



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – September 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

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2019-2020 ROTARY CITATION PLATINUM



Awarded to the Rotary Club of

Beirut Cosmopolitan

for helping **Rotary connect the world.**

Mark Daniel Maloney
Mark Daniel Maloney
President, Rotary International

The last editorial I wrote for RY 2019-2020 was titled The Year Of Resilience. The second half of that year was marked by the savage attack of a virus that caught the whole world by surprise and utmost unpreparedness. All of a sudden we needed to adjust and reinvent ourselves, not only as communities but as Rotarians. Zoom became a household name and enabled us to continue conducting our business meetings uninterrupted in a COVID-19 era. Service to our communities took a more urgent pace in the shape of PPEs and Ventilators to save as many lives as possible. The theme of the year ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD rang true as Online meetings allowed clubs to cast their net beyond the confines of their membership and countries. Rotarians were reaching out to each other for solace and support.

Our Club, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, was no exception. The club with its leadership and membership were part and parcel of every project to make a difference in the fight against COVID-19.

Fast forward to this RY 2020-2021, our country is still in the grip of the virus and is still grappling with the aftermath of the Beirut explosion of August 4 not to mention the ongoing economic and financial challenges. The club now added another layer of service by being leaders in the Beirut Disaster Relief. Support from international clubs is still pouring in and we owe everyone a debt of gratitude. Our club embarked on a Global Grant to rehabilitate the Operating Theater for paediatric and neonatal patients in the badly devastated Karantina Public Hospital itself situated in a very needy area. Collaboration with international and local NGOs is underway to help deliver food boxes to needy families and to assist in the repairs of homes damaged by the explosion. Our club with the Rotaract and Interact clubs have been a beehive of activity and service.

Serving our community in the face of difficulties is our raison d'être and in that light the recognition of our club with the Rotary Citation award is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the leadership and membership of our club. Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan is proud of this honor and our gratitude goes out to RI President 2019-20 Mark Maloney and the RI team for this recognition. Every year brings its own challenges and creates its own success stories, and every year the leadership sets the bar of Service Above Self a little higher.

PP Mona Jarudi

Online Business meeting With Dr. Fouad Zmokhol
President of the Association of Lebanese Business People in the world

September 8, 2020

On September 8, RCBC hosted Dr. Fouad Zmokhol, President of the Association of Lebanese Business People in the world. Dr. Zmokhol is an accomplished writer and lecturer on Business Strategy, Corporate Governance and Business Ethics. He sits on several boards as an independent director including Lebanese American University and St. George University.

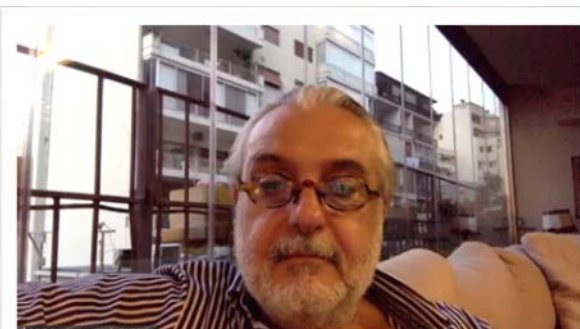
In his remarks, Dr. Zmokhol reflected on the first centennial of Lebanon trying to draw observations that will guide us in shaping the next century in the history of Lebanon.

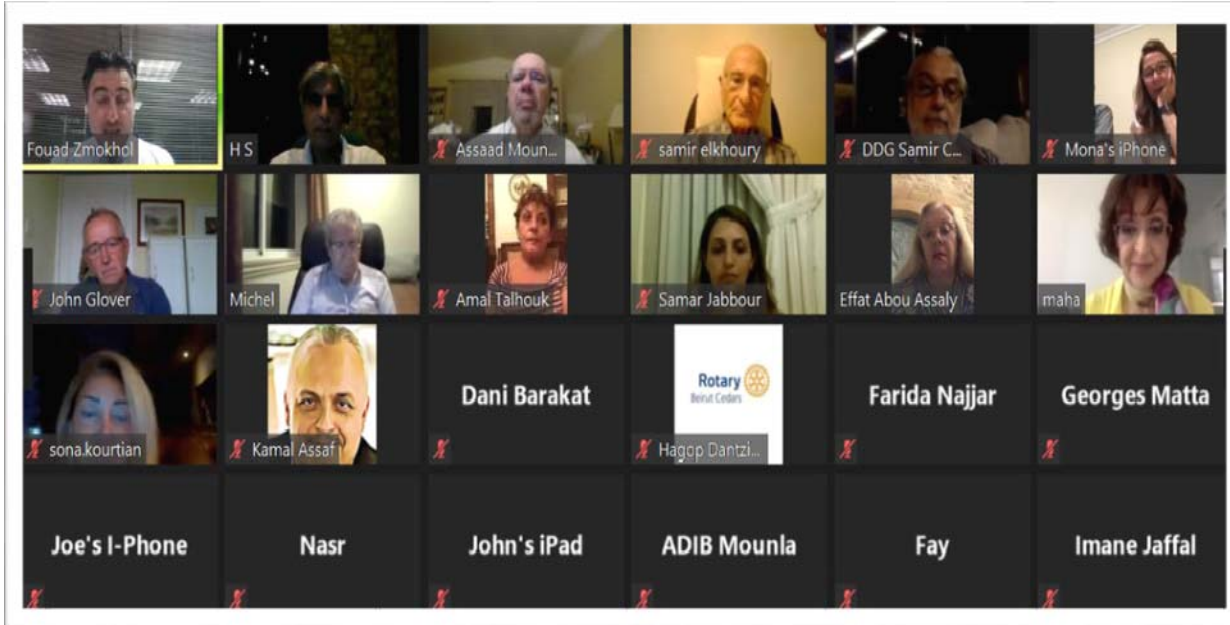


The first century started with famine and WW1. This led to waves of migration of economically distressed Lebanese to all corners of the world. Subsequent wars and conflicts in the region, despite brief periods of prosperity, led to the Lebanese civil war that lasted over 15 years and ended with the Taif Accord. Perhaps, the biggest achievement of these 100 years was President Fouad Chehab mandate, one of the most distinguished in Lebanon's history, when he introduced reforms and large-scale social development, bringing harmony and prosperity to the country with his sole mission of building institutions of the modern state. Unfortunately, the era of the civil war brought about levels of corruption, mismanagement, lack of transparency and accountability in levels not seen before.

Dr. Zmokhol argued that Lebanon was built on pillars that are quite shaky now. Banking sector, Trade, Industry, Tourism, Democracy and Freedom. The catastrophic explosion on August 4 is a microcosm of years of neglect and corruption in the country.

Dr. Zmokhol reflected on what needs to happen to pull the country out of this spiral of despair as we embark onto a new century. He is advocating an all-out war aided by the international community on corruption. United Nations and the IMF should play a larger role in aiding Lebanon start its road to recovery.





Online Business meeting With Amel Association International
Mr. Mohamad Al Zayed, Health Coordinator, Amel Association International
"AMEL ON THE FRONTLINE OF COVID 19 PANDAMIC & THE BEIRUT TRAGIDY OF AUGUST 4"

September 15,2020

Amel Association International is a Lebanese NGO created in 1979 during the civil war by Dr. Kamel Muhanna. Its objectives are numerous but they all fall within promoting rights for the underprivileged, building a strong civil society, advocating for the principles of human rights to ensure social justice, providing quality services in medical, rural development and training plus promoting equal rights and equal opportunities.



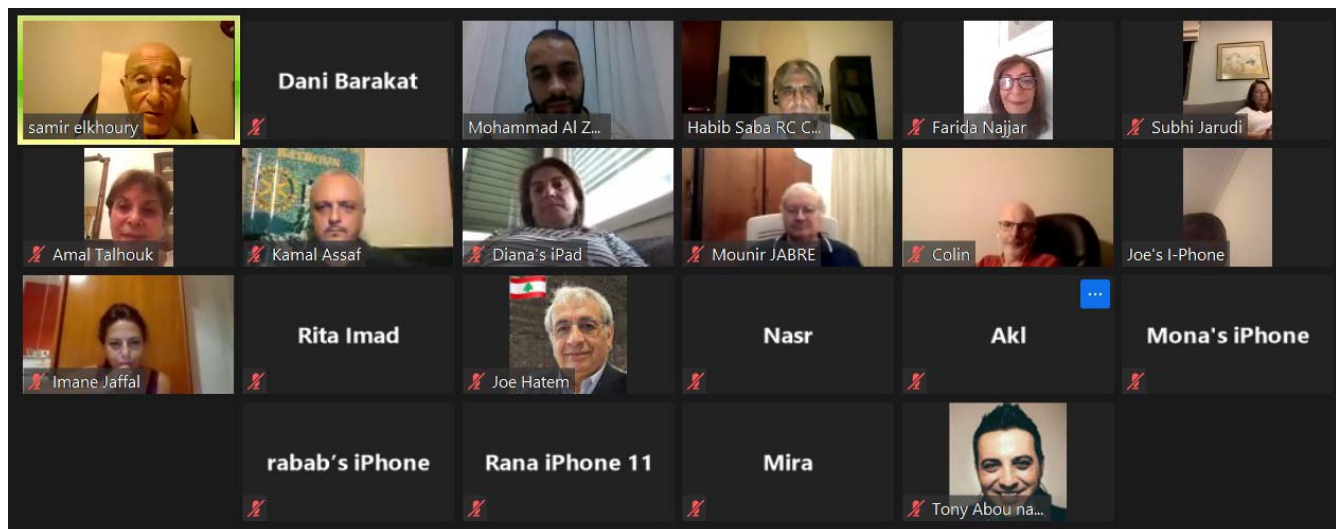
The arms of Amel extend geographically all over Lebanon covering the following: primary healthcare, education, child protection, elderly protection and women empowerment. They also look after the welfare of migrant domestic workers and they do great work in prevention of gender violence and providing sexual reproductive health programs and education.

As soon as Covid19 hit the Lebanese soil, an emergency response plan was developed by Amel targeting different pillars of response. Staff training on screening was done and PCR screening campaigns were conducted in Amel Centers and in refugee camps and shelters reaching more than 5000 people. Isolation rooms were established plus a call center and a rapid response team to follow up on the isolated and quarantined cases at home. Technology was used to provide awareness through all avenues of social media. The most important response to Covid19 according to our guest speaker was the uninterrupted services in Amel centers that are still ongoing.

As if Covid19 was not enough on the list of challenges, the Beirut Blast on August 4 added another layer of action required action by Amel. Immediately following the blast, Amel's teams were deployed to assess the needs of the affected population. The need for a primary health care response was identified in the Karantina area, a medical mobile unit was sent to attend to medical consults, nursing care, first aid and advanced first aid plus dispensing medications for chronic and acute conditions. Till Sept 17, 1900 consultations were provided in addition to 319 wound dressings. More than 3000 masks, produced by women in the Amel centers, were distributed to residents and volunteer workers in the Karantina area. In addition, more than 1500 hot meals were distributed. The children were in the forefront of Amel's work where 573 children are being taken care of for psychological and emotional traumas precipitating from the blast.

The economic crisis that the country is experiencing resulted in more people seeking the help of NGOs, coupled with an increase of 30% in the number of Lebanese people seeking healthcare in Amel's centers over the first quarter of 2020.

One cannot give justice to the work done by Amel in this space. All we can say is the work done is remarkable at every level and to be commanded. Amel was founded to ensure the dignity of the served population through Solidarity and NOT Charity.



Online Business meeting With Mr. Marc Aoun, GM Compost Baladi /

"LIFELINE GARDENS, MOVING TOWARD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES"

September 22, 2020

In line with our club focus this year on sustainable development, Mr. Marc Aoun was invited to talk to us about how to convert Biowaste into a Bioresource. As with everything else in Lebanon, the local challenges that this enterprise faces are: Food security, loss of purchasing power, waste management crisis and urban environment that is becoming scarce in its green spaces. Every challenge creates opportunities such as an increase in self reliance to grow one's own food, reduce waste disposal, create jobs and reduce environmental degradation if the biowaste is well attended to and recycled.



With this in mind, Compost Baladi aimed at providing avenues to establish bioresources for residential buildings by encouraging roof top gardening utilizing individual planters where residents of a building, space and finances permitting, will grow their own vegetables on rooftops. Beehives and chicken coups were done on experimental basis. The waste generated will be directed to composters in the company where every 10kg/day of food waste results in 1.5 tons/yr. of compost and 50t/yr. of liquid fertilizer, making this operation totally organic. The financials of this operation make it a bit more challenging, where a total project investment for a building will be 90-100k \$. Few buildings in Beirut and suburbs signed up for this project but with the August 4 disaster of Beirut, the attention was directed towards rebuilding the destroyed areas and providing necessities. Compost Baladi will still persist in promoting their mission because they impact job creation, 30 tons of waste will be diverted from landfills, 20 residential buildings greened and 88,000 \$ generated per year. We cannot ignore as well the great foot print that this leaves on the environment and sustainability.



Online Business meeting With Mrs. Gina Chammas
CPA, CACM, MS Global Leadership
“ CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SECTOR, AWARENESS AND PREVENTION”

September 29,2020

Ms. Gina Chammas, President of the Lebanon Certified Anti-Corruption Managers, gave a very passionate and detailed presentation on Corruption and its ailments. She embarked on her talk by stating that citizens have Human Rights and Constitutional Rights. The Citizen’s constitutional authority is delegated to those selected to govern to use the power for the public’s interest. When this power is abused it paves the way to corruption which she defined as “Abuse of power or perceived power or entrusted authority for direct or indirect private monetary or non-monetary gain”. She proceeded to give examples on corruption like: nepotism, bribery, gifts, using public wealth for personal gain, tax evasion, avoiding custom duties etc.



What to do? FIGHT or Surrender?? If we fight, we preserve our dignity as a nation, preserve our treasury, improve quality of life for future generations, preserve our national assets, improve the economy by attracting foreign investments. If we DO NOT FIGHT then we lose everything, our country, our kids future and our dignity. Ms. Chammas went on to identify the ways of fighting in an intelligent and systematic manner by good governance, and accountability, effective judiciary, investment in corruption prevention, certainty of punishment and rewarding corruption fighters.

In Lebanon, there are prerequisites to fight corruption: independent and effective judiciary, citizens awareness about their role to fight, effective networking among professionals fighting this disease, and citizens engagement in law abidance. This fight against corruption is a long and arduous battle, but with passionate and patriotic people like Gina Chammas and other groups leading the fight, we aspire to effect the desired change in thinking and actions.

“ Fighting Corruption is a process effected by those charged with governance, employees, citizens, and other stakeholders to provide a reasonable assurance that those entrusted with power do not abuse it for private gains”
AACI



Global Grants

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan in action

- 1- As a response to COVID-19, our club initiated a global grant last May to provide ventilators and PPE to Karantina Hospital. The handover took place on September 16, which was attended by members of RCBC including President Habib Saba, President Elect Sona Kourtian, Past President Joe Boulos, Past President Mimi Hamam, and Rotarian Michel Mansour along with the management and staff of the hospital.



- 2- In line with RC Beirut Cosmopolitan focus on areas for disaster relief, the club collaborated with a Scottish NGO, Edinburgh Direct Aid, to repair damaged windows and doors in homes impacted by the explosion. This support was achieved through the allocation of funds to supply required material for repairs.



- 3- As part of the immediate relief effort, our club also collaborated with a nationwide Rotary effort to supply Food Boxes to impacted needy families in the vicinity of the epicenter of the Port Beirut explosion.



RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Interact Club in Action

- 1- Dynamic group of 18 young people never failed in showing up and providing support on ground zero from the onset. They were part of the cleaning of debris, collecting recyclables and delivering food boxes to the affected population. Their most recent service was participating in preparing and distributing hot meals to needy families in the affected areas.



Lebanon District 2452
Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club

In partnership with
foodblessed

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
FOODBLESSED INITIATIVE
COME HELP US WITH
**COOKING
400 MEALS**
FOR FAMILIES IN
NEED/AFFECTED BY THE
BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION
19.09.20 | 10 AM - 2 PM
**RIVIERA HOTEL,
AIN MRAYSE**



Well done RCBCIC and many thanks for your continued service

Happy news

Congratulations to our Rony Eid and his beautiful Marie Therese. May they have a long life blessed
with love and happiness



Many Happy Birthday Returns

September

Christine Arzoumanian

Karim Naamani

Rabab Safieddine

THE END