



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter - June 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

PE Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

“Letter from the Editor”

This is my last message as Editor of Marhaba for the Rotary Year 2017-2018.

It has been a privilege to share with you, Rotarians and friends of Rotary, the achievements of RCBC, the wonderful moments of fellowship showcasing our RCBC family, and most of all sharing the true Rotarian Service Above Self.

Special thanks go to our President Rabab for her hard work and dedication, and to each and every member for holding the fort ... our club is our family and we should continuously strive to strengthen the bonds of friendship while working for the common good.

I hope you enjoyed reading Marhaba the past year like I enjoyed sharing my thoughts with you.

Thank you all for a wonderful year !

IP Mona Jarudi



The holy month of Ramadan is an important month for the faithful to observe fasting and praying. It is also a time of compassion and giving. Per tradition, RCBC hosts annually a number of less privileged children and treat them for an enjoyable afternoon.



This year our Club was privileged to host 75 kids at KidzMondo, a place where kids can play and experience city life in a secure and loving environment. There were 40 kids from the Islamic Orphanage in Beirut, and 35 kids from the House for Orphans care in Sidon.

After two hours of fun and games, all sat down to a scrumptious Iftar(breaking the fast). Upon departure, gifts were distributed to all children who left with smiles on their faces and hope in their hearts for a better tomorrow.

Heartfelt thanks go to RCBC members who made all this possible.



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This Rotary year was crowned by another service project that was handed over on June 13. This event, took place at the Lebanese School for the Blind and Deaf (LSBD) in Baabda, and was attended by RCBC President Rabab Safieddine and past Presidents Tony Asfour, Edouard Rassie, and John Edde. Also present was Dr. Zaki N. Dorkham from the Rotary Club of South Bunbury, Australia, Governor of District 9460, 2008-2009; and members of the Rotary Club Beirut Center with their President Mrs. May Khoury who were our local partners on this project. LSBD was represented by its Chairwoman Ms. Laure Doumit and the school principle Mrs. Marie Rose Gemayel.



Many thanks go to our international partners who made this project possible:

RC South Bunbury, WA - D 9465 our primary international partner.

RC Reno, NV - D 5190

RC Belleville, ON - D 7070 (Ruth and Al Kodsi)

RC Waikiki, Hawaii - D 5000

RC San Mateo, CA - D 5150

Mounzer Foundation

Thanks also go to our local partner RC Beirut Center.

Months of hard work and dedication went into seeing this project to completion.

The equipment donated were:

- Perkins Brailier and Braille papers
- Genset Cummins 135 KVA.
- Musical instrument
- Training on sign language.



The visiting Rotarians were treated to a very emotional performance by the school band whose instrumental and vocal talent eclipsed their inability to see the light...their music lit up their world!

The group then visited the classrooms to partake of a demonstration using the equipment donated by Rotary, in the presence of the Sign Language Instructor.



Speeches were given by RCBC President Rabab, Dr. Dorkham on behalf of his club as the international partner in this Global Grant and few words by the school principle thanking Rotary for helping them realize their dream.

Another example, another jewel in the crown of Rotary Spirit and Service above Self.



One of the most important tenets of Rotary is promoting friendship among Rotarians and providing a network of connections worldwide. It also avails traveling Rotarians of contacts in the country they are visiting to explore new cultures, exchange ideas, promote understanding and establish ways of cooperation to further the boundaries of Service. In June, few members of RCBC welcomed to Lebanon a visiting Rotarian from downtown Atlanta Rotary Club, on one of his numerous visits to Lebanon. In his biography, he states that "his idea of fun is to bring friends to Lebanon".



David has a very long and rich biography. He has a production company. He worked in every non-fiction format, from documentaries to breaking news, commercials and films for non-profits and corporations.

A CNN correspondent, a news magazine producer and a radio host. His achievements spans pages, which reflect his rich career. He tells the stories of real people and he gets these people from all walks of life to speak from the heart.

RCBC is proud to add David Lewis as another friend and look forward to more visits to Lebanon in the future.

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, President Rabab went all out to mark the end of her Rotary Year 2017-2018. Rotarians and spouses were there to help in the celebration in the presence of ADG Mona Kanaan.





Mr. Klaus Pollmeier from RC Essen-Gruga also attended. He was visiting Lebanon from Germany and spoke to the club about his visit.

Banners were exchanged with the guest.



ONCE MORE, I END THIS YEAR AS *EDITOR OF MARHABA NEWSLETTER* WITH HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT YEAR.
SEE YOU ALL IN JULY!!

Many Happy Birthday Returns

Edouard Rassie - May 02

Mounir Jabre - May 22

Tony Asfour - May 28

The End

BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN ROTARACT CLUB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We kicked off this quarter by paying our Rotary Club a visit, we reported what has been done and thanked our sponsoring club and our clubs' coordinator for this year President Rabab Safieddine for their constant support. During the meeting two of our guests got pinned Zeina



Bardakjian and Bassel Karout.

Pinning of Zeina Sidani and Bassel Karout

To symbolize our appreciation to our mother club, we distributed roses to all the attendees. "RCBC members are like our real parents: they guide us, motivate us, encourage us, and light the fire within us to strive for more by being the best example of leaders.

This is to you, an amazing family that will always shine the road to keep us going. Thank you for everything "

Community Service Project: 26lettersproject



As education and fighting illiteracy is one of the main focus areas of Rotary, BCRAC aimed to partner with 26lettersproject school which is free school for refugees who are seeking education and finding difficulties with the Lebanese Educational system: whether it be financial, system-related, or societal.

With a donation of 700\$, kids will now have proper chairs and tables to pursue

their education in better conditions.



Sidani and Bassel Karout. We gave away two Efforts Appreciation Certificates to two members who are constantly striving to lift up the club in all ways possible: Sirvart



Signed a twinning agreement with Rotaract Club of Nicosia (Cyprus)



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Community Service Project: Clothes Bank



Our annual Clothes Bank project continues !

After collecting the clothes for months, getting a clear list of families and the family member's sizes and ages and organizing the clothes , our Head of Community Service Committee Ahmad Ghamloush contacted our liaison with Chatila Refugee Camp and took the appointment ! It was heart touching seeing the smiles on the kids' faces while they were unwrapping the boxes of clothes !



Emotional Intelligence Session

On the 14th of May we had a Professional Development Session that taught us all we need to know about Emotional Intelligence in the workplace and beyond.

Organizing this pd session along with Rotaract Club of Sahel Metn, Rotaract Club de Beyrouth, and Rotaract Aley West was surely fruitful, especially that Dr. Shbib's previous achievements included raising an extremely emotionally intelligent person like Hazem Shbib_ (one of our members) himself!



Heads of Professional Development Committees of the above listed clubs are :Nour Mashaka, Maya Hamza, Larissa Salameh and Rebecca Nakad . They all closely followed up on all the details to make sure our session will be a success. 51 people attended the session and we followed the meeting by a joint club service at Jnaynit Farid where we created more memories.

Nothing can be more heartwarming than bringing warmth to other people's hearts !

That's why our third joint project with our sponsoring club Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan consisted of us joining forces with Rotary Club of Saïda where we contributed 850\$ and RCBC adding 400\$ for a total of 1250\$ to renovate a house in Sour.



Joint Community Service Project

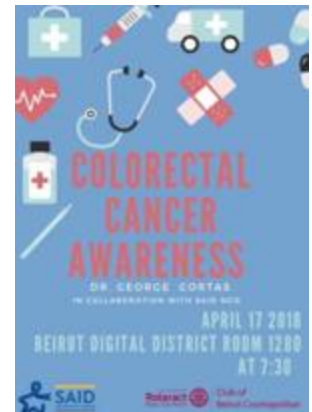
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Professional Development: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Session in Collaboration with Said NGO

On the 17th of April our member Zeina Sidani had organized a Professional Development.

Dr. Georges Cortas shared valuable info and warned us to always have our check-ups done because this kind of cancer is curable when discovered early on.



Gift of Life Gala Dinner

The least we can do as humans is intervene whenever another human being's life is at risk and could be saved by a simple operation.

It's true these operations' costs are high, but together: penny after penny, along with the huge team of humanitarians cooperating to make this work, a child's life is saved: one at a time.

And the spiritual reward we feel every year after meeting the cured child is just magical

Our President Rita Imad represented our club during the annual Gala Dinner where a symbol of appreciation was distributed to all those who raised funds this year.

We surely owe it all to our Rotary Club who generously contributes to this fundraising every year.



The Bottles Collection Project

Joint Community Service- Environmental Project

Rotaract Club of LAU Byblos contacted us and asked for our contribution to their project. And we absolutely loved the idea of collecting bottles rather than throwing them away, especially that the end result will be sailing the biggest Phoenician boat made out of bottles that would go all the way from Byblos to Zaytouna Bay on the 20th of May.

After contacting few restaurants, schools and our families and friends we managed to collect around 600 bottles out of the total target: 1000 bottles.