



# Marhaba



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter - Dec. 2017/Jan. 2018

**RCBC MEETS TUESDAYS AT THE PHOENICIA HOTEL, AIN-MREISSEH, BEIRUT**

**BUSINESS MEETINGS AT 19:00 - DINNER MEETINGS AT 20:00**

## Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

## Club Number

30893

## District

2452 Rotary International

## RI President

Ian H.S. Riseley  
RC Sandringham

## District Governor

Christina Covotsou -  
Petroclou  
RC Limassol-Berengaria  
Cosmopolitan

## Deputy Governor

Ahmad Hussein

## Assistant Governor

Mona Kanaan

## RCBC Officers

2017 - 2018

## President

Rabab Safieddine

## President Elect

Mona Jarudi

## Vice President

Mimi Hamam

## Secretary

Nada Maalouf

## Treasurer

Nadim Hissen

## Directors

Edouard Rassie  
Habib Bassoul  
Joe Boulos  
Mounir Jabre

## RCBC Website

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

## MARHABA EDITOR

PE Mona Jarudi  
[monajarudi@gmail.com](mailto:monajarudi@gmail.com)

## "Letter from the Editor"

### *A New Year - A New Look!*

This is the time of the year of taking stock. We look back at the year passed with all its triumphs and failures, highs and lows and resolutions met or not during the year. It is also a time of hope and renewal as we plough into the new year with stronger resolve and determination to do better, make a difference and do our part in helping those in our society that need it most.

We are living in a part of the world riddled by conflicts, wars and people in dire need of help at multiple levels. Rotary and Rotarians, through the projects we undertake, are playing the role of a catalyst in alleviating some of the pain and suffering inflicted on the less fortunate members of our society. None of this would have been possible without the collaboration of many Rotary clubs around the world who have joined hands with RCBC to aim for larger projects that truly can make a difference. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Finally, we wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. May the spirit of sharing and giving glow stronger than ever so we can all continue to enjoy the gift of giving.

December 5, 2017

BUSINESS MEETING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RCBC Club members met that evening to elect the new BOARD for the Rotary Year 2018-2019:

President Nominee :	Adib Mounla
President Elect :	Mona Jarudi
Past President:	Rabab Safieddine
Vice President:	Edouard Rassie
Club Secretary:	Joelle Feghali
Club Treasurer:	Mohammed Baltaji
Sergeant at Arms:	Lina Shair

## CLUB DIRECTORS:

George Beyrouti  
Mimi Hamam  
Nada Maalouf



*Congratulations to the new board and best wishes for continued success*



## REACHING OUT

### ➔ HOME OF PEACE

PP Mimi Hamam visited “Home of Peace” in Dekweneh, Lebanon. This is a home run by the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa, where the elderly receive the care and love they deserve.



Needy people come to the gate where they get clothes donated by the community. Very heartwarming visit !



### ➔ SANTA MARIA

In December 2017, PP Mimi Hamam visited “Santa Maria - Home for the Elderly” in Halate, Lebanon. This home hosts 75-80 elderly people whom are being taken care of - either with a minimum charge or free of charge - depending on the case. The home provides love and companionship, which improves the quality of life for these individuals.

### ➔ AHLONA ASSOCIATION

On behalf of RCBC, President Rabab Safieddine presented to “Ahlona Association”, a donation comprised of:

- ✚ A hospital bed with three functions
- ✚ 6 wheel chairs
- ✚ 2 air mattresses

“Ahlona Association” is an NGO established in 2001, which provides sustainable educational and social services targeted towards women, youth, children, elderly and disabled individuals in the community of Saida city, Lebanon.





## REACHING OUT

### ➔ MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY

On December 11, 2017 - RCBC President Rabab visited the “Mother and Child Welfare Society”. She donated on behalf of RCBC an industrial stove with its ventilator to their Home for the Elderly Dar al Karama.



### ➔ LEBANESE FOOD BANK

RCBC represented by PP Mounir Jabre collaborated with other rotary clubs in Lebanon to donate to the “Lebanese Food Bank” in support of the fight against hunger. RCBC’s contribution was 353 boxes of food staples distributed to families all over Lebanon.







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➔ ON DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, RCBC welcomed the Deputy of the German Ambassador in Lebanon: Dr. Michael Reuss.

In his remarks, Dr. Reuss reviewed the historical relations between Lebanon and Germany. He applauded how the Lebanese Government is dealing with the refugee crisis.

Dr. Reuss also noted the critical and active role Germany is playing (UNIFIL) for the past several years. He stated the significance of the recently issued “Declaration of Strong Support” by the German Government.



Dr. Reuss stressed the strategic importance of Lebanon in the region and specifically, to Europe. He noted the need for reform in many aspects of the Lebanese Society, namely in the areas of Justice, Education, and Economic Development, and how Germany and the rest of Europe can assist in this endeavor.





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## ➔ CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR KIDS AT KIDZMONDO

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 RCBC hosted 78 children from two orphanages: Saint Charbel Baabdate de la Congregation des Soeurs de Saints Coeurs and from the Ecole Immaculee Conception de Saint Vincent de Paul, Beyrouth.



The children aged 4 to 14 were treated to a lovely afternoon at Kidzmondo, enjoying an afternoon of fun, games, and good food.

With the spirit of the season, Santa surprised the kids with his usual generosity, which sealed the delightful afternoon with the beautiful smiles on the kids' faces.



Members of RCBC were privileged to share that heartwarming afternoon with these lovely kids.



## ➔ AN EVENING WITH THE BOLSHOI BALLET

On December 20, 2017 Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted the event of the year. Over 200 guests attended a LIVE transmission directly from Moscow of the Bolshoi Ballet performing the Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky.

It was an evening that transported the audience to another time and place and set off the right tone for the holiday season.







## WELCOME 2018

➔ On January 16, a joint dinner meeting with Rotary Club of Beirut was held at the Phoenicia Hotel. The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Raya Haffar El Hassan, the former Minister of Finance and the current Chairman-General Manager of the Tripoli Economic Zone.



The title of the talk was Economic Development 2017-2018 Highlights and Outlook. In her remarks, Mrs. El Hassan set the stage with a quick review of macro-economic results of 2017. In spite of a 2% GDP growth, the economy remains under pressure due to the recent increase in wages to the public sector and the resulting widening deficit in the budget.



Unfortunately, and for the short term, there seems to be little pressure on the Lebanese pound thanks to the significant foreign reserves held by the Central Bank as a result of a series of operations executed for this purpose.



Mrs. El Hassan went on to address the challenges and opportunities of 2018 and beyond, The three international conferences planned for the first quarter of 2018 are key to restore the financial health of the Lebanese economy. The intent of the government is to attract investments that can be leveraged to fund projects aimed at modernizing the crumbling infrastructure in many parts of the country, resolve the chronic shortage of electricity and improve transportation.



Mrs. El Hassan pointed out that every one billion dollars invested in the country can add 2% to GDP and provide significant increase in employment, thus reducing the high unemployment we have in the country .



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Mrs. El Hassan went on to address the prospects of Lebanon joining the club of Oil & Gas producing countries. She pointed out that while the prospects look encouraging, the road to actual production, distribution and sale is long and can exceed 10 years. She also pointed out that the current debate about setting a Sovereign Fund is premature as it took Norway 17 years after the discovery of oil to set up their fund.



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*The success of every Rotary club is largely dependent on the hard work and dedication of its members. RCBC has a pool of talented individuals who exemplify Service Above Self in every avenue of service.*

In the business meeting of January 23, our very own George Beyrouti shared his expertise on Global Grants with members of the club.

He gave a comprehensive overview of what are Global Grants, what are the terms for qualification for such grants and the conditions attached with it. He went on to outline all the service projects in the pipeline and already approved for Global Grants for RCBC. We are thankful for the success we enjoy and for the continued support of our international partners who believe in the good work we do in Lebanon.



The month of January culminated with a business meeting on January 30, featuring our guest speaker Mrs. Rita Srour Rassie, a Masters Degree candidate in Cognitive Behavioral Psychology.

Mrs. Rassie's topic for the evening was Personality Disorders, a subject that sparked lots of questions and comments.







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Mrs Rassie started her presentation by defining Personality as a way of thinking, feeling, and behaving that differentiates individuals from each other. Personality Disorder is a way of thinking, feeling and behaving that deviates from the expectations of one's culture, causes distress and dysfunction that lasts for a period of time.



The factors that contribute to the various personality disorders:

- Genetic predisposition 30-50% of cases.
- Life experiences
- Traumatic events
- Family interactions
- Sociocultural factors such as age, sex, nationality, culture, religion, profession, etc.



The types of personality disorders fall in three clusters :

- Cluster A includes paranoid, schizoid, and schizoid compulsive.
- Cluster B includes antisocial, borderline histrionic and narcissistic.
- Cluster C includes the avoidant, dependent and obsessive.







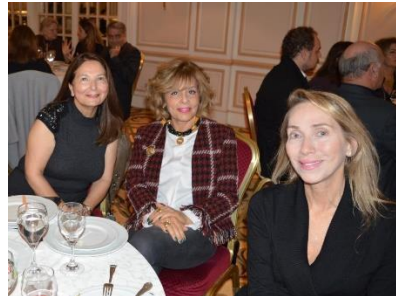
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The three main psychological structures are:

- a) Neurosis
- b) Psychosis
- c) Borderline



Mrs Rassie explained about each of these disorders in a very clear and interesting fashion and left the audience to do their own interpretations of what category they might fall in. There are no perfect personalities because everyone can exhibit a slight variation of the norm...it only becomes pathological when certain manifestations repeat themselves systematically over a long time and become a pattern of behaviour that causes distress and dysfunction.



She concluded her presentation with a quotation from T.S.Lewis: "it is not the load that breaks you down, it is the way you carry it".

*AND THAT SUMS IT ALL.*

## *Many Happy Birthday Returns*

*Walter Day - Dec. 4*

*Yervant Hakimian - Dec. 4*

*Subhi Jarudi - Dec. 7*

*Wael Hamdan - Dec. 22*

*Mona Jarudi - Jan. 5*

*Salah Damer - Jan. 6*

*Nada Maalouf - Jan. 14*

*Habib Saba - Jan. 27*

*Kamal Saad - Jan. 29*