handover in Lebanon between two women: P Lina Shair (L in LHS photo) and IP Mimi Hamam (L in RHS photo) shown pinning TV Anchor / Host Yacoubian Honorary



RCBC member. Ms. Yacoubian praised Rotary for its humanitarian work and asked for the support of RCBC in promoting the establishment of a World Bank Hub in Beirut.



P Lina Shair presenting Paul Harris Fellow awards for Service Above Self to (L to R) PP John Edde, RT Nora Haddad and Executive Secretary Rania Soubra of RCBC .



"Dancing With the Stars" professionals put on a memorable show >

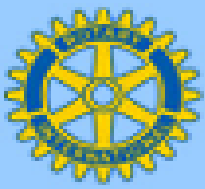
< The show inspired attendees to do their best in turn



< Rotaract P Elie Farhat (LHS) hand over to IP Fouad Boulos

RCBC and Rotaract Ps and IPs cutting the cake >





P Lina Shair << Handover Messages, June 2, 2015 >> IP Mimi Hamam

"2014 - 2015 will always be, not only one of the most memorable, but also one of the most enriching years of my life. Being president was challenging; it demanded a strong passion for service and continuous perseverance.

Responsible leadership, I soon discovered, was more than just doing a good job; it meant working tirelessly together with the devoted members of our club to keep RCBC at the forefront of community service.

2014 – 2015 taught me that giving in Rotary, isn't just about making a donation or volunteering; its actually about engaging and participating, as one big family, in our community projects.

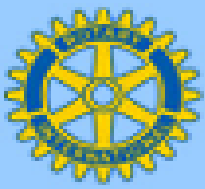
Now that our Rotary year is coming to an end, I want to thank all our committee chairs and our members for all their hard work, help, support and guidance.

2014 - 2015 was a great year, it gave us all the opportunity to find out what Rotary is truly about: ***SERVICE ABOVE SELF***"

"I would like to thank you for the confidence you have expressed in me by electing me president of our esteemed club. I look forward to serving at RCBC and to working together as a team to further progress our Rotarian values.

This year, I would like to further improve on our past achievements and make our club more attractive to non-Rotarians in our communities. For this, I will be giving my all and I invite each and everyone of you to do the same. By promoting our public image, endeavoring to maintain our excellent service projects record and ensuring it gets the proper media coverage we will touch and enhance the lives of many whilst encouraging people to join the Rotary family.

It is my fervent belief that today's young generation should be nurtured to become tomorrow's community leaders. Our Rotaractors are energetic and very well adapted to the changing world. We will work together towards the development of their vibrant and strong movement so that we all become ***A Gift To The World***".



**Tuesday June 16, 2015 -- Business Meeting at the Vendome Hotel
Guest Speaker Mr. Nour Kanafani -- Topic: "Challenges in Building Social Capital"**

Mr. Nour S. Kanafani, a graduate of the American University of Beirut Graphic Design Program and CEO of Communication Design SAL, gave a powerful presentation on the negative influence of social capital and the impact that a proper communication partner can make. The presentation kicked off with an introductory statement to the effect that, for firms that have something to say, Kanafani and his team help say it louder -- and with better aesthetics.

He used a video in the presentation to demonstrate that -- by using the proper communication partner who helps couple creative concepts with good design -- the simple act of dropping a pen could have a global reach.

What began as an ordinary presentation quickly developed into an engaging discussion. The short video ridiculed the role that media plays in our society today. Just because a piece of information has *gone viral* (i.e. has spread quickly and widely on the Internet) doesn't necessarily mean it's true. "Instead of believing everything one sees in the media, what one needs to do now (more than ever) is use one's common sense, intellect, and education to gauge the validity of a piece of news," said Nour S. Kanafani.

Present at the meeting (see photos RHS) were Incoming DDG Kamal Katra (Left) and Incoming ADG Rami Majzoub (Right).



Nour Kanafani was one of the first few graduates of the Graphic Design Program of the American University of Beirut. He set out to become a "Design Entrepreneur" -- discovering along the way that one is only as good as the people working with him. He considers himself blessed with great people around him who love working with him and appreciate his elegant minimalistic design style. Kanafani and his team won the coveted Red Dot Design Award in 2014 and are now nominated to receive the 2016 German Design Award given by the German Design Council in Frankfurt.

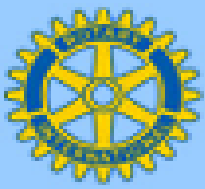
Gift of Life Initiative

RCBC arranged for baby Maya from North Lebanon (see photo RHS) to be operated by Dr. Issam El Rassy, AUB Medical Center, using funds donated by a board member of the Lebanese School for the Deaf & the Blind. She is now back home, playing with relatives and friends. This initiative was part of the Rotarian Gift of Life (GOL) program to assist children with heart defects. RCBC members affiliated with GOL International are **PP George Beyrouti, PP John Edde and RT Sona Kourtian.**



Using Rotarian Contacts For Humanitarian Purposes

PP John Edde of RCBC was able through his contacts to help provide a needy man (who takes care of his incapacitated father) with cornea replacement surgery, failing which he would have lost his sight. The operating room was donated by the George Cherfan Eye Specialty Hospital; a surgeon, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to operate free of charge; and an overseas contact agreed to bring a Cornea on his next visit to Beirut.



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Publication -- April/May/June 2015 -- Page 12

Tuesday June 30, 2015 -- RCBC Iftar at the Phoenicia Hotel

About-to-become-PP Lina Shair (LHS-most) and about-to-become-P Mimi Hamam (RHS-most) shown below with ladies, ladies, ladies, and more ladies in between -- better known as "setting an example".



Yet more ladies below with a few gentlemen in between, including amongst them RT Kevin Oflazian visiting Lebanon as advisor to USAID.

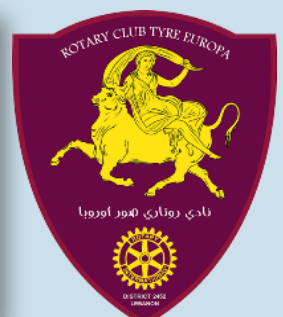
He is shown (RHS photo) presenting his RC North Fresno, California, USA, banner to P Lina Shair.

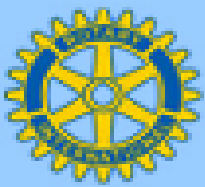


< They could not all get there in time for the group photo; admittedly, it was at the end of the Iftar >



Four RCBC members participated in a May 24 trip to Sour (Tyre) organized by RC Tyre Europa.





Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Publication -- April/May/June 2015 -- Page 13

Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Year 2014-2015 in Review

Who is Who in The Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



< Left to Right PP
Christina Asfour,
P Elie Farhat and
IP Fouad Boulos

Rotaractors all:
"WE ARE FUN" >



Guest Members L tp R above: Rita Moukarzel,
Danielle Tawtel and Moustafa Slim



New Members L tp R above: Roger Baladi,
Maria El Hayek and Georgio Demian



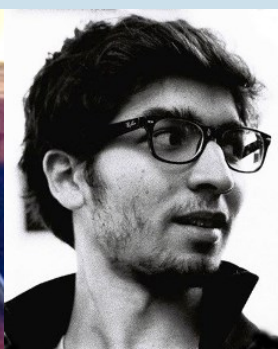
Members L to R above: Ehab Abdallah,
Sabine Simonian and Rashel Asfour

Rotaract Board 2014 - 2015

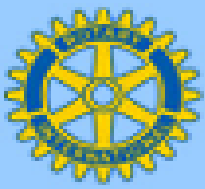
President:	Elie Farhat
Immediate Past President:	Christine Asfour
Vice-President:	Fouad Boulos
Treasurer:	Rita Imad
Secretary:	Meghry Kalaydjian
Seargent at Arms:	Peter Rassie



Secretary
Meghry
Kalaydjian



Committee Heads L to R: Rawan Al Wadaa, Fund Raising; Toufic Constantine, Club Service;
Rita Imad, Int'l Understanding; Peter Rassie, Community Service ; Samer Jabre, Prof. Dev't



Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Year 2014-2015 in Review, cont...



We carried out a number of Community Service Projects:

- *Safe Crossing for schools*
- *Outing for orphans from North Labanon*
- *Computer and printer for training*
- *Necessities for clothes bank in Beirut*
- *Necessities for clothes bank in Tripoli*
- *Cutting edge technology for CCCL*



We worked with NGO Kunhadi to build a safe crossing for two schools in Beirut. The project was recognized by the UN WHO and praised by the press and on TV.



BCRAC with Rotaract Club of Tripoli el Mina provided 80 children from Dar El Aytam El Islamiyah with a ride on the Teleferique plus a view & games at the top.



BCRAC donated a computer and a printer to the Association du Foyer de l'Enfant Libanais to help it develop children skills. And we visited AFEL to demonstrate our support.



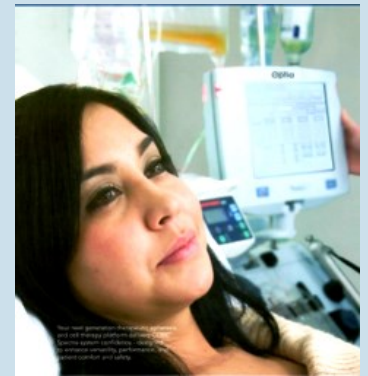
We gathered and distributed to needy Lebanese families with the Pere Majdi clothes bank in Dekwene more than 5000 items of clothing, books and electronic devices.

A big thank you to VP Fouad Boulos and his family for providing warehousing, transport and other logistics help.



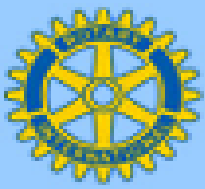
Four BCRAC travelled to the North of Lebanon to donate clothes and other necessities to needy families -- together with the Dar El Aytam El Islamiyah clothes bank.

Beneficiaries turned up in large numbers.



Jointly with RCBC, we raised US \$ 85,000 to offer the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon a cutting-edge technology machine.

The project was initiated during the past Rotary Year and will be handed over iearly in the coming one. This mchinean estimated 2,000 patients per year.



Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Year 2014-2015 in Review, cont...



We organized a number of Professional Development sessions:

- *Personal Finance;*
- *Professional growth;*
- *Fundraising;*
- *The Rotaract / Rotary transition;*
- *Food safety;*
- *Startups & social entrepreneurship;*



We also enjoyed a number of fellowship events:

Other Fellowship Events

- *Member Maria El Hayek welcomed the club for Christmas dinner at her home -- a fun night full of surprises;*
- *Barbecue at Treasurer Rita Imad's home;*
- *Diner at Member Maria Hayek's home;*
- *Diner at Member Sabine Simonian's home;*
- *Italian dinner at El Fornayo Restaurant, Beirut.*



New Year's Dinner chez P Elie Farhat to start another year of fun and fellowship.

We participated in the RC Tripoli Bikeathon -- thus discovered another side of Lebanon.



We joined RCBC on a 12 km hike in the Zghorta area, another Lebanese beauty spot.



Nine club members attended RYLA, an enriching experience that strengthened our family spirit.