



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – October & November 2019

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

RCBC Website

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

MARHABA EDITOR

IPP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

“Letter from the Editor”

The past two months were historic in our country. We were witnessing the beginning of a long journey taken to reclaim values, fight for principles and basic rights. We were hearing the voices of the old and young calling for the right to education, the right to medical care, the right for dignity in old age and a fight for the disenfranchised and marginalized to have a voice, and the disabled to get a chance at a better life. All this was done with only the voice of peace and civility resounding.

In the midst of all this, our Rotary meetings became a refuge and a place for us Rotarians to forge ahead even stronger than ever. As Rotarians, we always responded to the needs in our communities and dispensed much needed help in every sector of the society. But in this crucial time our call to action became louder. In October we participated in the END POLIO campaign by a video and presentation. The club made sure that its health and viability are sound and that new members are attracted to our club to enhance our work and vision.

RCBC is a beacon in our community when it comes to service. The month of November witnessed yet another success for our club by a Global Grant Project handover where we donated a Dental Chair and Ophthalmology equipment to ELPIS Home Clinic that deals with the displaced and underserved in the community. It is an example where we as Rotarians step in to help where the authorities fail. The elements that contribute to our success in realizing these projects are: hard work, valuable partnerships with other Rotary Clubs, The Rotary Foundation and most importantly upholding Rotary Motto “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”.

IPP Mona Jarudi

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: George Beyrouti

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Project Handover – GG1987972 Elpis HOME Clinic Fanar Dental Chair and Ophthalmology Equipment

Place: Beirut, Lebanon

Date: November 24, 2019

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (District 2452), in partnership with the Rotary Club of Lebanon, Indiana (District 6560), and the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, Florida (District 6950), as well as contributions from private donors, secured a global grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to help provide a complete dental clinic and state of the art ophthalmology equipment to the Elpis HOME Clinic in Fanar, Lebanon.

Health Outreach to The Middle East (HOME) was established in 1990 in the USA by Arab-American medical professionals with the aim to reach the underserved and displaced population of the Middle East. HOME has developed fixed and mobile clinics in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq. HOME staff and volunteers are committed local healthcare workers trained in reaching out to people with the message of Love and Hope through medical and humanitarian services.

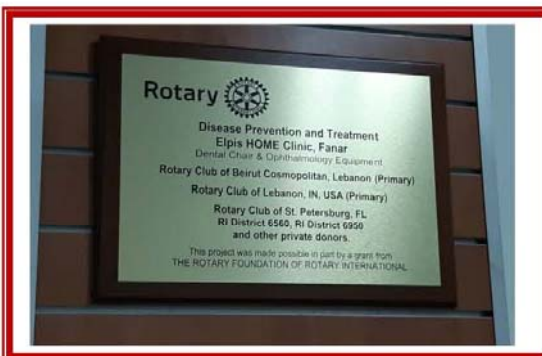
The handover ceremony of the new dental and ophthalmology clinics took place on November 24 at the Elpis HOME Clinic. It was attended by the President of HOME Lebanon, Dr. Kamal Badre, the President of the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Mr. Adib Mounla, the Korean Ambassador, his excellency Young Dae Kwon, as well as a number of Rotarians, HOME staff, & guests.



Rotary is a volunteer organization of 1.2 million business, Professional, and community leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. About 35,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries conduct projects to address today's challenges including disease prevention & treatment, basic education and literacy, water, sanitation & hygiene, economic development, and peace and conflict prevention. For further information please refer to our websites: www.rotary.org and www.rcbclbanon.org.

NEWS RELEASE

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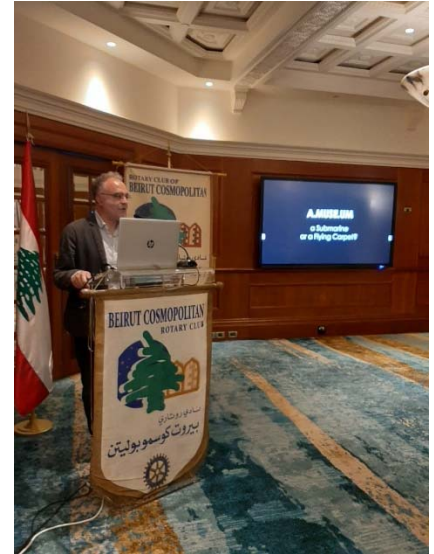
Business meeting with Dr. Nadim Karam

“A. MUSE.UM- A SUBMARINE OR A FLYING CARPET”

October 1st, 2019

In a highly artistic style and whimsical delivery, our guest speaker Dr. Nadim Karam took us through a mesmerizing journey of his work. Nadim Karam is a multidisciplinary Lebanese artist who fuses his artistic out of sculptures, paintings, drawings with his background in architecture. He creates large-scale urban art projects in different cities of the world. He uses forms to narrate stories and evoke collective memory with a particular style seeking to create “moments of dreams” in the different cities he exhibited in.

Mr. Karam established the Atelier Hapsitus in Beirut in 1996, channeling his many talents into one creative force. The Atelier can be defined as the satellite grouping of young architects and designers who create their artwork around happenings and situations. After his work in Beirut, Dr. Karam conceived The Cloud for the city of Dubai and the concept of the cloud was incorporated subsequently into different art works. Dr. Karam had exhibitions in Beirut, Brussels, Washington, UK, Venice, Prague, Norway and Japan. His work is truly remarkable!

**Business meeting with Mr. Razmig Azejian**

“CHINESE MEDICINE”

October 8th, 2019

Chinese traditional medicine has existed for thousands of years. Unlike western medicine that characterizes the disease and uses pharmaceuticals for treatment, Chinese medicine depends on the knowledge that the body is governed by energy flows through meridians that connect the different bodily organs. Environment (clean air and food), a healthy mind devoid of stress and clear channels of energy flow in the body are requisites for a healthy body.

A disease situation arises when the channels are blocked and organs are not at their optimal function. Nowadays there is a tendency to revert to traditional medicine for certain conditions, but that cannot be in place of western medicine that depends on years of research and tests. A wise combination of both medicines could be used but only under strict supervision of specialists in both fields.



Business meeting with Mr. Habib Hatem

“DAR AL AMAL CENTER”

October 15th, 2019

A large number of vulnerable young girls and women (Lebanese and refugees) suffer from all forms of violence and exploitation. In Lebanon, there are few existing shelters that these women can turn to in time of need, which prompted the establishment of the NGO Dar al Amal to provide a sanctuary for such victims. The objectives of this NGO is to decrease the number of victims of violence, to provide an interim safe place for the target group, and assist the juvenile court in providing legal protection for those in need.

Dar al Amal provides: individual and family follow-up, educational and cultural activities, awareness raising sessions, vocational training sessions and recreational activities. The project sustainability is ensured by part funding of the Ministry of Social Affairs, potential partnerships with Lebanese and international organizations, volunteers and donations of food, clothes etc.



Business meeting with HE Dr. Karam Karam

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AUBMC)

"MEDICINE AND POLITICS"

November 5th, 2019

Coming from a family of physicians, Dr. Karam had a very interesting and successful career, which married the two worlds of medicine and politics. Health professionals find themselves in a conflict with the world of politics and find it difficult to navigate the murky waters of that world. But the separation of these two worlds denies the facts that bad politics impacts all health aspects like environmental health, access to medical coverage, dealing with malpractice and addressing the needs of the older and retired population.

As past Minister of Culture and of Tourism, Dr. Karam faced and dealt with all the natural obstacles that unfortunately stain our world: corruption, sectarianism, nepotism, political pressures, dysfunction. He tried to effect change in all avenues but sometimes the obstacles were unsurmountable. Lebanon has been afflicted with those diseases for the longest time and the accumulation of bad governance led to the peaceful uprising that the country is witnessing today, people demanding their basic needs, rights and calling for economic fairness, health coverage and security.



Business Meeting

"OPEN RCBC CLUB DISCUSSION"

November 12th, 2019

This session was dedicated to review all club business conducted in the first half of the Rotary year.

A. Service Projects financed by Global Grants:

1. HOME ELPIS Clinic: RCBC Host sponsor, Value \$ 50,557
2. NewGen Peacebuilders: RCBC Host Club, value \$ 90,196
3. AUBMC: RCBC Host Club, value \$ 75,000
4. Child and Mother Welfare Society: RCBC Host club, value \$ 57,484
5. Mission de Vie Palliative Care: RCBC Host, \$ 53,000
6. Lebanese Red Cross Ambulance: RCBC Host Club, \$ 45,875.



B. Other projects:

1. LeBAM Youth Orchestra
2. German Evangelical Academy of Technology
3. Dar al Ajaza al Islamiyah (ENT equipment)
4. Bridge of Hope (Dental care for refugees)

C. Club administration went over My Rotary Accounts, District website info update, RCBC Database.

D. A new RCBC logo design was proposed to be in line with all Rotary visual identity guidelines and requirements. Stay tuned!

E. Fundraising was discussed, membership trends and plans, Public image plan to post Service projects on Rotary Showcase and on District newsletter and Website.

F. RCBC members Business cards were issued.

This meeting was very comprehensive in covering all RCBC business and plans!

Business meeting with Mrs. Josiane Adib Torbey

VP Of the Salt of the Earth Association, founded in 2012.

"SALT OF THE EARTH"

November 19th, 2019

Vision, passion and dedication witnessed the birth of this organization. Love of a village in the north of Lebanon led its Municipality president Mr. Habib Torbey his architect wife Josiane and the philanthropist Jean-Gabriel Edde to establish this organization aiming at promoting Education and culture by establishing a model Public School, Ecole Rachel Edde. The road to realize the vision was long: fundraising, educational rehabilitation and marketing of the school which saw the light in 2015. The public library in the village, unique to the district of Zghorta, was also established with over 700 members and 10,000 books in four languages, mirroring a rich culture. An annual summer camp for the youth of Lebanon and France was started in partnership with Francophonie Liban of France.



The school has grown from a humble initial enrollment of 40 students to its capacity of 300, with 1000 students on the waiting list. The school has been a beacon to surrounding villages and carries the label of excellence: 100% success in State Exams.

Cooperation between concerned citizens and a State that has proven to be unconcerned about the basic rights of its citizens will prove difficult for the foreseeable future but the Lebanese civil society has already taken action to effect change and force the State to provide all the basic needs of the citizens, first and foremost of those is the RIGHT TO EDUCATION.



Business meeting with Dr. Hadi Maktabi

“ANTIQUE CARPETS: SECRETS AND CHARMS”

November 26th, 2019

In the beautiful setting of Hadi Maktabi carpet gallery, RCBC members were treated to a very interesting, highly informative lecture by Dr. Hadi who took us through a journey in the world of antique carpets with all their intrigue. Every carpet we saw came with its own fascinating story.

Dr. Hadi started the journey by saying that it should be noted that for most people who inhabited Asia, Eastern Europe, Southern Europe and North Africa, for the past 3 millenniums that we know of from surviving artifacts and archeological evidence, the craft of carpet weaving has been the most important expression of different ethnic and social groups. From the 13th century to the 20th, the art of carpet weaving was possibly the strongest language of recorded literature of most people inhabiting Asia. Carpet weaving is how they told their stories, expressed their sentiments and beliefs. In Medieval Europe, paintings replaced literacy, in our world, it was carpet weaving. Carpets were an expression of prestige, even after printed banners were in circulation. One carpet from Sultan Abdul Hamid era had a political statement, another showed the old map of Turkey. One beautiful carpet was a picture of the garden of Eden with all its symbolism through birds, trees, animals. Prayer rugs with the Mihrab and lanterns. In addition to symbolism, some carpets were an expression of functionality and practicality like horse saddle covers and doorways.

The epicenter of carpet making, according to Dr. Hadi, was Iran. The whole world tried to imitate its excellence in design and material. The only reverse example of that was a carpet (Mille Fleurs) which was created for the Romanovs in Russia who were enamored with all design French. Dr. Hadi went on to explain about the number of knots in a carpet that define its quality and clarity, like the pixels in a photo: the higher the number, the better resolution we get. Carpet after carpet, story after story, this lecture was a pleasure to the eyes and minds.



Fellowship Event

APPLE PICKING- AITANIT, LEBANON

October 5, 2019

A group of RCBC members, friends and families, were treated to a fellowship ay hosted by our own PP Edouard Rassie and his wife Rita.

A tour of the apple orchards was highlighted by the scenic beauty of the village, and a contest on who can pick and carry more apples. After some heavy lifting, the group enjoyed a nice lunch in the utmost spirit of fellowship and camaraderie.





Rotary Connects the World

A group of 25 French Rotarians visited Lebanon the first week of October led by PP Jean Paul Narjollet, President of the French section of ICC France-Lebanon. PP Randa Zouk organized the logistics of their visit including sightseeing and cultural tours to introduce the beauty of Lebanon to our friends. A dinner with the group on Saturday October 5, was held at Edde Sands and was highly attended by fellow Rotarians from clubs in Lebanon. As always, RCBC was well represented by PP Mounir Jabre and wife Riman, PP Joe Boulos and wife Doris, RT. Joelle Feghali, Rt. Nada Maalouf and PP May Khoury.



Reaching out

On October 8, CS Sona Kourtian attended on behalf of RCBC, the fundraising conference, "Life and Safety in Buildings" hosted by Rotary Club of Baabda, in collaboration with Operation Florian (UK Fire and Rescue Service), Rotary Club of Manchester, SOCOTEC Lebanon and Lebanese Civil Defense. The event highlighted the donation of RC Baabda of 450 fire equipment to the Lebanese Civil Defense with a live demo and interesting presentations.



Rotary Business

Business Meeting Presentation by PP Habib Bassoul

"END POLIO NOW"

October 15th 2019

In the Rotary world, October is Polio month and Rotarians around the world observe this by using whatever means possible to talk about Polio, raising awareness about how important it is to eradicate the disease and how instrumental was Rotary International in fighting Polio.

RCBC had its fair share of the awareness campaign. The newly formed Interact Club made a video to talk about Polio, the nature of the disease, vaccination, funding and partners in the fight against Polio. This video went viral and is viewed and appreciated by many. Thanks to RCBC Interact Club for using Polio as their launching pad into the world of Rotary.

An informative slide presentation was shared by PP Bassoul. It had some very important facts about Polio. Polio has not been eradicated and will soon reappear if the campaign stops. Number of children immunized is 2.5 billion in 122 countries. US\$ 1.72 billion has been spent by Rotary and partners.

Rotary's partners are: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and governments around the world. Pharmaceutical companies manufacturing the vaccine, making it available at near-cost and adapting the vaccine to the mutating virus.

Locally, there are no cases in Lebanon. Rotary Clubs in Lebanon and our RCBC are major donors.

One can never do enough to raise awareness against this debilitating disease that deprives innocent children from a quality of life they deserve.



What is Polio?

Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious viral disease which has no cure but can be prevented through immunization. The virus spreads from person to person and can invade an infected person's brain and spinal cord causing paralysis.

How the virus spread?

The viruses spread through contact between people, by nasal and oral secretions, and usually by contact with contaminated feces.

Causes of Polio Outbreak

- Emergence of anti-vaccine (Maintaining high coverage of vaccination may prevent outbreaks occurring and stop transmission)
- Poor hygiene and sanitation

Prevention

- Vaccination (3 prime dose + 1 booster dose)
- Avoid food/beverage that may have been contaminated by a person with polio virus
- Wash your hand frequently with soap or hand sanitizer

Initial Symptoms

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Neck Stiffness
- Pain in the limbs



Polio Virus

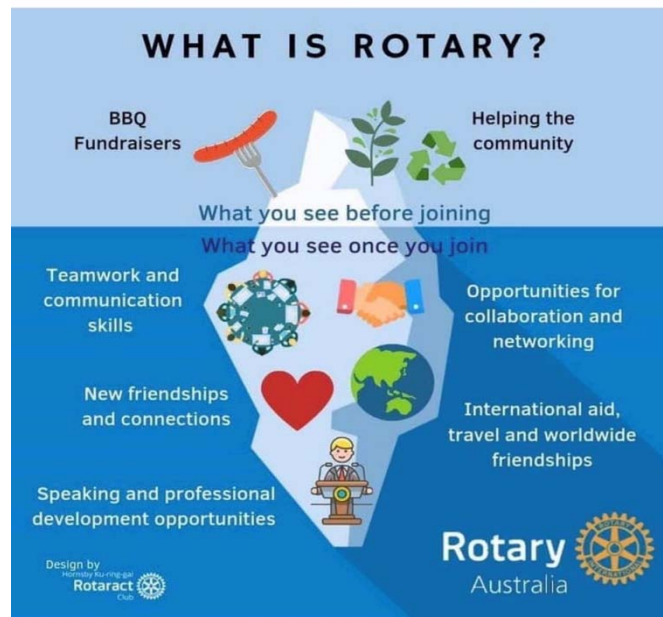
Business Meeting Presentation by Rt. Diana Kotran

“CLUB HEALTH CHECK SURVEY”

November 5th, 2019

Every year, RCBC conducts a member satisfaction survey per Rotary International guidelines. Membership in Rotary clubs worldwide has been on the decline, and member retention has been a major concern. RCBC has enjoyed over the years a high retention rate but that does not preclude that members should be afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns, give their constructive ideas and explore together ways and means of keeping the club healthy and viable.

Rt. Diana conducted the health check and the survey. All aspects of club operations, projects, meetings, fellowships, interclub relations, quality of speakers, topics covered etc. are evaluated by members. The data will be analyzed and the results will be shared with the general membership. The Club Board of Directors will use the results as they are laying new policies and implementing needed changes.



Business Meeting Presentation by PP George Beyrouti

"BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP"

November 19th, 2019

This Rotary information session focused on every aspect of membership in Rotary. There are 1.2 million Rotarians and 35,000+ clubs worldwide. People from continents and cultures come together to exchange ideas, form friendships and networks while making a difference in their own communities and around the world. The presentation shared some survey results conducted by Rotary International re prospective members, current members and what can be done by Rotarians to increase membership in their clubs.

Benefits of Membership:

- Friendship and fellowship.
- Networking with other professionals.
- International connections.
- Making a difference in the lives of others.
- Developing skills in leadership, project management, public speaking etc.



Responsibilities of Membership:

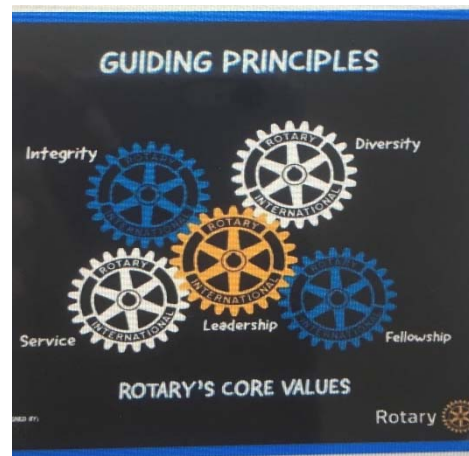
- Attend meetings and invite guests.
- Participate in projects, serve on committees and on the board.
- Propose new members.
- Pay membership dues, Rotary Foundation dues and be an ambassador of Rotary to the community.

The session was followed by questions and knowledge checks of rotary information by the members.

the **4** way test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Banner Exchanges

The month of October witnessed a high number of visiting Rotarians to our club. They were warmly welcomed and banner exchanges took place between them and RCBC President Adib Mounla.

October 1st 2019:

Rotary Club of Hillsborough, New Jersey with PP Abed Medawar.



October 15th 2019:

Rotary Club Willisau, Switzerland with Rt. Martin Muller



October 15th 2019:

Rotary Club of Centennial Colorado, USA with Rt. Cheryl Sartain



October 17th 2019

Rotary Club of Benevento, Italy with Rt. Rafaella Pilla



November 5th, 2019

Visiting Student Exchange Program – Ms. Audrey Steen (USA)



CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE, 2019 HAMBURG – GERMANY

<https://www.consultancy-me.com/news/2066/arthur-d-little-pays-respects-to-harland-riker-and-kamal-saad>

Many Happy Birthday Returns

October

Habib Bassoul
Diana Cotran
Samir khoury
Nada Maalouf
Jean Paul Moubarak
Adib Mounla
Asaad Salhab

November

Sylva Guiragossian
Sona Kourtian
Michel Mansour
George Theodory

The End