



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – May & June 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*

“Letter from the Editor”

The year of Resilience

“ It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity....it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair” excerpted from Charles Dickens in the Tale of Two Cities.

The above quote vividly conveys the state of the world for the past few months. We were oscillating between hope and despair during the worst crisis that the world was thrown in since the pandemic of 1918. We were faced with existential issues on daily basis, but never lost sight that our general health and judicious approach to fight the virus was paramount. We always questioned our ability to carry on in these dire circumstances but we dug deep into ourselves as responsible individuals and Rotarians to carry on and defy the status quo. The key word was ADAPT and move on. And so we did!

The change and adaptation started at the top with RI and trickled all the way down to districts and clubs. ZOOM became a household name, and it really amplified RI 2019-2020 theme, Rotary Connects the World, by bringing clubs together, enhanced attendance, allowed for more guest speakers from around the world. District Conferences became virtual, RI Convention was more attended than any other year. Technology won the battle of keeping us connected in these dire times. Projects to fight Covid19 were initiated world wide, funds were diverted to that purpose, millions of dollars spent, thousands of food boxes delivered to the needy among us. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interact Clubs all pulled together to extend the helping hand where needed.

RCBC Website

www.rcbcebanon.org

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

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

MARHABA EDITOR

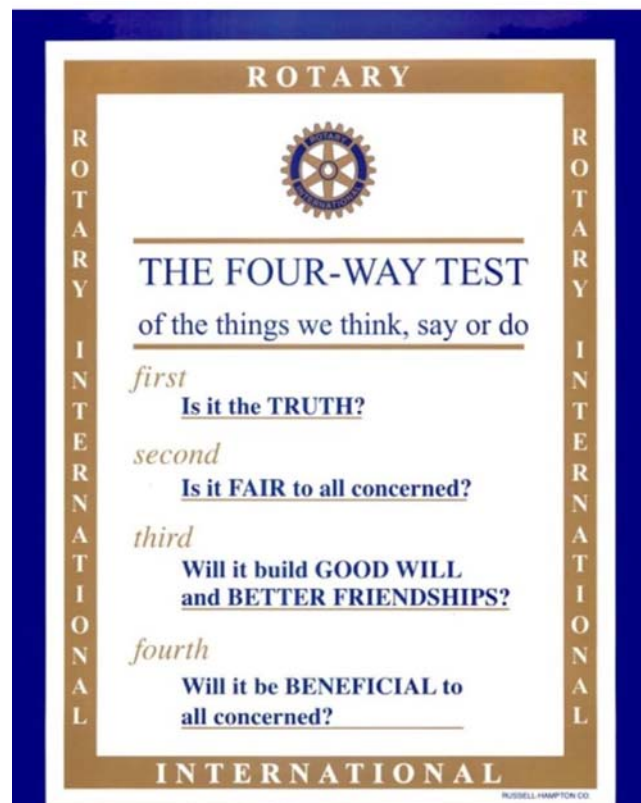
IPP Mona Jarudi

monajarudi@gmail.com

In the midst of all this, RCBC had a great year with its President, Board and members all working together to alleviate the hunger and suffering of the underprivileged. Our membership grew and many Global Grants were realized after few years of hard work. Covid19 response was impressive and ongoing. Despite all the challenges, we soldiered on!

Congratulations RCBC! And as we bid farewell to RY 19-20, we extend our best wishes for continued success in the future!

IPP Mona Jarudi



Online Business Meeting

The Rotary Club of Sahel Metn Jointly with

Rotary Club of Aley, Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan , Rotary Club of Batroun And Rotary Club of Zahle
with Pr. Pierre Bou Khalil,

Chief Pulmonary Critical Care-American University of Beirut

“CORONA VIRUS (COVID19) SITUATION IN LEBANON”

May 4,2020

This meeting was hosted by RC Sahel Metn jointly with RC Clubs of Aley, Beirut Cosmopolitan, RC Batroun and RC Zahle-Bekaa.

Dr. Bou Khalil gave a synopsis about Corona virus which belongs to a family of viruses that have been menacing humans for a long time. They can cause illnesses such as the common cold, SARS and MERS. In March 2020, WHO declared the Covid19 outbreak a pandemic. The virus spread easily among people through respiratory droplets (cough, sneeze or talk), and it can spread through touching surfaces and then touching the face.

This virus is the worst thing that happened to the world since the Plague of 1918. Countries were in lockdowns; people were dying in the thousands and up till now governments around the world are figuring out what is the safest way to start releasing the lockdown so that the economies will start without causing a resurgence in the virus. Ultimately, herd immunity will be the last resort, albeit with people exercising vigilance in wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.



Joint Online Business meeting with The Rotary Club of Kesrouan

With Mr. Constantin Salameh

Senior Investment Advisor and member of the Investment Committee for Berytech Fund I and II

“ THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE LEBANESE ECONOMY ”

May 5, 2020

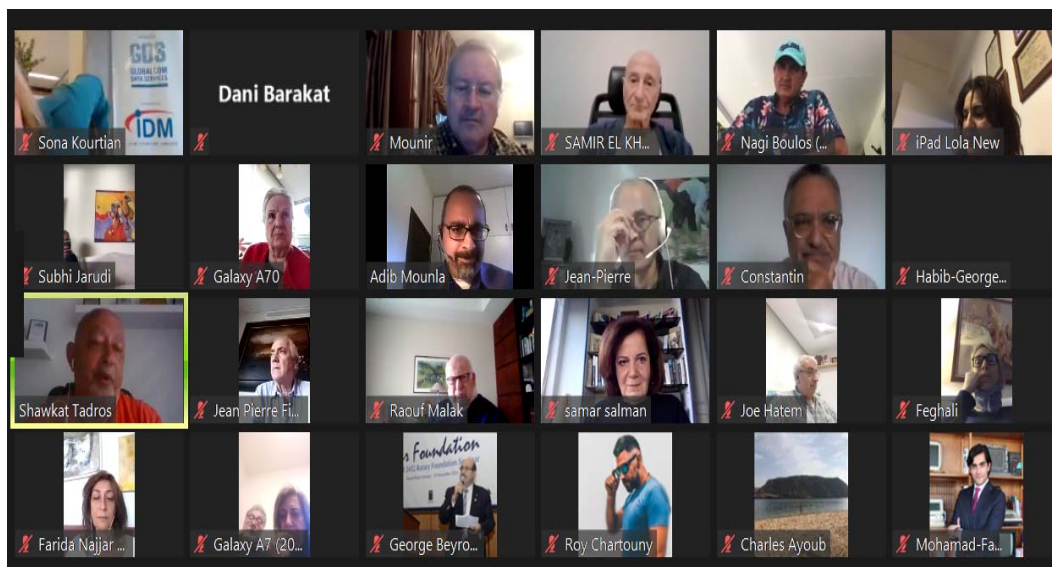
The meeting was well attended with DG Shawkat Tadros and RC Kesrouan President Jean Pierre Asmar.

“Humanity’s greatest advances are not in its innovative discoveries, but in how these discoveries are applied to reduce poverty and inequalities”. This was the speaker’s introduction into his very detailed and very interesting talk.

Mr. Salameh has a very rich resume. He earned his BSc in Engineering and Solar Energy with honors from King’s College, UK, then a MSc in Renewable Energy from MIT, USA followed by an MBA, International Finance Focus.

The speaker started his talk by pointing out the difference between Social Enterprise and a Charity/NGO. The primary driver for an NGO is social value creation with the funding coming from donations and grants, while the Social Enterprise is social value creation plus revenue generation. There are challenges facing social enterprises like access to funding, access to talent, access to markets and innovative technology, access to advisory service and networks and access to clear social impact.

Social enterprise will play a critical role during the multifaceted crisis that Lebanon will be experiencing over the next few years. Large funding sources will be available to help finance and scale social enterprises active in the agricultural, environment, clean technology, rural development, youth and women health and infrastructure sectors. It is, however, very critical for social enterprise to develop the foundations for investment and sound governance to attract international and regional donors. Mr. Salameh concludes his talk with these words: “ By aligning your unique competency with your passion and your spirituality and putting it to the service of the community, you will be well positioned to have a meaningful life.”



Joint Online Business meeting with The Rotary Club of Sahel Metn

With Mr. Bassel Assah

Head of information Security Division at Group Bankmed

“ CYBER SECURITY IN TIME OF COVID19”

May 12,2020

This very relevant and very scientific talk covered Pre Covid19 trends in cyber security and trends after the crisis. The trends before the pandemic were data breaches, mobile devices risks, leaky clouds, rogue states and lack of security awareness. According to Mr. Assah, there were 18 biggest data breaches in this century. Yahoo, Marriott, Uber, eBay to name lost millions of dollars due to the breaches. Between 2018 and 2023, over 146 billion records are expected to be exposed through data breaching, which results in customer loss and loss of revenue. The global average cost of data breach in 2018 was \$3.86million and for US companies \$7.91 million. 64% of customers will not do business with a breached company, and to fix those breaches requires months to discover. Email is responsible for 92% of malware infections through phishing scams.



Post Covid19, a dramatic shift took place in how work is conducted. The focus shifted to online meetings and classes, more fake news disseminated and conferences became virtual. This provided fertile grounds for hackers to infiltrate and cause damage, using Covid19 fear. Phishing campaigns and malware distribution, Ransomware shutting down medical and scientific facilities where individuals were being tested and where vaccines are being developed. Attacks against critical organizations like WHO.

Ransomware targeting mobile phones using apps that claim to provide information on the virus to extract payments. Fraud schemes tricking people into buying PPE, masks and sanitizers. And worst of all, spreading fake news to create panic and social instability.

What are the lines of defense?

- Confirm origin of communication.
- Don't provide medical or financial personal information unless it is a reliable channel.
- Don't open links or download files from unknown senders.
- Share proven information only.
- Never give credit or debit card information over the phone or web.

Joint Online Business meeting with The Rotary Club De Beyrouth

With Peter Kyle

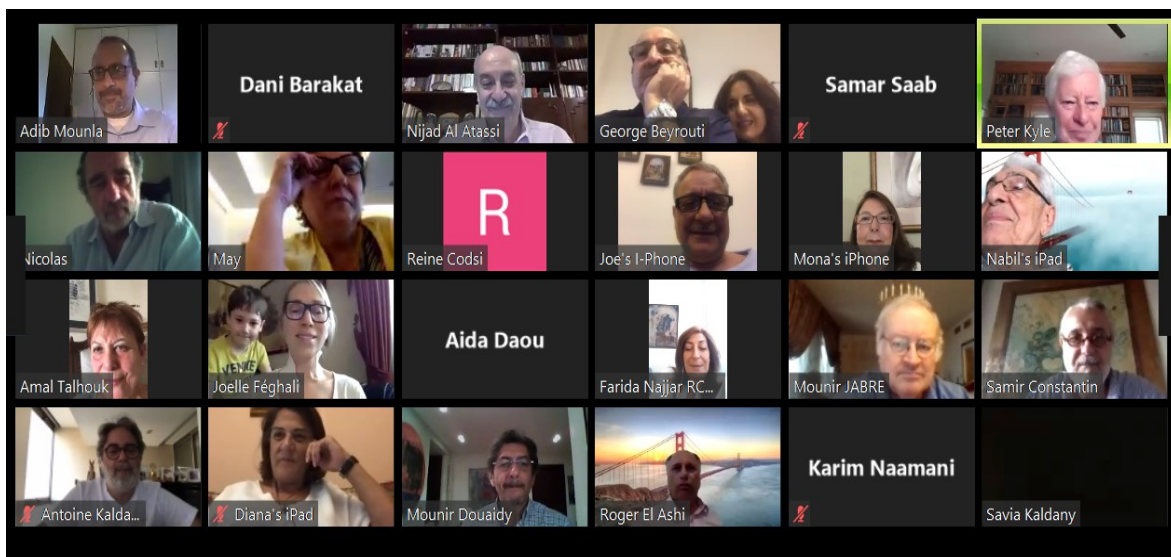
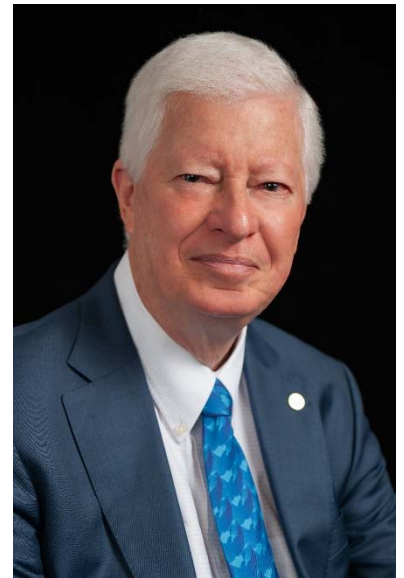
Rotary International Director and Dean of the Rotary Representative Network

“ROTARY’S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS”

May 19,2020

Born in New Zealand, our prominent guest speaker, came to USA in 1973 for his post graduate degree in Law as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Held several positions in the corporate world including World Bank. He joined Rotary in 1976 and was very active in the Rotary Alumni and Peace Fellow program. Peter is a dedicated, energetic Rotarian who is tireless in spreading the mission and vision of Rotary.

In his remarks, Mr. Kyle started by a brief history of Rotary and the UN. The two organizations share a history of working together toward world understanding and peace. The story of RI’s role in the creation of the UN is not well known. In 1940 in Havana, the “Resolution of Human Rights” was signed. In 1942, a gathering of peace planners in London gave birth to UNESCO. In 1945, there were very few organizations with the reach that Rotary had. At the UN Charter Conference, RI played an important role with its top leadership part of the 23 observers. The first “UN week in Rotary” was declared in November of 1945. For ten years after, Rotary was educating the world about the promise of UN. With the advent of the cold war, Rotary took a hiatus of 30 years. In the mid 80’s, Rotary started its work with the Polio Plus program, it realized that partnering with UNICEF and WHO was a necessity so Rotary re-established its presence at the UN in NY, Geneva, Vienna and the UNESCO in Paris. This relation recently was renewed for another five years. Because of its work on Polio, Rotary remains the most respected NGO in the UN system.



Online Club Meeting Discussion

“RCBC PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UPDATES & GOVERNOR-NOMINEE-DESIGNATE ELECTIONS PROCESS

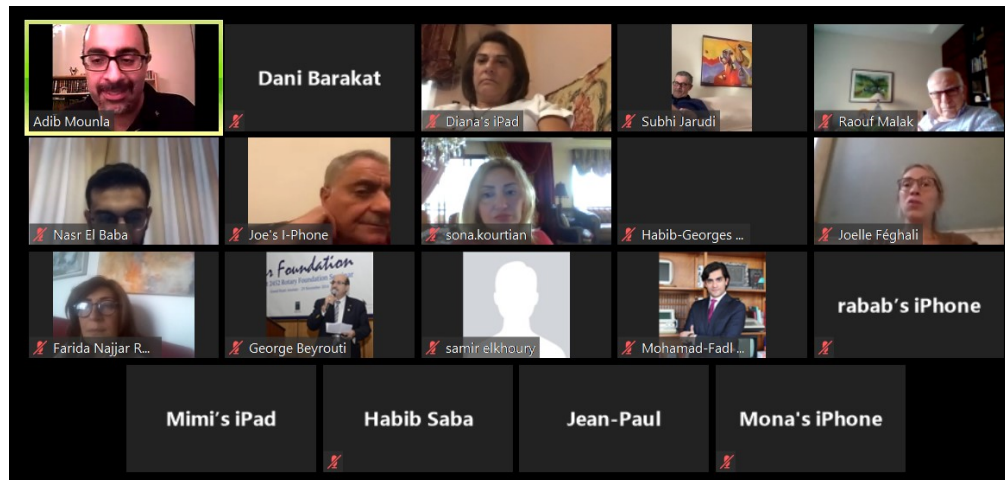
May 22,2020

On Friday May 22, an internal business meeting was held for information and updates. P Adib and PP George Beyrouiti went over all club projects to date, those handed over and the projects in the piping line.

The club was also informed about the election process that took place for DGN position for RY 2022-2023.

PP George Azar won the nomination.

PP George also informed the club members about the candidate who sought the club assistance to attend the water sanitation program in the Netherlands. The club board approved the candidate after due process was observed.



Joint Online Business meeting with The Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos

With Mrs. Karen Boustany

Rotary International Director and Dean of the Rotary Representative Network

“LINK NGO”

May 26,2020

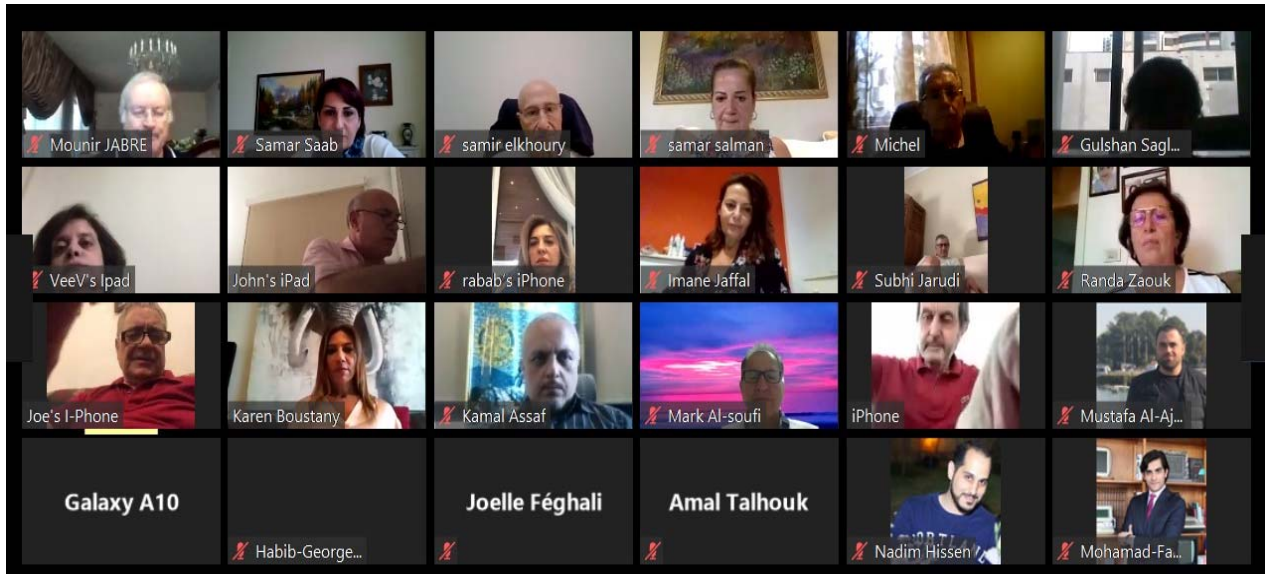
The guest speaker is an Award-winning Media Personality, Owner and GM of Strategy Business Communication sarl, cofounder of LALS and CEO of the Luxury Network Lebanon.

Ms. Boustany is fiercely passionate about Lebanon, and shares our frustration about the general conditions in our country that were imposed upon the population. She is a social activist, influencer and hands on person. She has a successful tv show, Names from History, where she sheds the light on prominent Lebanese in the diaspora and indirectly solicit their help for the needy in Lebanon, thus giving birth in September to her NGO LINK. She is also affiliated with the NGO, Imm el Nour, that deals with rehabilitating youth from their drug addiction.



Before Covid19, Lebanon was experiencing economic and social unrest, over 50% of its population is under poverty line and most are experiencing hunger. This fueled the energy and passion of Ms Boustany even more to try to have food boxes distributed to the needy, and to create job opportunities for the youth who are experiencing the highest unemployment rate.

Ms Boustany was exploring possibilities of collaborating with Rotary Clubs to find more ways and means of serving our community and alleviating some of the suffering.

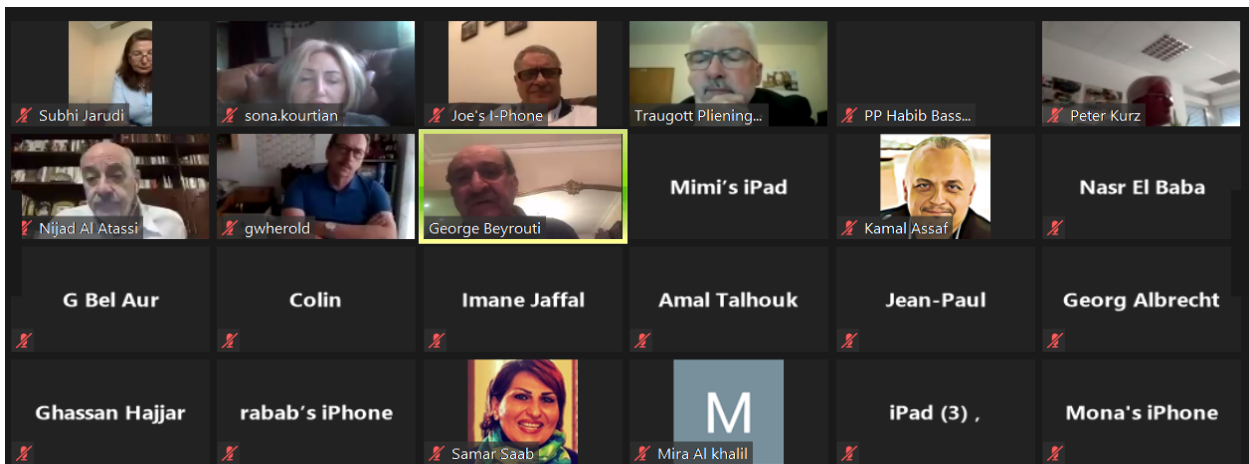


Joint Online Business meeting with The Rotary Club of RC Bietigheim- Vaihingen

June 2,2020

RCBC has a long history of collaboration between our club and few clubs in Germany, a framework laid many years ago by our departed PP Tony Asfour.

The meeting was attended by P Traugott Plieninger , and many members and guests from both clubs. Lebanese- German relations were highlighted after Presidents of both clubs shared their projects to date. There was promise of future collaboration on certain projects, to promote service and friendship among the clubs.



Joint Online Business meeting with RC Tripoli Cosmopolis and RC Tyre Europa

With Mr. Dany Obeid

“BEEKEEPING IN LEBANON”

June 9,2020

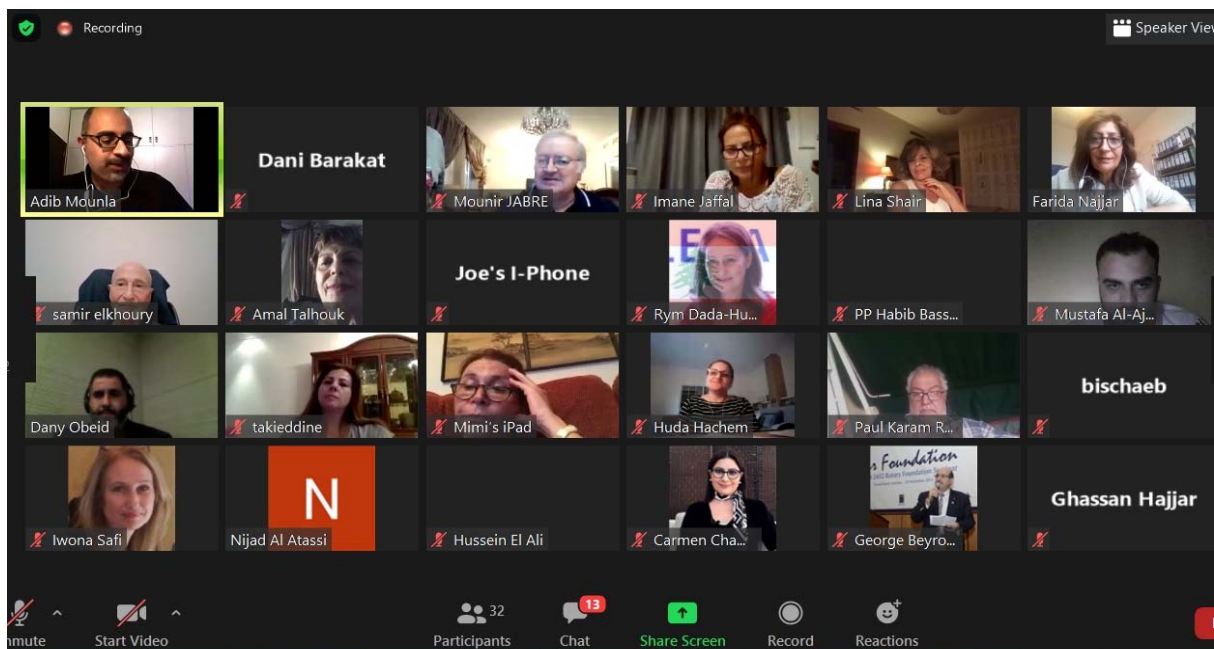
Apiculture is a very specialized field in Lebanon which boasts of 5800 beekeepers managing 270,000 beehives with an average of 50 beehives per beekeeper. The nature and vegetation in Lebanon allow for rich varieties of honey with distinct flavors that range from floral to woody to herbal depending on the location of the bee activity.

In a detailed and interesting presentation, Mr. Obeid touched upon all the important aspects of Apiculture in Lebanon. There are 22000 species of bees in the world, 9 of them give us honey. Bees live in hives, trees or in rock cavities and they follow a hierarchical order that dictates their function. The Queen is the only fertile female in the colony and lives between one to seven years. Along with the workers, a beehive is tightly organized.



Mr. Obeid went on to talk about the different beehive products and their uses, how is honey made, the variations in color and taste and the health benefits of honey. There is ongoing research on beehive products, Melliferous plants mapping, queen rearing, bee tourism and Apitherapy. At the same time there is fear of the bee population declining due to pesticides use, genetically modified plants, magnetic waves and factories waste. All the harm imposed by unsafe and irresponsible practices will affect the bee population which can impact the pollination rate which will in turn affect the agricultural produce we have.

Nature is a chain linking all its living matter together. One misstep affecting one link in the chain will have its adverse effects on the rest of the chain.



Online Business meeting

RCBC Members Classification Talk

With Rotary Scholarship Candidate Michel Frem

June 16,2020

Per tradition, on Tuesday July 16, four new members in RCBC shared with the members their professions and career paths, their passion and reasons to join the Rotary Family. Welcome again, Muhammad Harake, Nasr el Baba, Colin Gibson and Ronnie Eid.

Another presenter Michel Frem, an accomplished young man who won a scholarship to go to Netherlands for a Master's degree in Water Sanitation and Health, one of RI's areas of focus. RCBC is one of his sponsors, alongside other local clubs and TRF. We wish Michel good luck in his studies abroad and we hope that Lebanon will be a beneficiary of his expertise in the future.

RCBC Members Classification Talk Rotary Scholarship Candidate Michel Frem

Online Meeting

Tuesday June 16,2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859464333>

Meeting ID: 878 5946 4333



**Michel
Frem**



**Mohamad
Harake**



**Nasr
El Baba**



**Roni
Eid**



**Colin
Gibson**



HANDOVER

Handover Event At The AUBMC Ophthalmology Department

Donation Of A Zeus MS39 Eye Machine

Thursay May 21, 2020



Handover Of The Lebanese Red Cross Ambulance

BISCO - Bchamoun

Wednesday May 27th, 2020



 AN-NAHAR

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan charity aids

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, jointly with other Lebanese and international clubs, "will soon be delivering an ambulance to the relevant party" according to a statement released by the RCBC.

The Club has also provided food boxes to communities in need, as well as a total of 22 wheelchairs to several NGOs including Darb el Sama, Inta Akhi, Mohamad Khaled Institute, Dar Al Ajaza al Islamiyah, Amel Association, and Child and Mother Welfare Society. The RCBC also "co-financed with Heartbeat 10 heart surgeries for children from underprivileged communities and provided medical equipment to multiple hospitals and health care providers."





Disaster Response Grant
RCBC distribution for
PPE to Sacre Coeur Hospital Hazmieh
Wednesday June 3,2020



Food Boxes Distribution

Saturday June 20, 2020

On Saturday June 20, RCBC together with BCRAC and ICBC distributed 100 food boxes to needy families in Sabra, Chatila, Furn el Chenab, Basta, Ouzai, Aramoun, Bchemoun and Nabaa.



GG Handover Ceremony at AUBMC
For
Gift of Life
Tuesday June 30, 2020

On Tuesday June 30, RCBC members attended the GG handover ceremony at AUBMC for Gift of Life. RCBC was one of the sponsors for this GG that was led by RC Sahel el Metn and its President Carmen Chammas.



SEMINARS

ROTARY 7TH DISTRICT 2452 DIGITAL CONFERENCE

May 28th - 30th 2020

On Thursday May 28, 2020, District Governor (D 2452) Mr. Shawkat Tadros held the first ever virtual annual district conference in Amman, Jordan. RI Director Hipolito Ferreira opened the conference with encouraging and inspiring message and DG Tadros followed with words of gratitude for everyone who worked hard to accomplish such a difficult task in these unprecedented times.

The conference speakers were experts in the field of environment and green buildings with emphasis on the role of the young in a better future.

Opening ceremony: **congratulations** wishing you all the success 🙌🙏🙏



RI conference with RI President Mark Maloney

June 19, 2020

On June 19, we participated in a webinar where RI President Mark Maloney spoke about Strengthening Relations between Rotary, Rotaract and Young Professionals. It was a very interesting webinar as RI is trying to navigate the best possible way out of the global crisis we are faced with.



What is Rotary ?


Rotary is a global network of
1.2 million neighbors, friends,
leaders, and problem-solvers
who see a world where people
unite and take action
to create lasting change
across the globe, in our
communities, and in ourselves.

Proud To be part of Great Rotary Family.




Awards


May 28th - 30th 2020



Rotary




ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD




Service Projects


8 CUPS
Aley
Amman Petra
Beirut Cedars
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Dubai
Saida
Tripoli Cosmopolis
Zahle-Bekaa
3 MERITS
Amman Jordan River
Amman West
Salmaniya



Rotary




ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD




Rotary Foundation


5 CUPS
Amman Citadel
Amman Jordan River
Amman Metropolitan
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Tripoli Maarad
8 MERITS
Amman Petra
Amman West
Beirut Cadmos
Beirut Cedars
Beirut Metropolitan
Saida
Tripoli
Tripoli Cosmopolis



Rotary




ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD




Club Administration


9 CUPS
Amman Jordan River
Amman Metropolitan
Beirut Cadmus
Beirut Cedars
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Jumeirah-Dubai
Saida
Tripoli
Zahle-Bekaa
2 MERITS
Amman Citadel
Amman Petra



Rotary




ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD




Public Image


6 CUPS
Amman Jordan River
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Jumeirah-Dubai
Saida
Salmaniya
Zahle-Bekaa
2 MERITS
Dubai
Tbilisi Ambassador



Rotary




ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD




MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT


9 Cups
Amman Citadel
Amman Jordan River
Amman West
Beirut Cedars
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Jumeirah-Dubai
Saida
Tbilisi Ambassador
Zahle-Bekaa
3 Merits
Beirut Cadmos
Metn Gate
Tripoli Cosmopolis



Rotary



ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD



Youth Award

6 CUPS
Amman Jordan River
Amman Petra
Beirut Metropolitan
Jumeirah-Dubai
Manama
Saida
4 Merits
Aley
Beirut Cadmos
Beirut Cosmopolitan
Dubai

Saturday June 20 ,2020

In appreciation of their commitment to rotary values, Paul Harris Fellow was bestowed upon Joelle Feghali, Nadim Hissen and Jean Paul Mubarak. Always proud of our members and achievements.



Fellowship Event

La Tourba Winery - Saghbine, Beqaa Valley

Sunday June 7

A group of RCBC Rotarians and friends enjoyed a fellowship day at La Tourba Winery in Saghbine, Beqaa valley. The group was graciously received by the owners, the Chehwane family, whose passion for Lebanon was evident in their enterprise. A tour of the Roman ruins in the vicinity was followed by a visit to the winery where the group experienced firsthand the intricacies of wine making and got to sample their delicious whites and sparkling wines.

Our new member, Mohammad Harake, was pinned at lunch in the beautiful setting of the winery. It was a beautiful day of fun and camaraderie that was badly needed after the Covid19 lockdown and the return to the breathtaking scenery of Lebanon.



Mini Fundraising Event @ Macam Museum

June 21st, 2020

On Sunday June 21, members from RCBC went on a visit to the MACAM museum where they enjoyed the exhibit and new installations that ended with a sumptuous home made meal by Mr. and Mrs Nammour.



G.E.A.T Tour & Al Kanaan Palace Visit

Aabey

June 28, 2020

A group of RCBC members visited in Abey the site where the German Evangelical Academy for Technology is built to serve the youth in the area . The academy is a GG project which was started by late PP Tony Asfour together with the German government, German clubs and the Evangelical Church in Beirut. RCBC is a main sponsor of the GG. The site visit was followed by a visit to the Kanaan Palace where the group was treated to a tour, and a glimpse into the history of the area



Banners Exchange

June 9,2020

Banners Exchange With RC Bietigheim-Vaihingen , Germany

On Tuesday June 2, RCBC and RC Bietigheim/ Vaihingen in Germany, held an online meeting to exchange notes and strengthen the friendship ties. The President of the club, Traugott, was very pleased to meet RCBC members. Coincidentally, our own Farida Najjar was in lockdown in Germany but managed to go to that club and exchange banners with P Traugott.



CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE,2020

HAWAII

Many Happy Birthday Returns

May

Nasr El Baba
Mounir Jabre
Edouard Rassie

June

Mimi Hamam
Ghaleb Mahmasani
George Beyrouti
John Edde

THE END