



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 170—January 2010

Charter Date: June 22, 1995
Club Number: 30893
District 2450
Rotary International

2009—2010 Officers

President

Edouard Rassie

President Elect

Subhi Jarudi

Vice President

Karim Naamani

Secretary

Habib Saba

Treasurer

Antoine Baroud

Sergeant-At-Arms

PP Pierre Azar

Directors

IPP George Beyrouti

RT Michel Ghanem

RT Hussam Rinno

RT Asaad Salhab

District Governor

Nijad Al Atassi

RI President

John Kenny

Club Contact Information

Tel: +961 1 570888

Fax: +961 1 566256

Mobile: +961 3 771487

E-mail: bcrc@cyberia.net.lb

www.rcbclebanon.org

Prepared By:

Club Assistant Annie Sapsezian

Edited By:

Asaad Salhab

Club Assembly 05 January 2010

P. Edouard Rassie called members for a club assembly where the committee chairpersons submitted the semi-annual progress report to the floor informing them of the different activities and projects that have been accomplished so far this year.

Dinner Meeting - H. E. Mr. Liu Zhiming 12 January 2010

RCBC members were privileged to host H.E. Mr. Liu Zhiming, the ambassador of China to Lebanon, who addressed “China and Its Foreign Policy” in a dinner meeting held at Le Vendome Hotel.

China has the largest population in the world representing one-fifth of the world population, but it has only 7-9% of the world’s arable land, and has less than one quarter of the world’s average per capita water resources; thus, China has to cope with its natural basic conditions as well as following other development patterns. Historically China had been one of the most powerful countries in the world, but after the First Opium War against it became one of the poorest. Since 1978, China challenged the crisis and now it is the third largest economy and trading nation worldwide. China aims to achieve industrialization and modernization, so in order to create a long-standing and favorable international environment for the development of the country, it is willing to form and develop friendly and cooperative relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. In conclusion, “the basic objective of its foreign policy is to build a harmonious world where all cultures and civilizations coexist peacefully and respect each other” said H.E. Mr. Liu.



Meetings Tuesdays - Business 7PM; Dinner 8:30PM • Vendome Hotel • Ain El Mreisseh



Business Meeting - Ms. Aline Matta 19 January 2010

Ms. Aline Matta, the program director of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), was the speaker for the evening who talked about the association and its programs in Lebanon.

The ABA was established on August 21, 1878, in New York, by 100 lawyers from 21 states. Its mission is "To serve equally our members, our profession and the public by defending liberty and delivering justice as the national representative of the legal profession." The ABA ROLI program was launched in 2007. It was established based on the belief that rule of law promotion is the most effective long-term antidote to the most pressing problems facing the world today, including poverty, conflict, endemic corruption and disregard for human rights. ABA ROLI implements legal reform programs in more than 40 countries. It employs five core principles that guide its work around the world – employing a highly consultative and comparative approach in the provision of technical legal assistance, providing advices which are neutral and apolitical, building local capacity by strengthening institutions and providing “thought leadership” in the field of rule of law promotion.

Recently, ABA ROLI held an event to launch a new legal training and public service program in northern Lebanon because many residents in the area lack access to legal services, which are centered primarily in Beirut. The program will create a legal aid and mediation services center in the region. The Center will offer services to juvenile defendants, at-risk children, stateless persons and refugees. It will also support the Tripoli Bar Association in creating a fellowship program to train young lawyers on practical legal skills. ABA ROLI has been active in Lebanon since 2007, and the program in Tripoli is a significant achievement as ABA ROLI extends its programming to new regions of Lebanon.



**Dinner Meeting - Dr. George Corm
26 January 2010**

Dr. George Corm, Ex-minister of Finance, addressed the Rotary Club & their guests & explained the objectives of a proposed new development model for Lebanon that basically drives the shift from an economy based on “rents” produced exclusively by tourism, real estate market, banking activities and migrants’ remittances, to a diversified productive economy based on “high value added” activities spreading the economy activities in all regions and finally exit from the vicious circle of debt and entry into the virtuous circle of sustainable development. He stated that the full use of Lebanon’s comparative advantages and capabilities such as its fertile soil, water, biological diversity, and highly qualified human resources will assist in the improvement of the economy. He preempted the theory of Lebanon “does not have natural resources thus having to rely on the current elements of our economy” by showing graphs and comparative charts illustrating that countries with no resources and with political problems are today way ahead of Lebanon with their GDP/capita much higher than Lebanon’s, mainly due to them following “high value added” strategies to drive the economy.



Donation to Haiti

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan joined hands with other clubs to donate to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, established by the Rotary Foundation with the objective to support the rescue and rebuild the lives that were affected in Haiti.



15-seat minibus to Cedar Home 12 December 2009

RCBC in collaboration with RC Bluefield, RC Santa Monica and the Rotary Foundation have donated a 15 seats minibus to the Cedar Home Organization, a Lebanese NGO founded in 1960 sheltering orphans and children at risk. The minibus shall be used for transporting the children from the home to various activities in a clean and safe way.



More News Updates on Rashel Asfour!

This email was addressed to PP Tony Asfour about the GRSP student, Rashel Asfour who joined the program this year.

P. Mark Ellis from RC of North Columbus says: "I wanted to email you to thank you and to tell you how great she has been for our club. As the president of the Rotary Club of North Columbus, my first duty was to select Rashel as our student. If I do nothing else right this year, selecting her as our student will more than make up for it. Rashel has been without a doubt the best student we have had as long as I have been a member of our club. She is outgoing and a hard worker. She has given her presentation on Lebanon to other clubs around Georgia as well as schools. She stands for what GRSP is all about. She has been a great ambassador for Lebanon. All of our members and their families enjoy her presence and she is getting to know each one and doing things with them. She is also very involved with many of our service projects we do around the city. Thank you for nominating Rashel. She has blessed us beyond what we deserve. You should be very proud of her. I am attaching a couple of photos that have been taken of her. She has done much more but these were a few I had."



Rotary News

Rotarians focus on Haiti relief

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing resources to deliver urgently needed relief to the millions affected by Haiti's devastating earthquake.

District 7020, which includes Haiti, has flown in 70 planes filled with more than 60,000 pounds of medical equipment and supplies into the cities of Pignon and Port-de-Paix to bypass logistical problems in the hard-hit capital of Port-au-Prince.

The United Nations estimates that more than half of the buildings in the capital have collapsed. About 200,000 people are dead and millions more homeless.



The infrastructure that Rotary had before the quake, made their relief efforts very effective as they are able to fly in supplies through backdoor channels and doing things that other agencies are not capable. Rotary was in a good position to help in Haiti, with 33 projects already underway to provide water, sanitation, medical care, and education raising about US\$1 million for short- and long-term recovery.



RI Launches New Electronic Publication

To better meet the needs of Rotary's club and district leaders, RI is replacing the *Rotary World* newsletter with *Rotary Leader*, an electronic publication featuring practical information about everyday tasks, specifically for Rotarians serving in leadership positions.

The [preview issue of *Rotary Leader*](#) was unveiled at the International Assembly on 22 January by General Secretary Ed Futa. The publication will officially launch with its April 2010 edition.

"About a year ago, we surveyed the readers of *Rotary World*, our quarterly newsletter for club presidents and district governors," explained Futa during the eighth plenary session. "We got a variety of responses, but in general, readers wanted more focus on the issues and challenges they face every day in running a club or district. They also said they wanted less paper coming from RI.

Articles in *Rotary Leader* will focus on solutions: How do you keep new members? How can you convince everyone in your district to give to The Rotary Foundation? How do you get your club or district featured in the local newspaper?

Subscribers will also be encouraged to submit questions for the Ask the Expert column, and they'll be able to link easily to key Rotary news stories and announcements to stay up-to-date on the latest information from RI.

The electronic interface of *Rotary Leader* gives readers the choice of flipping through the publication one page at a time or clicking on links to go directly to an article that interests them. Subscribers will be able to share articles via e-mail, crop stories and photos to save digitally, and print pages for future reference. Where relevant and appropriate, the articles will be accompanied by videos, audio recordings, and photo slideshows.

Like *Rotary World*, *Rotary Leader* will be published in nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. Beginning in the 2010-11 Rotary year, *Rotary Leader* will be published every two months rather than quarterly.

Health camp helps kick off India immunization drive

Organized on 7 January by the Rotary Club of Delhi South Metropolitan, Delhi, with support from the India PolioPlus Committee, the camp provided underprivileged residents with checkups, consultations, and information on a wide range of health issues.

Health camps are often held before National Immunization Day (NID) in India to encourage people to participate in polio immunization activities.

"The global fight against polio is being fought mainly in four countries, which include India," said RI President-nominee Kalyan Banerjee. "It is a responsibility that we all share and at this stage must be addressed with urgency and utmost sincerity, so that children in India, mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are saved from falling prey to polio."





Rajashree Birla, an honorary member of the RCs of Bombay and Mulund and a major contributor to Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge, thanked Rotary for working to address the health care needs of the disadvantaged. "The disparity in the ratio of medical doctors to patients is very high in India, and there are many who remain unattended [when it comes to] medical care," she said. She urged all people to spread the end polio message in their area of influence, including to co-workers and business associates, and leverage their connections to reach out to parents in the slums.

Latest Events in Lebanon!

- *Sun. Jan. 17 – Feb. 20: Monte Carlo CIRCUS at Michel Murr Stadium
- *Sun. Feb. 14 - Feb. 21: The play "Suzanne w Emm Ta3an" at Al-Madina Theater
- *Sun. Feb. 14 - Feb. 21: Mansour Rahbani presents "Saif 840" at Casino du Liban
- *Sun. Feb. 14 - Mar. 07: Caracalla Dance Theater presents "Zayed and the Dream" at Forum de Beyrouth
- *Sun. Feb. 14 - Mar. 28: The play "A Bientot Ma Mer" at Sagesse High School
- *Wed. Feb. 17 – Mar. 21: Al Bustan International Festival of Music and Art
- *Sat. Feb. 20: An Evening of Tarab at Pierre Abu Khater Hall at USJ.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Future RCBC Program:

- *Tuesday, February 16, dinner meeting with Dr. Berj Hadjian—"Environment: Philosophy, Economics and Politics at 8:30 PM at Le Vendome.
- *Tuesday, February 23, club meeting with Drs. Harika—"Artificial Limbs Manufacturing" at 7 PM at Le Vendome.
- *Tuesday, March 02, dinner meeting at 8:30 PM at Le Vendome.
- *Tuesday, March 09, club meeting at 7 PM at Le Vendome.

Herbert J. Taylor, president, Rotary Club of Chicago, 1939-40 and Rotary International 1954-55. He lived from 1893 to 1978. During a business crisis in 1932, he wrote the "Four Way Test," shown below. It was adopted as part of Rotary International in January of 1943.

THE FOUR-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 GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to PP Gladys Younes (Jan. 01) and HS Habib Saba (Jan. 21)

RCBC is wishing you another wonderful year of happiness and joy.