



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – October 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-Molln,
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/
beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

MARHABA EDITOR

*PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com*

“Letter from the Editor”

Almost a year into our fight against the Corona virus, the world is going from one lockdown to another, as the grip of the virus does not seem to abate and a successful, tried vaccine has not yet seen the light of day. We, Rotarians, immediately joined the fight against this deadly virus because Rotary is an organization well-seasoned in the fight against viruses and communicable diseases. The fight against the devastating Polio virus and its success was a joint effort of RI, WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 1985, RI launched its Polio Plus program and after 35 years of Rotary’s relentless pursuit of the virus one of the three remaining countries, Nigeria, was declared Polio Free in August of this year. This leaves only Pakistan and Afghanistan where Rotary perseveres to eradicate the remaining cases. Every case treated, translates into hundreds of children saved.

Not Surprisingly Rotary also celebrates World Polio Day on October 24th each year with Rotary clubs around the world undertaking initiatives to put the spotlight on totally eradicating the dreaded disease emphasizing the catchphrase “End Polio Now” with the objective of ultimately arriving at a Polio free world.

Additionally in more recent times the vast infrastructure of the Polio eradication program is being leveraged to protect the vulnerable from COVID-19 especially in polio endemic countries. From Pakistan to Nigeria, the experience gained in polio eradication is helping in the governments’ response to the new deadly corona virus. Trained specialists in the STOP program, part of the Polio Eradication Initiative, are actively supporting in preparations for response to COVID-19 in 13 countries worldwide. The program naturally recognizes the devastating impact that communicable diseases have and is therefore fully committed to supporting National Health Systems by providing expertise and assistance to help contain and mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic and in that respect is also proving invaluable.

Rotary is committed to the major challenges facing the world. In addition to the ongoing fight against deadly viruses, Rotary is now placing special emphasis on the fight against environmental damage, the undermining of natural ecosystems, the tackling of climate change, etc. The Rotary Foundation Trustees and the RI Board of Directors have introduced a new area of focus, the seventh: Supporting the Environment. This now proudly joins the other six areas of focus: Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water and Sanitation; Maternal and Child Health; Basic Education and Literacy; and last but not least Economic and Community Development.

In line with the importance of the Environment area of focus and with our club's theme of this Rotary year - **Sustainable Living** - we invited Dr. Christopher Puttock, Chair of Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), to speak to us about Navigating the New Opportunities in Supporting the Environment.

As Rotarians we are all proud to be at the leading edge in identifying pertinent solutions to tackle plaguing problems that face our communities across the globe.

PP Mona Jarudi



RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Global Grants

Despite the challenges and obstacles facing our country and indeed our Rotary Club - from economic and financial collapse to the corona pandemic to the recent port explosion that devastated Beirut - we continue to serve our community and run the business of our club. While the corona virus has made physical meetings near prohibitive for the time being we continue to have zoom meetings where we discuss the business of the club and invite guest speakers to address pertinent topics. In addition we continue to provide immediate relief in the wake of the port explosion and continue to progress with our global grant projects.

Global Grants in our capacity as lead club and in collaboration with our International Rotary Club Partners:

- Approved**
 - A Bridge of Hope**
 - Dental Equipment&Training for Palestinian Refugee Camps
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention and Treatment
 - [GG1750827](#), **Approved (17/7/18)**, Executed, **Report Due**
 - **39,534 USD**
 - Lebanese Red Cross - Ambulance Equipment & Conversion Box**
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention and Treatment
 - [GG1988796](#), **Approved (05/12/19)**, Executed, **Report Due**
 - **42,075 USD**
 - NewGen Peacebuilders – Lebanon**
 - Training for peace building in Middle East
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
 - [GG1864515](#), **Approved (25/02/20)**, **In Progress**
 - **90, 196 USD**
 - COVID-19 Respiratory Ventilators and PPE to Lebanese Hospitals**
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention and Treatment
 - [GG2013338](#), **Approved (1/7/20)**, **In Progress**
 - **45,00 USD**
 - Water & Sanitation Scholarship**
 - Scholarship to develop future leaders in water sanitation
 - Scholarship, AoF: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
 - [GG2015138](#), **Approved (20/07/20)**, **In Progress**
 - **52,046 USD**
 - Pilot Photovoltaic System and Vocational Training at Schneller School**
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Community Economic Development
 - [GG2014407](#), **Approved (9/10/20)**, **In Progress**
 - **133,100 USD**

- Draft
 - German Evangelical Academy of Technology
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Basic Education and Literacy
 - [GG2096019](#), Date Created (19/10/19), Draft Phase
 - 225,000 USD
 - Dar Al Ajazah Al Islamiah Hospital ENT Clinic
 - Ear Nose and Throat Clinic Equipment
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention & Treatment
 - [GG2011095](#), Date Created (9/3/20), Draft Phase
 - 39,000 USD
- Draft Beirut Disaster Recovery Project
 - Karantina Hospital Paediatric/Neonatal Operating Theater
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Maternal and Child Health
 - [GG20119172](#), Date Created (13/9/20), Draft Phase
 - 395,000 USD

Global Grants by other lead clubs that we are supporting:

- Approved
 - Help disabled school children at Basma Centre in East Jerusalem
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Basic Education and Literacy
 - [GG1862388](#), Approved (4/12/18), Executed, Report Due
 - 87,557 USD
 - Equip Lebanese Public Schools with Computer Laboratory
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Basic Education and Literacy
 - [GG1750209](#), Approved (4/1/19), Executed, Report Due
 - 67,000 USD
 - Healing Little Hearts
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention and Treatment
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Maternal and Child Health
 - [GG2092958](#), Approved (3/4/20), In Progress
 - 229,275 USD
 - Supply Respirators and PPE to Lebanese Governmental Hospitals
 - Humanitarian, AoF: Disease Prevention and Treatment
 - [GG2012110](#), Approved (1/5/20), Executed, Report Due
 - 150,675 USD

Online Business meeting With Dr. Christopher F. Puttock
Chair of Environmental Sustainability
Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)
“NAVIGATING THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN
SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT”

October 6, 2020



Rotary's seven Areas of Focus



for sustainable living



Rotary: Supporting the Environment – essentials



• **education** – create better understanding through lifelong learning for all



• **support** – create enduring partnerships and sponsorships that strengthen project implementation



• **sustainability** – create measures of progress to monitor success, and build evidence for economic, cultural and environmental sustainability



1. Clean World – healthy air, land, soil and water



• **healthy air** – mitigating greenhouse gas, harmful chemicals, and heat pollution at the source



• **healthy land and soils** – removing plastics, invasive species; increasing biosecurity, and expanding green infrastructures



• **healthy water** – conserving and recharging of water-tables, mitigating waste contaminants, plastics, and chemical pollutants



2.1-2 Biodiversity: Life and Ecosystem Restoration



• **on land** – restoring terrestrial ecosystems with native biodiversity; sustainable use of forests and savannas to reverse land degradation leading to desertification



• **below water** – restoring aquatic ecosystems with native biodiversity; sustainable use of marine and freshwater resources



• **preemption** – preserving and conserving habitat sufficient to ensure the survival of matrix species, aquatic and terrestrial



2.3 Biodiversity – Sustainable Food Production



• **pre-industrial agriculture** – indigenous, nomadic, subsistence rotations, and small multi-cropped/livestock farms, supporting a very large workforce (~4 billion)



• **modern agriculture** – monoculture farms with extensive irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery and modern cultivars, supporting a very small workforce (~4 million)

• **commercial fishing** – open ocean longline and nearshore gillnets and traps, with an enormous waste by-catch



• **best management practices** – used for many decades but now dependent upon big industry; one size does not fit all; fisheries can also reduce by-catch



2.4 Biodiversity – Environmental Resilience



• **stewardship** – proactively preempting the human footprint, preventing biodiversity loss; mitigating conflict and enabling co-existence



• **cultural traditions** – honouring and enabling connectivity to the land; melding together best management practices



• **justice** – recognizing the value of ecological services to the cycle of life, providing equal access to food production and human health, and mitigating conflict over resources



3. Linear to Circular Economy – cradle to cradle



• **innovation** – creating products with a deliberate end-of-life repurposing; making human settlements resilient and enduring, minimizing energy use and heat production



• **distribution** – improving the efficiency of processing, packaging, marketing, sales and consumption; reducing losses and transit costs using smart infrastructure



• **recycle** – maximizing repurposing of design, diverting food waste from landfills into compost; converting concrete, plastics, and metals into new products



4. Clean and Renewable Energy - locally



• **local solar** – providing affordable electricity; direct power: solar stoves, night-lights; stored power for electric vehicles, computers, and smart phones; challenges are battery energy storage



• **local wind and watermills** – providing pumps for irrigation systems to farms, to mill grain, to supply water to villages, and to generating energy



• **local methane capture** – using biodigesters to convert organic waste to clean gas; minimizing wood harvesting, burning fossil fuels, and reducing air pollution



5. Health, Wealth and Happiness



• **a healthy environment** – promoting well-being and good health for all ages; eliminating poverty and hunger



• **a wealthy environment** – promoting full and productive employment for all, leading to inclusive, sustainable economic growth



• **a happy environment** – eliminating inequalities of sex, race and cultural biases, and building long-lasting peace and understanding



ESRAG: Supporting the Environment in action



• **preemption** – taking preventative measures: collection and destruction of feral refrigerants



• **mitigation** – reducing and reversing environmental damage: Operation Pollination



• **participation** – helping to develop GG/DDF grants for "Supporting the Environment"



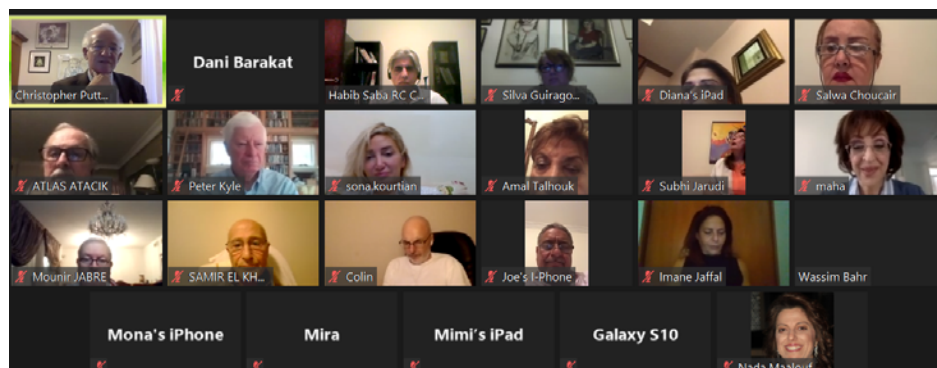
A Handbook for Rotary Clubs

By helping to protect our natural world, we support all of our areas of focus



And take action to create positive, lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

christopher.puttock@gmail.com
ESRAG.org

Online Business meeting

With

Rotary Club of Edinburgh

Mr. Don Mackenzie, President RC Edinburgh

Rotary Club Of Leeds

President Nancy Norton

Edinburgh Direct Aid (EDA)

Dr. Dennis Rutvitz, EDA Founder

Ms. Maggie Tookey , EDA Overseas Project Manager

“ BEIRUT RECOVERY COLLABORATION “

October 20,2020

The recent collaboration between Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and Edinburgh Direct Aid in the rehabilitation work done was highlighted in this meeting. President Don started by saying that connecting with Beirut and Edinburgh Direct Aid (EDA) is a unique moment in time. He resembled Edinburgh to Beirut as cities with tremendous spirits! He took us through a visual tour of Edinburgh and the beauty of the Scottish country side and gave a brief history about RC Edinburgh and RC Leeds.



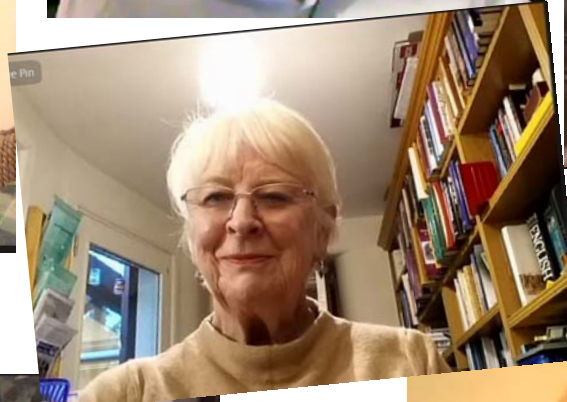
The first meeting of RC Edinburgh was held in 1912 and the first RI Convention outside of North America was held there as well in 1921. Paul Harris, whose wife came from Edinburgh, visited the city twice. The club is 89 members strong, involved in local and international projects while strengthening their contacts with other European Clubs.

The Rotary Club of Leeds also dates back to 1916 and is the second of RC Edinburgh 26 daughter clubs. They are very active in schools, empowering youth locally and internationally.

Dr. Dennis Rutvitz gave an overview about the extensive humanitarian work of Edinburgh Direct Aid. The work in Beirut after the August 4 explosion was spearheaded by Maggie Tookey who was on the ground for two and a half months. In her words, the devastation was breathtaking and shocking and the work was endless. Seven days a week, work was ongoing on repairing windows and doors to rehabilitate the damaged homes. Our club, RCBC, donated glass for this effort and a total of 81 homes were covered.

The latest project in Beirut for EDA is finishing the Music Center in Gemmayze, one of the badly destroyed areas in Beirut. This center will serve 300 poor children to introduce them to the world of music. RC Edinburgh and RC Leeds were supporting Maggie's work on the ground.

Once again, many thanks to EDA and all the volunteers for helping the city of Beirut overcome its tragedy. Rotary spirit at its best!



Online Business meeting With
Ms. Nathalie Bitar
The Middle East Project Manager of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF),
&
Mr. Jean Noel Baleo
The new Middle East Director of (AUF)
“EMPOWERING LEBANESE YOUTH IN THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY”

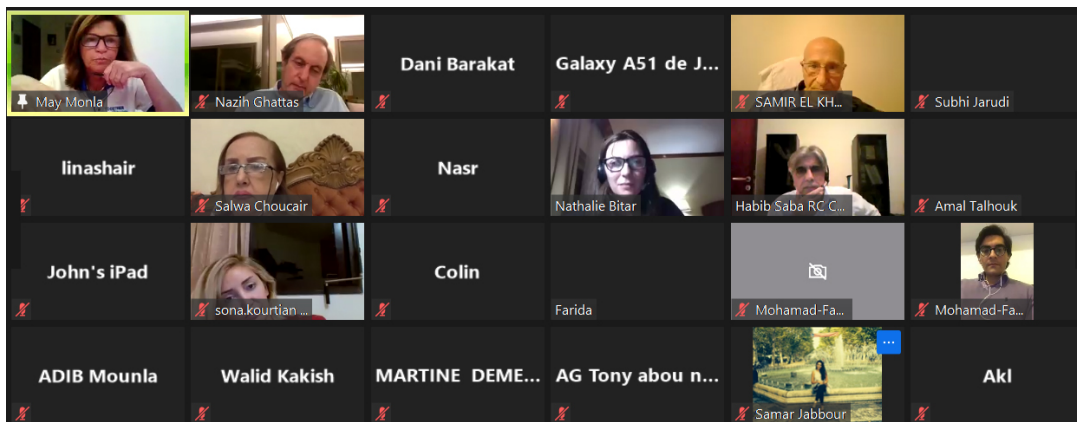
Tuesday October 27

Ms. Nathalie Bitar, the Middle East Project manager of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), was the guest speaker of the zoom RCBC business meeting.

Before Ms. Bitar’s presentation, Mr. Jean Noel Baleo, the new Middle East Director of AUF made brief introductory remarks about the role of AUF in the world and the Middle East. AUF is the world Association of French and non-French speaking higher education and research institution which brings together 1007 universities on all continents in 119 countries. In Lebanon, AUF cooperates with all the major universities to support research and digital campuses.

Ms. Bitar’s presentation described her work as coordinator of the AUF project (DEEL) related to developing student entrepreneurship in Lebanon and project SAFIR in the campuses of the MENA region aiming at creating and strengthening University incubators.

A Q&A session followed the presentation with a proposal from a Rotarian to explore the advantages of a cooperation between AUF, SAFIR and RYLA.



HANDOVER

Food Boxes Distribution

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan in collaboration with our youth clubs BC Rotaract and BC Interact and in partnership with the NGO Chreek, distributed 100 food boxes to needy families in the Rmeil area in Beirut. This area of Beirut was badly affected by the recent explosion of August 4 and lots of families were left homeless and in need of assistance.





Many Happy Birthday Returns

October

Adib Mounla
Habib Bassoul
Jean Paul Moubarak
Mazen el Farra
Rana Salhab
Samir el Khoury

THE END