



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter - February 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

Incoming President

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

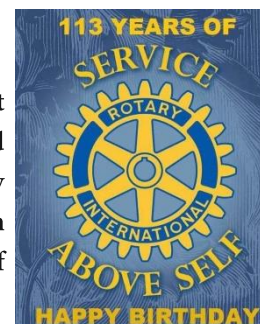
MARHABA EDITOR

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"Letter from the Editor"



The month of February this year was significant at multiple levels. February 23, which is World Peace and Understanding Day, also marked the 113th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary. It was a day of celebrations in every rotary club worldwide, reflecting on the success of the Rotary mission and vision for over a century.



Peace has been at the core of Rotary organization from its inception. Rotary was instrumental in the formation of the United Nations and still holds a high consultative position there more than any other non- governmental organization. Rotary cultivated a successful Rotary Peace Fellows program and recently forged a partnership with the Institute of Economics and Peace to organize positive peace based on sound governance and universal rights of individuals.

With such an emphasis on Peace, the President of Rotary International this year, Ian H.S. Riseley organized Presidential Peace Building Conferences in six cities around the world. Beirut, Lebanon was honored to be chosen as one of these cities and on February 16 and 17 became the epicenter where Rotarians from D 2452 and from other districts met to celebrate the Rotarian spirit.

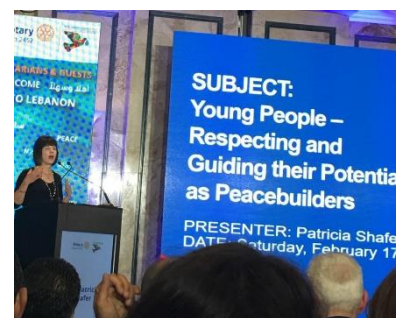
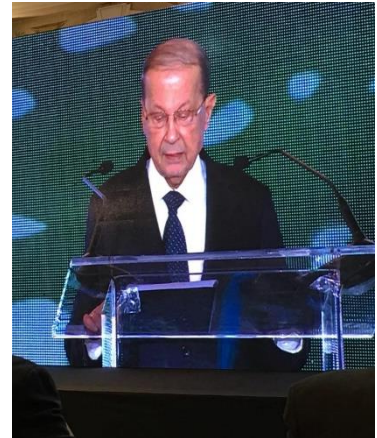
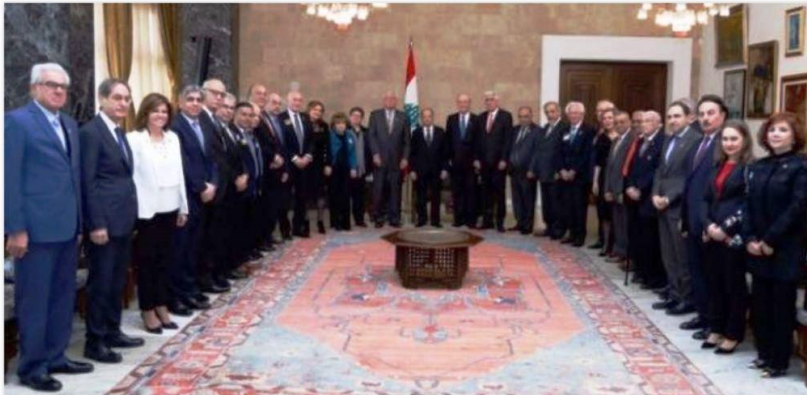
Why Beirut? The answer lies in the efforts of Rotarians in Lebanon led by Past District Governor Jamil Mouawad to bring clean potable water for children in public schools in Lebanon. The dream was that no child should go thirsty and every child has the basic right of having access to clean drinking water. The dream became a reality after an arduous journey and now we can say that children in 800 schools have access to clean water with a target of 1200 schools for the near future.

The Presidential Peace Building Conference with the headline "Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Peace" was under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Lebanon General Michel Aoun, the President of Rotary International Ian H.S. Riseley, and The Rotary Foundation Chair Paul Netzel. It was highly attended by Lebanese Cabinet Ministers, dignitaries and Rotarians. Guest speakers from Jordan, Cyprus, USA and Lebanon engaged the audience in current conversations about climate change, water shortage, water wars, refugee crisis and its impact on local infrastructures; subjects that are thought provoking and very important in addressing the future.

We, Rotarians, all over Lebanon are very proud of this achievement and even more proud to be raising the flag of Peace and the banner of Service Above Self.

IP Mona Jarudi

PRESIDENTIAL PEACE BUILDING CONFERENCE (FEB. 17-19, 2018)





Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan inaugurated the month of February with a Gala Dinner under the auspices of HE Monika Schmutz Kirgöz, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Lebanon, whose grace and generosity made that evening possible.



A Swiss band was flown in from Switzerland to lend authentic notes to the dinner coupled with a menu designed by the Phoenicia Culinary team to reflect the tastes of that magnificent country.



Reflecting the beautiful face of diplomacy, HE gave a very heartwarming speech about Lebanon.

She started by expressing her love for our country and yes, despite everything, Lebanon is still the Switzerland of the Middle East. She acknowledged the burden that Lebanon is experiencing now on all its sectors by the heavy influx of refugees. She assured the audience that Lebanon and its stability really matter to Europe and the rest of the world.



It is still an oasis in a very turbulent region and a model of coexistence among all factions. She went on to stress that she is especially proud of the active role that Lebanese women play in addressing human rights and gender equality but we also should know that the Lebanese women got their voting rights 30 years ahead of Switzerland.



HE was very complementary about the work that RCBC does in the community and the high representation of women power in all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon and the world. She is the perfect advocate for women voices.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to BLOM Bank, Arab Bank and Bank Audi who graced us with their presence and support, the Swiss Lebanese Business Council and all the distinguished Rotarians and guests.





Coinciding with the visit of the District Governor Mrs. Christina Covotsou-Patroclou to Lebanon, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held its business meeting on Tuesday February 13, in the presence of the DG and Assistant DG Mrs Mona Kanaan and AG Mr. Ahmad Husseini.



President Rabab presented to DG Christina and RCBC members the club achievements and service projects in the pipeline. The district governor was very pleased with the level of Service above Self that RCBC exemplifies and complemented the club for being a leader in numerous projects and wished everyone continued success.



Seven RCBC members received the distinguished Paul Harris Fellow Certificate, and were pinned by the District Governor.





RCBC hosted in its business meeting on February 20 Dr. Joyce Azzam, A Rotarian with the Rotary Club de Beyrouth, Ph.D. in Landscape and Environment and a mountaineer.

She brings together two worlds of adventure and scientific research. She is the First Lebanese Woman on the Quest to complete "The Explorers Grand Slam".



In a very interesting presentation, Dr. Azzam shared with a captive audience her passion for conquering mountains and the discipline of training that she has to go through to realize her dreams.



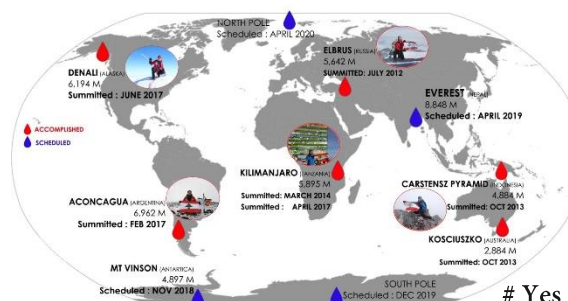
She is the first Lebanese woman to have climbed 25 mountains around the world and the first to raise the Lebanese flag on five of the highest summits in the world.



Her dream is to complete the Seven Summits by climbing Mt. Vinson and Mt. Everest this year, then reach the two poles and become the second woman in the world to complete the Explorers Grand Slam.



Through her mountaineering achievements, Joyce is keen to inspire girls and women to follow their dream and challenge themselves.



Yes _ She _ Can

On February 27, the guest speaker was Dr. Mutasem El-Fadel Engineering Professor at AUB, who gave an interesting talk titled the Emerging Water Challenges in Beirut. His remarks centered around a recent study jointly sponsored by American University of Beirut and IDRC (International Development Research Center of Canada). The intrusion of sea water along the Eastern Mediterranean, including Lebanon because of climate change, is causing serious deterioration in the quantity and quality of water we use and drink in Beirut. The water supplied by the municipality, ranges between 3 hours a day in winter to zero in summer. To fill the void, private contractors stepped in to provide water tankers to businesses and residences in a totally unregulated environment. As a result, much of the distributed water is contaminated with levels of salinity and microbial loads that exceed international standards. He also noted the economic burden on the middle class, where he estimates that the cost of water in Lebanon is one of the highest in the world.



The short to medium term solution lies in regulating the water delivery contractors and refurbish the antiquated water delivery system in the country. Long term, he believes the answer lies in building desalination plants like neighboring countries.






REACHING OUT

➔ "BONE DENSITOMETER" HANDOVER CEREMONY

In the presence of a large audience, media and committee members, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan handed over a Bone Densitometer to the Child and Mother Welfare Society. This organization has a long history of helping those in need and its core values falls within the values of Rotary. An RCBC service project committee led by PP Mounir Jabre, in collaboration with local Rotary Clubs and International Rotary partners helped translate the wish into reality.



Many thanks to our partners:

-  Rotary Club Burlington, the major international sponsor.
-  Rotary Club Tripoli Maarad
-  RC Fort Madison Iowa
-  RC Mount Pleasant Iowa
-  & the contribution of PDG Mr. Nijad Al-Atassi

PP Mounir Jabre highlighted the enthusiasm that our international partners show in supporting our local projects. He read the letter from PP Bob Bartles on the occasion:



“Our eastern Iowa Clubs are quite happy to participate in this successful and crucial medical equipment global grant. We deeply value our relationship with the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan. A couple of our members (including me) went to a Beirut dedication ceremony last year. We came away with extremely positive impressions of the Rotary Club and the Children and Mothers Welfare Society. You are such wonderful people and you are making a huge difference in the lives of very deserving children. We appreciate you and we are honored to have the opportunity to share in your wonderful efforts.”



- ➔ One of the organizations that Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan has been supporting over the years is Mission de Vie or Mission of Life. This organization started in 1993 and is a congregation of priests, brothers and sisters who dedicate their lives to serving God and the poorest of the poor in the community regardless of gender, age, race or religion.

They have grown now to include volunteers from all over the world and are active currently in building many homes in different parts of Lebanon to help get homeless people off the streets, provide shelter and help individuals regain their dignity and their right to a proper life.





On Sunday February 4 2018, Mission de Vie received the approval from the Vatican to become the first community of the Eastern Churches, which is considered a New Form of Consecration.

To commemorate this occasion, a Mass was given by the Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi, which was highly attended by dignitaries and supporters of Mission de Vie.

Few members of RCBC were present to attend this special occasion.



➔ On a very recent business visit to Paris - France, our active Rotarian Jean Paul Moubarak represented Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan in meetings of three Rotary Clubs in Paris. The first visit was to RC Paris Haussmann, followed by RC Paris and RC Paris Avenir. Jean Paul was very warmly received and banners were exchanged. Perfect example of Reaching out to the large network of Rotarians around the world and feeling at home.

