



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 7—Issue No. 163—November 2009

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

www.rcbclebanon.org

Prepared By:

Club Assistant Annie Sapsezian

Edited By:

Asaad Salhab

The real meaning of “MARHABA”

Marhaba is an Arabic greeting word used in the Middle East as Hello, but most people don't know it's source and meaning:

Marhaba comes from 2 Syriac words which were used by the first Christians Mar+haba

Mar = Master or God

haba =Love

Mar-haba = God love (you)

RCBC Meets Rotaract 27 October 2009

BCRAC members were invited to report on their latest activities & future projects in a joint meeting with RCBC members. The presentation was made by the President of BCRAC 2009-2010, Leila Agassi.

BCRAC has been active in providing professional development opportunities to its members and accomplishing projects on international and community level such as organizing the Districts post launch program, signing a joint agreement of brotherhood with Rotaract Bahrain, participating in the Road Safety Project in collaboration with Kunhadi, joining forces with 350.org to fight against climate change and many more...



Beyond the support of RCBC, BCRAC organizes its own fundraising activities to finance its projects and support the community gaining the experience and adapting the skills to develop into socially responsible and productive members of society.



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

Dinner Meeting
DG Nijad Al Atassi's Official Visit to RCBC
06 November 2009

In the honor of District Governor Nijad Al Attassi and his wife Mrs. Jamillah, RCBC organized a lavish dinner on 6th of November at Le Vendome Hotel "Au Premier" Restaurant.

A Board meeting preceded the dinner during which the governor was introduced to the members and received a comprehensive report on the club's achievements so far this year.

During this event RCBC welcomed a new member, RT Mazen El Farra who was sponsored by PP Tony Asfour and pinned by DG Al Atassi in the presence of ADG Michel Jallad, PDG Farid Gerbran and DGR Ronald Farra.





**Business Meeting
Mrs. Mona Hallak: “Yellow House in Sodeco”
10 November 2009**

With great pleasure, RCBC members welcomed Mrs. Mona Hallak who presented them information about the Yellow House in Sodeco.

The Barakat Building – a 1924 masterpiece – also known as the Yellow House is located strategically on the way to Downtown at the busy Sodeco Intersection. With its elegant colonnade, though damaged by war, still stands out as a vibrant testimony of the Lebanese architectural legacy. The building has a “Mandate Style” reflecting the city’s cosmopolitanism during the 1920s and 30s, combining Western influences with local skills and techniques. It was built in 2 phases, the ground and first floors by Youssef Aftimos in 1924 while the second and third floors were completed in 1932 by Fouad Kozah featuring the introduction of concrete as a new building material. During the war, the building became one of the main fighting spots and its architectural visual axes turned into lines of fire and death, heavily used by snipers.

Beirut has suffered not only the turbulence of war but also the gradual loss of its heritage buildings due to continuous construction and real estate development. Since 1997, the structure had been demolished, yet evident heritage activists, journalists, NGOs and individuals have succeeded to preserve the Barakat Building and will eventually turn it into a museum, a civic cultural center focusing on the history of urban development of Beirut.



**Business Meeting
Mrs. Salwa Gailani: “Transition towards Democracy in Iraq”
17 November 2009**

RCBC members were glad to welcome Ms. Salwa Gailani who addressed them about “The Transition towards Democracy in Iraq” which is supported by the Iraq Foundation.

The Iraq Foundation, a non-profit organization, was established in 1991 by Iraqi expatriates working for democracy and human rights in Iraq, and promoting Iraq’s potential as a contributor to political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The foundation fosters the development of the institutions of the civil society in Iraq through training programs, develops strategies for Iraq’s transition to a pluralist democracy, increases awareness of the inhabitants on human rights protections, and encourages equal participation among both genders in the public and private sectors.





Iraq has considerable amount of human and natural resources and it is believed that the peaceful Iraq can serve as stabilizing force and as a catalyst for security and economic prosperity in the region, yet peace in Iraq will be established only if democratic and reliable government is formed.



Dinner Meeting Mr. Ziad Hayek: “The Road to Privatization” 24 November 2009



Mr. Ziad Hayek, Secretary-General of the Higher Council on Privatization, was invited to a dinner meeting to speak about “The Road to Privatization,” who delivered a dynamic and enthusiastic lecture to the audience.

In his speech, Mr. Hayek focused on the privatization projects being discussed in Lebanon & the obstacles that the process is facing. He clarified that privatizing the electricity is not one of the projects they are handling at this time although there are 4 different projects that were developed by different ministers to address its issues, it is expected that the new government will adopt one of these & move into execution. Mr. Hayek elaborated on the Private – Government cooperation & the positive results it delivered in several countries such as Japan, Korea, United Kingdom among others where this partnership helped provide the resources needed to address the problems with the government involvement & support.

The dinner was followed by the induction of two new members to the club PP Philip Skaff sponsored by PP Pierre Azar and Mr. Lee Eastley sponsored by PP Tony Asfour. They were pinned by DGR Ronald Farra.





Latest News of GRSP Ambassador Christina Asfour

“We are almost half way through our journey in the US, and I would like to share with you some of my experiences and impressions so far.

I can never thank you enough for granting me such a wonderful experience. What I cherish most is the amount of good friends I have made so far. My birthday was last month , and my GRSP friends arranged two surprise parties for me and got me gifts. They truly threw me a memorable birthday party and I have to admit that my 19th birthday was one of the best I have had so far. With me here in UGA are 6 other students from 6 different countries. We have learned a lot from each other. What makes me really proud is when they tell me that I changed their views about Lebanon. They never thought that there would be any Christians in the Middle East and they used to think that our culture is that of Islam and terrorism. My classmates are also impressed by the image I conveyed to them about my country. I presented speeches in my public speaking class about Beirut and what Lebanon really is and was also voted for as the best speech given in class. I can not express to you how much of a great feeling it is when my GRSP friends, classmates, and Rotarians tell me that I am a great ambassador of my country. I was very happy that the Rotarians in my club were so impressed and moved by my presentation that they decided to plant a cedar tree in my honor. They are also going to hold a dedication ceremony very soon. My other two clubs really enjoyed my presentation and complimented me on how organized and educational it was. They said that it was definitely one of the best presentations they have ever seen. As usual, the Rotarians are the best of people. They always invite me to their horse farm, to fly in their private plane, to travel to Florida and Montana with them, to go to the Fox theater...



I am truly very happy to be here in the States and to have this great opportunity to extend my network. I am learning a lot from this experience. I am doing a lot of stuff for the first time such as rock climbing and much more... I am also learning a lot about the south of the US: their food, culture, political views, hospitality. I have become a lot stronger, more independent and focused. If in 3 months I have advanced a lot then I wonder how much more I can grow in the coming months. I can never thank you enough for granting me one of the best experiences in my life.

Thanksgiving break is next week and my four host families are fighting on who wants to host me for that week. I guess they would have to split me in between themselves. Hopefully I get to go with my lead host family to Florida for a couple of days.

Again thank you very much and I hope that I will continue to make you, my country and my family proud.” By Christina Asfour



Rotary News

Medical mission to Congo Republic touches 1,600 lives

Rajendra K. Saboo, 1991-92 RI president and 1996-97 Rotary Foundation trustee chair, helped organize a medical mission to the Republic of the Congo after healing a 70-year old woman who was paralyzed from the waist down.

The mission to Brazzaville, Congo Republic, in August included a team of 15 doctors from District 3080 (India), including three ophthalmic surgeons, three gynecologists, three anesthetists, two dental surgeons, two general surgeons, an orthopedic surgeon, and a public health expert.



The mission was funded in part by a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. The medical team spent 11 to 12 hours a day for 10 days at two hospitals treating about 1,600 patients, who were pre-screened by volunteers from District 9150, which covers 10 countries in Central Africa and served as the host partner. The team also donated two incubators and 500 mosquito nets.

Saboo has organized a number of medical missions to various countries since 1998, including Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, and Uganda. He said he has envisioned a mission to central Africa for a longtime, but because of a variety of obstacles, an opening emerged only recently.

New coats for children

As winter approaches, Rotarian Richard Sanford and his Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization, Operation Warm, are getting ready to provide low-income children with high-quality unused coats across the United States.

Through funds donated by private and corporate partners, Operation Warm collaborates with manufacturers to develop sizes and styles for boys and girls, and then distributes the coats to needy children.

For the organization's first project in 1998, Sanford purchased 58 coats with his own money from a department store. He and members of his Rotary club distributed the coats to children in the neighborhood. Since then, Operation Warm has provided more than 500,000 new coats to children in 26 states.

Rotary continues to play a crucial role in expanding the fundraising for and distribution of coats, says Sanford. About 60 clubs in the United States have worked directly with Operation Warm, providing more than 25,000 new coats to children.



What's New in Lebanon!

*Dec. 03 - Dec. 09 During Christmas season, International Festival will be held in Byblos

*Dec. 09 - Jan. 06 Discover the "Kitchen Creations" of 15 Lebanese designers during the exposition of "Tawlet El Eid"

*Dec. 09 - Jan. 10 theatrical plat "Eela" by Elias Al Rahbani

*Dec. 16 - Jan. 06 Lebanese 80's Hits at Eight every Thursday night performing Guitta Harb accompanied by some of the best Lebanese musicians.

*Dec. 15 - Feb. 24 Art Lounge is gathering the hottest street/pop artists for this showcase of Lebanese and international talents, with works by the likes of Sheperd Fairey and Kokian.

*Dec. 16 - Dance performance by the Cuban installation and artist Tania Bruguera at Beirut Art Center.



*Dec. 16 - Moderated by Julien Le Bot, and with the participation of three well known Lebanese illustrators: Stavro Jabra, Armand Homsy and Maya Zankoul, the French Cultural Center is hosting a round table discussion, highlighting the use of illustration as part of the press, in traditional and new media.

*Dec. 17 - Lebanese artist Akram Zaatari launches his book 'Earth of Endless Secrets' based on his Beirut Art Center exhibition earlier this year.

*Dec. 17 - Dec. 20 “L’Opera de Pekin du Shenyang” at Monot Theatre. This performance is inspired by the ancient history of the People's Republic.

*Dec. 20 - Latin Jazz Night at Jazz Lounge.

*Dec. 29 - Dec. 30 / Jan. 02 - Jan. 03 The Spanish company Tricycle 2 will have a comedy act “100% Tricycle” on stage at Casino du Liban.

LeBam Concert on Dec. 20 at USJ




**The Rotary clubs of
Beirut Cosmopolitan & Metn**
 District 2450
 have the pleasure to invite you to
**“LeBAM”
Christmas Concert**
*a youth harmonic band
of wind and percussions music instruments*
 Sunday, December 20, 2009
 Pierre Abou Khater theater - Damascus Street
 6:00 pm
The ticket per person (20\$)
The concert proceeds will contribute to the funding of the LeBAM activities

“When words leave off, Music begins...”
Heinrich Heine



The Rotary clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan and Metn are organizing joint fundraising "LeBAM" Christmas Concert project that will take place at the Pierre Abou Khater Theater - USJ - Damascus Street on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 6pm.

The price of ticket per person is 20\$.

The concert proceeds will be donated to support the LeBAM activities.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Future RCBC Program:

*Monday, December 21, Christmas lunch with the orphans at 2:30 PM at Hard Rock Café, Ain El Mreisseh

*Tuesday, December 22, meeting is cancelled

*Tuesday, December 29, social gathering at 7 PM at the Sydney’s bar.

*Tuesday, January 05, club assembly (progress report) at 7 PM at Le Vendome.

Members’ Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to PP George Theodory (November 01) and RT Michel Ghanem (November 10).

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