

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)

MARHABA EDITOR
P Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

“Letter from the Editor”

IN MEMORIAM

On February 27, 2019, Rotary and RCBC lost a very dear friend and Rotarian who was the embodiment of the Rotary spirit at its best. A unique person who was kind, generous, and genuine, a person who enriched everyone who met him.

When I first met Kamal Saad in 2002, we were both part of the LAU Choir. I remember him as one of the three tenors along with our own Tony Asfour. He had a voice that sent ripples through the hall and left its mark on every piece we sang. And in the audience, always looking at him with admiration was his sweet Eva. Our friendship started then and continued till the end, and we are all the better for knowing him.

I asked three people who were very close to him to say few words, fellow Rotarians Tony Asfour, Mounir Jabre and Karin Saab. Little did I know that there would be an avalanche of messages from everyone who met him and was touched by him. I need pages and pages to relay these messages and in his honor I will sum up what our dear Kamal meant to us all:

*a kind and gentle person, a scholar, a true Rotarian, a true friend, a leader and a noble spirit who
battled some bad days with determination to overcome, with a smile and with the love of his sweet
Eva always by his side.*

Rest in peace, dear Kamal. You are our role model and inspiration, and you will always be alive in our hearts and minds.



P Mona Jarudi

Business meeting & Pinning Ceremony

Tuesday January 22, 2019

The club reconvened after the holidays to welcome three new members to RCBC family. May Khoury, Samir el Kadi and Abbas Sibai were pinned and warmly received by fellow Rotarians.

In keeping with the spirit of monthly Rotary themes, January being Rotary Awareness Month, the guest speaker was our own PP and PDDG George Beyrouti whose spoke about Rotary Membership Development and Engagement. He outlined the criteria for new members, the process followed, the role of the sponsor and the spirit of fellowship and service that should be the mainstay of every club. Rotary started with the the vision of one man, Paul Harris. He formed the first club in Chicago in 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong relations and give back to their communities. Since then, clubs have been more diverse in gender and professions while adhering to the core values of Rotary.



Business meeting with PP Paul Edde

“The Globality of St. Jude & Rotary: with emphasis on CCCL/St. Jude”

Chairman of the International Board of Children Cancer Society Lebanon, CCCL

Tuesday January 29, 2019



In a most passionate and genuine presentation, PP Paul Edde captivated the audience with facts and accounts about St. Jude Children Research Hospital and the Children Cancer Center Lebanon while keeping true to himself as a veteran Rotarian, determined to make a difference in a world of indifference.

In his remarks, PP Paul stated that St. Jude saw the light in 1962 in Memphis, Tennessee by an American entertainer of Lebanese descent Dany Thomas who believed that every child deserves the opportunity to live life to its fullest, disease free regardless of their race, religion, nationality and financial ability. He dreamt of bringing St. Jude to Lebanon, which became a reality in 2000 after an agreement was signed with the American University of Beirut, the Children Cancer Center and St. Jude Children Research Hospital and gave birth to Children Cancer Center Lebanon (CCCL). Sixteen years later, CCCL cares for almost 40% of kids with cancer in Lebanon, treated over 1300 patients, with a remarkable 80% full cure rate.

The CCCL cumulative revenue over the years has exceeded \$100 million and the CCCL Brand distinguished itself in Lebanon and the Arab region as an NGO, which exemplifies credibility, integrity, humanitarian and professional service.

St. Jude with its arm CCCL, were built on the dream and dedication of one person like Rotary was built on the dream of Paul Harris, who over the years built an arsenal of dedicated Rotarians all over the world who worked to eradicate childhood Polio globally and to make a difference all over their communities. It is all about thinking locally and acting globally with passion and determination.



Business meeting with Artist Tom Young

“The Art of Revival”

Tuesday February 05, 2019

Tom Young is a full time artist, based in Beirut, Lebanon and where he has been living for the past nine years. In his remarks, Tom spoke about coming to Lebanon, why does the country inspire him and how he uses his art to contribute something positive to a place, which gives him so much.

As a painter, he is concerned with light and space. Influenced by his architectural training, he explores the changing nature of Lebanon; through the symbolism of motifs such as flowers and carousels, he suggests dramatic contrasts in the city and the coexistence of pain and joy. Young combines his painting practice with architectural activism. He takes his art out of the normal gallery context and exhibits his work as site-specific installations, which grow from the buildings he works in.

By transforming deserted spaces and endangered buildings into living centers of creativity, he hopes to protect and recreate vital public spaces, which go on functioning as cultural venues long after his intervention.

The audience were treated to a private viewing of his work and the premiere screening of his short film *The Sofar Tapes*, done in The Grand Sofar Hotel featuring interviews with people who remember the great days of the Grand Hotel.



On February 19, RCBC welcomed Mrs. Claudine Aoun Roukoz, President of the National Commission of Lebanese Women as its guest speaker. The mission of the commission chartered some two years ago, is to champion women's rights in Lebanon by amending current laws and introducing new ones that will accord Lebanese women their rights in society.

Mrs. Roukoz pointed out some of the early successes of their efforts, The parliament, for example, passed a law giving women equal rights in in benefiting from family support allowances and Social Security benefits. Also, the Parliament extended maternity leave to 10 weeks.



A lot more needs to be done, added Mrs. Roukoz. The commission is currently working closely with Parliament to introduce or amend laws that will protect rape victims that are minors. Currently, the perpetrator cannot be prosecuted if he marries his rape victim!! Another area of focus is domestic violence. Recently, a hot line was set up to receive calls from victims of domestic violence.

Another major goal of the commission is to work on granting Lebanese women the right to pass citizenship to their children if the husband is not a Lebanese citizen.

The road to gender equality for Lebanese women is long and arduous. It will take a lot of determination, patience and buy in from all stakeholders for progress to be made.







Business meeting with Mrs. Noha Karanouh Kabbani

“Official Document from an Artist’s Eye”

Tuesday February 26, 2019

In a most interesting presentation, guest speaker Noha Karanouh Kabbani shared her story behind design security. A prominent graphic designer, who worked on important projects in Europe, showed how proud she is to have designed the new biometric passport of Lebanon.

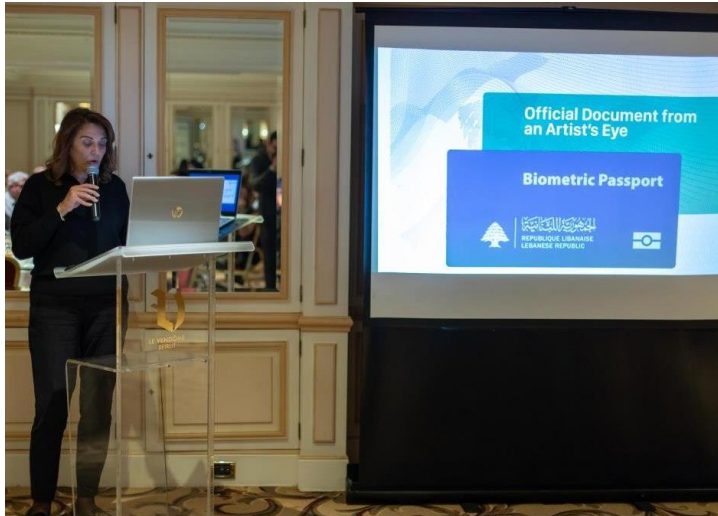
Mrs. Kabbani stated that a passport is used to represent our identity. It needs to be personal, secure and satisfying the highest level of international standards. The new technology used in the passport is the culmination of eight months of hard work, planning and synchronizing creative designs with security requirements.



Starting with the new Cedar tree on the cover of the passport, Noha redesigned the tree and called it The Arze, authentic, custom drawn and based on facts. The natural branches of the tree have 8 levels and 26 empty spaces, each level representing Lebanon’s governorates, and the space between them symbolizes Lebanon’s 26 districts. Special paper and process was used, 22 landscapes of Lebanon were used with complex guilloche lines embedded in the illustrations.



After her success with the design of the new biometric passport, she moved on to design other legal documents: the new driver's license, car registration, license plates and others.



Mrs. Kabbani stated that it is only after understanding what truly goes into making official documents that we can fully appreciate them.

CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE (2452): MAY 1-4, 2019

BEIRUT- LEBANON

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE,2019

HAMBURG – GERMANY

Many Happy Birthday Returns

Mona Jarudi - January 05

Nada Maalouf - January 14

Habib Saba January 27

Farida Najjar - January 28

Kamal Saad - January 29

The End