



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – July 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-Mölln,
Germany
District Governor
Mazen A. Alurman
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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Rotary  **Rotary Opens Opportunities**
RC Beirut Cosmopolitan – Incoming President's Letter, RY 2020-2021

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It is with a sense of privilege and responsibility that I look forward to serving as your President for Rotary year 2020-2021. This Rotary year marks a special milestone - the silver jubilee year of our club highlighting continued service to the community since our club was chartered in 1995. As we look forward to the next 25 years we recognize and applaud the great efforts and achievements made over the last 25 years by our past Presidents, associated Boards and committees, the club members and friends, and the Rotary family generally. Without their commitment, contributions and sacrifices we could not be here to celebrate this milestone and to continue to serve our community going forward.

If this accomplishment is the silver lining that propels us forward then the dark cloud currently hovering over our country is reflected in the fact that the state of Greater Lebanon is fighting the biggest battle of its 100 year history with the current political, economic and financial meltdown. To exacerbate matters a pandemic is currently ravaging the entire globe wreaking havoc with humanity's health and the global economy. The implications are significantly tangible and widespread with a large percentage of our population continually being forced below the poverty line even as we write. While these dire times may otherwise be reason to despair there is in this period in our recent history no more compelling a calling for us as Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors to combine efforts and come to the aid of our community. If there was a moment to define through our deeds what the Rotary family is all about this undoubtedly has to be it. In that context our enduring club vision "Enhanced quality of life for all in our community" has never been more pertinent.

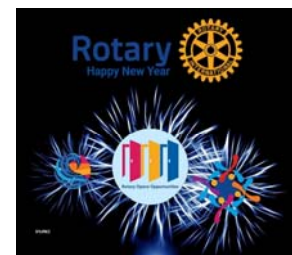
Unquestionably our emphasis for the year will be to aid the ever increasingly underprivileged, vulnerable and marginalized in our community through immediate relief and sustainable support with the widest possible impact. We shall place special emphasis on healthcare and disease treatment, and community economic development through sustainable solutions which where possible also provide positive environmental impact. These objectives are succinctly encapsulated in our theme for the year "Sustainable Living".

Naturally with the persistence of the Corona virus pandemic, at least for the foreseeable future, and the continued need for self-isolation and physical distancing, we will need to leverage technology and identify innovative methods in order to conduct our club business and serve our community. No doubt we will also be able to rely on the ingenuity, creativity and youthful energy of our Rotaractors and Interactors in a collaborative effort as we strive to fulfill our common objectives.

Indeed Rotary opens doors to opportunities, to borrow from the incoming year's RI theme, and during this incoming Rotary year the circumstances that prevail present more "opportunities" than ever in recent living memory for us to join hands as club members, Rotaractors and Interactors to serve our community with the widest possible impact.

On behalf of the incoming Board and the team we count on your support!

Habib Saba
President 2020-2021



HANDOVER

Silver Jubilee Handover

July 7, 2020

After months of zoom meetings and isolation, our club decided to brave the storm and conduct a physical handover to keep the valued tradition of the club. With a restricted number of attendees, masks and social distancing, the club had a very successful and fun handover between outgoing President Adib Mounla and Incoming President Habib Saba.

The club was honoured with the presence of DG Mazen Alumran from the Kingdom of Bahrain via video linkup in addition to the physical presence of Assistant Governor Rami Sarkis of RC Beirut Cedars, DGN George Azar of RC Aley and DDG Samir Constantin of RC Sahel Metn from the District level. Distinguished guests also present included Dr Riad Saade of RC de Beyrouth, a charter member of our club and its founding President, in addition to club charter members RT Samir El Khoury and Nabil Challah. Thanks to the power of Zoom, the official proceedings were climaxed with a warmly received address from DG Mazen Alumran who extended his best wishes to the RCBC President and Club for a successful year.

This appearance and the zoom broadcast of the handover generally was enabled, with appreciation, by the Interact Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan. Per tradition, VP Joe Boulos assisted by PP Lina Shair and Rt. Joelle Fighali, gave the outgoing President Adib all the parting honors in a very humorous sketch which added much needed positive vibes.

The evening was enjoyed by all who attended whether personally or virtually.
Thanks again IPP Adib and good luck P Habib!







Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Club Assembly

July 21,2020

Due to the Economic situation and the ongoing Covid19 threat, RCBC President Habib Saba and his board had to make a change of venue and rethink all club meetings till December 2020. The new venue will be Hilton Hotel in Beirut, and meetings continue to be at 7 pm whether virtual or personal.

Following social distancing and mask use, club members met to conduct first business meeting where the President and all committee chairpersons presented their vision for RY 20-21.

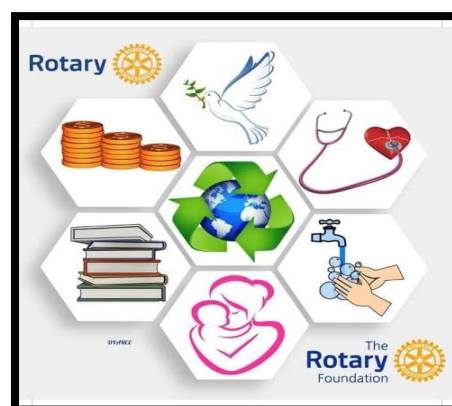
The Club assembly adopted the following agenda:

1. Venue, Annual Membership Dues and Business Meeting Fees
2. Proposed District 2452 Budget Approval
3. Introduction of RCBC Board and committee chairpersons
4. President Habib Saba highlighted the theme of this Rotary year: Sustainable Living.
5. Sustainability ideas to support the theme: sustainable development, with the underlying priorities of fighting poverty, treating diseases/ accessible healthcare, cultural and civic education, and environmental preservation and sustainability.
6. To stay ahead of the curve, RCBC needs to be creative in its tackling of urgent community issues, do multiple diverse projects and keep an eye on national and global impacting issues .
7. Important milestones this year: Greater Lebanon Centennial Anniversary in September and RCBC Silver Jubilee.
8. Emphasis on our partnership with RCBC Rotaract and Interact Clubs to unite our efforts in achieving our mission for serving the community.
9. The draft budget for RY 2020-2021 was presented, discussed and approved.

It was unanimously agreed however that given the volatile and rapidly unfolding situation in the country that the Venue and pricing, events and meetings, and the budget would need to be regularly monitored and reviewed if necessary

Rotary International added a new area of focus, which is Environment so we now have seven areas of focus.

The strategic plan for this year will fall in line with the new focus with projects and guest speakers.



Hybrid Business Meeting Small Ville Hotel & Online Rotaract / Interact Annual Plan Presentation

July 28,2020

RCBC President pioneered a hybrid meeting for the club where the presenters met in a hotel environment following safety precautions and the club members were connected by zoom. The meeting featured the Rotaract and Interact Clubs of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan who gave their road map for RY 20-21.

Present at the physical meeting were: RCBC President, BCRAC board and ICBC Board. Also present were the representatives of RCBC to the two clubs, RT. Nasr el Baba and RT. Abbas Sibai.

Rotaract Club Vision

The plan outlined by BCRAC President Carla Bou Diab included : Communtiy Service , Professional development and Club Service. Their main area of focus this year is Environmental Service featuring Recycling, delivery of food boxes, Beach Cleanup and greening of Lebanon. BCRAC will stay in touch with current events and needs and will respond by creating projects, online campaigns and contributions with different NGOs.

" They say an arrow is short by pulling it backwards. We know that everything around us is falling apart but we also know that we are powerful enough to respond to what's going on . Our actions count , no matter how small, and we will never stop acting".

These are the words of Carla Bou Diab , BCRAC President , that truly reflect the thoughts of the club members.

Interact Club Roadmap

The interact club of RCBC is a fairly young club, having received it's RI certification in President Said el Kadi introduced his board and together with his VP and CS gave a very professional and well constructed plan for the year. The club demographics are gender balanced and equal. Of the 16 current members, 9 members come from The American Community School, 4 from College Protestant Francais and 3 from International College. The club goals are:

- Diverse and Organic Recruitment : grow the club to 35 members by July 2021 with no more than 50% from one school.
- Professionalize: develop strategies for projects, events and meetings. Develop the club constitution on and bylaws, develop election and pinning processes.

- Standardize: this includes annual and biannual fees, develop annual events and projects and adopt practices to enhance community building and members bonding.
- Profile Enhancement: strengthen social media presence.
- Balanced events : these should include community service projects plus professional and personal development like attending RYLA yearly.
- National and Regional Leadership: the club hopes to become a leader in Lebanon and the region. This can be achieved by publicizing initiatives, developing friendship ties with other Interact Clubs and hosting a national event/ workshop every year.

A line up of upcoming events was shared for service and fellowship. They will be meeting once a month in a permanent location that is under study.

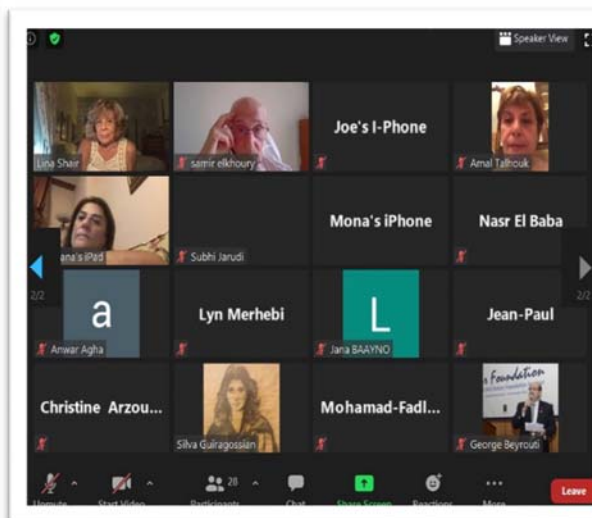
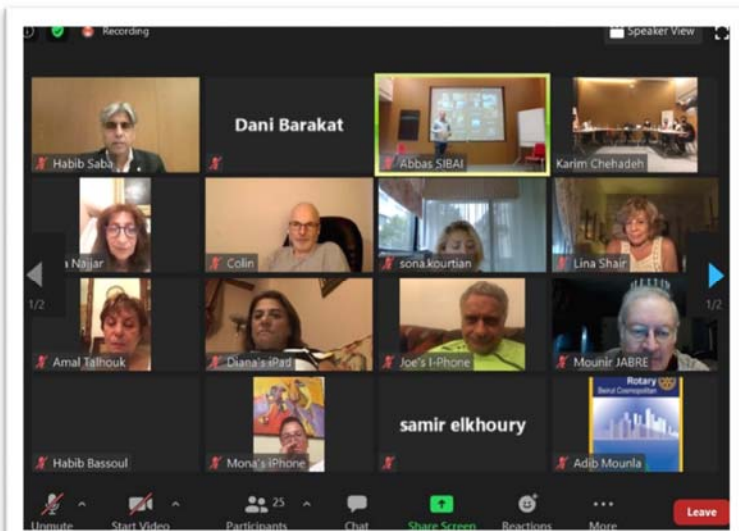
This was an inspiring, energetic and focused presentation that was well received and applauded by all RCBC members. Our youthful members highlighted the depth of talent within the Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary family and reassured us that despite all the odds their active, creative and energetic presence conveys a sense of optimism and confidence for the continued success of Rotary and the future of our Country.



Club Assembly Training Seminar



BOARD 20-21



Many Happy Birthday Returns

July

Joelle Feghali

THE END