

## 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](http://www.rcbcebanon.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

## MARHABA EDITOR

P Mona Jarudi  
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## "Letter from the Editor"

Four months of Rotary year 2018-2019 have passed. All the committees are hard at work executing their annual plans, keeping members engaged under the umbrella of Service and Fellowship. The dedication and hard work of RCBC members to always explore ways and means of serving the community at large is a testament to the powerful message of Rotary and its mission statement. With this in mind, it is important to have reminders of Rotary facts as we are trying to spread its vision in our communities.

## What is Rotary?

We are a leadership organization of local businesses, professional and civic leaders. We meet regularly, get to know each other, form friendships and through that we are able to get things done in our community and in countries around the world.

## Our motto: Service above Self

For more than 110 years, our guiding principles have been the foundation of our values: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

## What we do:

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

All the above is done with the utmost adherence to a Rotary code of conduct, and the 4- way test.

## the 4 way test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

P Mona Jarudi



## Handover Ceremony at Hotel-Dieu Hospital, Beirut

Monday October 1, 2018

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, together with local partners RC Sahel Metn and RC Keserouan and major international partners donated two state of the art machines to the Neurosurgery Department at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Beirut.



This donation was made through Epsilon Association for the treatment of Epilepsy. The President of Epsilon, Dr. Ronald Moussa, explained about the importance of the two machines. The first machine is a Bipolar Coagulation Generator, which provides a precise medium for coagulation of vessels and tissues during brain surgery without causing damage to surrounding normal tissue. The second machine is a stereotactic software from INOMED France that allows the surgeon to guide an electrode deep in the brain with very high accuracy. It is used in epilepsy, tumor surgery and treatment of Parkinson's disease.



This Global Grant Project would not have been possible without its leader PP Mimi Hamam, supported by the expertise of PP Tony Asfour and PN Adib Mounla and backed by all RCBC members.

The handover was attended by doctors from the hospital, representatives from Epsilon and Rotarians from the afore-mentioned clubs. The event was widely covered in the media, newspapers and publications.

We cannot highlight enough the importance of our work as we try to help the community at large. Every project we undertake creates a long lasting impact as we help fight diseases and inject new hope especially among the less privileged among us.



## Bridge of Hope

One of the Global Grants Projects that was recently approved by The Rotary Foundation is Bridge of Hope, a project initiated by RC Monza, Italy with our Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan as the primary international partner. This project is led in Monza by dedicated Rotarian dentists who wanted to make a difference in dental health and hygiene for Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon. RC Monza have agreed with the National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training, a Palestinian NGO, to strengthen infection control in dental clinics in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon by applying infection disease control management applied in refugee camps in Italy.



An Italian delegation of RC Monza Rotarians and press came to Lebanon end September and toured all Palestinian refugee camps across the country to establish the groundwork necessary. In their honor, a lunch was hosted by RCBC members PP Tony Asfour, Rt. Samir Khoury and P Mona Jarudi where ideas were shared with a promise of exchanged future visits and collaboration between RCBC and RC Monza.

## Business meeting with Dr. Henry Azzam

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the guest speaker was Dr. Henry Azzam. Currently, Dr. Azzam is Senior Lecturer of Finance and Director of the Masters In Finance Program at the Olyan School of Business (OSB) at AUB. Dr. Azzam, an accomplished author of 5 books on Finance and Emerging markets has had a long and distinguished career in the worlds of finance and banking in the region.

In his talk, titled Digital Currencies and the Future of Money, Dr. Azzam briefly narrated the history of money as a medium of exchange of goods and services culminating in the introduction of crypto currency in 2008 following the financial crisis. Bitcoin was introduced by reclusive Japanese named Satoshi Nakamoto, whose real identity remains a mystery. Bitcoins, or any other crypto currency for that matter, does not require a third party ( such as banks or government). It is based on Blockchain technology that keeps track of who owns how much bitcoin. The coins themselves are neither physical nor digital but entries in a Blockchain ledger. The computer network behind the bitcoin protocol would allow money to go around without a central authority i.e. eWallet-to-eWallet.



Dr. Azzam warned of the danger of trading bitcoins without discrediting the value and role of cryptocurrency in the future. He then added about the drive of Central Banks around the world, including Lebanese Central Bank to delve in the development of a digital currency. A move in that direction will improve transparency and efficiency. Central Banks, could then trace transactions and collect real time comprehensive data monetary indicators such as Velocity of money and Credit growth by sector. He, however, does not see the implementation of such a plan before 5-10 years.



## *Business meeting with Mr. Ziad Hayek:*

On October 9, the guest speaker at RCBC was Mr. Ziad Hayek, Secretary General of Lebanon's Higher Council for Privatization. Prior to that Mr. Hayek has a long and distinguished career spanning many years and continents in firms like Bear Sterns, Salomon Brothers and CitiBank.



In his introductory remarks, Mr. Hayek pointed out that there are encouraging but timid signs that the Lebanese economy is stabilizing and starting a slow recovery. He cited hotel occupancy this past summer, the prospect of Oil & gas and the role Lebanese companies can play in the reconstruction in Syria. He also stressed the tremendous benefits that will flow into the Lebanese economy once implementation of the \$11.8 billion covering 280 projects approved by the Cedar 1 conference held last spring in Paris gets underway. It is expected, he pointed out, that those projects will generate over 250,000 jobs over the next 5 years.

Mr. Hayek is the architect and the driving force behind the PPP (Private Public Partnership) law recently passed in Lebanon. He explained that PPP is not about government sharing revenue or profit but sharing risk. He strongly believes that this the right platform to implement Cedar projects or any project that will come afterwards. He went on to say that, transparency is the key factor for a successful implementation of a PPP project. We also need to build investor confidence in our laws, financial institutions and laws. In addition, ALL stakeholders in any project need to be consulted to ensure a successful outcome. All in all a very sobering but hopeful talk about what the future might hold for Lebanon.

## *Business meeting with Dr. Karim Najjar:*

On Tuesday October 16, RCBC hosted at its business meeting Dr. Karim Najjar, Associate Professor at AUB's Department of Architecture and Design. His work gained international recognition, winning several awards, with contributions to a variety of books and exhibitions in major cities.

**"Crisis as Opportunity"**

*Taking crisis as an opportunity for innovation and sustainable design*

The exodus of Syrian refugees fleeing that country after March 2011 has been described as one of the largest refugee crises since World War II. Neighboring Lebanon has assumed the heaviest burden among countries hosting these refugees. Such events might be viewed as heartbreaking, but pessimism is not an option for an architect; we must embrace the crisis as an opportunity to meaningfully reposition our practice. Creating spaces with understanding guides architecture as it assumes its role as a form of cultural practice with the goal of improving the quality of human lives.



At DI-Lab, we believe that such paradigms should remain intact when it comes to responding to a crisis. We research, design and implement projects with excitement and energy, keeping both the needs of the displaced and the practical realities in mind.

With a focus on education for refugee children, DI-Lab has developed an action-oriented design approach that puts design innovation at the core. With this approach, DI-Lab aims to create shortcuts towards sustainable development in crisis regions.

Through the lecture, DI-Lab highlights its involvement with designing sustainable makeshift schools and the rehabilitation of public schools, explaining how design explorations of high-performance structural systems and climate-responsive strategies can be useful and applied in a cost-efficient manner.

### *Together in Lebanon:*

The week of October 13 to 20 witnessed a very important event where one of the major attributes of Rotary was clearly displayed. Rotary has created a worldwide family connecting Rotarians across continents and countries. Wherever a Rotarian travels, they can find a club to assist them and make them feel welcome.







This event, Together in Lebanon, brought this year 50 Rotarians from the US, Brazil, Belgium, France, United Kingdom and Germany. The group was received with the utmost hospitality and were treated to a full week of sightseeing across Lebanon where they met members of the host Rotary Clubs and solidified the bonds of friendship.



Many thanks go to the hard work of the organizing committee who really showed the real image of Lebanon, a country of hospitality, beauty and solidarity.



The event certainly highlighted the Rotarian spirit at its best. Exchange of banners took place in the Gala dinner that captured beautifully the essence of the week.



**Business meeting with Mrs. May El Khalil:**

On Tuesday October 23, RCBC hosted at its business meeting Mrs. May El-Khalil to whom Running was a passion for a very long time, and she had always hoped to spread that passion to others in her home country, Lebanon. After living in Nigeria with her family for 23 years, She returned to Lebanon.

“To most, running is a sport. To me, it was always something more.” May El Khalil

In 2001, she suffered a fateful accident while on her routine run that would put her in a coma and leave her unable to walk for months. After two years of struggling with injuries and undergoing 36 operations, El-Khalil was able to walk again. Out of her own struggle, she was inspired to start a movement that would create a sense of community, inspiring others to fight through and overcome the adversities in their lives. This is when she founded the Beirut Marathon Association.

The first Beirut Marathon was held on October 19, 2003, attracting 6,000 participants from 49 different nationalities. It was the realization of El-Khalil’s vision of bringing running culture to Lebanon that would continue to grow year after year. The marathon soon became a globally acclaimed event, and a source of pride and community for the Lebanese population. In 2014, the marathon received the silver label accreditation from the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), and the most recent marathon attracted over 48,000 participants from 105 different nationalities.



The Beirut Marathon Association organizes multiple events alongside the Beirut Marathon, namely the Women’s race and the youth race. It also works on spreading the running culture through training programs, focused races and themed runs.







Speaking of the Marathon's legacy in Beirut, Mrs. El Khalil says: "The Beirut Marathon is a powerful statement on the tremendous effect sports can have on any community. It's more than just the physical - it has the power to change lives and spread a message of hope, health, happiness and even peace to every member taking part. Through all the difficult times Lebanon has witnessed over the past 16 years, the Beirut Marathon has given us a reason to believe in what we can accomplish when we come together as a community, in overcoming our own fears as individuals as well as a society. This was all done through sports."

When she took the stage of TED global in 2013, May ended her talk with a statement that denotes: "Peacemaking is not a sprint; it is more of a marathon." What makes the marathon in Beirut different from any other marathon in the world lies in the spirit of the event itself. Running is so much more than a sport. To Lebanon, it is a statement of unity, perseverance, tolerance, giving and most importantly, a statement of peace.







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*Many Happy Birthday Returns*

*Diana Cotran - October 02*

*Habib Bassoul - October 08*

*Samir El Khoury - October 11*

*Adib Mounla - October 13*

*Asaad Salhab - October 18*

*Mazen El Farra - October 28*

*Jean-Paul Moubarak - October 31*

*The End*



## Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

### AGENDA of November 2018 (ROTARY FOUNDATION)

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 06  
8 PM  
Phoenicia Hotel

**RCBC DINNER**  
Guest Speaker  
**H.E. CHRISTINA LASSEN**  
*Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon*

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 13  
7-8 PM  
Le Vendome Hotel

**RCBC BUSINESS MEETING**  
"DG MICHEL JAZZAR Visit to RCBC"

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 20

***POSSIBLE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY***

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 27  
7-8 PM  
Le Vendome Hotel

**RCBC BUSINESS MEETING**  
"FIXING LIFE, HOW TO MAKE EMOTIONS WORK FOR YOU"  
BY  
**MR. JOHNNY AL GHOUL**  
*Coach, Speaker, Author, corporate management and sales training*

***RSVP to [rcbclb@gmail.com](mailto:rcbclb@gmail.com) or 03/771487 (48 hours prior to the event)***