



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – August 2020

RCBC MEETS TUESDAYS AT THE HILTON DOWNTOWN HOTEL, DOWNTOWN, BEIRUT
BUSINESS MEETINGS AT 19:00

Club Charter Date

June 21, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary
International

RI President

Holger Knaack
RC Herzogtum
Lauenberg-Molln,
Germany

District Governor

Mazen A. Alumran
Kingdom of Bahrain

Assistant Governor

Rami Sarkis
RC Beirut Cedars

RCBC Officers

2020 - 2021

President

Habib Saba

President Elect

Sona Kourtian Donigian

Vice President

Joe Boulos

Secretary

Farida Najjar

Treasurer

Diana Cotran

IPP

Adib Mounla

Directors

Habib Bassoul
Mona Jarudi
Michel Mansour

RCBC Online

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

MARHABA EDITOR

PP Mona Jarudi
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LEST WE FORGET

Day: August 4, 2020

Time: 6:08 pm

All it took were a few seconds!!! A Few seconds that transformed life into chaos and hope into despair. A Few seconds when all we felt was the earth move under our feet , strange reverberations of sounds echoing all over which crescendoed into an apocalyptic explosion that disemboweled half of our beautiful Beirut and left the other half in shock , anger and fear. The face of Beirut cracked, its eyes shed tears of blood and its beautiful features crumbled to the ground.

Amidst the destruction, the loss of lives, the homeless and destitution enters the Lebanese spirit with its defiance to adversity, resistance to fear and determination not to succumb. In the hours after, economic woes took a back seat, unemployment metamorphosed into a beehive of brooms and shovels in the hands of the youth and NGOs who were the first responders to clear shattered glass or lend a hand to a bewildered old person or terrified child. The message was loud and clear: this is our city, our country and we will not let anyone take it away!

Beirut shuddered on August 4 and the world felt its pain and rushed to its rescue. In our Rotary world, the expression of support was overwhelming. Clubs from all over the world reached out offering help to alleviate the suffering. Our club sat at the drawing board to sift through the needs and come up with projects with the widest impact on the devastated communities. Food, medicines, medical supplies were pouring in every day. Our youth represented by the Rotaract and Interact clubs were on the ground tirelessly and relentlessly, working round the clock cleaning and distributing food boxes.

This Marhaba is dedicated to Beirut, to all the Rotary clubs locally and globally and to the young Lebanese who are the People of Action and our future. It is dedicated to all the fearless doctors, nurses, firefighters, the Lebanese Red Cross and all the NGOs on the ground.

It is a prayer for the speedy recovery of PP Habib Bassoul who sustained major injuries and a word of gratitude for the safety of everyone who survived the tragedy.

Together, we will surely overcome and see this beautiful city rise again!

PP Mona Jarudi

Time stopped in Beirut on Tuesday 4 August
2020, 18:08 🥺



Pictures Worth a Thousand Words





The majestic wheat silo that protected the west side of the city



Historic 1830 Feghali home in Sursock



Brave nurse who rescued triplets from the neonatal unit

Rotary in Action

As we are still battling with the aftermath of the explosion that killed around 200 people, injured thousands, left thousands homeless, the Lebanese Rotary Clubs have been very active in the disaster relief efforts. They have been on the ground, with Rotaract and Interact Clubs, partnering with NGOs to assess losses and be part of the rehabilitation effort.

On this front while the Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract and Interact Clubs were part of the first responders on the ground teaming up with NGOs and assisting in immediate relief priorities such as food distribution, aiding the elderly and taking part in the cleanup, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan was investigating the long term impacting priorities. Club Service Project committee meetings and Board meetings identified repairs and renovations as a critical area to focus on in addition to psychological trauma support.



In that context RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has teamed up with Club de Beyrouth to rehabilitate and supply medical equipment to the tune of 800,000USD to the devastated Karantina Paediatric Hospital. The project will involve a number of Global Grants with multiple international Rotary partners of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan already expressing interest in the collaboration. Updates on the project will continue to be provided in upcoming editions

In addition RC Beirut Cosmopolitan also teamed with a number of Lebanese Rotary clubs in the Beirut area to provide support to needy residential homes for minor but essential work such as window and door repairs.

As a first installment and in collaboration with Scottish NGO EDA we are attending to the repairs of more than 50 residential homes in vulnerable areas as we write and with more such initiatives in the pipeline.



We would be amiss here if we did not express our heartfelt appreciation for the overwhelming number of Rotary clubs and friends from all corners of the globe that have reached out in solidarity and support of our Beirut recovery efforts – we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!



Wishing the August birthdays a great year ahead

August

Amal Talhouk

Hytham Kurdy

Joseph Akl

THE END