



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 8—Issue No. 180—December 2010

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Club Number: 30893
District 2450
Rotary International

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Orphans Christmas Lunch December 15, 2010

Following a twelve-year tradition, Hard Rock Café Beirut, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, hosted 100 orphans and their caretakers from the Bird's Nest and St. Joseph orphanages to celebrate Christmas.

The children were served Hard Rock Café's special meal while animators from Family Care and magician Dany entertained the children with face painting, balloon animation, magic and other activities. The event featured a music performance by an international band and a dance show by the staff, injecting happiness and joy in the hearts of attending orphans.

RCBC is ever grateful to the management and staff of Hard Rock Café for their continued support and their participation in its humanitarian projects.



RCBC Members: (LHS) RT Mazen El Farra , PP Joe Boulos, RT Nabil Challah, PP Mouna Jarudi from Innerwheel, RT Lina Shair and PP Fahed Assaf.



Meetings Tuesdays - Business 7PM; Dinner 8:30PM • Vendome Hotel • Ain El Mreisseh



Fellowship Meeting December 28, 2010

The last meeting of calendar-year 2010 was yet another wonderful fellowship night during which the members gathered wished each other a wonderful New Year.

BCRC Rotaract Club News

In October 2010, BCRAC members took a boat cruise from Tripoli to Palm Island. Palm Island Park is a unique natural marine basin just six nautical miles from el-Mina in Tripoli and is a nature reserve for green turtles, rare birds and rabbits. On this adventure, they were educated on the environment, and trained in how to help someone who is drowning. Thirteen BCRACers plus guests participated in this event. It was also a special day in the BCRAC family, as President Nayef Mecharrافية proposed to his fiancée Farah Nasr on the island!



Creating a new generation of peacemakers in Uganda

For more than 20 years, northern Uganda lived in the grip of a civil war that killed over 300,000 people, displaced 1.8 million more, and forced 36,000 child soldiers as young as seven years old to fight in the resistance movement.

Although a truce brought an end to the violence in 2006, much work remains to secure a lasting peace.

In November, The Rotary Foundation awarded a US\$16,096 global grant to the Rotary clubs of Rubaga, Uganda, and Lambert Airport, Missouri, USA, to provide training in peace-building to 200 teachers and 1,300 students at 10 high schools in the region. The sponsor clubs will work with the Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution in Gulu to carry out the project. The effort also will create “peace clubs” at the schools, which will use music, drama, and other means to provide ongoing education about conflict prevention and resolution to the surrounding communities.

The Great Lakes Center is the brainchild of two former Rotary Peace Fellows, Robert Opira (2005-07) and Godfrey Mukalazi (2004-06), who came up with the idea while studying at the University of Queensland in Australia. The nongovernmental organization is working to address conflict and security challenges in the five-country Great Lakes region, where more than five million people have died since the mid-1990s in conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda alone.

After the grant project is completed, the center will integrate the training curriculum and peace clubs into its activities and continue to work with the 10 schools. The knowledge and skills acquired by the teachers and students will enable them to become lifelong agents for peace in their communities and the nation.





The project, which is aligned with the peace and conflict prevention/resolution area of focus under the Future Vision Plan, is supported by districts 1911 (Hungary), 5890 (Texas, USA), 6060 (Missouri, USA), 6200 (Louisiana, USA), and 9200 (Eritrea; Ethiopia; Kenya; Tanzania; Uganda). The districts together contributed \$14,597 from their District Designated Fund, and the Rubaga club provided \$3,000.

Rubaga club members helped plan the project's training curriculum and will participate in the training and promote the effort in the local media. They will also assess the project's impact to help ensure its sustainability.

The Lambert Airport club is monitoring the effort's progress and promoting it in the media.

The Great Lakes Center "is grateful that it is working as a partner with The Rotary Foundation," says Opira, a member of the Rotary Club of Gulu. "There are a lot of conflict and security challenges in the region. Through the family of Rotary, we can better serve our community."

Historic Moments: The first four Rotarians

On 23 February 1905, Paul P. Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram E. Shorey gathered in Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting.

Harris's desire for camaraderie among business associates brought together these four men and eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship.

Rotary's founder, **Harris**, was born in Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868. He was raised by his paternal grandparents in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont, Princeton, and the University of Iowa. He was Rotary president from 1910 to 1912 and a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago until his death on 27 January 1947. Learn more about the founder of Rotary in "[The Life and Times of Paul Harris](#)."

Loehr, a mining engineer, was born on 18 October 1864 in Carlinville, Illinois. He was a Rotarian for only a few years, never holding office at the club or international level. But that first Rotary meeting was held in his office, Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. He died in Chicago on 23 May 1918.

A Rotarian for only a few years, **Shorey** served as recording secretary during the club's first year. He was born in Maine in August 1862 and died in March 1944.

Schiele, a coal dealer, served as the Chicago club's first president in 1905 and Rotary International's third treasurer in 1945. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1870, Schiele attended Terre Haute Business College and served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. He was president of the Schiele Coal Company from 1902 until his retirement in 1939. He and Harris became lifelong friends and lived near each other on the South Side of Chicago. Schiele died on 17 December 1945 and is buried near Harris at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to RT Yervant Hakimian (Dec. 04), P Subhi Jarudi (Dec. 07) and RT Ernest Baduy (Dec. 09).

RCBC wishes you a wonderful year of health, prosperity, and happiness.