

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – February 2020

RCBC MEETS TUESDAYS AT THE PHOENICIA HOTEL, AIN-MREISSEH, BEIRUT
BUSINESS MEETINGS AT 19:00



Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary International

RI President

*Mark Daniel Maloney,
Rotary Club of Decatur,
Alabama, USA*

District Governor

Shawkat Tadros

Assistant Governor

Samir Constantin

RCBC Officers

2019 - 2020

President

Adib Mounla

Incoming President

Habib Saba

Vice President

Joe Boulos

IPP

Mona Jarudi

Secretary

Sona Kourtian Donigian

Treasurer

Mohamad Baltaji

Directors

*Edouard Rassie
Mimi Hamam
Nadim Hissen*

RCBC Website

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

MARHABA EDITOR

*IPP Mona Jarudi
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In Memorial



On February 24, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan lost one of its pillars PP Tony Asfour.

I was given the honor of saying few words about him during the funeral service by his beloved wife and dear friend, Mary. There is no greater honor than speaking about a great man who touched our lives as a friend and fellow Rotarian. I would like to share in this newsletter few thoughts from the eulogy.

To celebrate Tony and his life requires volumes and hours. He was a prolific man with many attributes and for the sake of brevity; I will focus on one main attribute: PASSION. Tony was passionate about three things: his beloved wife Mary, family and grandchildren, Rotary and serving humanity and good music. He lived a great life and was thankful for every moment.



Serving humanity was a very important chapter in Tony's life. For over 20 years, he was the structural pillar of our club and an authority of all things Rotary. He found in Rotary a partner that enabled him to help those in need in our community. No project was small enough, and no area was far enough. His passion to reach out and alleviate pain and suffering were his driver.

Through his powerful ability to network, locally and globally; his expertise in writing grants and the help of the Rotary Foundation, Tony was able to secure millions of dollars' worth of Service projects that left their mark in every corner in Lebanon. From the Schneller School in the Beqaa valley to AUB Medical center, orphanages, old peoples' homes to name a few, PP Tony was there to respond to their needs. He energized other clubs in our district and attracted clubs in USA, Germany and UK to be our partners in the journey of community service. He was kind, patient, benevolent, a great mentor and a great Rotarian. He simply embodied the spirit of Rotary: Service above Self.

When I met Tony twenty years ago, we were part of the LAU Choir. He was one of the three tenors alongside our fellow Rotarian the late Kamal Saad. Tony's passion for music was infectious and his knowledge and appreciation of the classics made every concert more enjoyable.

As Irving Berlin said: "The song is ended but the melody lingers on".

Rest in Peace dear Tony, let your voice soar as you join the choir of angels in heaven.

You will be dearly missed.

IPP Mona Jarudi



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: PP Mounir Jabre
Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

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Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Handover of Neonatal and Dental Equipment to the Child and Mother Welfare Society (GG1873010)

Place: Beirut, Lebanon

Date: February 19, 2020

The Rotary club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (Primary Sponsor) together with Rotary Club of Burlington (Primary International Sponsor), RC Fort Madison, RC Mount Pleasant, RC Mount Pleasant Noon, RI Districts 2452 and 6000, The Rotary Foundation plus a personal contribution from PP Mounir Jabre collaborated towards the success of GG 1873010 valued at \$ 56K.

The equipment handed over under the GG are:

- 2 Babytherm (infant warmer): Drager
- 1 Dental Chair: Stern Weber
- 2 Birthing beds

The handover also included 4 wheelchairs that were fully funded by RCBC.

The event took place at the premises of Mother and Child Welfare Society in the presence of RCBC members, Board of Directors of CMWS and the medical and administrative staff.

Past President Mounir Jabre delivered a speech on behalf of PP Bob Bartles who could not attend due to the current situation in the country. RCBC members were given a full tour of the facility.



*Rotary International is a non-governmental service organization of over 1.2 million volunteer Business And professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace.
For more information, please refer to www.rotary.org and www.rcbclebanon.org*



NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: PP Mimi Hamam
Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

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The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan contributed to the Heart Surgeries of 10 children at
Hotel-Dieu Hospital – Heart of the Child Center
(GG1987838)

Place: Beirut, Lebanon

Date: February 17, 2020

Every year around 600 children are born in Lebanon with heart disease. Without treatment most would die before the age of 1, with proper treatment, 95% will be cured.

Within the scope of its humanitarian mission, the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (Primary host) and the Rotary Club San Mateo CA, USA (Primary International partner) with contributions from Rotary Club Unley, Australia, matched by a grant from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International contributed to 10 Children Heart Surgeries.

The dedication ceremony took place on February 17, 2020 at the Center of Congenital Heart Disease at Hotel Dieu de France hospital in the presence of Rotarians as well as doctors and staff from the hospital and Heartbeat.



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NEWS RELEASE

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Business meeting with Ms. Nisrine Naaman, CISV Lebanon

"CISV: BUILDING GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP"

And Rt. Christine Arzoumanian, Haigazian University

"CLASSIFICATION TALK: HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY"

February 4, 2020

CISV is a global organization established in 1950 to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world. CISV believes that Peace is possible through building friendship and mutual understanding, starting with children. CISV helps children develop the skills they need to be effective and make a difference in our interconnected world. It also gives them the opportunity to build global friendships and networks to last a lifetime.

The organization has branches in 68 countries and 220 cities. The themes are: sustainable development, diversity, human rights, and conflict resolution.

CISV Lebanon chapter started in 1975 and the guest speaker Nisrine was the first junior to join a Lebanese delegation to a village. There are different activities for different age groups from ages 11-18. There are Village, Step Up, Junior counselors and others who conduct local trainings and meetings and international training. They have two meetings per month and organize different activities like family hiking trips, visit a city or village and different fundraising activities.

The president of the newly formed Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Interact club is a counselor with CISV. He facilitates all activities for the participants and help them prepare for the organization international programs.

We can never be proud enough of our youth working hard to make this world a better place for all.

The same evening hosted our own Rt. Christine Arzoumanian for a classification talk.

Christine is in the process of finishing her Doctorate degree at Grenoble Ecole de Management- France, and will be defending her dissertation about Occupational Psychology in two weeks.

Christine currently holds a teaching position at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at Haigazian University. She teaches industrial and organizational Psychology and Group Dynamics. To add to her accolades, Christine is Director of Development at Haigazian. She works on development projects, grants, fundraising and donor relations.

She is a tireless wife and mother and a very dedicated Rotarian. She is always ready to give her support on committees and projects despite her heavy schedule.

We wish Rt. Christine the very best for her future.



*Business Meeting with Dr. Pierre Khoury, PhD, LLM, DEA
is an IP Specialist Lawyer and senior Consultant.*

Mr. Jad Jreijiri

"INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN LEBANON"

February 11th, 2020

Dr. Pierre el Khoury from Beirut Bar Association had a very interesting and complex presentation on Intellectual Property System and innovation. He covered the definition of IP, types, the cycle and the misconceptions of people vis a vis Intellectual property.

El Khoury defined that intellectual property rights are like any other property rights- they allow the inventor or owner, of a patent, trademark, or copyrights to benefit from his/her work or investment. These rights are outlined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets forth the right to benefit from the protection of moral and material interests resulting from authorship of any scientific, literary, or artistic production (as defined by WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization).

It is vital for anyone who is working on a new concept, developing a new idea, invention or design to protect it legally. Protecting the idea is the protection of Intellectual Property (IP) such as copyright, trademark, and patent protection. There is a constant risk of IP infringement, thus protecting IP can give the individual a substantial commercial advantage.

The Intellectual Property Protection Office of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Lebanon is facing its greatest challenge as it tackles Lebanon's counterfeit and piracy problems. Lebanon enacted new laws for the protection of copyright in 1999 and on patents in 2000. The government is putting now the final touch for a new law on trademarks and geographical indications and is developing legislation on distinctive signs, designs, and unfair competition. Unfortunately, the new laws are not well implemented because of the gaps in institutional infrastructure. Some problems noted:

- Outdated IT equipment and network links between offices.
- Lack of specialized staff and judges in the court.
- Limited technical capacity and available human resources for enforcement.
- Limited means to promote public awareness of the new laws.

Transforming public perceptions is never easy.

Policy makers in Lebanon are clear the IP protection is not only about respecting international agreements but is fundamental to fostering Lebanese enterprise and creativity, attracting foreign investment, and protecting the consumers.



*Joint Dinner hosted by
Rotary Club de Beyrouth & Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan
in Honor of HE Chris Rampling, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Lebanon.*

In a very elegant and well attended dinner meeting, Rotarians and guests were delighted to welcome HE Rampling and eager to hear his opinions about the British- Lebanese relations. The evening commenced with words of welcome by presidents of both clubs followed by an introduction of HE and his diplomatic career.

HE stated that ever since arriving in Lebanon, 18 months ago, his priority has been to meet and listen to Lebanese from all walks of life. He met brilliant applicants to the British Chevening program, young change makers working on peace building and conflict resolution. He chatted with business people to strengthen the trade relations, met many talented entrepreneurs, women activists in social and political life, LAF soldiers and more.

HE Rampling went on to say that on January 31st, the United Kingdom left the European Union. This marks a bold new chapter for the UK- ambitious, self-confident and global in its international outlook. Partnerships with old and new friends around the world are strengthened, and the UK national mission as a force of good in the world is being exerted.

The UK is a friend of Lebanon, HE continues, since its creation 100 years ago. There will be more opportunities to work together with the Lebanese especially in these critical times Lebanon is passing through. HE assured the audience that there will be no great significant changes in their policies and programs support- that reached over \$ 250 million in 2019- in security, prosperity, education and stability that has achieved a lot and will continue to do so.

On Trade, Lebanon remains the UK's second largest trading partner in the Levant. HE assured that the UK will work more closely and do more respecting the bilateral trade agreement signed in September between the two countries. Despite the current challenges, boosting trade and investment will be one way of helping Lebanon rebuild its economy in addition to encouraging more collaboration between British and Lebanese companies.

On Reform, HE went on to say that across Lebanon we all have seen the Lebanese voice their demands for reform, transparency and better governance. A crucial first step was taken by forming a government, and now this government needs to develop a plan and take it forward to start tackling the serious economic crisis. Equally important is for the Lebanese politicians to allow the government to do so. HE said no one in Lebanon or elsewhere want to see Lebanon becoming a failed state.

HE concluded his talk by addressing the audience:

“And because Britain and Lebanon are both at our best when we work hand in hand with our friends and allies, we will remain by your side, intensifying our ongoing long-term relationship in peace, stability, economy, trade and our peoples.”





Business Meeting with Ms. Sandy Peters

“KOUN: PROMOTING WELL-BEING AND PEACE IN UNDER-PRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES”

February 25th, 2020

A young, energetic with an infectious personality, Ms. Peters delighted us with a very inspiring presentation. She talked about KOUN, a Lebanese NGO, founded in 2019 with the mission of making Yoga accessible to those who need it with the aim of promoting psychological well-being and inner peace.

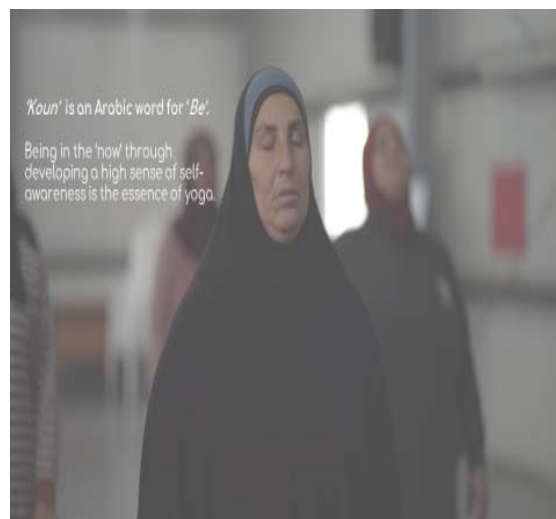
KOUN is an Arabic word meaning ‘BE’. Being in the NOW through developing a high sense of self-awareness is the essence of Yoga. She believes that one cannot change their reality but one can change the way one reacts to it. Yoga achieves this through working on the body, breath and mind.

Ms. Peters’ work stemmed from her belief that well-being is a condition that everyone should have no matter the age, race or social class. She focused her work in refugee camps in Akkar, is concentrating her work in Tripoli in the most underprivileged areas (Bab Tebbaneh and jabal Mohsin) and in Jounieh where she conducts workshops for migrant workers.

The goals of the organization are to promote psychological well-being, reduce stress and anxiety, increase acceptance and compassion, develop the ability to face conflicts and spread peace.

Ms. Peters conducts yoga workshops for refugee kids to strengthen their bodies and open their minds. She does yoga with disadvantaged women to help them relax, overcome their traumas and find inner peace. Moreover, she takes care of a neglected group in our community, the migrant workers, to help them stand peacefully against the racial injustice meted upon them sometimes.

The world now is in a state of turmoil which creates lots of stress...every little attempt to alleviate some of this stress especially among the less privileged is a step in the right direction towards healthy bodies and minds.



Club Relations

On February 24, members of RCBC attended a dinner hosted by RC Beyrouth at Villa Sursock to commemorate the club's 88th anniversary and to honor one of its founding members PP Riad Saadeh for his 50 years of Rotary Service. PP Saadeh was presented a letter from RI President Marc Maloney in recognition and appreciation for his years of service.

It is worth noting that RC Beyrouth and PP Riad Saadeh were the sponsors of our club RCBC in 1995. Since then, our two clubs enjoyed many successful years of collaboration and friendship.



Banner Exchanges

Rotary La Zenia International Spain – President Betty Grans

February 18th, 2020



CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE,2020 HAWAII



THE END