

Marhaba



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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

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Lina Shair

Secretary

Amal Talhouk

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Tony Asfour

George Beyrouti

Nora Haddad

Adib Mounla

Rabab Safieddine

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel
Guest Speaker: Dr. Hiba Osman, President and Medical Director, BALSAM -- Topic: "Palliative Care: Dignity and Choice in Advanced Illness".

Dr. Osman (see photo RHS) has a Medical Degree (MD) from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, USA. She is Board Certified in the USA in both Family Medicine and in Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

She is an international authority on palliative care, has pioneered its development in Lebanon and is committed to its development in Lebanon and the region. She is a Founding Board Member and Executive Director of Balsam, the Lebanese Center for Palliative Care.

Palliative care is NOT about doing nothing, not just for the dying, not just for cancer, nor just for adults. According to the World Health Organization, "palliative care seeks to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems -- physical, psychosocial, and spiritual".

Multiple types of issues cause suffering. These include physical issues; disease management issues; psychological issues; social issues; spiritual issues; practical issues; end-of-life/death management; and coping with loss/grief type issues.

Palliative care offers numerous benefits. It: lessens pain; allows better symptom management; lessens anxiety; shortens hospital stays; reduces re-admissions; lessens depressions; eases bereavement; and prolongs survival.

The Lebanese Center for Palliative Care aims to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life of people with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses through patient care, advocacy, capacity building and research.

Its core team (see photo RHS) includes three Physicians; a Clinical Psychologist; a Clinical Pharmacist; five Nurses; a Social Worker; an Outreach Coordinator; and a Personnel Officer.



L to R: RCBC RT Nadim Hissen, followed by Rotaractors Peter Rassie, Sabine Simonian, Meghry Kaladjian, then Danielle Tewtel.



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 N. Saad – e-mail: knsaadrcbc@gmail.com
We welcome your comments and suggestions.

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan



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Tuesday, March 8, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker: Dr. Salma Nachabe Talhouk, Founding Director, AUB Nature Conservation Center -- Topic: "Baldati, Bi'ati" i.e. "My Village, My Environment".

Dr. Talhouk holds a PhD in Landscape Agriculture. Her academic work focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of plant biodiversity in Lebanon. She is the founding Director of AUB's Nature Conservation Center (NCC), she has served as the chairperson of the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management, and as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

The Baldati Bi'ati project was conceived with the aim of exploring prospects for decentralized community-based tourism in Lebanon and promoting community involvement in decision making and action for the conservation and sustainable use of Lebanon's natural resources.

Village maps have been completed in 50 Lebanese towns and villages throughout Lebanon. The community-generated information reflects local interest and knowledge, and a short list of future conservation activities. The study has demonstrated that, despite political instability, local natural heritage still constitutes a foundation for development.

The AUBNCC used participatory mapping, a powerful tool, that allows residents to achieve systematic quantitative and qualitative documentation and archive natural and cultural landmarks in their towns. Indeed, 304 workshops in 70 villages led to the identification of 3200 landmarks and sites under consideration for conservation and local action.

It gave Biodiversity Village Awards to towns that documented nature in their villages and have taken measures to conserve their environments. It also organized four knowledge-sharing exhibits to raise awareness about Lebanon's hidden natural treasures and to showcase local action plans.

A new project uses "crowd sourcing" to acquire and share knowledge regarding local green initiatives relating to natural, eco-tourism, food, culture and archeological resources. The project will promote sustainable living, support community based tourism, and contribute to nature conservation. Dr. Talhouk also showed a video that maps Lebanese nature and villages. She believes that "despite political instability, our local natural heritage remains an underpinning for development".

The discussion that followed was animated and covered a range of subjects, notably concerning the overall process of identifying and documenting national resources; assessing the economic potential of such resources; drawing up plans for their exploitation; and implementing such plans.



L to R above: RT Mazen Farra, RCBC & Mr. Jawad Abboud, guest, Bank Audi.



L to R are PP Joe Boulos, RT Nada Maalouf and RT Nadim Hissen, all RCBC.

March is Rotary Literacy Month and Supporting Education is one of our six areas of focus. RCBC P Mimi Hamam (photo RHS) reminded us that UNESCO estimates the number of illiterates in the world at a shocking 860 million, a major obstacle to development -- economic, political and social. UNESCO notes further that Literacy contributes to peace in the world: "It is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means of for social and human development".



Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

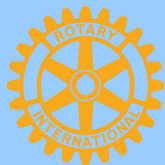
RC: Rotary Club

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



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**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 -- Dinner Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker: Dr. Bilal Hamad, Beirut Municipality President and Professor of Engineering, AUB
Topic: "The Journey of an Academician in the Public Sector -- Beirut: Sustainable City for the Future".**

Dr. Hamad holds a MS and a PhD with Distinction from the University of Texas at Austin, USA, and a BE in Civil Engineering with Distinction from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon (AUB). He is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at AUB and a consultant in design and construction, earthquake engineering and the repair and strengthening of buildings.

A member and speaker at several national and international engineering associations, he is the recipient of several scientific awards, including the American Concrete Institute Structural Research Award, and the AUB Alumni Association Excellence Award; and was elected to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of the University of Texas. Dr. Hamad has been Mayor of Beirut since 2010.

He described Beirut as "a city reborn in the 1990s" and asked the rhetorical question "how to make it sustainable and smart for the future". The development strategy he has launched involves (a) creating a vision, (b) addressing the challenges, (c) setting priorities, (d) defining resources, and (e) setting the road map.

A major challenge is to achieve administrative decentralization and thus enable local authorities to deal effectively with developmental issues. He deplored the length and complexity of the process to set up partnerships with private sector entities that would offset the weaknesses of the public sector: the shortage of qualified staff; the inefficient outmoded services; and the enormous delays needed for successive approvals. A major effort is needed to overcome the lack of trust of the people in the leadership and "to address the struggle between development on one side and Heritage and Memory on the other".

Among his priorities, Mayor Hamad cited upgrading and rehabilitating infrastructure -- e.g. sidewalk furniture; existing and new green space; reducing traffic congestion by providing public transport and parking facilities; lessening disaster risk and increasing the resilience of the city against natural disasters (20% of the buildings of Beirut are not safe; and improving safety from crime and terrorism.

He showed a large number of photos of the urban planning projects undertaken or underway: Streets; Bridges; Tunnels; Rehabilitation of Cultural Old Heritage Stairways; Rehabilitation of Green Spaces; Rehabilitation of Existing Museums -- and Construction of New; "Dream" Projects of the Future; Traffic/Public Transport/Parking Facilities; Disaster Risk Reduction; City Surveillance Network: Building City Safety Against Crime and Terrorism.



He also informed us that the Municipality has signed a protocol with the World Bank IBRD to commission a "resilience" study on Beirut.



The photo Left shows the Sursok Museum in Achrafieh, rehabilitated by Beirut Municipality. The photo Center shows the Bechara el Khoury Tunnel it constructed, whilst the Photo to the Right shows its Tarik Jadideh Civic Center "Dream Project".



L to R above RCBC P Mimi Hamad, then Mr. Nadim Hamad, and Mrs. Ruba Hamad, son and spouse of our speaker.



L to R above PP Karim and Mrs. Tania Naamani, PP Pierre Azar & PP Joe Boulos of RCBC.



On Tuesday, March 22, 2016, a Business Meeting was held to discuss the 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner of RCBC -- to be held on May 3, 2016 at the Phoenicia Hotel.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) has twinning arrangements with 10 other RCs

Rotary Club	Location	Rotary District
RC Amman Cosmopolitan	Jordan	2452
RC Dubai	UAE	2452
RC Charlotte South	North Carolina, USA	7680
RC Bluefield	Virginia, USA	7570
RC Brookhaven	Georgia, USA	6900
RC Newport	Wales	1150
RC Brookham & Horsley	England	1250
RC Wassenburg	Germany	1842
RC Valle Caudina	Italy	2100
RC Napoli Posillipo	Italy	2100



We are proud to learn that RCBC PP George Beyrouti has been named Rotary Lebanon Country Trainer for RY 2016/2017.

RCBC RT Nora Haddad posted a note on RCBC / Facebook concerning "Women in Rotary": First admitted in 1987, women today represent over 15% of Rotarians worldwide; at RCBC, 33% of the members are women and both the current and the Immediate Past Presidents are women.



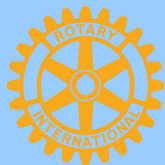
RCBC Treasurer Jean-Paul Moubarak met RT Tomasz Lipski of RC Pomerania, Poland (L in photo RHS). RT Lipski was in Beirut on a visit and could not stay over to attend our meeting. He hopes to do so on a future visit.

RT Karin Saab of RCBC Brings Banner From Visit to RC Hannover Leineschloss, Germany



*RT Karin Saab of RCBC, recently in Germany, was invited by P Dr. Robert Paulhausen to attend a meeting on February 1, 2016 of RC Hannover Leineschloss -- 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).
Jan/Feb issue text corrected, with apologies...*





Tuesday, March 29, 2016 -- Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel -- Guest Speaker: Dr. Marie Line Karam, Professor of Law and International Arbitrator -- Topic: "Globalization and its Impact at the Local and International Levels -- Analysis and Future Issues".



Dr. Marie Line Karam (see photo RHS) holds a French-Lebanese Law Degree and a Master's Degree in Law from the St. Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. She holds a PhD in International Law from Pantheon-Assas University, Paris II, France. Dr. Karam is a highly sought after Professor and legal advisor, in Lebanon and abroad. She was introduced by RCBC Treasurer Jean Paul Moubarak (see photo LHS).

Dr. Karam pointed out that relations between states were governed for centuries by the concept of absolute sovereignty of the state -- instituted in 1648 by the Treaty of Westphalia. However, "globalization has led to interaction and interdependence between states to the point that no single state can consider itself isolated from the international community".



She defined globalization as a process of interaction and integration among people, companies, and States, driven by international trade and investment, and facilitated by technology and the Internet. Indeed, "an important number of conventions and treaties were signed and ratified by the state at all levels ... and an International Court of Justice and an International Criminal Court have been established". Whether we are witnessing the disappearance of the state system is questionable, however. After all, international treaties are only binding once ratified by individual states and international decisions must be enforced by states.

Dr. Karam also noted that the sovereignty of the state and its monopoly of force is being challenged by terrorism.

She concluded by noting that the powers of the state are being limited but are not disappearing. And while globalization is affecting the rights and the values of individuals, it not doing so in a similar fashion nor to the same extent worldwide.



Guests L to R above are Mrs. Nada Ata, mother of the speaker, Mr. David Ata, Mr. Joe Ata, and Professor Bassam Lahoud.



Guests L to R above are Dr. Nicole Karam, Professor Walid Kassar, and Maître Ghazi Mcheik.

Many Happy Birthday Returns to

Nora Haddad : March 29 -- Raouf Malak : March 24 -- Karin Saab : March 18

Rana Salhab : March 14 -- Lina Shair : March 5