



# Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 172—March 2010

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

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## Business Meeting - Ms. Wendelah El Kareh 02 March 2010



RCBC members and guests welcomed Ms. Wendela El Kareh, Field Operations Manager-Agro Program of Georges Frem Foundation, who delivered a presentation on the “Challenges of Fruit Production in Lebanon.”

**Basic Principle:** Agriculture & Species diversity are interrelated: Fields and biotopes are compatible neighbors. When all players of the value chain accept this statement and abide by it, then everyone is on the start of the right track.

### Challenges of Fruit Production are numerous:

#### 1. Social :

a) Rural area depletion: some rural zones are witnessing more than 75% depletion. Other areas are witnessing complete depletion of the young generation who does not want to be involved in the agricultural sector.

b) Labor: availability of qualified labor

**2. Technical:** Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices as part of the Global Gap.

**3. Environmental:** The climate change has made a negative impact on fruit production.

a) More than 6 different growth stages on one same apple or cherry or peach or plum branch.

b) Lack of proper insect and mite eggs over wintering stages

c) Unusually early appearance of pink & green buds stages

d) Serious effect of late cool Bekaa nights on flowering plums peaches and apricots

**4. Financial – credit linked:** Urgent need for micro credit, with facilitated conditions especially with regards to guarantors. This specific need is being addressed in detail by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**5. Commercial:** The ever – lasting dilemma of quality; sustainability; marketability

**6. Regional socio – economical context**

**7. Regional security/stability:** Fruit and vegetable production area are always the first sectors affected by fluctuations at borders, or instability.

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


**Business Meeting - PP Joe Boulos**
**09 March 2010**


PP Joe Boulos, son of Mr. Fouad Boulos - the founder of the Telepherique of Jounieh, gave an insightful presentation on the cable-car system, its history and the latest efforts / plans to enhance the site's position as one of the attractions for tourists in Lebanon and as an entertainment center for both tourists & local residents.

The Telepherique was founded in 1965. In nine minutes, it transports passengers from the Mediterranean bay of Jounieh to an altitude of 650 meters, the Our Lady of Lebanon shrine in Harissa. The adventurous ride will take you to one of the most beautiful panoramic views in the world.

As part of the efforts to enhance its offerings & attractions to both tourists & local residents, the Telefrique will be opening soon a full entertainment area that provides a fully equipped children playground next to a food court that has an array of restaurants.

The Teleferique has maintained an unblemished safety record throughout its years of service, with no injuries reported to date. It had only two incidents - the first one on March 2, 1989 several people were stuck in a cabin over the highway for hours before being rescued. The second incident, similar to the previous one, occurred on February 21, 2007 when five people were stuck in two separate cabins. They were rescued after six hours.

**Dinner Meeting - Dr. Salah Honein**
**16 March 2010**

RCBC members and guests were privileged to welcome H.E. Dr. Salah Honein, a former member of the Lebanese parliament, who presented the topic of "Abolishing the Confessional System" in a dinner meeting held at Le Vendome Hotel Intercontinental.

Since gaining independence from France, Lebanon has been governed by a confessional system, a form in which the highest offices are proportionately reserved for representatives from certain religious communities. Efforts to alter or abolish the confessional system of allocating power have been at the center of Lebanese politics for more than 30 years. A series of amendments has substantially altered the constitution of 1926. The most significant among them is Article 95, which states that the confessional communities of Lebanon shall be equitably represented in public employment and in the composition of the cabinet but such a measure is not to impair the general welfare of the state. Yet, the political blocs are usually based on confessional and local interests or on personal allegiance rather than on political affinities. Lebanon is witnessing a sectarian tension and hostages a paralyzed political system. To deal with this issue, a national committee has been formed lately to propose ways to abolish the sectarianism in politics as this will help to move towards a more democratic progressive society where everyone accepts the other while separating religion from the state.





**Business Meeting - BCRAC  
23 March 2010**

BCRAC members expressed their gratitude to their mother club, RCBC, that sponsored them to participate in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) held in Lebanon and shared with RCBC members their valuable experience and knowledge they have got after participating in this program.

**Dinner Meeting - Dr. Peter Dorman  
30 March 2010**

Dr. Peter Dorman, president of the American University of Beirut, addressed the audience on the topic of the “Challenges of Higher Education in the Modern Middle East” emphasizing on the phenomenon of new universities in the ME, the challenges to the creation of such institutions, the prevalent focus on the importance of science and professionalism and the idea of the complete citizen.



MENA and GCC regions including Saudi Arabia are embracing the growth of new universities and graduate programs in their region offering studies across many fields: law, veterinary medicine, foreign service, engineering, medicine, design and art while other universities are devoted to the solution of environmental and engineering problems of global scope acknowledging the vital need to build human capacities and to create sustaining economies. Yet, the tough challenges are to find talented faculties and find the right students who have the proper preparation to study in advanced areas of research. Besides training the students to deal with the technical challenges of research, development, public health and the economy, these educational institutions have the responsibility to teach the values and the cultural traditions that are unique to their region to transform the student from “professional citizen” to “complete citizen,” a person who has been exposed broadly to many disciplines and different cultures who is certainly aware of his or her own civic responsibility and how the individual’s action can influence a modern state.



**Clown Show "Be Aware" on March 18  
Rotary Land Mine Awareness Project Sponsored by RCBC,  
RC LA Cedars, and TRF**

A group of Rotarians from RCBC visited the South of Lebanon, together with Lt. Colonel Mohamad El Cheikh of the Lebanese Army Landmine Action Center and Mr. Khaled Yamout of Norwegian People's Aid.

The object of the visit was to observe the clown shows organized by Family Care Lebanon and sponsored by Rotary as part of the Landmine Awareness Project to educate over 2000 school children in 12 schools in landmine infected areas in South Lebanon about the danger of landmines & cluster bombs.



**Rotary News**

This was an award-winning year for **The Rotarian** magazine and Rotary International's Web site, which were recognized for editorial and creative achievement by **Folio** magazine.

RI's Web site won a 2009 Eddie Award for editorial excellence. It was named the bronze winner in the category for association and nonprofit sites circulated six or more times a year.

**The Rotarian** picked up a 2009 Ozzie Award in the category of Best Use of Digital Imagery for associations and nonprofits. The recognition was for the January article "How To Do Good and Feel Good Doing It."

**Folio's** Eddie and Ozzie awards are the largest awards competitions in publishing. The prestigious designations are bestowed on only the best in magazine and editorial creative teams.

**District Rotaract Conference**

33rd District Rotaract Conference under the theme "Tomorrow Crafts Today" will take place in Lebanon from June 23rd till June 27th, 2010.

Besides exploring our beautiful Lebanon and the great fellowship and sightseeing activities, the conference will include certified peace building and team building training program for community youth leaders aiming at empowering them to become active citizens promoting peace, and productive members in their societies.

Peace will also be promoted through sports; a mini fun marathon will be organized at Byblos inviting all Lebanese NGOs and Universities to run 5km together with Rotaract members as a team building collaborative activity.

We would also want to highlight that all our formal trainings and Gala dinners will be in a smoke free environment with the presence of the Lebanese Ministers and Government officials, Diplomats, Rotary and Rotaract Officials, and VIP guests.

**Latest Events in Lebanon!**

\*May 05 – May 28: Born in Beirut in 1962, Roger Moukarzel's photographic career had led from war correspondent to the cover of Paris-Match. This solo show gathers photography from his travels through China, India, Morocco, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Yemen and Egypt examining the meaning of east and west, man and nature.

\*May 06 – May 23: Set in the last traditional Lebanese house in Gemmayzeh, written and directed by Betty Taoutel 'Ekher Beyt Bel Jemmayze' stars a cast of over 10 local actors. Weaving together the character's personal stories, the joy of reunion and the nostalgia of memories it's sure to be a funny and touching piece of theatre. A chance to see a dramatic microcosm of a Gemmayzeh that does not sleep at night, and a house that may no longer see the day.

\*May 18: Piano recital performed by Armen & Suzanne Ketchek at USJ - Pierre Y. Abou Khater auditorium.

**Members' Happy Moments ☺**

Happy Birthday to RT Lina Shair (Mar. 05) and PP Raouf Malak (Mar. 24)

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