



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – March 2021

**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. Alumran

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

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

MARHABA EDITOR

PP Mona Jarudi

monajarudi@gmail.com

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

As we enter the last quarter of Rotary Year 2020-2021 we reflect back on the lightening pace with which this Rotary Year has been progressing. Despite the challenges in the country with the economic turmoil, the corona pandemic and the Beirut Port explosion and indeed because of it the work of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan in serving the community and the needy continues unabated. Tireless Rotarians within the club and the wider rotary community nationally and internationally join hands in making a bleak outlook become a little lighter. While we have had to adapt to zoom we can say with pride that all but one scheduled meeting have taken place week in week out from the start of the Rotary Year with focus on the business of the club and on providing quality guest speakers thanks to the efficient efforts of our program committee.

Our global grants, the corner stone of our club's service to the community, continue to make progress on all fronts. Amongst others the NewGen Peacebuilders' Global Grant already approved made significant strides in the month of March with the campaign being launched to attract youth students from distinguished national Universities to apply for the peace program. In addition a number of other Global Grants are in progress at various stages.

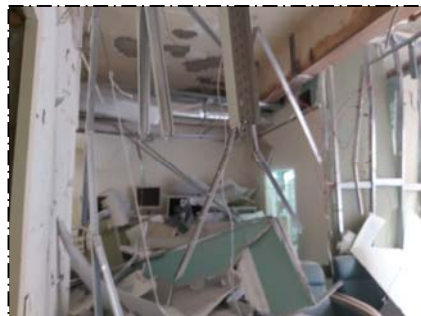
In reference to the Beirut Port explosion, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has been working tirelessly with its local and international partners since 4 August 2020 to raise funds, identify suppliers and prepare the Global Grant application for submission to the TRF for the supply of medical equipment for the **Karantina Public Hospital Paediatric Ward and Operating Theater for Paediatric and Neonatal patients. We are happy to announce that on 30 March 2021 we received notification from the TRF that the Global Grant for the Hospital project had been approved.** This key milestone in the project represents the culmination of more than 6 months of dedication and effort by Rotarians across North America, the UK and Europe in tandem with Lebanon. With more than 150 Rotary clubs involved worldwide including DDF contributions from 7 Districts this project is testimony to the power of International Rotary

collaboration and is indeed a showcase for the global Rotary family of goodwill and service for a truly worthy cause – children! We thank from the bottom of our hearts all Clubs and Districts involved to say nothing especially of our international sponsors and coordinating partners who have sacrificed from their precious time and worked tirelessly with us throughout to ensure that we reach our objective – for that and much more we salute You! The project now moves into the next phase with the purchase of equipment before it is ultimately installed and handed over to the Hospital. We will continue to update you of the progress.

Our youth and our future, our Rotaractors and Interactors, also continue with energy and enthusiasm to serve the community including a recent emphasis on a subject close to our hearts – the environment – via a beach cleanup.

With only three months to go till the end of the Rotary Year there is still so much to be done and so little time to do it in but with the Rotary wheel relentlessly turning it is the commitment and dedication of our club members in collaboration with our partners which ensures continuity and continued success!

Sincerely,
P. Habib Saba



Karantina Hospital - Paediatric Wing in the aftermath of the 4 August 2020
Beirut Port Explosion

Online Business Meeting With George Beyrouti
Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan - Past President
"THE NEWGEN PEACE BUILDERS' PROJECT"

March 2, 2021

This meeting was dedicated to updating the club members on the progress of all club projects and the status of the several global grants in the pipeline. On the agenda was the introduction of the approved 90,000 Dollars GG, NewGen Peace Building program and presented by PP George Beyrouti.

NewGen Peacebuilders is an award-winning peace education, training and mentoring program that equips people to build peace, repeat and BE the peace in their communities, countries and the world. Patricia Shafer, the Executive Director of this program, has successfully conducted this program in several countries in the world and will do so in Lebanon, first country in the Middle East.

The whole premise of this program is the belief that young people are "our head, heart, and hands for hope and healing in the world. They seek a new way, and they don't want to wait" in the words of the director. There are estimated 3 billion people under the age of 30 in the world, and today's young people are fully aware of local, regional and global issues. Young people are rarely invited to participate and create in peace projects locally and globally as reported in a UN report titled The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, peace and Security. NewGen PeaceBuilders program helps young people understand frameworks related to power, conflict, violence and peace; develop project planning and management skills; and embrace peace building as a personal responsibility.

In the Lebanon context, RCBC is the lead sponsor of this GG with local partners: RC Tripoli Maarad, RC Keserouan, RC Beyrouth and RC Saïda. The project was made possible by The Rotary Foundation, District 2452 and District 7570 in USA.

All the major universities in Lebanon have been contacted. Ten top universities showed great interest. Brochures, flyers, posters and all necessary material has been sent to universities. The program is fully funded so the students can participate at no cost. The aim is to have 100 students from across Lebanon enroll in the program and conduct the projects in teams, hopefully in person or hybrid if Covid conditions do not permit the personal meetings. The below brochure and flyers are part of the informational package.

Your support in providing candidates that fit the criteria will be valuable. Let us all work together to BUILD, PROMOTE and BE THE PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY.





In 2021, NewGen PeacebuildersSM – a global, award-winning peace education, training and mentoring program – will be available in Lebanon for the first time. Up to 100 students (ages 18-25) from universities/campuses across Lebanon will be accepted into the program for the opportunity to:

- Explore frameworks & tools for peacebuilding
- Design and implement team peace projects
- Create positive change in local communities
- Receive a peacebuilder certification

Program Summary and FAQs: tinyurl.com/NGP-LebanonFAQs
NewGen Peacebuilders Overview: tinyurl.com/NGP-Brochure2020
Facebook: facebook.com/NGPLebanon

Please see back for more information and program calendar



This program is supported by a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and contributions from Rotary Clubs and Districts in Lebanon and the USA. Primary host sponsor is the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, District 2452, Lebanon, and the primary international partner is District 7570, USA.

LEARN MORE! REGISTER FOR A VIRTUAL INTEREST MEETING

Thu., Mar. 25, 6:00-7:30pm
tinyurl.com/NGP-LebanonMar25
Wed., Mar. 31, 6:00-7:30pm
tinyurl.com/NGP-LebanonMar31
Tue., Apr. 6, 6:00-7:30pm
tinyurl.com/NGP-LebanonApr6
Thu., Apr. 15, 6:00-7:30pm
tinyurl.com/NGP-LebanonApr15

APPLY TODAY PARTICIPATION IS FREE

Applications accepted
Mar. 15 – Apr. 23, 2021
tinyurl.com/NGP-Lebanon2021

Questions: George Beyrouti
gbeyrouti@hotmail.com

Build Peace. Be The Peace. **LEBANON 2021**

EXPLORE

The NewGen PeacebuildersSM program helps young people understand frameworks related to conflict, violence and peace; develop project planning and management skills; and embrace peacebuilding as a personal responsibility. NewGen Peacebuilders programs have been delivered or are in development on four continents, and have been recognized by the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

CREATE

NewGen Peacebuilders – Lebanon 2021 will include interactive discussions, exercises and tools for positive peacebuilding. Participants will analyze issues and conflicts, imagine innovative solutions, and implement team peace projects that create positive change in their communities.



INSPIRE

The positive impact and results of team peace projects designed and implemented by participants will be shared with friends, family and communities in a public YOUNITEDSM celebration timed with the International Day of Peace.



Questions: George Beyrouti: gbeyrouti@hotmail.com

NEWGEN PEACEBUILDERS EXPERIENCE & BENEFITS

Many alumni have received local, national and international awards, recognition and scholarships. Alumni become part of a global network of young peacebuilders with access to academic and career opportunities.

“Becoming a certified NewGen Peacebuilder opened my eyes to the importance of peace education and peacebuilding as a process that community leaders can use to solve problems. The experience opened new doors for me, including a job as a peace education coordinator, and full scholarships to learn even more about peace, security and strategic studies.”



I hope that any young person that has the opportunity to participate in NewGen Peacebuilders does it. ”

Jelena Jevtić

2017 Alumna; Program Coordinator, NewGen Peacebuilders

Copyright ©2021 All Rights Reserved. NewGen PeacebuildersSM is a program of international nonprofit Mothering Across ContinentsSM. Front Image: Alan Gignoux/Alamy Stock Photo



PROGRAM CALENDAR

Training workshops, team peace project planning and project mentoring will combine VIRTUAL and small group in-person discussions.

Note:

Final determination of the format of workshops will reflect COVID-19 health distancing guidelines.

STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Mar. 15 – Apr. 23

PARTICIPANTS NOTIFIED

May 7

PROGRAM KICK-OFF

May 24

PRE-PROGRAM SURVEYS/ PRE-READS

May 24 – Jun. 18

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Workshop I: Jun. 18-19

Workshop II: Jun. 25-26

Workshop III: Jul. 2-3

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Jul. 5 - Aug. 28

NEWGEN PEACEBUILDERS YOUNITEDSM CELEBRATION

Sep. 18



@NewGen_Peace | info@newgenpeace.org



We're excited to announce that the global, award-winning NewGen Peacebuilders program will soon be available for the first time in Lebanon. This initiative is sponsored and fully funded by Rotary clubs from Lebanon and the USA, supported by a global grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Up to 100 students can participate for free.

Learn about the Eight Pillars of Peace and other positive peacebuilding tools, and participate in community-based team peace projects. International expert facilitators will deliver the program, assisted by local Rotary & Rotaract volunteers.

APPLY on line starting March 15 until April 23, 2021

[Tinyurl.com/NGP-Lebanon2021](https://tinyurl.com/NGP-Lebanon2021)

For more information, contact: gbeyrouti@hotmail.com

Online Business Meeting With Mr. Kyle Chomei Kamal Helou

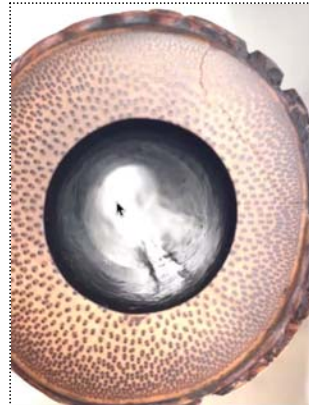
Founder Shinkukan NGO

"THE SHAKUHACHI JOURNEY: HONKYOKU AND THE ESSENCE OF SUI-ZEN MEDITATION"

March 9, 2021

Mr. Kyle Chomei is a master instructor of both Shotokan Karate-Do and Shakuhachi. A philosophy graduate of Villanova University, with a focus on Far East philosophy and Zen, the essence of harmony and inner peace through breath and meditation. In 2013, he founded Shinkukan (NGO) for the promotion of core moral values, principles and ideals through Japanese traditional arts. Following the Beirut explosion on August 4, his efforts shifted drastically towards relief aid.

This presentation took us through a calm and meditative vibe, a much needed respite in these troubled times. Sui-Zen translates into " Exhaling the sound of Zen" which leads to peace and harmony. The essence of it is to breathe, create sound and experience the infinite potential that lies within us and through which we are connected. Sui-Zen is the experience of breath and sound in the tradition of the Zen Monk order. A live demonstration emanating with soothing sounds and notes was much enjoyed and appreciated. Among our many guests that evening, we had the honor of hosting HE Mohammad Harake, our ex Ambassador of Lebanon to Japan and our program chair, RT. Excellency Samir el Khoury who was also an ex Ambassador to Japan. They both shared their rich experiences of the lovely tour they had in Japan.



Online Business Meeting With Mr. Karim Abu-Haydar

Interim Head of ACS

"TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES"

March 16, 2021

With a rich and extensive CV, the qualifications that Mr. Abu-Haydar brings to the world of schools and education are numerous. He is skilled at analyzing issues to generate effective solutions. He is an expert at propelling a culture of empathy and respect among working groups; experienced in designing student focused programs, leading schools to incorporate technology and has a proven track record in educational and administrative disciplines. With more than 25 years experience in managing K-12 education programs, his career has taken him to Europe, Middle East and the US where he served in senior roles in schools. He also adds to this being the mayor of Hammana while working with the World Bank to secure funding for renovation and rebuilding city infrastructures.




Mr. Abu-Haydar commenced his very extensive presentation with identifying the major stakeholders in the school world: educational institutions, teachers, parents and students. He presented the challenges of each stakeholder during the pandemic and shared the solutions ACS(American Community School) provided to ease the transition into virtual learning to maximize efficiency and minimize the negative impact. In general and compared to other schools, Mr. Abu-Haydar feels that ACS has fared well so far compared to other schools.

The attached slides will give a clear picture of the challenges for all stakeholders and the extensive change that the virtual world imposed.

Teachers


Classroom Dynamics - new reality

- Classroom management
 - Totally new behaviors emerge
 - Teacher unable to read body language
 - How to give non-verbal cues
 - Expecting students to have cameras on all the time
 - Social emotional concerns and support for students
- Other difficulties
 - Connectivity
 - Electricity
 - Parents
 - Demands and follow-up
 - Classwork and homework
 - Parent as a teacher
 - Tutoring
 - Family to manage



Parents

- Fears
 - Not going to cover curriculum
 - My child is behind
 - My niece at School XX is
 - What about next year
 - Health related fears projected on school and teachers
- Why do I have to do your job (school and teacher)
 - Maintain a home schedule
 - Prepare learning space
 - Get them online
 - Homework and feeling they must reteach the materials
 - Behavior management



Online Business Meeting With Ms Ghina Anani

Director of NGO ABAAD

COMBATTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN LEBANON DURING EXCEPTIONAL TIMES: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE WORK OF ABAAD

March 16, 2021

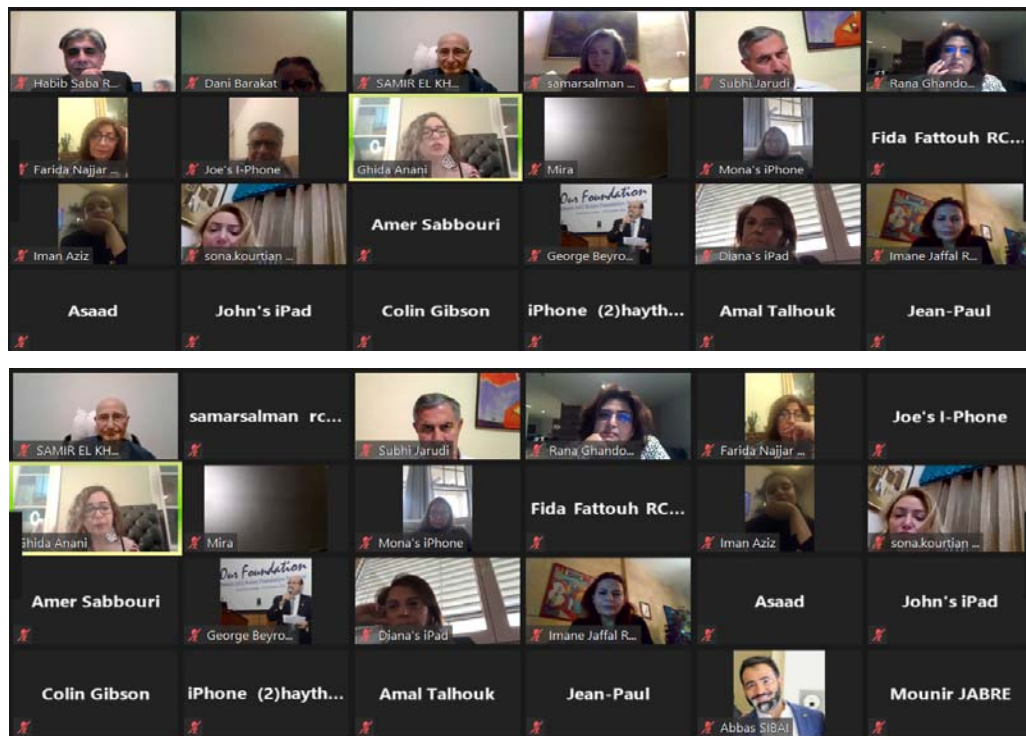
Ghida Anani is the founder and director of ABAAD- Resource Center for Gender Equality, a leading CSO in the region advocating for gender equality, women's rights and the political participation of women.



Ms. Anani is putting in place the infrastructure for a sustainable system of protection against gender-based violence. She engages stakeholders that others avoid: men, parliamentarians and ministers, and religious leaders. She has led a number of public opinion campaigns, notably the #Undress522 which resulted in a historical parliamentary vote, repealing Article 522- the infamous "rape-marriage" law from the Lebanese Penal Code. In 2019, the campaign received the first prize "UN SDG Award" for the most impactful campaign.

As an expert in child protection and GBV, Ms Anani published a number of studies, training kits and community educational materials on these subjects in Lebanon and the MENA region. Her NGO has over 150 employees all over the country and a hotline for victims to call and receive the help needed. Her work during the epidemic intensified due to the worsening economic, social and health situations in the country. Victims receive needed assistance from three months to one year, during which a high degree of rehabilitation is required to have the victims resume somehow normal lives.

The work of Ms Anani and ABAAD requires perseverance and lots of community support as it brings to light the agony of those suffering in needless silence. Wishing Ghida lots of success in her noble work.



Online Business Meeting With Ms Diana Kaissy
Executive Director- Lebanese Oil & Gas Initiative (LOGI)

"LEBANON MARITIME BORDER DISPUTE:

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THAT EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT"

March 30, 2021



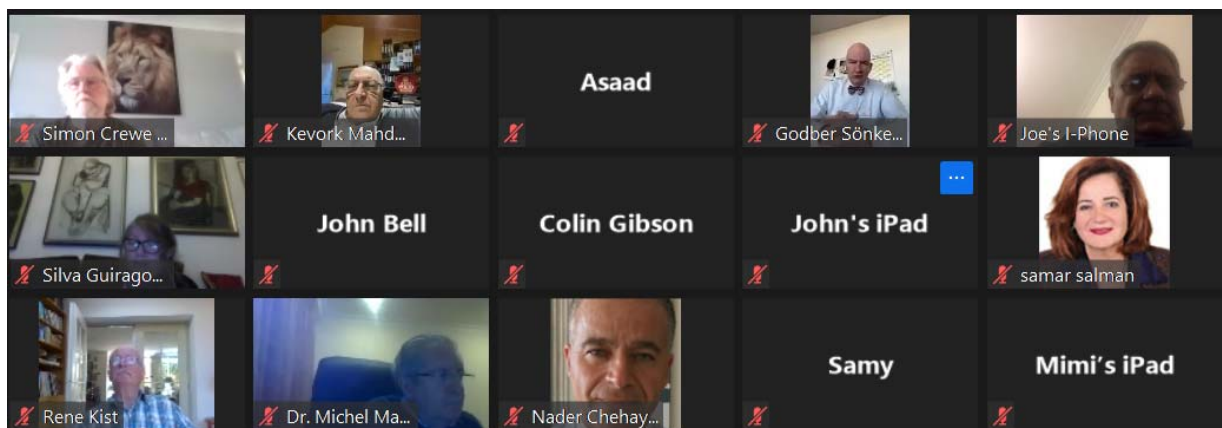
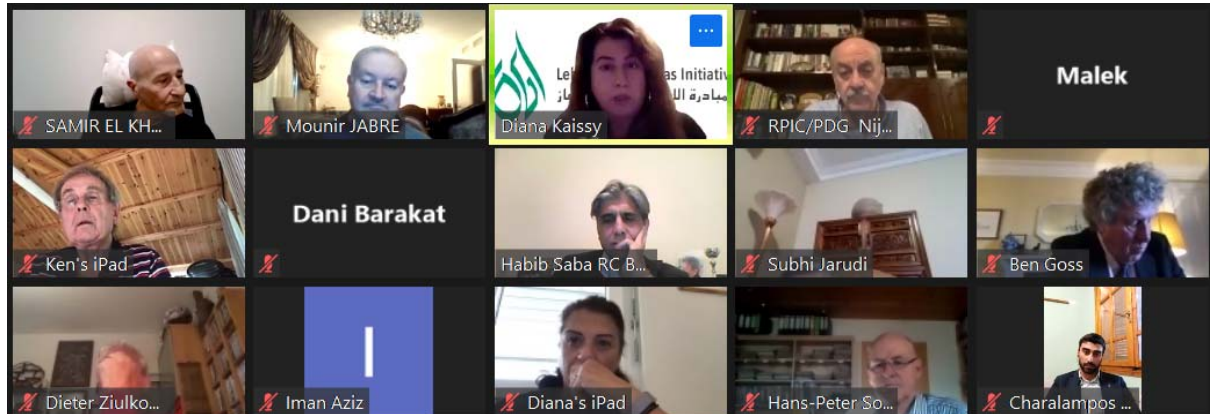
On March 30, RCBC hosted Ms. Diana Kaissy the Executive Director- Lebanese Oil & Gas Initiative (LOGI) an NGO striving to ensure transparency on how governments deal with Oil & Gas exploration in Lebanon. The talk titled Lebanon Maritime Border Dispute: What are the issues that Every Citizen needs to know. Maritime border issues in the East Mediterranean are many according to Ms. Kaissy. In addition to Lebanon and Israel there are disputes between Greece and Turkey, Turkey and Cyprus and more recently between Lebanon and Syria in the North.

The offshore exploration journey was kick started in 2010 when Parliament passed legislation that set the framework of offshore exploration, the offshore area totaling 22000 sq/km., which is double the land area of Lebanon was divided into 10 blocs. In 2017 After much delay, the government licensed blocs 4 and 9 to a consortium led by Total and ENI under a production sharing agreement.

The Maritime border issue with Israel dates to 2007 when Lebanon was negotiating with Cyprus the delineation of the maritime borders between the two countries. An agreement was reached but was never ratified by parliament. The significance of this morphs into the current dispute with Israel. The dispute really centers on how you measure the maritime borders and what is your starting point on land. Through an error in its first attempt with Cyprus, Lebanon surrendered an area of 860 Sq.Km. In 2010, Lebanon redrafted its Maritime borders coordinates and were deposited at the UN as a preliminary draft. In 2011, Lebanon contracted UKHO (United Kingdom Hydrographic Organization) for their opinion. UKHO recommendation, based on technical review was that Lebanon was actually entitled to an additional 1300sq.KM.

In 2012, the US entered the scene through ambassador F. Hoff who wanted to act as a mediator between Lebanon and Israel. The proposed "Hoff line" gave Lebanon 55% of the disputed original 860 sq.km. and the balance to Israel totally ignoring the additional area Lebanon was claiming. In October 2020, another round of talks under the auspices of UN started at the UN headquarters in the south to settle this matter. After 4 rounds of indirect talks the negotiations were halted as Lebanon made its legitimate claim for the 1430 sq.km. The significance of this is that half of a newly discovered gas field in Israel called Karish falls in the newly claimed Lebanese waters.

Currently, the talks are on hold pending the formation of a new Lebanese government. At the end geopolitical considerations will come into play to resolve this issue once and for all.



RCBC in Action

March 1, 2021

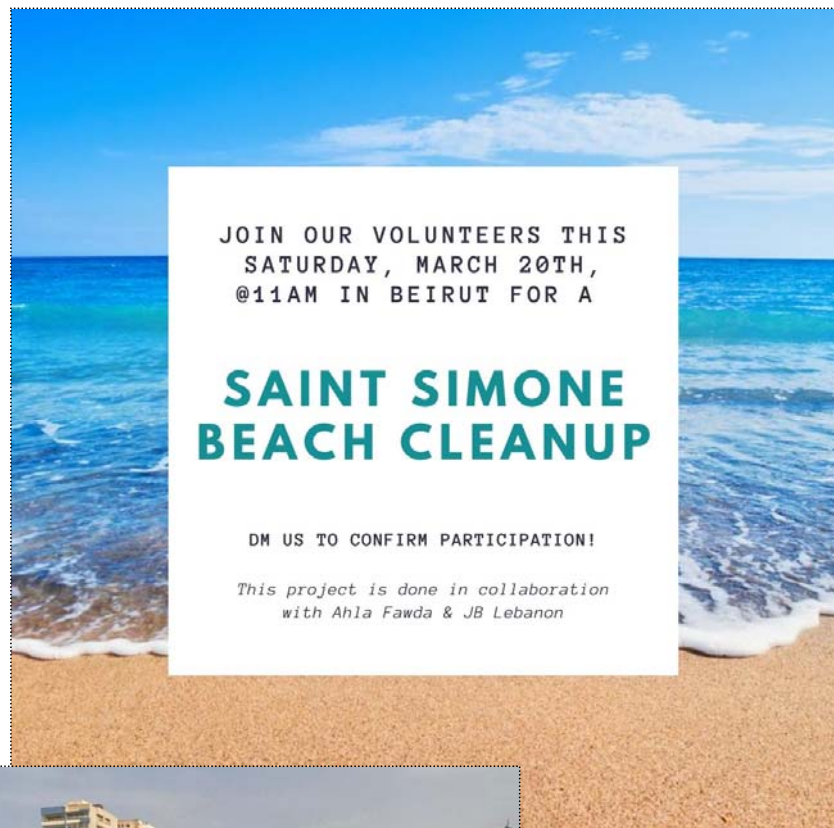
On 1 March 2021 RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, represented by P Habib Saba, PE Sona Kourtian, PN Farida Najjar and P Carla Abou Diab (Rotaract Club Beirut Cosmopolitan), visited the respected NGO Arc En Ciel to handover medical equipment including medical beds, wheel and medical chairs and PPE equipment. This handover was part of a Rotary Lebanon initiative spearheaded by RC Beirut Metropolitan in collaboration with Rotary France to deliver medical equipment to NGOs, Hospitals, Medical Centers, etc throughout Lebanon. The staff at Arc En Ciel were also kind enough to give us a tour of their workshops of which a highlight was the Pottery workshop. Thank you Arc En Ciel for your hospitality and your noble work in aid of the handicapped and vulnerable.



RCBC Interact Club in Action

March 20, 2021

RCBC Interact Club President Said el Kadi led a group of the club volunteers in a community service project on Saturday March 20. The project was in collaboration with NGO Ahla Fawda and JB Lebanon.



Many Happy Birthday Returns

March

Karin Saab
Lina Shair
Rana Salhab
Raouf Malak

THE END