



# Marhaba



**Club Charter Date**  
*June 22, 1995*

**Club Number**  
*30893*

**District**  
*2452 Rotary Int'l*

**RI President**  
*Ravi Ravindran*  
*RC Sri Lanka*

**District Governor**  
*Mustafa Nasreddine*  
*RC Amman*

**Deputy Governor**  
*Kamal Katra*

**Assistant Governor**  
*Rami Majzoub*

**RCBC Officers**  
**2015—2016**

**President**

*Marie (Mimi) Hamam*

**President Elect**

*Joe Boulos*

**Vice President**

*Lina Shair*

**Secretary**

*Amal Talhouk*

**Treasurer**

*Jean Paul Moubarak*

**Directors**

*Tony Asfour*  
*George Beyroufi*  
*Nora Haddad*  
*Adib Mounia*  
*Rabab Safieddine*

**Tuesday, January 5, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Speaker: Mr. John Miles, Head of Eye Project, RC Guildford, UK**  
**Topic: "Extension of Rotary Humanitarian Eye Project to Lebanon".**

John Miles (see photo RHS) is a member of RC Leatherhead in the UK and Trustee of The Guildford Rotary Eye Project (GREP). An industrial chemist who founded and managed two protective coating companies, he retired from business in 2002, age 56, and joined Rotary in 2003. He is here to examine the possibility of extending the Rotary humanitarian eye project to Lebanon, in cooperation with RCBC.



His spouse Fiona (see photo LHS) who accompanied him on his visit is currently President of RC Leatherhead.



It is estimated that 40 million "avoidably blind" people worldwide are too poor to access eye operations which would restore their sight. The goal of GREP is to help prevent such blindness. It presently helps assess all optical problems, but recognizes that its main work remains the treatment of cataracts, glaucoma, retinal detachment and diabetic retinopathy. GREP provides training for eye surgeons, microscopes and laser equipment, mobile eye screening camps, surgical ophthalmic procedures, eye buses and transport to hospital. It has provided important assistance in this domain in India, Kolkata and West Bengal.



*L to R Guests Dr. Majed El Dada and his spouse Lina.*

GREP operates/treats free of charge those who cannot afford to pay. To help do so, it raises Funds from individual and institutional donors alike, using the slogan "A donation of just GBP 5 can enable the blind to see again!!". It has a funding partnership with other donors, local RCs and The Rotary Foundation. Local RCs are required to provide the land and the buildings and to maintain all medical facilities. Naturally, private patient eye operations and treatment serve as an important source of income.

To expand, GREP needs (a) to increase awareness of the problem and of the potential benefits of solving it; (b) to mobilize more fund raising volunteers -- in the UK and around the world; (c) to provide more surgical instruments, equipment, and eye buses; it also needs (d) to raise more funding.

**RT Sona Kourtian of RCBC attends our January 5 BM**

RCBC RT Sona Kourtian, who now works in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, attended our Business Meeting and handed over to RCBC P Mimi Hamam (see photo RHS) a banner from RC Jumeira -- one of the three Rotary Clubs she has recently visited in Dubai.



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

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**We welcome your comments and suggestions.**

**RCBC Website**

[www.rcbclebanon.org](http://www.rcbclebanon.org)

**RCBC Facebook Page**

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



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**Tuesday, January 12, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Pascale Hatem -- Topic: "Knowledge Management"**

Dr. Hatem (see photo RHS) holds a BS in Chemistry from the American University of Beirut, a MBA-International from Dauphine University in Paris and an Executive Doctorate in Business Administration from Dauphine University (*Thesis: "Knowledge Management and Knowledge Management Systems"*).

Before getting involved in Knowledge Management (KM) in 2001, she had extensive and varied teaching experience (chemistry, data processing, and computer training). From 2001 to 2015 she worked with Murex Services, helping clients with the implementation of KM and the development of KM systems. She recently launched a start-up: Keel Knowledge Management (website [www.keel-km.com](http://www.keel-km.com)).

Dr. Hatem started her presentation with a quotation from Michael Polanyi: "We know more than we can tell", illustrated with a picture of an iceberg – with what we can tell above and what we know below the water. Her hierarchy of knowledge components showed data at the bottom, information above it, then knowledge, then wisdom at the top.

To illustrate the difference between tacit and implicit knowledge, she quoted Sherlock Holmes: "It was easier to know it than to explain why I know it" and presented a tabulation of tacit vs explicit knowledge flows. She defined knowledge management as "Making the right knowledge available to the right person, in the right place, at the right time" -- the intersection between people, processes and technology, all within a definable environment.

She defined knowledge management activities as follows: Community of Practice as a group of individuals who come together across organizational boundaries and departments for the pursuit of a common practice; Knowledge Café as a means of bringing together people to share their knowledge and insights on topics of mutual interest; Training as including e-learning and webinars; Communicating as including coming together in meetings and after-action reviews; and Documentation as inclusive of best practices.

Finally, the knowledge management benefits listed by Dr. Hatem:

- Facilitates knowledge search;
- Helps retention of expertise;
- Improves decision-making;
- Improves production cycles;
- Shortens reaction time;
- Reduces costs, lowers inventories;
- Increases sales;
- Facilitates induction of new staff.



*L to R above are Mr. Peter Yeates and Mr. Naji Bassil, both guests of PP John Edde, then Mrs. Edde.*



*Guest P Abdalla Ziade, RC Tripoli Maarad, announcing Gala Anniversary Dinner February 27, 2016 attended by D 2452 DG Mustafa Nasredine.*

## **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**



# Marhaba



**Tuesday, January 19, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Guest Speaker: Mr. Rami Khoury, Senior Public Fellow, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut -- Topic: "In Defeating Isis Soon, We Must Also Defeat its Drivers Within the Arab World".**

Mr. Rami George Khouri holds a BA in Political Science and a MSc in Mass Communications from Syracuse University, NY, USA, and is an internationally syndicated political columnist and book author. He was the first director, and is now a senior fellow, at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. He also serves as a nonresident senior fellow at the Kennedy School of Harvard University.

He is editor at large, and former executive editor, of the Beirut-based Daily Star newspaper; former editor in chief of the Jordan Times; and former General Manager of Al Kutba, Publishers in Amman, Jordan.

He was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Prize for 2006.

His talk focused on the underlying drivers of Isis.



*In photos above, from Left to Right (all RCBC ) RT Samir El Khoury, Chair Programs Committee, introducing our speaker; Mrs. Rita Rassie, spouse of PP Edouard Rassie; PP George Beyrouti; PP Habib Saba; RT Rabab Safieddine; PP Raouf Malak; and PP Lina Shair.*

**Live Entertainment**  
**Dancing with the stars**

**Date**  
**Tuesday May 3rd 2016**  
**Venue**  
**Phoenicia Hotel**

**RC Beirut Cosmopolitan**

**20th Anniversary**

**Gala Dinner**



# Marhaba



**Tuesday, January 26, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Guest Speaker: RCBC RT Nada Maalouf -- Topic: "Classification and Career Talk"**

RT Nada Maalouf (see photo RHS) joined RCBC on October 6, 2015 (Classification: Accounting Services -- Commercial). In her Talk, Ms. Maalouf spoke of her home town Niha in the Bekaa region of Lebanon, of her large family, and of having lived in Spain as a young girl.

She holds a BA in Marketing and Management and a BA in Finance and Accounting from the Lebanese University. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed by the State of New Hampshire in the USA, she is an Audit Partner with Deloitte Middle East and a member of its Middle East Financial Institutions Leaders; she has served as a member of the Deloitte Global Advisory Council.

She gave an overview of the activities of Deloitte in FY 2015:

	<u>Global</u>	<u>Middle East</u>
Revenues in US \$ bln	35.2	
Number of Offices	725	
Headcount	225,000	3,120
Countries/Territories	150	15

She also gave a breakdown of Deloitte by Business:

- Audit: Financial Statement Audits; Accounting Advisory; Assurance Services; Integrated Services.
- Enterprise Risk Services: Internal Audit; Corporate Governance; Risk Management.
- Consulting: Human Capital; Strategy & Operations; Technology Integration
- Financial Advisory: Corporate Finance; M&A Transactions Services; Forensic; Restructuring Services
- Tax: Business; International; Corporate; Indirect



*Photos above and below show RT Nada Maalouf "at play".*



**RT Mazen Farra of RCBC handing over a banner of RC Leatherhead, UK (received from John Miles) to RCBC P Mimi Hamam.**



## **RCBC Voted Third-Best Club in District 2452**

**During the Business Meeting on February 23, DDG Kamal Katra presented RCBC P Mimi Hamam (see LHS) with a banner in recognition of RCBC as Third-Best Club in the District for the year 2014/2015. RCBC was cited for having made the highest per capita EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) contribution to the Foundation. The first- and second-best clubs in the District were in Palestine.**



**Tuesday, February 2, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Guest Speaker: Colonel Marie Abdel Massih, Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC)**  
**Topic: "LMAC Demining Work in South Lebanon and Elsewhere".**

The LMAC is responsible to the Lebanese Army and ultimately the Ministry of Defense for implementing the national Humanitarian Mine Action program including mine clearance operations; mine risk education; and mine victim assistance; as well as program advocacy, fundraising and legal framework. Its aim is to free Lebanon of the impact of cluster munitions and mines by the Year 2021.

The center devotes considerable efforts to mine risk education, aimed at preventing death and injury from landmines, cluster bombs, unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants. It seeks to build awareness of the variety of ways in which device explosion is triggered: e.g. pressure, touch, movement, vibration, fire, impact, etc ...

Such devices may be found in a variety of places, e.g. farms, orchards, bridges and their surroundings, erstwhile war zones, military sites. The LMAC places warning signs to identify danger locations. It advises those who come across danger spots not to touch anything or get closer but to notify LMAC instead. If you suspect you are in a suspicious area, stop all movement, call for and wait for help; and if you fall on an injured person, call for help and keep talking to the victim.



The LMAC runs a Mine Risk Education (MRE) program that makes available a wide variety of information and training materials designed to educate and promote safe behavior.



### Many Happy Birthday Returns to

- Nazira Hariri January 10 -- Mona Jarudi January 5 -- Nada Maalouf January 14**
- Kamal Saad January 29 -- Rana Salhab January 14 -- Gladys Younes January 1**



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**Tuesday, February 16, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel**  
**Guest Speaker: Ms. Lea Baroudi, President, NGO March, Lebanon**  
**Topic: "Art and Culture to Counter Conflict and Radicalization in Tripoli"**

Ms. Lea Baroudi is an activist working in Lebanon on diversity and acceptance; on combatting violent extremism through peacebuilding activities; on fighting against censorship and on fighting for freedom of expression as a catalyst of tolerance. She is the co-founder and Director of March, a Lebanese NGO that seeks to encourage citizens to recognize and fight for their basic civil rights and to raise a tolerant Lebanese society that fosters diversity and equality. March currently focuses on promoting freedom of expression, fighting for women's rights and working on conflict resolution projects through art and culture, freedom of expression, fighting for women's rights and working on conflict resolution projects through art and culture.



Lea has been accepted by the National Endowment for its theatrical peace building project in Tripoli "Love and War on the Rooftops". Ms. Lea Baroudi shared with us her experience in conflict resolution and fighting radicalization in the marginalized communities of the northern city of Tripoli, the second largest city of Lebanon, which is severely underdeveloped and one of the poorest cities in the country. Since the start of the Lebanese civil war, it has witnessed recurring violent sectarian clashes, in particular between the residents of two adjacent neighborhoods: Bab el Tebbeneh (a majority Sunni area) and Jabal Mohsen (a majority Alawite area). In addition to their division along sectarian lines, they are divided also by their opposition, and respectively support, of the Alawite-led Syrian government. Ironically, the two areas are physically divided by Syria Street.

Spillover violence from the Syrian conflict flared up in Lebanon and has caused hundreds of deaths in the last few years. In addition, the increase in Islamist groups in Bab el Tebbeneh and their clashes with security forces and the army, has also given Tripoli and particularly these areas the label of being radicalized or "daeshized". As news of the recurring violence and radicalization spread, various experts and media sources portrayed the root cause as deeply ideological and sectarian and therefore very difficult to counter short-term...

The situation calmed down relatively speaking during 2015, following the agreement by the various political factions controlling the area to implement a government-sponsored cease-fire. And that is when the story of our NGO March Lebanon (someone not from the area) started in Tripoli. A little experiment was attempted by our group. Here are the facts: Exactly a year ago -- in collaboration with local grassroots organizations from both areas -- auditions were organized for over a hundred young guys and girls from Jabal Mohsen and Bab El Tebbeneh. The idea was simple really: "Write and produce a play that was to be performed all over Lebanon". The catch was that the actors were young men and women from the two neighborhoods who had never acted before, and that the play was to be inspired by their lives. Initially, 16 men and women (8 from each side) with the following profile were picked: Age 16-25; most of them participated in the violence; most of them left school at a very early age; all of them were unemployed. A documentary video has now been produced "from the trenches of Jabal Mohsen and Bab el Tebbeneh to center stage ... and now to the big screen: LOVE AND WAR ON THE ROOF TOP".

## **RT Karin Saab of RCBC Brings Banner From Visit to RC Hannover Leineschlossen, Germany**



**RT Karin Saab of RCBC, recently in Germany, was invited by P Michael Stratmam to attend a meeting on February 1, 2016 of RC Hannover Leineschlossen -- at which she exchanged banners with him (see photo RHS). The President and the (82) members of the Club were pleased to learn about RCBC, its activities, and Lebanon. RT Karin is seen presenting the banner she had received to RCBC P Mimi Hamam (see photo LHS).**





# Marhaba



**Tuesday, February 23, 2016 -- Dinner Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel  
Guest Speaker: RT Dr. Ghaleb Mahmassani of RCBC, Attorney at Law, Legal Counsel and Member of the Lebanese Commission on Electoral Law -- Topic: "The Lebanese Parliamentary Electoral System : Options and Challenges".**

Dr. Mahmassani reviewed the Lebanese electoral law alternatives on offer to the Lebanese law maker. These fall into one of two broad concepts: *Plurality* and *Proportional*.

The *Plurality Concept* is that in which the candidate elected is the one who receives the largest number of votes amongst those standing for election, with due consideration in Lebanon to the fact that all candidates must belong to the religion or sect to which the electoral seat is assigned. The Plurality Concept could apply to single-seat or multiple-seat electoral districts. In the case of the latter, it is preferable that these districts be similar in size (as for "Qaza's" for example); in the multiple-seat case, those candidates are elected who obtain the most votes amongst those cast by voters belonging to the religion or sect to which the seat is assigned. Moreover, the voter is free to vote for whomsoever the voter chooses irrespective the candidate's allegiance to any electoral listing or grouping. The voter is also free not to vote for any of the candidates standing for election.



On the other hand, the key characteristic of the *Proportional Concept* is that electoral competition is between listings or groupings of candidates -- with each competing listing/grouping receiving a percentage of the seats corresponding to the percentage of the votes it receives in the election. In other words, there is no "winner take all"; rather, minority groupings are awarded at least a modicum of parliamentary representation consistent with the intent of The National Consent Agreement ("wathiqa alwifaq alwatani") to ensure representation for all segments and generations of the population.

It is also possible for a listing or grouping of candidates to be "closed" in the sense that the voter must vote for the listing or grouping "as is", without any modification or preference among or between candidates. Thus those candidates placed in the upper positions of the listing by its leader are obviously those given preference since upon the distribution of seats amongst winning lists it is those in the upper positions in each list that will be chosen.

On the other hand, the listing may be closed but subject to modification to reflect the voter's preferences within the listing he or she has opted to voted for by placing one or two of the names included in the listing at the top of such listing thus giving them preference over the remaining names in the listing. Thus, upon the counting of the votes and the determination of the number of seats belonging to each list in proportion to the number of votes it has obtained, those candidates within the list are selected who receive the most preferential votes.

In order to introduce the Proportional Concept to the Lebanese, it is possible in the first instance to apply a *Mixed Concept* in which (for example) 60% of the representatives are chosen by the *Plurality Concept* at the level of the district or "Qadaa" (of which there are 25 in Lebanon) and 40% by the *Proportional Concept* at the level of the enlarged governorate or "mohafaza" (of which there are eight in Lebanon).



**From L to R above: guests Me Maroun Zein and spouse Me Alia Zein; RCBC PP Beyrouth, his spouse, then guest Ms. Hala Khammar; guest RT Gabriel Gharzouzi of RC de Beyrouth, RCBC RT Rabab Safieddine, and guest P Nominee Zouheir Bizri of RC de Beyrouth; RCBC Treasurer Jean-Paul Moubarak and his mother, Mrs. Janine Moubarak, guest of RCBC P Mimi Hamam.**