Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – May 2019

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
Mohamad Baltaji

Directors
Mimi Hamam
Nada Maalouf
Habib Saba

RCBC Website
www.rcbcebanon.org
www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan

Marhaba Editor
P Mona Jarudi
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"Letter from the Editor"

The month of May in Rotary calendar is Youth Service Month. The emphasis this year on our youth has been remarkable, from RI President Barry Rassin to D 2452 Governor Michel Jaazar who made the theme for his year" Youth is our Future". Everyone recognizes the importance of what young people can bring to the Rotary table of fresh ideas and energy that an aging Rotary can benefit from. There are numerous programs in Rotary for young leaders that extend our ideals of service, friendship and leadership development, which open several doors for young people to join. We, Rotarians, can act as sponsors, project partners and mentors to these young people, which will bring out the best in everyone.

We, at RCBC , recognize the value of working with our Rotaract Club. We encouraged them to attend workshops and conferences for leadership development. We worked together on the District Pilot Project "Civic Education for Peace Building", which was a great success and resonated so well with the community. We supported their projects and mentored them. And now, we are in the process of forming an Interact Club because we realize that it's never too early to work on instilling values, cultivating brilliant young minds and promoting the sense of service in our communities. There is nothing more rewarding than siting with eager young minds and initiating conversations of how we can we be partners and mentors and simply BE THE INSPIRATION !

P Mona Jarudi

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Rotary D2452 hosted its District Conference in Beirut, Lebanon May 1-4, 2019, under the auspices of the President Of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun.

In the presence of Rotary International Secretary General, John Hewko and RI Director Nominee Peter Kyle, D2452 Governor Dr. Michel Jazzar opened the conference, which was highly attended by Rotarians from all countries in the district. Over three days of well-planned agenda with major guest speakers and good breakout sessions, the visiting Rotarians were also treated to fun evenings and cultural activities highlighting the Lebanese hospitality.

During the conference, RCBC was honored with many awards: Membership, Youth, Community Service, The Rotary Foundation, Public Image, Club administration. However, the greatest honor was our club receiving the District Governor Citation Award in recognition of the services to the community this year. Another special recognition award was for RCBC participating in the District Pilot project "Civic Education for Peace Building", a project initiated by DG Michel Jazzar and Chaired by Dr. Ghada Ayoub, PE RC Saida.

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PDDG George Beyrouti and wife Lola represented RCBC at Gift of Life dinner of good cheer and music at Joe's Lounge - Monot, on Saturday May 4th. The dinner was hosted by PP Lina Shehayeb, President of GOL Lebanon Chapter in honor of the Rotary delegation from Troy, Michigan, and visiting PDG Chehab El Awar from RC San Bernandino Sunset, California, and it was attended by a number of GOL committee members, past district governors, and Rotaractors.

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Business meeting with PP John Edde
"Survival Experience"
Tuesday May 07, 2019

Our business meeting featured our very own PP John Edde as the guest speaker. In a heartfelt talk, John shared with the fellow Rotarians his battle with cancer and his eventual triumph over the disease. His story sheds the light on how important it is to be vocal about any disease, create awareness, share facts and provide a support system. Advances in science and medical treatments facilitate dealing with pernicious diseases, but nothing beats the resilience and strength of the human spirit, and nothing is as important in dealing with life's adversities as having a positive attitude and the will to live and overcome.

Business meeting with Mr. Jimmy Keyrouz
"Cinema: A Universal Language"
Tuesday May 14, 2019

RCBC hosted Jimmy Keyrouz a rising star in the world of Lebanese cinema. Jimmy treated the audience to a brief history of cinema and movie making as an art form that can impact society and shape its culture. He cited movies like All the Presidents Men, Jaws, Lord of the Rings, Titanic etc., movies that had a profound cultural impact.

Jimmy talked about a documentary he shot in Senegal following a group of children trying to cope with a severe drought that hit the country as a result of climate change. Jimmy's next project is a feature film titled Broken Peace. The movie is about a musician living in an ISIS controlled territory, trying to rebuild his life and Piano.

He then commented about the cinema industry in Lebanon. Contrary to the dismal economic condition of the country, the cinema industry is thriving. In the last three years, Lebanon had two movies nominated for an Oscar, The Insult & Capernaum. This bodes well for the future of Cinema in the country, as it will encourage young and talented people to pursue a career in cinema to tell a story, highlight a social issue or simply record the history of the country.

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RAMADAN IFTARS

The Holy Month of Ramadan started on May 5th and with it are daily Iftars given by NGOS and different clubs.

RCBC was represented at an Iftar given by the Child and Mother Welfare Society, an organization that features prominently among those we help.

The Lebanese Food Bank hosted its annual Iftar at the Phoenicia Hotel on May 17. This Iftar was highly attended by supporters of this NGO and the Minister of the Interior Mrs. Raya al Hasan. RCBC was well represented at this Iftar.

PP Ronald Farra of RC Cedars and member of LFB board, with HE Mrs. Raya al Hasan, Minister of Interior

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As per tradition, RCBC held its annual Iftar at Liza Restaurant. It was an evening of fellowship at its best which was enjoyed by all.

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PILOT PROJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION FOR PEACE BUILDING

One of the most important areas of focus in Rotary is Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. At the beginning of this Rotary year, D2452 Governor Dr. Michel Jazzar wanted to implement this area of focus by engaging all Rotary Clubs in the District in a Pilot Project "Civic Education for Peace Building". It is a project that was implemented in schools with children ages 11-14, to teach them the values of Rotary and work with them on a project that will teach them dialogue in a conflict situation, how to deal with adverse conditions among young adults like bullying and how to arrive at the middle ground that creates an environment of Peace.

RCBC participated in this very worthy project and signed an MOU with the Armenian Evangelical College with the support of its Principal Dr.Armen Urneshlian. The Rotaract Club was brought into this project and work started by planning games and questionnaires to engage seventh and eighth graders. The exercise culminated in wonderful artwork that expressed the children's vision of peace.

This will be an ongoing project based on demand from the students, the school and the District committee who saw the value of the work that took few months to accomplish.

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The holy month of Ramadan this year culminated in the Iftar for underprivileged kids at Kidzmondo…the children whom we had the honor of hosting came from Sabra through the organization of the Lebanese Women association of Tariq Jdideh. The children come from different backgrounds and circumstances. The group we had were ranging in age from almost three years to 11, boys and girls who were so excited to experience Kidzmondo for the first time. After two hours of fun and games, the kids were treated to a kid friendly meal and were bid farewell, each with a gift, with the hope that the smiles we saw on their innocent faces will never be erased, and with a prayer that one day they will all grow up and realize their dreams !

Thank you RCBC for this annual tradition and for the generosity of some members who make it happen !

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CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE, 2019 HAMBURG – GERMANY

https://www.consultancy-me.com/news/2066/arthur-d-little-pays-respects-to-harland-riker-and-kamal-saad

Many Happy Birthday Returns

Edouard Rassie – May 02 *Mounir Jabre – May 22* *Tony Asfour – May 28*

The End