



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 8—Issue No. 176—July/August 2010

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Club Number: 30893

District 2450

Rotary International

2010—2011 Officers

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President Elect

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Dinner Meeting - Fellowship Evening 06 July 2010

Motivated by the energy and spirit of South Africa's 2010 FIFA World Cup, RCBC organized a fellowship dinner meeting on the 6th of July to watch the Uruguay vs Netherlands semi-final match -- together with spouses and friends.



Dinner Meeting - Handover Ceremony 13 July 2010

The official presidents' handover ceremony between outgoing President Edouard Rassie and President-Elect Subhi Jarudi was held at Le Royal Hotel in Beirut.

PP Edouard Rassie expressed his gratitude to all RCBC members and to board members in particular for the precious time and joint efforts in making 2009-2010 a very successful and fulfilling Rotary year. Board officers and committee chairs were recognized for their hard work and commitment to the ideals of Rotary. P Subhi Jarudi introduced the new board members and highlighted the goals set forth by the Club for the new Rotary year.

The event unfolded with dinner, music, and dancing.



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





Business Meeting - PP George Beyrouti 20 July 2010

PP George Beyrouti led a club training session on membership. He emphasized the need for inducting qualified new members who bring fresh ideas, new interests, increased energy and thus provide for future leadership and a greater Rotary capacity for service. Every member can contribute to the club's membership by bringing in eligible business and professional leaders who are interested in and committed to advancing the mission of Rotary.



To attract prospective members:

1. Hand out to them: Rotary Basics; This is Rotary; and What's Rotary?
2. Encourage prospective members to visit the Rotary International web-site, www.rotary.org
3. Produce a brochure that highlights the club's activities and service projects
4. Invite prospective members to one or more club activity or service project.

The new member should be oriented properly and made familiar with the history of Rotary, with the club and with its projects. The best way to sustain the enthusiasm of the new members is to involve them in club committees, fund raising events, board meetings and social activities.

Dinner Meeting - Guest Speaker: Dr. Elie Yachoui 03 August 2010

Dr. Elie Yachoui, Dean of Business Administration and Economics at Notre Dame University, gave our members and their guests a presentation on what he considers to be a service oriented Lebanese Economy the main growth sectors of which include banking and tourism. In his opinion, the coupling of Lebanese monetary stabilization policies with high interest rate policies has aggravated the debt service burden, leading to a substantial rise in budget deficits. Nor did these policies accommodate the need of the private sector to invest in and expand its activities which, in return, would have enhanced economic growth and helped balance the economy. Fear of inflation and the instability of the country did not help either. Dr. Yachoui stressed that the budget deficit would have been acceptable had it helped boost the economy. When a budget deficit merely serves to finance current expenditures, we should reject it and demand instead that the private sector should be put in charge of delivering public services.





Members' Annual Iftar at the Phoenicia Hotel 24 August 2010

RCBC held its annual Iftar at the Phoenicia Hotel to celebrate Ramadan. Members, spouses and friends had a memorable time.



Iftar at Hard Rock Cafe August 31, 2010

Hard Rock Cafe Beirut, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, invited 120 orphans and their caretakers from the Dr. Mohammad Khaled Social Foundation to their annual Holy Month of Ramadan Iftar, continuing an eleven-year tradition. Animators from Family Care and magician Dany entertained the children with face painting, balloon animation, magic and other activities.

RCBC extends its deep gratitude to Hard Rock Cafe's Management and staff for making this year's Iftar dinner another great success.





Rotary International News

Cycling, swimming, and dancing to raise money for polio eradication.

On 21 August, the Rotary Club of Greater Albany, Oregon, USA, held its second annual Pedal Away Polio ride, raising close to \$7,000 for PolioPlus. About 30 riders took part in the event, which offered 52-, 27-, 11- and 7-mile courses, and a 1-mile loop for children.

Len Hainz, a club member and cancer survivor, came up with the idea after participating in a similar event two years ago in Coos Bay. Hainz was an avid runner before prostate cancer forced him to stop. He turned to cycling upon a suggestion from his son, a die-hard cyclist, and it ended up playing a large role in his recovery.

"I fell in love with it," Hainz says. "My whole family cycles. After taking part in the event in Coos Bay, it got me thinking, we ought to do this too."

Publicity from the first Pedal Away Polio event attracted the attention of a local polio survivor, Bonnie Helpenstell. This year, Helpenstell and her husband agreed to match some of the funds the club raised through the ride.

"I am profoundly appreciative that Rotary has not forgotten the impact of this disease on the world population just because we don't have it in the United States anymore," says Helpenstell, who was diagnosed with post polio syndrome three years ago. "To see Rotarians in my community make an effort on behalf of people around the world is inspiring."

Other Rotarians have used their athleticism to raise money for the cause.

Jatin Mehta, a 70-year-old member of the Rotary Club of Bridgeport, Connecticut swam a mile and a half across Lake George in New York on 9 August, raising more than \$24,000 for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Mehta, a native of India who moved to the United States in the 1960s, chose Lake George in upstate New York because he had swum across it years ago, when he took his children there for an annual vacation.

"My first motivation was to do something to raise money for polio," Mehta says. "I also figured the idea of a 70-year-old swimming across a lake would grab attention and help publicize the good work Rotary does."

He was right. In addition to generating donations from Rotary clubs in Connecticut and India, Mehta's swim brought out members of the community and received ample media coverage.

"I was able to reach many non-Rotarians who were interested in finding out about polio and what we are doing to end it," Mehta says. "Rotary's brand name is good. If we approach people right, we can really get the word out there about what Rotary does."

Other recent fundraisers have included:

- Thie Convery, a member of the Rotary Club of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, raised US\$44,000 for Rotary's challenge in August in a bid to swim across Lake Ontario, from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto. [Read more.](#)
- Stephen Wallace, governor-elect of District 5330 (California, USA), and members of his family cycled 450 miles across Iowa in seven days at the end of July, collecting pledges for PolioPlus. Wallace's daughter Cris [hiked the Pacific Crest Trail](#), which stretches from Mexico to Canada, in 2008, raising more than \$70,000 for PolioPlus. Inspired by their daughter's accomplishment, Wallace and his wife trained for three months to take part in the Des Moines Register's annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. "This has been one of the most physically demanding adventures I have ever had," Wallace says, "but also very rewarding. The number of people who rode alongside us during the ride, asking questions about polio and Rotary, made every minute worth it."
- The Rotary Club of Sherman Oaks Sunset, California, held a dance marathon on 7 August, raising several thousand dollars for PolioPlus. Community members danced for several hours and received free dance instruction. (See their [video on YouTube](#).) Mel Powell, a past president of the club, says more than two-thirds of the donations came from non-Rotarians. "A young lady who works as a custodian in the condo building where I live saw our flier and was so moved, she collected \$44 from her neighbors -- all people with very little money -- in a sandwich bag," Powell says. "That little bag she handed me the Monday after the event was more meaningful than checks we received for much greater amounts."



The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Upcoming Events in Lebanon

*September 2010: Freikeh Festival - the region will host the annual festival of theatre, cinema, and the visual arts. Venue: Freikeh area

*September 2010: Beirut's documentary festival, DocuDays, aims to raise awareness of non-fictional film as both entertainment and information. It screens international documentaries at Al-Madina Theater and other venues, as well as local films, providing an insight into Lebanese culture and current affairs. Venue: Metropolis Empire Sofil

*September 30: A collective summer exhibition of Lebanese artists at Janine Rubeiz Gallery

*September 30 – October 1: Blues guitarist and singer, McCray blends smooth blues with hard rock riffs at Mojo Jazz Club

*October 7 - 8: Fairouz to perform at Biel. The concert will also be an opportunity for Fairouz to launch her new album "Eh Fe Amal" written and composed by her son Ziad El Rahbani.

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to RT Maurice Carlier (Sep 01), RT Silva Guiragossian (Sep 9), PP Karim Naamani (Sep 15) and PP Fahed Assaf (Sep 25).

RCBC wishes you a wonderful year of health, prosperity, and happiness.