



## Club Charter Date

*June 22, 1995*

## Club Number

*30893*

## District

*2452 Rotary Int'l*

## RI President

*Gary C.K. Huang*

## District Governor

*Khalil Alsharif*

## Deputy Governor

*May Chmaytelli*

## Assistant Governor

*Samir Hammoud*

## RCBC Officers

**2014—2015**

### President

*Lina Shair*

### President Elect

*Christine Arzoumanian*

### Vice President

*Joe Boulos*

### Secretary

*Marie Therese Hamam*

### Treasurer

*Jean Paul Moubarak*

### Directors

*Christine Arzoumanian*

*Tony Asfour*

*George Beyrouti*

*Joe Boulos*

*George Theodory*

## RCBC Website

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

## RCBC Facebook Page

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

## ***November 11, 2014 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel Guest Speaker Mr. Georg Nedyalkov -- Topic: "Lebanese Bulgarian Commercial Cooperation and Tourism in Bulgaria"***

Mr. Nedyalkov (see photo RHS) holds a B.A and a M.A. in Finance from the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria and studied Arabic at the University of Jordan. He is a Chief Expert at the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Commercial and Economic Counsellor at the Bulgarian Embassy in Lebanon. He is also a Rotarian (RC Yambol, D 2482) and has visited RCBC several times.



Formal relations between the two countries were established in 1966. A treaty to encourage mutual investments was signed in 1999; a treaty to prevent double taxation of profits and property in 2001; and a treaty for cooperation in the tourism sector in 2010.

Exports from Bulgaria to Lebanon averaged \$ 86 million in the three year period 2006-2008 (imports \$ <6 million) and \$ 126 million in the three year period 2011-2013 (imports \$ 13 million) – a balance of trade heavily in favor of Bulgaria. Lubricating oils and oil minerals dominated 2013 Bulgarian exports (68%) whilst 2013 imports from Lebanon were largely accounted for by copper products (49%) and tobacco materials (36%). Note also that Bulgaria is the largest exporter of sunflower seed worldwide (2013).

If Bulgarian exports to Lebanon dominate the trade sector the reverse is true of investments. Lebanese investments between 1996 and 2013 exceeded US \$ 46 million spread amongst 2000 registered companies. Bulgaria has been an EU member since 2007 and ranks 4th worldwide in low personal income tax and corporate income tax for foreigners (10%). It has become an important regional IT hub and back office for global outsourcing companies.

Its most favorable investment opportunity areas include Tourism; Banking and Insurance; Light Industry; Hotels and Restaurants; and Real Estate. The Tourism opportunity area spans across several types: Sea and Summer; Mountain, Winter and Ski; SPA and Wellness; Healthcare and Medical; Cultural; Hunting and Fishing.

Attended by Bulgarian Ambassador HE Petko Dimitrov, the presentation elicited a great deal of interest and was followed by a lively question and answer session.

***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 (knsaadrcbc@gmail.com)***

***We welcome your comments and suggestions.***



## ***November 11, 2014 -- Pinning of RT Adib Mounla Pinning***

**Topic:**



Shown RHS, being belatedly pinned by P Lina Shair, RT Adib Mounla joined RCBC earlier this year. He holds a BS and a MBA from the Lebanese American University, and is a Senior Risk Analyst with the Banque Libano-Francaise, SAL and co-owner of Galerie Rabih Mounla (Arts and Lighting). He is also PP of the RotarAct Club of Beyrouth.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an annual event run and financed by Rotary Districts that brings together each year thousands of young people age 14-30 sponsored by Rotary Clubs around the world. Participants are chosen for their leadership potential by RCs and their Districts. They discuss leadership skills and learn them through practice.

Through RYLA, Rotary demonstrates its respect and concern for youth; provides leadership training for selected youth and potential leaders; encourages leadership of youth by youth; and recognizes publicly youth who render community service. Events are three to ten days long and include presentations, practice sessions and workshops. Core topics include the fundamentals of leadership; communication skills; problem solving; conflict management; building self-confidence and self-esteem; community and global citizenship; Rotary's purpose and service to the community.

## ***November 11, 2014 -- Pinning of New Member Mrs. Karin Saab***

New-member-but-old-friend Mrs. Karin Saab is shown (photo RHS) being pinned by P Lina Shair. She is a former Assistant Attache, Economic and Commercial Division, German Embassy, Beirut, and former Chancellor of the Consulate General of Ireland, Beirut. Sponsor: PP Tony Asfour. Classification: Government/Retired Employee.



## ***November 17, 2014 -- National Immunization Day (NID)***

The Polio NID session held at the Sporting Club, Beirut, was a big success. UNICEF and Lebanese Ministry of Public Health personnel vaccinated fully 135 children (five years old and younger) from three schools. They played skits and games, painted faces, colored books, and enjoyed cookies, candies and fruit juices. Nader Hoella, RotarAct Club of Beyrouth and member of the Polio Lebanon Committee, coordinated the event. Present for RCBC was RT Nora Haddad (Center photo) assisted by Lea Farhat in behalf of the RotarAct Club of RCBC; they donated coloring books and crayons and helped entertain the children.







**November 18, 2014 – Joint Dinner Meeting with RC of Beyrouth at the Phoenicia Hotel  
Guest Speaker Ms. Nidal Al Achkar – Topic: “Why I Am a Woman of the Theater”**

In her welcome words in English, RCBC P Lina Shair (see RHS) said “tonight is a double special evening: In addition to our distinguished speaker, we are joined by the members of RC of Beyrouth, the oldest RC in Lebanon”. Rotarians have been involved over the years with numerous projects in the fields of education, health care, disease prevention, water sanitation and economic development. But what is even more important today is our commitment to make things better, despite all the difficulties, to achieve the salvation of Lebanon.



RC of Beyrouth P Antoine Hafez (photo LHS) extended his welcome to the joint meeting in French, saying “nothing gives a godparent more pleasure than to visit a godchild, particularly when they have both grown together as friends and served together. The first, now 84 years old, has become the leading club of the District whilst the second, now 19, is following in its godparent’s footsteps. Moreover, to make this joint meeting shine, we have chosen a very great lady of the stage, who has made a central contribution to theater and to culture in Lebanon and the Middle East”.

PP Camille Menassa, RC of Beyrouth, see RHS, introduced the guest speaker in Arabic, pointing out that her first name Nidal (Arabic for Struggle) imposed on her a way of life. She started struggling early in life and has continued to struggle on multiple fronts:

- (1) Separating Religion from the State;
- (2) Defending Women’s Rights;
- (3) Spreading Culture, Art and Literature, a three-way prerequisite for the development of nations.



Mr. Samir El Khoury, RCBC Program Committee Chair, (see photo LHS) introduced Ms. Al Achkar in English, the formal language of RCBC. He recalled how he got to know a group of Lebanese University students during his posting as Lebanese Consul in London in the 1960s, among them our guest speaker and Tamaam Salam, today HE the Prime Minister of Lebanon. All of them were looking forward to return to Lebanon when they had completed their higher studies in order to participate in the rich and diversified cultural and economic life of the country at the time, in sad contrast

to present times. Among them was our guest speaker, who pursued a distinguished career as actress and director of many plays and created “The Beirut Theater Workshop” in 1966. Nidal took this innovative art to most Arab and European countries as well as to the Americas.

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## ***“Why I Am a Woman of the Theater” ... continued***

Theater-Actress, -Director and -Activist, Ms. Nidal Al Achkar (photo RHS) played a leading role in the development of the theater in particular and of culture in general, in Lebanon and the Arab World. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, she has received many decorations, among them the Tunisian Government High Order of Culture and the French Government Knight of the Order of the Arts and Letters. The daughter of Assad Al Achkar, a prominent politician, she is married to journalist and painter Mr. Fuad Naim.



Ms. Al Achkar spoke in Arabic. An English summary of her talk is not yet available.



***Shown LHS (from Left to Right) are Mrs. Lara Hafez, P Antoine Hafez, Ms. Al Achkar, RT Samir El Khoury, RCBC Program Committee Chair, and Mr. Fuad Naim, Ms. Al Achkar's spouse.***

In behalf of Rotary International, RCBC P Lina Shair presented pins of recognition, for their sponsorship of new RCBC members, to PP George Beyrouti, PP Mounir Jabre and RT Christine Arzoumanian (shown Left to Right in photo below).



### ***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***





***Tuesday November 25, 2014 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel  
Guest Speaker Dr. Abdallah BouHabib -- Topic: "Is ISIS a Permanent Fixture"***

Dr. BouHabib, is the Managing Director of the Issam Fares Center for Lebanon, which he founded in April 2007, and a Lecturer at La Sagesse University. He is a graduate of the American University of Beirut and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.



He served at the World Bank as an Economist then as Senior Loan Officer in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and later as Adviser to the MENA Vice President and Regional External Affairs Chief. Dr. BouHabib was Lebanon's Ambassador to the United States from 1983 to 1990. From 2001 until 2005, he was Senior Adviser to Lebanon's Deputy Prime Minister.

Dr. Bouhabib believes ISIS will be around for a long time. One reason is that the Western alliance that has been formed to fight ISIS, and in particular its leader the USA, is not willing to commit troops on the ground to help do the job. The US position in this regard is handicapped by a number of contradictory political and economic influences. Within the MENA region the Shia Axis and the Sunni Axis are battling for dominance, aided and abetted by a confusing array of shifting alliances. Meanwhile, throughout the region, the lack of responsiveness of governments to basic socio-economic needs is such that every family harbors an ISIS seed ready to germinate.

And whilst (a) ISIS does not have many sympathizers in Lebanon, (b) the vast majority of Lebanese do not want another war, and (c) Lebanon has an effective army, the wealthy segment of the Lebanese population would do well to help take care of the needs of our Tripoli-like poor.



**RCBC P Lina Shair pinning RT Rana Salhab a Paul Harris Fellow (see photo LHS). The presentation of Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs. It is named for our founder, Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer who started Rotary International with three business associates in 1905.**

***Many Happy Birthday Returns to***

***Sylva Guiragossian 10***

***George Theodory 10***



## **Addendum – RCBC Beirut Cosmopolitan RotarAct Section**



### **International understanding session: Pakistan dinner**

***On the eve of the 5th of November, Head of International Rita Imad organized a cultural exchange project with Pakistani Rotaract Club of Karachi Clifton. Our main Chef for the evening, Rawan Al Wadaa, prepared a delicious Biryani and sent four Lebanese recipes to the Pakistani club for them to prepare. We had a fun time cooking and laughing together; these moments were video-taped and sent to the Pakistani club as well.***

### **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

***Nine club members attended this year's RYLA. This very enriching experience strengthened the family spirit of the club. It also introduced new members and guests to the culture of Rotaract Lebanon and allowed them to grow their leadership skills through seminars and workshops. Special thanks to Secretary Meghry Kalaydjian for her dedication and Immeasurable efforts as part of the RYLA Organizing Committee.***

