

# Marhaba

## Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter July - September 2018

RCBC meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut

Business Meetings at 19:00, Dinner Meetings at 20:00

### Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

### Club Number

30893

### District

2452 Rotary International

### RI President

Barry Rassin  
Rotary Club of East Nassau New  
Providence, Bahamas

### District Governor

Dr. Michel Jazzar

### Assistant Governor

Najat Francis

### RCBC Officers 2018-2019

**President:** Mona Jarudi  
**Incoming President:** Adib Mounla  
**Vice President:** Edouard Rassie  
**IPP:** Rabab Safieddine  
**Secretary:** Olga Feghali  
**Treasurer:** Mohammad Baltaji  
**Directors:** Mimi Hamam, Nada  
Maalouf and Habib Saba

**Marhaba Editor:** Mona Jarudi

<https://www.rcbclebanon.org/>

### Letter from the Editor

Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan welcomes you all to a new Rotary year 2018-2019!

Per tradition, the new Rotary year is marked by a motto conjured by the President of Rotary International that sets the vision and mission for the year. Barry Rassin, President RI, adopted "Be the Inspiration", a motto that will resonate with Rotarians around the world as they embark on another year of service in their communities. The emphasis is all about inspiring people around us to be better citizens, engaging young people in Rotaract and Interact clubs as they take their first steps into being future Rotarians and promoting the value of Service.

We, RCBC members, believe that EDUCATION is the most powerful tool that we can arm the young generation with. It paves the way for understanding the world we live in with all the challenges at hand, understanding our differences and respecting them, and laying the ground work for peace and civility. Our focus this year falls in line with the focus of District 2452; CIVIC EDUCATION and PEACE BUILDING, which is the vision of District Governor Michel Jazzar. Together we will attempt to BE THE INSPIRATION for a better future!

- Mona Jarudi



## District Governor Inaugural Dinner

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On July 20, District Governor (D2452) Michel Jazzar inaugurated the year with a celebration that brought together all Rotary clubs in Lebanon. It was an evening of hope where DG Jazzar stressed the importance of education and the role of youth.



## Education Is A Great Equalizing Force



In the presence of District Governor Michel Jazzar and Mrs. Dia Jazzar, Assistant Governor Mrs. Najat Francis, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held its first dinner of Rotary year 2018-2019 featuring Guest Speaker Mrs. Nayla Zreik Fahed, Co-Founder of the NGO Lebanese Alternative Learning (LAL).

Lebanese Alternative Learning is a Lebanese non-profit organisation with a mission to develop multilingual free alternative culturally adapted educational resources through technology. A network of educators and education technology experts are working together to enhance teaching methods and practices in Lebanon and innovating on access solutions to be present in the most remote areas. LAL priority is to empower vulnerable communities and ensure all high risk students receive an engaging and effective learning experience and keep learning.

LAL's main project, Tabshoura, is a digital platform, providing interactive support activities in 3 languages, based on the Lebanese Curriculum Learning Outcomes and targeting all school topics and all levels from KG to Grade 9 as well as extra-curricular pedagogical activities on art, sciences, culture and civic education. What makes this project unique is that relevant content, focusing on autonomous learning and learning to learn approaches, is combined to innovative offline access solutions, mainly, our Equals in tech, UN award winner solution, Tabshoura in a box. This pocket size device is not internet and electricity dependent. It is based on the Raspberry PI technology, where relevant content is stored on a micro SD, and can provide local wireless access to up to 30 devices (smartphones, tablets and computers ....).

Lebanese Alternative Learning is a pioneer in offline educational resources in Lebanon, and is committed to creating new innovations that could benefit not only the organization but also external parties. Lal team participated this year in many tech and innovation conferences and is currently exploring the role Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Blockchain can play in solving emergency education issues such as delay and credentials.

LAL is currently developing a project with Malala Fund and got the opportunity to meet with Apple management and get their expertise in developing digital learning systems.





## RCBC Fellowship Meeting

On July 31, a fellowship meeting was held in a convivial and celebratory mode. The meeting featured a friend of the club Peace Fellow Kate Keator who updated the Club on her recent studies and work. Club administrator Nada Maalouf, Partner at Deloitte, was celebrated for her 25th work anniversary with the firm. The club also enjoyed a little workshop with our member Farida Najjar on the power of the mind.



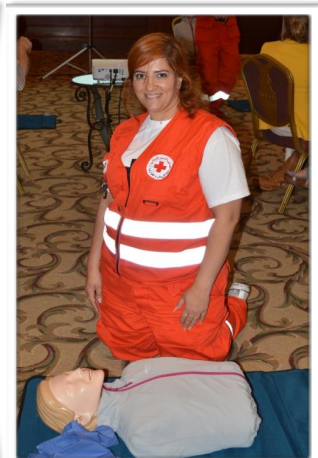


## Lebanese Red Cross

On September 4 and after the summer break, RCBC hosted Mrs. Rosie Boulos, the Director of Emergency Services at the Lebanese Red Cross which was established in 1945. The mission of the Lebanese Red Cross, is to provide 24/7 emergency services to all Lebanese territories. Today, the Red Cross serves 32 communities, has 46 EMS stations, 4 dispatch centers, 13 blood banks and has 8000 volunteers.

Mrs. Boulos was accompanied by a team of young dedicated volunteers who proceeded to give a live demonstration to the audience of the basic rules of CPR and the need of everyone to learn them.

Over 70 years, the Lebanese Red Cross has become the backbone of emergency service in the country and a critical compliment to the government and private emergency services.



## Education & Peace Building

In celebration of World Peace Day, and in line with our area of focus this year highlighting Civic Education and Peace Building, RCBC had a business meeting on September 18 with two guest speakers.

Dr. Ghada Ayoub Abi Fadel, District Chair for Pilot Project - Civic education for Peace Building- presented the highlights of the District 2452 area of focus, underscoring the needs for a project like this with our youth ages 11-14 and encouraging the participation of all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon. This is a project that will span over one year, that commences with identification of prospective participating schools and target students. Initial and final assessments/questionnaires will determine the success of the program and its longevity.

This presentation was followed by another interesting speaker Mr. Abbas Sibai whose topic was " WHY DO WE NEED TO INVEST IN PEACE". Mr. Sibai started by stating that as Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provide skills for conflict resolutions. He stated that if we are about violence against women, hunger, economic development, child soldiers, education and the environment then we definitely care about conflict resolutions. His work at Common Ground highlights the following:

Conflict is inevitable, violence is NOT. Humankind is interdependent. Change is always possible. When everybody wins, change lasts. Common ground matters.

These two very interesting presentations are too valuable to cover in a paragraph. Details are available for those interested by an email to [rcbclb@gmail.com](mailto:rcbclb@gmail.com)





## Bridging Communities

On Tuesday September 25, RCBC business meeting featured guest speaker Mrs. Maya Najjar, Founder and President of Ayadina Association. This is an NGO whose core belief lies in the fact that every individual has an innate talent that should be nurtured and cultivated. Accompanying Mrs. Najjar were Elissa Abi Daher and Nadine Homsy. In a sincere, non scripted short presentation, Maya was able to convey the mission of Ayadina which captured the attention of the audience. A short film about one of her students whose talent at ballet was spotted in a recital. Reine was given a once in a lifetime opportunity to go to New York City and experience dance classes with the best! She is now giving dance classes at Ayadina!

This is only one example of how Ayadina helps the less privileged in exploring their horizons and showcasing their talents!



## RCBC visits Rotary Club Beyrouth

One of the most important attributes of Rotary life is the strong ties that are formed among clubs and members. RCBC took its first visit this year to its parent club, represented by PP Tony Asfour, RT. Samir Khoury, CS Olga Feghali and President Mona Jarudi and invited by RT. Rosy Boulos of RCB. In an atmosphere of utmost hospitality, the bonds of friendship were renewed with the promise of joining hands in our rotary work for the common good.



## Reaching Out

As we know, Rotary is a family that spans continents. This provides Rotarians in every destination they travel to with a network of cities, towns and venues where they can visit and get to know other Rotarians and learn about their work and challenges. In such a recent visit, RCBC Rt. Jean Paul Moubarak met in Paris, France the President of RC Paris Avenir Philippe Costes and the Governor of District 1660 Mrs. Catherine Monier. Mutual interests were discussed and future plans were explored. We hope to see our French friends in Lebanon in the future!



## RCBC supports Lebanese Food Bank

The Lebanese Food Bank is very close to the heart of RCBC and its members and always have our support in their fight against hunger.





## CELEBRATIONS!

Heartiest congratulations go to our dear Rotarian Christine Arzuomanian and husband Joren on the Baptism of their adorable son, Gabriel, the future Rotarian.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**July:** Nadim Hissen and Olga Feghali

**August:** Joseph Akl and Amal Talhouk.

**September:** Christine Arzumanian, Rabab Safieddine and Karim Naamani