

ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS

Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary International

RI President

Barry Rassin Rotary Club
of East Nassau New
Providence, Bahamas

District Governor

Dr. Michel Jazzar

Assistant Governor

Najat Francis

RCBC Officers

2018 - 2019

President

Mona Jarudi

Incoming President

Adib Mounla

Vice President

Edouard Rassie

IPP

Rabab Safieddine

Secretary

Olga Feghali

Treasurer

Mohamad Baltaji

Directors

Mimi Hamam
Nada Maalouf
Habib Saba

RCBC Website

www.rcbcebanon.org

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

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Mrs. May Khoury



Mr. Abbas Sibai



Mr. Samir Kadi



Mr. Colin Gibson



Mr. Haytham Kurdi

Business meeting with Mr. Georges Metni

“Reshaping Road Safety Education in Lebanon & MENA”

Tuesday April 02, 2019

RCBC hosted Mr. Georges Metni from the Adel Metni Foundation, a non-profit organization working on Road Safety Management, Defensive Driving Training and Education.

Mr. Metni stated that the foundation’s mission goes beyond awareness. The goals are to reduce road fatalities by 50% by 2030, because based on statistics, 3500 lives are lost daily worldwide due to road crashes, and 80% of road crashes are caused by human errors. The organization studies whether young drivers are trained to control their vehicle in multiple extreme scenarios; and are there driving exams standards and what is the learning process.

In the MENA region and particularly in Lebanon the problem is exasperated by lack of traffic laws enforcement, road conditions and lack of driving education. Through a partnership with Renault, the foundation is offering courses on defensive education to help drivers of all ages how to become better and safe drivers and citizens.



Business meeting with Dr. Toufic Gaspard

“Where is the Lebanese economy heading to? A short-term perspective”

Tuesday April 09, 2019



RCBC hosted Dr. Toufic Gaspard. Dr. Gaspard is a noted economist who has held senior positions at the Central Bank of Lebanon and the IMF. In his remarks, Dr. Gaspard noted the structural problems the Lebanese economy has been facing for over 30 years. Since 1993, successive governments have spent an aggregate of some \$244 billion. Two thirds of which on salaries and servicing the rising debt of the country, 10% on subsidizing fuel to generate electricity while total spent on investments amounted to only 8.5%.

What Dr. Gaspard also finds alarming the balance of payment deficits for the past several years, which exasperates the problem facing the country.

Dr. Gaspard was also critical of the so called financial engineering conducted by the Central Bank to shore up its foreign reserves and protect the Lebanese pound, albeit at a high cost estimated at \$5 billion per annum. As a result, Lebanese banks are finding it more attractive to place their dollar deposits with the Central Bank earning around 7.5% rather than engaging in commercial lending that is essential for the wheels of the economy to turn.

Dr. Gaspard concluded on a somewhat hopeful note by calling on government to take strict measures in finalizing the 2019 budget to adopt serious measures to reduce expenditures and bring some common sense and order to the country's bleak financial outlook.

Business meeting with Ms. Raya Boustany

"Verbal Martial Arts"

Tuesday April 16, 2019

Raya Boustany, a Communication specialist, Harvard Master Negotiator and a Certified Mediator, was the guest speaker in our business meeting. Her topic was Ninja Negotiation, a verbal martial arts skill that was insightful, thought provoking and very useful in our daily lives.

The idea of negotiating like a kung Fu, judo master or even a samurai fighter has been suggested by illustrious modern-day negotiators. Harvard Negotiation guru Bill Ury talks about Negotiation Jujitsu (the ancestor of Judo), FBI crisis negotiator Chris Voss talks about deflecting moves in verbal interactions, while US police officer George Thompson has developed the famous Verbal Judo program that is now taught in most US Police departments.



The natural reaction of retaliating, reacting and using confrontational brute force always leads to many disasters like broken personal relationships and wars. Most of the time, this type of response is energy draining and leads to a lose-lose outcome. Inspired by martial arts masters, modern day negotiators, peacemakers and moderators put together verbal techniques to aim at win-win outcome, preserving interests and relationships with using minimum coercive force. Some of these techniques are how to avoid or deflect an attack, reduce the use of force and redirect the opponents move to one's advantage. One very interesting and simple example is the contrast between the beautiful Cherry tree with its extended branches that can be broken easily and the humble Willow tree that bends with the wind, rain and snow and never breaks.



Business meeting with Dr. Marwa Samhoun

“Impact of RCBC donations on community health”

Tuesday April 23, 2019



RCBC hosted for its business meeting Dr. Marwa Samhoun, Vice President of the Child and Mother Welfare Society (CMWS), together with the President of the Association Mrs. Aida Ghandour Chouwaiki and members of the board. The goal of this visit and talk was to highlight the collaboration of RCBC and CMWS and to showcase the impact of this collaboration on the community at large.

Dr. Samhoun gave an overview about CMWS. It is a non-profit NGO, which has been promoting humanitarian objectives since 1944. The charity is run by a governing board of 21 benevolent women who are involved in all its sectors: health, social welfare, educational and vocational training sectors. At CMWS, they believe that health is a basic right and they ensure that the sick have access to quality medical treatment regardless of religious affiliation, ethnicity and financial means.

In the case of the health sector, the addition of advanced medical equipment was made possible by contributions of private donors and Rotary Clubs. In 2015, the Radiology department was upgraded with a state-of-the-art “Fuji Film Computed Radiography System” to develop all X-ray exams, through a generous donation of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan together with local and international clubs and the Rotary Foundation. The total number of BENEFICIARIES from January 31, 2015 until April 8, 2019 is 12,921 patients.



In 2017, another quality and vital machine was added, the GE “ARIA” Bone Mineral Densitometer or BM for the early detection of Osteopenia and Osteoporosis that lead to debilitating and potentially fatal bone fractures. This was also made possible through a generous Global Grant with RCBC as the host sponsor, together with local and international Rotary Clubs partners and of course, The Rotary Foundation. The total number of beneficiaries to date is 70, includes 69 women and one-man aged 34-84. The association is promoting their efforts to make sure that more people will benefit from these tests.

Another Global Grant by RCBC and partner clubs, which has been recently approved, is much needed equipment: Two Birthing Beds for the Labor Room at the Hospital, A State-of -the-art Baby Warmer for newborns in the Delivery Room at the hospital of CMWS, and a quality Dental Chair for the Primary Health Care Center.

Dr. Samhoun’s presentation was a testament to the importance of our Rotary mission of Service and the impact of our donations in improving the quality of life of those less privileged.



On Tuesday April 30, RCBC hosted Dr. Tarek Mitri, ex Minister of Culture and a Scholar as a guest speaker. His topic was Being In Dialogue, a topic that was addressed in the context of the complexity of the Lebanese reality. It was thought provoking and interesting and left the audience wanting more dialogue on the scientific, philosophical and political realities.

This meeting was also attended by Mr. Peter Kyle and his wife Margaret. Mr. Kyle is the Director Nominee of Rotary International 2020-2022. He was in Lebanon to attend D2452 conference in Beirut.







RCBC AMBASSADORS

Every Rotarian and every RCBC member is an ambassador to the world to spread the mission and vision of Rotary and to enhance the cooperation and exchange of ideas with other clubs.

On a recent trip to Amman, Jordan our new member, Rt Samir Kadi proudly represented RCBC and exchanged banners with the President.



CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE, 2019

HAMBURG – GERMANY

Many Happy Birthday Returns

Joe Boulos – April 02

Mohamad Baltaji – April 08

May Khoury – April 21

Abbas Sibai – April 22

The End