



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Bulletin Volume 8—Issue No. 178—October 2010

Charter Date: June 22, 1995
Club Number: 30893
District 2450
Rotary International

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Club Contact Information
Tel: +961 1 570888
Fax: +961 1 566256
Mobile: +961 3 771487
E-mail: brcr@cyberia.net.lb
www.rcbelebanon.org

Prepared By:
Club Assistant Annie Sapsezian

Edited By:
Asaad Salhab and Kamal Saad

Medical Equipment and Furniture to Aita Al Fakhar 03 October 2010

In 2009 RC of Beirut Cosmopolitan and RC Zahle-Bekaa, initiated a project co-sponsored by RC Cedar Rapids Daybreak; RC Mount Vernon-Lisbon; RC Marion-East Cedar Rapids; and RC Cedar Rapids, all in the State of Iowa. Matching grants were made available by Rotary Districts 2450 and 5970 and by The Rotary Foundation. The objective of the project is to assist the municipality of Aita Al-Fakhar in the West Bekaa in funding and equipping a health clinic and a public library for the people of Aita Al-Fakhar and neighboring villages.



The handing over ceremony took place at the new municipal building in the presence of the Mayor and the municipal council as well as Members of Parliament PP Joseph Maalouf and PP Shant Shinshinian, both members of RC Zahle. PDG Victor Kassir and Rotarian Nick Abou Assly from the partner clubs in the USA (both natives of Aita Al-Fakhar) came over especially to attend the handing over ceremony. A large number of Rotarians from the two Lebanese clubs that initiated this project also attended the ceremonies. Following the ceremony, the Mayor hosted a lunch in the nearby town of Anjar.



Mine Victims Assistance in Nabatieh 09 October 2010

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, the Rotary Club of Los Angeles Cedars (D5280) and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International have provided custom-made artificial limbs to 12 young survivors from mine-affected communities in South Lebanon who had been injured by landmines and other explosive devices.

The handing over ceremony took place at the Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC) at the Nabatieh Military Base in the presence of the President and members of RCBC, of senior LMAC officers and of representatives of local and international NGOs.



Financial Aid to Maamarieh 26 October 2010

Following many years of tradition, RCBC handed over a check for the amount of \$2000 to the Maamarieh school donated by RC Charlotte South and RT Antoine Bikhazi in support of needy, underprivileged students.

RCBC is thankful for their continued contribution and humanitarian efforts that promote the ideals of Rotary.

Business Meeting - Mrs. Lina Tannir 12 October 2010



Mrs. Lina Tannir

Guest Speaker Mrs. Lina Tannir, President of ASSABIL presented the objectives of the association and the activities it undertakes to meet them.

ASSABIL is a Lebanese non-governmental organization established in January 1997 in collaboration with the municipality of Beirut. Its objectives are to promote the development of public libraries throughout Lebanon; to establish public libraries that are open and free; to motivate public institutions to develop cultural activities and cooperate with other organizations, universities and schools to promote reading; and to encourage reading for pleasure.

The ASSABIL network of public libraries in Beirut comprises four libraries plus two mobile libraries established after the Israeli war on Lebanon. In addition, ASSABIL provides support to a network of 25 libraries in different areas of Lebanon by distributing books and equipment, providing training and advice, organizing exhibits and publishing reference as well as promotional materials.

The libraries host a variety of cultural, educational and civic activities such as storytelling for children, writing workshops, creative arts workshops and free computer and language classes. The aim is to develop critical thinking; help overcome traditional prejudices; improve communication skills; and encourage openness and tolerance.



**Banner Exchange Session
12 October 2010**

At the end of the meeting on October 12, RT Peter Fink from Rotary Club of Bad Ragaz in Switzerland introduced himself to the club members and exchanged banners with P Subhi Jarudi.



**Business Meeting - BCRAC
19 October 2010**

Marhaba is pleased to introduce the RCBC Rotaract Club (BCRAC) to Marhaba readers. This news item summarizes the presentation made by BCRAC to RCBC on October 19, 2010. We will henceforth keep our readers regularly informed about its activities.

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they are always sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the Rotary family. BCRAC is community based. It was established in 1999 and currently numbers 14 members.



For Rotary year 2010/2011, BCRAC has decided to emphasize four themes:

1. **Club Service**, under which it has implemented one project (a visit to Palm Island, off the coast of Tripoli) and plans another eight.
2. **Community Service**, under which it has implemented two projects and three are planned. The implemented projects include serving food (in partnership with NGO Cedars for Care) and Saving the World One Tree at a Time (in partnership with NGO Animals Lebanon). Upcoming projects include cleaning up rivers (together with NGO Cedars for Care); renovating the Civil Defense Center in Kraytem (in collaboration with CitiBank); and a joint project with Rotaract Tripoli to install Garbage cans in the seaport of Tripoli.
3. **Professional Development**, under which it has implemented a variety of training projects already. These include (a) How to Succeed in Business, (b) Japanese Culture, Food and Traditions, and (c) Organic Farming and Milk Production. BCRAC plans a number of further sessions near term.
4. **International Understanding**, under which BCRAC concluded twinning agreements with five Rotaract clubs (from Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Italy). Three of these were done in 2010 during the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) meeting in Egypt. The BCRAC budget for the current year (2010-2011) projects ordinary revenues of US \$ 5,500 plus \$ 1,200 from special fundraising activities. Estimated administrative expenses for the same period amount to \$ 4,350.



Fellowship Dinner October 26, 2010

RCBC members and their guests enjoyed a fabulous fellowship dinner at Le Vendome Hotel. The background music was wonderful and quite a few members and guests regaled us with their vocal talents. All had memorable times together.

October is Rotary Vocational Service Month

Vocational Service focuses on:

- Adherence to, and promotion of, the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors and the public.
- Recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not only those pursued by Rotarians.
- Contributing vocational talents to solving the problems of society and to meeting the needs of the community.

During October, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

Following are some suggested activities to undertake during Vocational service month:

- Devote the first meeting in October to examining the second Avenue of Service, including The Four Way Test and The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions. After expanding members' awareness, solicit their input in planning projects for the remainder of the year.
- Introduce a "mini-classifications talk" series in which each member gives a five minute talk on his or her vocation. Schedule one speaker for the beginning of each meeting until everyone has made a presentation. The purpose of these talks is to promote vocational awareness among Rotarians and help them recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations.
- Present a vocational award to someone in the committee who has exemplified outstanding professional achievement while maintaining very high ethical standards. Promote the presentation within the committee and consider making it an annual October event.
- Invite experts to give a presentation on the vocational needs of the community and develop a project in response to those needs. Possible projects could focus on developing character, providing career information to youth, mentoring small businesses, or organizing workshops that provide employees with new skills.
- Encourage club members to put their vocational skills to work as a Rotary Volunteer. Volunteer opportunities are available on [ProjectLINK](#), a valuable resource that lists many vocational projects that clubs and districts can also choose to support financially or with donated goods. ProjectLINK also includes examples of successful vocational service projects

Members' Happy Moments ☺

Happy Birthday to PP Habib Bassoul (Oct 08), RT Samir El Khoury (Oct 11) and RT Nabil Challah (Oct 30).

RCBC wishes you a wonderful year of health, prosperity, and. happiness.