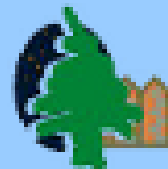




Marhaba



Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Ron D. Burton

District Governor

Jamil Mouawad

Deputy Governor

George Beyrouti

Assistant Governor

Yara Younes

RCBC Officers

2013—2014

President

Mounir Jabre

President Elect

Lina Shair

Vice President

Edouard Rassie

Secretary

*Christine
Arzoumanian*

Treasurer

Karim Naamani

Directors

Asaad Salhab

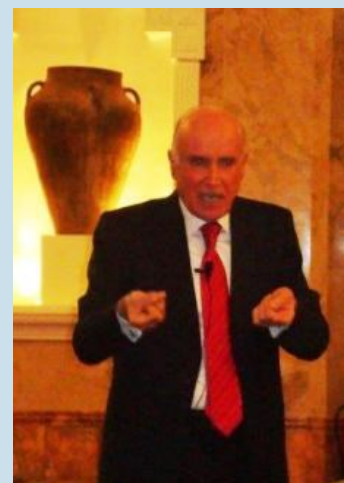
Tony Asfour

Habib Bassoul

Joe Boulos

***Tuesday January 7 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker Dr. Kamel Mohanna, President of Amel
Association International -- Topic: Amel Association.***

Dr. Mohanna (see photo RHS) spoke about the Association as an example of a non-confessional NGO assisting the community -- with a focus on the Syrian refugee problem.



Born in South Lebanon in 1943, Dr. Mohanna studied and continues to practice medicine as one part of an illustrious career devoted to humanitarian and cultural causes -- for which he has been widely recognized by professional bodies and governments alike, in Lebanon and abroad.

He founded the Amel Association in 1979 to provide aid to the underprivileged to help them recover from the ravages of the Lebanese civil war. In 1989, the emphasis shifted from emergency aid and relief work to sustainable development. Today it has become in addition a pressure group for a world that is more just and fair. It has also grown in size and today numbers 650 employees and voluntary workers -- all of whom use positive thinking as their motto.

Since its outbreak, the Syrian crisis has become a major challenge for Amel Association: How can we Lebanese accept each other and work together as a group to rise to the challenge? What can we do for and together with our Syrian relatives?

To the suggestion we give priority to Lebanese poor as opposed to Syrian refugees, Dr. Mohanna's response was that we should focus on development projects for the benefit of both. As to whether we should accept aid from the West or the East, his answer was that whatever help from wherever should be "from equal to equal".

Shown in the photo to the LHS -- from left to Right are Mrs. Fayda Mohanna, spouse of Dr. Kamel Mohanna; RT Riman Jabre of RC Beirut Center, spouse of RCBC P Mounir Jabre; then guest Mrs. Hala Khammar.



RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

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

***RCBC meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut
Business Meetings at 7:00 PM — Dinner Meetings at 8:30 PM***

Marhaba Editor : Kamal Saad — e-mail knsaadrcbc@gmail.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Tuesday January 26 -- Handover of Elevators to the Ozanam Home for the Elderly

Two new elevators were handed over to the St. Vincent de Paul Association Ozanam Home for the Elderly in Batroun, Lebanon -- a non-profit organization that cares for more than 100 residents. The home provides free accommodation, food and primary medical care, with a minimum charge only for those who can afford it. The elevators were provided by RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, together with RC South Bunbury of West Australia (WA) as Primary International Sponsor; in partnership with RC Batroun, Lebanon, and RC Bunbury and RC Millpoint, WA; plus contributions from D 2452 and D 9465 and a grant from TRF.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Association (SVPA) was founded in Paris in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam, a young Frenchman from a well to do family who devoted his life to humanitarian service.

The Lebanese branch was established in 1860. Its motto: "To serve the poor through personal contact". The SVPA has 1,000 active volunteer members distributed into 54 teams throughout Lebanon.



The photo above shows (in front of the two elevators) from Left to Right: RC Batroun PP Maroun Chaccour; RCBC P Mounir Jabre; D 9465 PDG Zaki Dorkham; RC Batroun P Najib Abi Karam; DDG/RCBC PP George Beyrouiti; and R C B C P P T o n y A s f o u r .



The photo to the LHS shows Ozanam Home Director Joseph Aoun addressing handover ceremony participants.

Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

RC: Rotary Club

RCBC: Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

RT: Rotarian

P: President - IP: Incoming President - VP: Vice President - PE: President Elect - PP: Past President

D: District - DG: District Governor - IDG: Incoming DG - DDG: Deputy DG - ADG: Assistant DG



Tuesday, January 14 Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- P Christina Asfour, RCBC RotarAct Club -- Topic: "Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 2014"

After pinning new member Meghry Kayladjian -- shown to the Right with RotarActor Toufic Constantine -- P Asfour spoke about the RYLA meeting held this year in Lebanon at the Ehden Country Club. Following is a summary of the perceptions of this meeting by the new member. "For the first time I attended a workshop where people were there to work together for a better community. The discussion leaders were great: The Managing Director of HR Works who had the courage to give up a stable job to do something he loves; the founder of Acknowledgement Works who helped us develop the self awareness and the skills to work together with others; PP Christine Arzoumanian who focused on what it is to be a member of the Rotary family -- to practice Service Above Self; the University Professor who spoke about ways of improving the educational system; the Public Speaking trainer with a hands-on approach; and DG Jamil Mouawad who talked about Rotary mega-projects for Lebanon".



"Altogether an unforgettable, incredibly enriching, experience from which I came away feeling I belonged to a family, working hand in hand with others to make Lebanon a better place."

Shown RHS (from Left to Right) are RotarActors Peter Rassie, Rawan Al Wadaa, Hiba Jundi, Toufic Costantine, Elie Farhat, P Christina Asfour, Rita Imad, Samer Jabr, Fouad Boulos, Meghry Kayladjian, Ehab Abdallah, and RCBC Honorary Secretary Christine Arzoumanian.

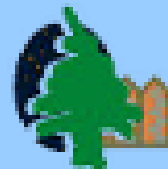


Guest Speaker Mrs. Vivianne Boulos Tolan; Topic: "Time4Sharing"

Time4Sharing is a charity organization established to share "Fun Days" with less fortunate children around the world. It was co-founded in the Czech Republic in the year 2000 by Mrs. Viviane Boulos Tolan (see photo to the RHS) herself a major shareholder in luxury holiday properties, together with her husband Michael J. Tolan. The Lebanese association was established officially in Lebanon in 2002.

Among the projects it has implemented with and for children are: "Planting Trees Instead of Mines"; "A Garden for Children"; and "Giving Water to Marathon Runners". The Charity is launching a new project in May 2014, "Light4Peace", that will illustrate "The4Stages in Saint Mary's Life" -- Our Lady of Lebanon -- and install Beams and Mountain Lights all the way up to Harissa "with Children Festivities and NGO's throughout the entire month".





**Tuesday January 21 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker PDG Farid Gebran -- Topic "The Future Plans of the Rotary Foundation"**

As of July 1, 2013, the RF has a new grant model. Its dual aim is to help clubs and districts make a more sustainable impact and to reduce the fixed cost of processing grant projects.

Past District Governor Gebran (see RHS photo) explained that the new model focuses on three types of grants:

- **Global Grants**, US \$ 30,000 minimum project cost, covering high impact projects that fall within one or more of the six Rotary Foundation areas of focus:
 1. Promoting peace
 2. Fighting disease
 3. Providing clean water
 4. Saving mothers and children
 5. Supporting education
 6. Growing local economies
- **District Grants**, that fall within the mission of the RF
- **Packaged Grants** for which the RF and its strategic partners provide the blueprints, such as polio eradication.



The current fund sharing system will remain. Each district may elect to receive up to 50% of the available District Designated Funds (DDF) for District Grants; the remaining half or more of the DDF goes to support Rotary Foundation Global Grants; whilst named gifts and donor-advised/directed funds support Packaged Grants.



Shown RHS (from Right to Left) is RCBC P Mounir Jabre, Mrs Ritta Gebran, spouse of PDG Gebran and RT Riman Jabre, RC Beirut Center, spouse of RCBC P Jabre.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF: OUR RAISON D'ETRE

Starting next month we will be providing our readers periodically with information about current and projected service projects, not just those completed and handed over.



**Tuesday January 28 -- Dinner Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker Mr. Nicolas Chammas, President of the Beirut Merchants Association
Topic: "Whither the Lebanese Economy"**

Mr. Chammas (shown Left of RT Samir El Khoury, RCBC Programs Chair among photos to RHS) enumerated the challenges facing our country and its economy:

- The uncertain outcome of the Geneva Talks over Syria;
- The evolution of the United Nations Tribunal trials;
- The need to form and vote in a new Cabinet;
- The timely conduct of Presidential Elections.



As we learned during the World War(s) said Mr. Chammas, "we must take away the match-boxes" to avoid fires. Both the Central Bank and the banking sector have done and are doing a fantastic job. However the productive sectors have been hard hit by the downturn in the economy and by the intense competition from migrant Syrian workers and companies -- not to forget the wage increases of 2013 and, most importantly, the ban by their governments on the travel of Arab nationals to Lebanon. Indeed, the Lebanese economy has enjoyed only three good years since 2005. The economic scene has been mostly characterized by "a huge plus in supply and a huge minus in demand".

We are in crucial need for stability through a new a New Government and an Economic Recovery Policy that rebuilds the economic infrastructure and reforms the Budget Process. On no account must we impose new taxes to support unproductive workers. "We must wake up and get together, he concluded: "United and Prosperous", not "Divided and Poor".

An animated discussion followed his talk: Why did we do nothing for 20 years -- our heads in the sand like the ostrich ? Why have we not changed bank interest rates? Why do we continue to pay such retirement pensions for officials? Why have we permitted corruption to inflate our economy? Is anything else left but to pray? "STABILITY, STABILITY, STABILITY" was the answer.

Shown in the RHS photo are (from Left to Right) guest Mr. Roger Melki, Consultant to the Minister of Economy and Trade; RCBC PP Edouard Rassie; then guest Mr. Joe El Fadl, Managing Partner, Deloitte Beirut office.



Many Happy Birthday Returns to

Mona Jarudi, Jan. 5
Habib Saba, Jan. 27

Kamal Saad, Jan. 29
Gladys Younes, Jan. 1