



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 171—February 2010

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

Club Contact Information

Tel: +961 1 570888

Fax: +961 1 566256

Mobile: +961 3 771487

E-mail: bcrc@cyberia.net.lb

www.rcbclebanon.org

Prepared By:

Club Assistant Annie Sapsezian

Edited By:

Asaad Salhab

Dinner Meeting - Dr. Berj Hatjian 16 February 2010



The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan organized a dinner meeting with Dr. Berj Hatjian, Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, as speaker. Dr. Hatjian was welcomed by the RCBC members, their spouses and guests.

Dr. Hatjian had a theme for his topic as: “The Environment: Philosophy, Economics and Politics” under which he addressed several environmental issues. He explained that “human beings” are the only creatures that are mostly destroying our planet, earth; their greed and arrogance are the fundamental problems of the environment. The dramatic increase in population pushed human beings to transform jungles into urbanized areas endangering the lives of animals and plants.

Dr. Hatjian stressed the powerful relationship between environmental issues and the economic / political system. Solutions to our environmental crisis must stem from the systematic changes to this system. To explain it further, the government should issue laws to protect the environment, support green industries, and be capable of using its environmental challenges to attract more tourists and spur sustainable economic growth.



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



Business Meeting - Dr. Tony Harika 23 February 2010

RCBC members welcomed Dr. Tony Harika from the Harika Centre, the first computerized orthopedic centre in Lebanon and the Middle East, which was established in 1935 by Mr. Joseph Salim Harika, the grand father. He made a presentation on “Artificial Limbs Manufacturing in Lebanon.”

Artificial arms and legs, or prostheses, are intended to restore a degree of normal function to the amputees. The new prosthetic devices are strong and more lightweight than earlier limbs made of iron and wood. The typical prosthetic device consists of a custom fitted socket, an internal structure, knee cuffs and belts that attach it to the body. The models are designed by CAD/CAM software.



The Ambassadorial Scholar Visits RCBC on February 23

RCBC hosted Andrew Bartles, the first Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar of Good Will to Lebanon in 4 years, as he studies an MA in Political Studies at the American University of Beirut. He made a brief presentation about the purpose of his stay in Beirut and some of the local and international service work conducted by his sponsor district (6420) and sponsor Rotary Club (Rock Falls, Illinois). District 6420 contributes to major Rotary International initiatives such as Polio Plus, Youth Foreign Exchange, etc. in addition to its own regional work and international projects extending from Central America to West Africa. Rock Falls Rotary Club is located near Chicago, Illinois and contributes to the District 6420 initiatives as well as to local development with literacy campaigns, involvement in local schools and Youth Foreign Exchange.

Andrew will be in Beirut for the next two years and in addition to his MA studies, he has been involved with Rotaract and begun to volunteer by teaching a Peace Studies class at the Quaker School in Broumana. Andrew is very grateful for the support given to him by the US and the Lebanese Rotary Clubs!



Latest Updates on Christina Asfour

A letter from RT Diana Burton-Raschen and RT Ed Raschen to PP Tony Asfour highlighting the achievements of RCBC's ambassadorial scholar to Georgia, Christina Asfour.

“I just wanted to drop a note to express the joy we have experienced in hosting Christina Asfour in Carson City. She is indeed a wonderfully poised and intelligent young woman who very much deserved to receive the scholarship with the Georgia Rotary Student Program. She is indeed a great representative of your club, and your country.



We had a very full schedule for her yesterday and she was more than gracious and always agreeable to whatever we asked of her. Her first stop was to address the Carson Interact Club sponsored by our club, Carson City Sunset Rotary and Rtn Rich Garvey at Carson High School. Her impromptu talk about Lebanon and the educational system compared to the US system was very informative and the students enjoyed it tremendously.

Her next stop was to our home where we hosted a small lunch in her honor. Unfortunately, only a few were able to attend due to work and school schedules. Attending were Rotarians Donna Schultz and Dick Brook who had arranged for her to visit the Capitol and the Legislature buildings where she was given a personal tour.

Then back to our home for a short rest before proceeding to our evening Rotary meeting. We had a very good turn out for her talk and she gave a wonderful and informative PowerPoint presentation, (RC President Brian Greene assisted with the computer). Many Rotarians complimented her not only on her presentation, but also of her poise and professionalism. She is wise beyond her 19 years! She handled questions about government and religion that would make many people cringe, but she answered honestly and was straightforward and received the respect of all in attendance. We all learned a great deal about Lebanon and she cleared up a few misconceptions that come with our lack of knowledge.

My husband, Ed, and I were honored to have had a small part in hosting her during her short time here and sincerely hope that she will be able to come back and visit us sometime in the future. We are still trying to find a way to visit Lebanon and look forward to seeing her again when she returns home.”



RCBC Project News

TRF approved 3 projects which were brought forward in participation between RCBC and other Rotary Clubs worldwide.

*J.L Schneller Institute in Kherbet Kanafar in the West Bekaa, Lebanon, provides a home for hundreds of orphans and socially underprivileged children. They are in need of a gas cooker/oven to be used in the kitchen, to substitute the electrical oven which they presently have, due to frequent electricity cuts that disrupt the preparation of meals for the students.



*Aita Al Fakhar village is a remote rural area of South East Lebanon where the population is in need of primary medical attention. Medical related equipments will be donated to the clinic which is operated by volunteer doctors. At the same time, the library will be furnished and computers will be provided so that the citizens of the region will broaden their educational and cultural exposure beyond what they acquire in the local village school.

*The third project is the Literacy Project to be executed in Decatur, Georgia, and its purpose is to help finance a summer Literacy Camp for the Fugees, a group of eighty children and adolescent survivors of war from African, Middle Eastern, Central and South American countries. Refugee students face overwhelming challenges in school because of language barriers, little previous education, poverty and peer violence. Educational programming is aimed at bringing the students up to grade level and giving them the tools they need to be successful in school.

Rotary News

Chilean Districts Organize Efforts To Aid Quake Victims

Rotary districts in Chile have organized efforts to aid tens of thousands of homeless people in areas devastated by a powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck the country's Pacific coast on 27 February.

They supplied food, water, clothes, shoes, and blankets to desperate survivors, in addition to 448 ShelterBox containers which were distributed. Many coastal towns were destroyed, first by the 8.8 magnitude quake, then by surging tsunami waves.

Six Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars who were in affected areas have reported in safe.

Ugandan Center Brings Healing Through Dance

The Bitone Center for Disadvantaged Children located in Kampala, Uganda, is home to two dozen children ages 8-18. Many are orphans; others have lost their homes or been estranged from their families by disease, war, or economic hardship. The Rotary clubs of Kampala-East and Traverse Bay Sunrise, Michigan, USA, are providing support to the facility with help from a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant.

Bitone means "talents" in Uganda. The center was founded in 2004 by Lawrence "Branco" Sekalegga, who serves as its executive director and teaches the children traditional Ugandan dance, music, and theater. By connecting the children with their heritage and providing basic food, shelter, and education, the center strives to give them new hope and build their self-esteem. The children's skills, personalities, and exuberance are all expressed via the healing power of art.

Latest Events in Lebanon!

*March 15 – Ongoing: The permanent exhibition of Buddhist statues, Tibetan furniture and Hindu icons at Lotus Loft.

*March 22 – March 26: Guitarist and Vocalist Chris Beard will be jamming out with his modern electric blues tracks at Mojo Jazz Club.

*Present to March 27: The Running Horse's latest exhibition 'Soft Sculpture: The Ordinary Re-interpreted' by four artists - Ziad Antar, Rasha Kahil, Hiba Kalash and Ziad Saad

*Present to April 10: Janine Rubeiz Gallery is hosting a family affair: a dual exhibition of art by esteemed Lebanese poet and painter Laure Ghorayeb and her son Mazen Kerbaj (artist, cartoonist and experimental musician).

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to RT Hussam Rinno (Feb. 05)

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