



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 169—December 2009

Charter Date: June 22, 1995
Club Number: 30893
District 2450
Rotary International

2009—2010 Officers

President

Edouard Rassie

President Elect

Subhi Jarudi

Vice President

Karim Naamani

Secretary

Habib Saba

Treasurer

Antoine Baroud

Sergeant-At-Arms

PP Pierre Azar

Directors

IPP George Beyrouti

RT Michel Ghanem

RT Hussam Rinno

RT Asaad Salhab

District Governor

Nijad Al Atassi

RI President

John Kenny

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Club Assembly 01 December 2009

RCBC members were gathered to elect the club officers 2010-2011 at the first meeting in December. Based on the polls, the new board shall consist of the following:

PP Subhi Jarudi → President 2010-2011
RT Michel Ghanem → Honorary Secretary
HS Habib Saba → President Elect
P Edouard Rassie → Immediate Past President
RT Lina Shair → Director
RT Hussam Rinno → Director
RT Asaad Salhab → Director
PP George Beyrouti → Director
RT Mounir Jabre → Director
Congratulations to the Incoming Board!

Annual Christmas Dinner 11 December 2009

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan held its annual Christmas Party at Le Talleyrand restaurant where over 80 members and guests were present to celebrate the happy moments of this festive season. All enjoyed the cozy ambiance and the fabulous dinner offered by the venue. Embodying the spirit of Christmas, everyone joined the “RCBC Band” which was led by PP Tony Asfour and RT Kamal Saad singing Christmas Carols and having fun at its most.



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





Business Meeting - Mr. Nadim Houry 15 December 2009

Mr. Nadim Houry, Beirut Office Director of the Human Rights Watch (HRW), was invited to present to the RCBC members about the mission of the organization and its activities in Lebanon.

HRW is a leading international NGO which was established in 1978. Its main mission revolves around defending and protecting human rights. Currently, it has more than 275 staff members around the world who are human rights professionals including country experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of different nationalities.

HRW documents and investigates violations of human rights raising national and international attention to such violations, conducts advocacy with government officials to change policies and practices and pushes for accountability. The facts are collected primarily through research by interviewing and visiting the victims; based on those facts recommendations are developed and accordingly HRW raises awareness in the public through media coverage, public campaigns, private letters and meeting officials.

So far, HRW was able to materialize the issue of “rights of migrant workers in Lebanon”; as the Ministry of Labor in Lebanon introduced a new standard contract in January 2009, Ministry of Interior committed serious investigations of abuse in December and meanwhile many political figures called for respecting the rights of migrant workers.



RT. Joyce Euliano from Rotary Club Valle Caudina Italy exchanged banners with RCBC members during the social gathering which took place on the 29th of December.

Christmas Lunch with the Orphans December 21, 2009

In accordance with its tradition of the last several years, Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan joined hands with the HRC in Ain El Mreisseh to host around 100 orphans with their supervisors for a Christmas lunch.

The children were served Hard Rock Café's special meal while volunteers from Family Care Organization entertained them through several activities such as balloon animation and face drawing. The lively afternoon which was full of dancing and singing brought joy into the heart of those children.

RCBC expresses its deep gratitude for the HRC management and staff for their continuous support and participation in Rotary's humanitarian projects.



Lebam Concert December 20, 2009

The Rotary club of Beirut Cosmopolitan in conjunction with Rotary Club of Metn organized a very successful joint fundraising event, "LeBAM" Christmas Concert that took place at Pierre Abou Khater Theater - USJ - Damascus Street on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 6pm.

The concert proceeds were donated to support the LeBAM activities and promote music and culture all through the different regions in Lebanon.

Rotary News

International H2O Collaboration work to begin

An innovative alliance between RI and USAID will bring up projects that will provide millions of people living in Ghana and Philippines with access to clean water and improved sanitation. For the first phase of the project, those two countries were selected out of three based on need.

In Ghana, the alliance will work closely with local governments to provide hygiene training, boreholes, mechanized water systems, and new latrines. An estimated 86,000 people will benefit from the work, which will occur in 114 communities spread over four regions.

In the Philippines, the alliance will be working in five communities to provide new septic treatment facilities, sanitation systems, river cleanup efforts, a mechanized water supply system, and community water taps that will distribute filtered water. The work is expected to help more than 2.1 million people.

In the Dominican Republic, the alliance will implement a wide range of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, including bio-sand filters. When the initial phase is completed, the collaboration will evaluate the work and consider expanding it to other nations.





The improvements will cost about US\$2 million per country. Rotary will provide up to \$500,000 through Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants, and participating clubs and districts in each country will raise an additional \$500,000. USAID will contribute \$1 million per nation from its mission budget.

Spoon project a measure of success!

About two years ago, Batting, president of the Rotary Club of East London Sunrise, South Africa, came up with an amazing idea, designing a simple spoon that would save the lives of children in South Africa who were dehydrated because of diarrhea.

Batting designed a double-ended spoon that measures the exact amount of sugar and salt to be added to a cup of boiling water to create a re-hydration fluid solution known as Darrow's fluid, which also combats potassium deficiency. Preparing such a solution requires a certain level of literacy and mathematical skills that the spoon helped deliver in a simple manner.

The project, recognized last year with an RI Significant Achievement Award, has produced and distributed more than 60,000 spoons to families in rural communities and medical clinics in Eastern Cape, South Africa. A large shipment of spoons has been sent to Zimbabwe as well.

Club members have helped manufacture, market, and promote the spoons.

Because her club was so new, the support of District 9320 (Lesotho; South Africa) and local clubs became an invaluable asset to the project's early success, says Batting. Fifteen clubs donated more than US\$125 to get the project started. Each spoon costs less than 50 cents to purchase.



Latest Events in Lebanon!

*Thu. Jan 14 – Jan. 31: Stand up Comedian Joe Kodeih presents Ashrafieh

*Sun. Jan. 17 – Feb. 20: Monte Carlo CIRCUS at Michel Murr Stadium

*Sun. Jan. 17 – Feb. 01: Walid Tawil, one of the best, most known, and experienced drummers in Lebanon and the middle east, will be jamming with his 4 man -band at Razz'zz Jazz Club

*Thu. Jan. 21 – Jan. 31: The Sunflower Theatre continues to give a platform for Lebanon's latest theatre with a new production directed by Nabil Al Azan and starring Randa Asmar. Written by Hoda Barakat, 'Viva La Diva' is a black comedy (and 'red tragedy') that tells the story of a Lebanese diva: an actress who, when faced with the death of her father, decides to leave Lebanon for Canada rather than face the tears she cannot cry.

*Fri. Jan. 29 Club Grape and Enologia, the wine selectors, are organizing a special Spanish Night at Espana Tapas Bar.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Future RCBC Program:

*Tuesday, January 26, dinner meeting with Dr. George Corm—"Improve the efficiency of the development model of Lebanon" at 8:30 PM at Le Vendome.

*Tuesday, February 02, club assembly at 7 PM at Le Vendome.

*Tuesday, February 09, meeting is cancelled - St. Maroun Holiday.

*Tuesday, February 16, dinner meeting with Mr. Berj Hatjian at 8:30 PM at Le Vendome.

Members' Happy Moments ☺

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

RCBC is wishing you another wonderful year of happiness and joy.