



# Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 174—May 2010

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

## 2009—2010 Officers

President

*Edouard Rassie*

President Elect

*Subhi Jarudi*

Vice President

*Karim Naamani*

Secretary

*Habib Saba*

Treasurer

*Antoine Baroud*

Sergeant-At-Arms

*PP Pierre Azar*

## Directors

*IPP George Beyrouti*

*RT Michel Ghanem*

*RT Hussam Rinno*

*RT Asaad Salhab*

## District Governor

*Nijad Al Atassi*

## RI President

*John Kenny*

## Club Contact Information

Tel: +961 1 570888

Fax: +961 1 566256

Mobile: +961 3 771487

E-mail: [bcrc@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:bcrc@cyberia.net.lb)

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

Prepared By:

*Club Assistant Annie Sapsezian*

Edited By:

*Asaad Salhab*

## **Business Meeting - Mr. Sergio Bianchi 04 May 2010**

RCBC was pleased to host Mr. Sergio Bianchi, Rotary Foundation scholar, who gave a lively presentation about “Carracci, Guido, Reni and Il Guercino: The school of Bologna and baroque painting in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century”

Bologna is widely known for its old university, its delicious food and its reddish buildings that replicate daylight at sundown. Yet it is also a lively city that attracts tourists and art lovers in particular.

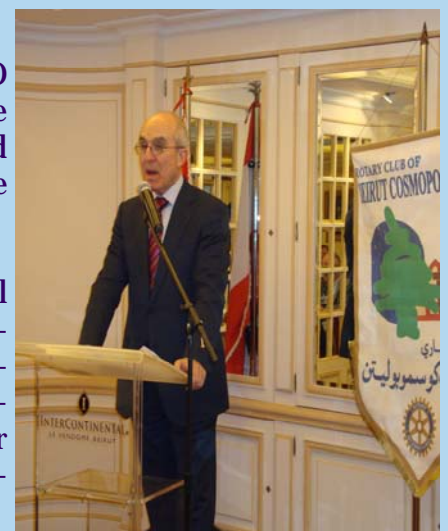
In 1580, Annibale and his cousins Agostino and Ludovico Carracci founded the Accademia degli Incamminati, an art school that has become the most progressive and influential institution of its kind in Italy. In the Academia senior artists discuss, debate and exchange ideas, compare aesthetic works and share technical knowledge. Junior artists, such as Guido Reni and Guercino, have developed their skills under the supervision of a number of masters. This private art school has provided comprehensive theoretical and practical training in the classic arts and has also pioneered new art forms that were considered minor at the time. The frescoes and drawings of the artists reflected an evolution from the Florentine-like approach dominant in the Academia to a style nearer to the realist one developed in Venice by Titian and Caravaggio. The shift from classicism to realism in painting is the most important development in Italian art during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A tour of Bologna’s churches and museums can give art appreciators an interesting perspective on this development.



## **Dinner Meeting - Dr. Salah Bouraad 11 May 2010**

Dr. Salah Bouraad, Chairman and CEO of Segenius, received a warm welcome from RCBC members and guests, and gave an interesting and informative presentation on “Renewable Energy.”

Energy is one of the most fundamental elements of our universe. Its use is essential in our daily lives. There are always energy exchanges between systems in everything we do -- whether for lighting, heating, cooling, or transportation...



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

Improper use of energy is a major concern in our times. We are certainly aware of the damage we have suffered from energy mismanagement. The harm done is critical and covers many fronts of which damage to the environment and damage to health are the most significant. Solving this enormous problem depends on three choices: (1) to produce more energy but optimize its consumption, (2) to reduce current consumption by promoting energy saving products -- which involves a lengthy learning process and will only succeed if both the authorities and the media combine to increase awareness among Lebanese citizens, or (3) to mobilize alternative resources of (renewable) energy.

Renewable energy arises from the sun, magma and gravitation. The energy produced from these sources is clean; no hazardous waste and greenhouse gases are emitted during operation.

The Kyoto Protocol sets us an ambitious objective "Lebanon, Mediterranean hub for Solar Renewable Energy". If Lebanon (a) implements Clean Development Processes in line with this Protocol, (b) honors it, and (c) exploits wind energy sources and takes advantage of opportunities offered by Mediterranean and regional programs for solar energy development, then it could benefit from improvements in four areas: (1) energy, by increasing electrical production, (2) industry, by developing new Lebanese industries, (3) public finance: by helping cut down the public deficit and (4) employment, by creating thousands of new jobs.



### **Business Meeting - Mr. Andrew Bartles 18 May 2010**

The Ambassadorial Scholar Program is one of the largest private providers of scholarships in the world and is a flagship program of The Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan is hosting Andrew Bartles as this year's Ambassadorial Scholar from the United States (District 6420). He has begun a Masters in Political Studies at AUB to be completed in February 2012.





His presentation covered a variety of topics related to the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship program and his studies/service activities in Lebanon since his arrival in February. Andrew has done work with Rotaract in Beirut, as well as taught a Peace Studies class at Brummana High School. This summer, he hopes to work with SOS Children's Villages.



He also related to us the local, regional and international activities of his sponsor district, 6420. They are engaged in a variety of local projects (parks, literacy campaigns, etc) and district projects (including international works in Costa Rica and Nigeria).

### Business Meeting - Bassma, Ghassan Kanafani and Offerjoie 25 May 2010

RCBC is assisting these three NGOs by donating to them office equipment and computers to enhance their efficiency and improve their ability to meet their goals.

Representatives of Bassma, Ghassan Kanafani and Offerjoie introduced themselves and described the activities undertaken by their organizations to support the community.

**Bassma** is a Lebanese Humanitarian Organization. Its aim is to help improve the living conditions of deprived families in Lebanon regardless of their political or religious affiliations. It develops a 3 to 5 yr. personalized program for around 150 families by providing them with basic needs such as food, medication, clothes and social assistance. This tailored rehabilitation program enables these families to eventually attain self sufficiency.



Ms. Sandra Khlat from Bassma



Ms. Nahla Ghandour from Ghassan Kanafani Foundation

**The Ghassan Kanafani Foundation** establishes and runs kindergartens (for children aged 3-6) as well as rehabilitation centers for children with disabilities or special needs (mental or physical) in Palestinian refugee camps and deprived areas all around Lebanon. It also establishes and runs libraries and art centers and clubs for children (aged 6-18). It provides job opportunities, primarily for women in refugee camps. It also trains teachers and other staff in order to develop their professional skills. And it implements a Literacy program which targets street children and school drop outs.

**Offrejoie** was founded in 1985, during the war in Lebanon. It is a Youth NGO which focuses on the Lebanese people that have suffered from the war. It is a non-confessional and non-political association based on three principles: Forgiveness, Respect and Love.



Ms. Sarah Wannous from Offerjoie



## RCBC News...

RT. Holger Tenschert, a member of RC Munchen Martinsried and German Group Study Exchange Team Leader exchanged banners with P Edouard Rassie on the 11th of May, 2010.



RT Yervant Haki-mian has been appointed International Counselor of the Faculty of Medicine of Montreal University.

Congratulations!

On the 8th of May, the Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan and Valle Caudina, Italy signed a twinning agreement covering the implementation of shared ideals, common principles of liberty, justice, solidarity and peace in the service of Man. RT Maurice Carlier represented RCBC at this important event. . He shared the good news with our members upon his return from Italy.



## RI News

### New polio eradication plan launched (from the RI website)

The World Health Organization and UNICEF co hosted a meeting with Rotary International and other stakeholders in Geneva on 18 June to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Strategic Plan 2010-12.

The new plan comes at a critical time for the GPEI. Key endemic countries are witnessing historic gains against the disease. Nowhere is progress more evident than in Nigeria, which has reported just three cases in 2010 as of 6 July compared with 333 cases for the same period in 2009. India has reported 22 cases compared with 107 cases. Across Africa, 10 of the 15 previously polio-free countries re-infected in 2009 have stopped their outbreaks.

In May, the World Health Assembly welcomed the new plan while expressing deep concern about the substantial funding gap over the next three years. The shortfall is a serious risk to ending polio and highlights the need for Rotary to reach its goal of raising US\$200 million. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan called on the international funding community to stand tall for polio eradication. "The next three years, and especially the next 12 months, are critical to the polio eradication initiative and, by extension, the entire international public health agenda."



An essential element of the plan is the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is being used effectively against wild poliovirus types 1 and 3 in all four endemic countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. (Type 2 poliovirus has been eradicated.) The plan also focuses on known polio migration routes, which have made outbreaks of the disease largely predictable. Aggressive synchronized immunization campaigns are now being used to help prevent and stop outbreaks.

The partners of the GPEI are exploring every option to secure fresh funding and are managing existing cash flow to limit any threat to the eradication effort. The risk of not stopping polio in endemic countries was made clear when a large outbreak occurred in Tajikistan, caused by poliovirus that had spread from India in early 2010. The outbreak has paralyzed 334 children as of 29 June. Tajikistan had been polio-free since 1997.

“The complete eradication of polio is an absolute goal, and it requires absolute commitment from us all,” says UNICEF Executive Director Tony Lake.

“Rotary believes the new strategic plan provides the blueprint to achieving the goal of polio eradication,” says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar.

---

### Events and Summer 2010 Festivals in Lebanon

- \*August 02: Diala Krall (modern jazz) - Beiteddine Festival
- \*August 02 - 07: Nabil Hobeika Exhibition - Deir El-Qamar Festival
- \*August 03 - 05: “Grappes de Raisins” Exhibition - Festival de la Vigne de Zahle
- \*August 05: Fete de l’Armee - Festival de la Vigne de Zahle
- \*August 05 - 07: “Beaucoup d’amour....tue” (Melhem Barakat and Ghassan Rahbani’s musical comedy) - Baalbeck International Festival
- \*August 08: Wadih el Safi - Festival de la Vigne de Zahle
- \*August 10: “ICI” (contemporary circus) - Festival de la Vigne de Zahle
- \*August 13: Assi Al Hellani - Festival de la Vigne de Zahle
- \*August 19: “Portrait de la vie,” Carlos Freire exhibition - Batroun Festival
- \*August 22: Frederic Vaysse-Knitter (piano), St. Georges Church - Byblos International Festival
- \*August 27 - 28: “Gibran...Lawhet Omr” - Batroun Festival

---

### 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.

---

### Members’ Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to PP Edouard Rassie (May 02) and PP Tony Asfour (May 28)

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