



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Publication — November 2013 — Page 1

Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Ron D. Burton

District Governor

Jamil Mouawad

Deputy Governor

George Beyrouti

Assistant Governor

Yara Younes

RCBC Officers

2013—2014

President

Mounir Jabre

President Elect

Lina Shair

Vice President

Edouard Rassie

Secretary

*Christine
Arzoumanian*

Treasurer

Karim Naamani

Directors

*Asaad Salhab
Tony Asfour
Habib Bassoul
Joe Boulos*

Business Meeting, November 5, 2013; Guest Speakers Mrs. Melek El Nimer and Mrs. Nicole Eid Abuhaydar; Topic: "The United Lebanon Youth Project" (ULYP), an NGO.

Mrs. El Nimer is the founder of ULYP and Mrs. Abuhaydar its Acting Director and Senior Consultant. They are shown in the photos to the LHS and the RHS below respectively.



They shared with us the vision that led to the foundation of ULYP in 2010 and its focus on marginalized youth. Youth -- children five years old and above to young adults 18 years old or less -- represent 50% of our present and 100 % of our future. Whilst they all suffer from religious and ethnic isolation, the impoverished among them experience socio-economic segregation in addition. It is precisely those marginalized youth that ULYP seeks to empower by giving them the necessary tools to build a peaceful, productive and sustainable society, thus to help them break barriers, build bridges and contribute to a united Lebanon.

The Youth Academy of ULYP is KEY to accomplishing this: Knowledge Empowers Youth; and Knowledge Enhances growth and hope for Youth. The Academy offers knowledge enhancement in four areas: (1) The ARTS and Sports, (2) Conflict Resolution, (3) IT and Social Media, and (4) English and College Preparation. Since 2010, ULYP has provided such knowledge enhancement to 3,000 participants. It has also provided early learning to 2,000 pre-school children; knowledge enhancement to 700 mothers; and scholarships to 340 persons.

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/
beirutcosmopolitan](http://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

***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 Saad — e-mail knsaadrcbc@gmail.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Business Meeting, November 12, 2013; Speaker Mr. George Beyrouti, DDG District 2452 and PP RCBC; Topic: "Running an Effective Club"

DDG Beyrouti (see photo *RHS*) presented and invited the attendees to comment a set of 10 best practices for Rotary Club management designed to increase club vitality and strengthen club performance . The ten best practices are:

1. Developing long-range goals that address the elements of an effective club;
2. Setting annual goals that support long-range goals;
3. Keeping all members involved and informed;
4. Communicating effectively with club members and district leaders;
5. Ensuring continuity in leadership from year to year;
6. Customizing the bylaws to reflect club operations;
7. Providing regular fellowship opportunities;
8. Actively involving all club members;
9. Offering regular, consistent training;
10. Forming committees that support the club's operational needs.



The presentation of DDG Beyrouti helped RCBC members evaluate their current performance. They debated the strengths and weaknesses of the Club and identified opportunities to ensure the continuity and creativity of the Club and preserve its outstanding identity, as well as ways of attracting and engaging young members.

Visit of RCBC Club Secretary to Armenia and Georgia in October 2013

RCBC Club Secretary Christine Arzoumanian visited several Rotary Clubs in Armenia and Georgia during October 2013. She was one of the over 40 Lebanese -- Rotarians and spouses -- who accompanied DG Jamil Mouawad on a visit aimed at strengthening bonds within District 2452. She served as District New Generation Chairperson (DNGC),



Shown above are DG Jamil Mouawad, ADG Samar Saab and DNGC Christine Arzoumanian, flanked by the President and members of RC Yerevan Ararat (LHS photo) and RC Yerevan International (RHS photo) respectively.



Many joint projects were initiated during the visit. Also discussed was the organization of youth exchange programs among the three countries.

The members of the mission were received warmly wherever they went. His Excellency the Lebanese Ambassador to Armenia Mr. Jean Maacaron and his spouse (shown LHS with Christine) received the Lebanese Rotarians at their home. He shared with them the warmth he felt as a Lebanese living in Armenia: "It feels like home for every Lebanese". He also expressed his gratitude to Rotarians for serving as Role Models in Society in all countries -- for "giving without asking in return". For Lebanon, he stressed the importance for everyone to continue to stand up for what they believe in and to serve the country despite the difficult circumstances. He also said he was amazed that our group embraced Lebanese from so many and such different religious backgrounds and political affiliations, and yet were united, not only to serve, but to "serve above self". Participants were unanimous in acclaiming the visit as a memorable week of cultural and historical enrichment, breath-taking sightseeing, as well as fellowship.



The four Armenian Clubs visited were RC Gyumri; RC Yerevan; RC Yerevan Ararat; and RC Yerevan International. The two in Georgia were RC Tbilisi and RC Tbilisi Academia. The seven



Lebanese Clubs represented on the visit were RC Beirut Cosmopolitan; RC Beirut Metropolitan; RC Ehden; RC Koura; RC Sahel Metn; RC Tripoli; and RC Tripoli Maarad.

Shown in photos above (extreme Left and extreme Right) are DG Mouawad and Christine with the presidents of RC Tbilisi and RC Yerevan Ararat, respectively whilst the the photos in the middle (from Left to Right) show Christine with the presidents of RC Gyumri, RC Yerevan International, and RC Yerevan respectively.

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



***Dinner Meeting, November 26, 2013; Guest Speaker Dr. Christiane Haddad MD;
Topic "In the Eyes of a Child"***



Dr. Haddad (see photo to RHS) is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus, at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). She opened her talk with a quotation from Hellen Keller that served as caption to the heart-warming photo shown here to LHS: "Of all of the senses, sight must be the most delightful".



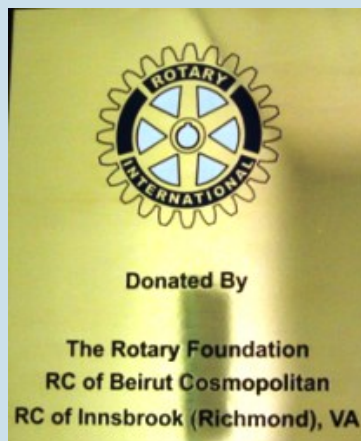
She presented a long list of everyday tasks that we tend to take for granted which the visually impaired typically cannot carry out, and the various difficulties created by different eye problem conditions. She also emphasized that the life-long impact of visual impairment in children is very large -- possibly leading to blindness. Furthermore, if visual impairment in children is not corrected early, it may no longer be possible to do so later in life. Dr. Haddad pointed out that (a) 75% of blindness is a result of preventable or treatable conditions and that (b) 75% of blindness occurs in poor communities.

Dr Haddad also related that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) have launched INITIATIVE 2020, the aim of which is to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. Its prime mandate: Instead of 76 million blind people in 2020, there will be 24 million. People training, provision of equipment and community participation are key to the success of VISION 2020.

She described the relationship between AUBMC and Rotary as "long and strong". In fact it goes back to the donation by Rotary of a Diode Laser in 2002; a State of the Art Eye Clinic in 2005; and a RetCam machine in 2013 (see plaques below).

Dr Haddad stressed the importance of the RetCam machine in treating patients with eye cancer and engaging in consultations with authorities in the US and Europe when needed to allow newer modalities of treatment to save eyes and lives.

One such modality is chemotherapy injections in the eye, initiated in the region by the team at the AUB Medical Center after receipt of the RetCam device.



Many Happy Birthday Returns to

RT Sylva Guiragossian November 10

PP George Theodory November 10