

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 Beyroufi

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*

**RCBC Website
Address**

www.rcbclebanon.org

Business Meeting, October 1, 2013

Guest Speaker Mr. Elie Souccar

Mr. Souccar gave a talk entitled "Water Filtration in Lebanese Public Schools" that was followed by an animated discussion.

Business Meeting, October 8, 2013 – Pinning of RT Nora Haddad

At the start of this business meeting, President Mounir Jabre pinned a new member -- see photo RHS. RT Nora Haddad is sponsored by PP Tony Asfour and RT Mimi Hamam. She brings to RCBC a wealth of experience in service above self as well as in business.

Born in Tripoli, she spent over thirty years in the USA before returning to Lebanon in 2010. Graduating from California State University with a BA in Interior Design, she co-founded a real estate development company in California and is currently setting up a design firm in Lebanon.

Nora is an active member and its coordinator for Lebanon of the Lebanese Ladies Cultural Society in California that helps educate unfortunate children in Lebanon .

She is married to Joseph Hage, an Electronics Engineer, who established Navleb, a vehicle tracking, GPS navigation and GIS company. Nora has two children: Jad, who graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles and is now a financial analyst in California; and Dahlia, who has just graduated from the American University of Beirut with a BA in marketing.

Her Rotary classification is "Educational / Humanitarian".

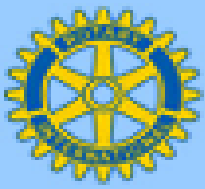
We all bid her a warm welcome to RCBC.



***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, October 8, 2013

Guest Speaker Engineer (ENG) Ramy El Khoury, "Earthquake Risk in Lebanon"

Our guest speaker (see LHS photo below) was introduced by RT Samir El-Khoury, RCBC Program Committee Chair (see RHS photo below).

ENG Ramy Ramy Rafik El-Khoury is a Director and Associate of Rafik El-Khoury & Partners and CEO of the company's UAE and Saudi Arabian Offices. A Civil Engineer with over 20 years experience, he holds a Bachelor in Civil Engineering Degree and a Masters' Degree in Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics from Imperial College, London.



ENG El-Khoury has represented Lebanon in the Program for Reducing Earthquake Losses in the Eastern Mediterranean Region since 1998 and plays a key role in a number of regional and global efforts designed to understand and deal with seismic hazards.

He described earthquakes as natural disasters that so far are unpredictable – whether as to timing or to magnitude. The essence of Earthquake Engineering is to help design structures that remain standing and hopefully do not kill when an earthquake does occur -- for once an earthquake has struck in a given area around the globe, it will definitely strike again, with at least the same magnitude as before. The longest fault in Lebanon is the Yammouneh Fault. This is the northward continuation of the Levantine or Dead Sea Fault system which has been at the origin of a number of major destructive earthquakes. Upon entering Lebanon through the Galilee heights, the Levantine Fault System changes into a more complex system of braided faults.

ENG El Khoury also spoke about new design and construction norms based on modern design and construction technologies and using new materials that help buildings -- including those that are high rise -- resist high intensity earthquakes. These norms have been and are being applied in a number of new buildings in Lebanon (in the Solidere quarter of Beirut for example) as well as in the Gulf countries (specially in the UAE) and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

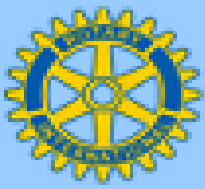
RC: Rotary Club

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



Business Meeting -- October 22, 2013

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Ninette Kelley, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR Representative in Lebanon Mrs. Ninette Kelly (see photo RHS) gave a presentation entitled 'How is UN High Commission for Refugees coping with the flood of refugees from Syria into Lebanon?'.
By end 2013, the UNHCR expects the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to reach about one million – up from 175,000 end 2012 and 5,000 end 2011. As a result, trade, investments and consumer confidence are down, pressure on public services is up and the gap between funds needed and funds received has widened. The cost of stabilisation is now estimated at US \$ 2.5 billion. In a broader perspective, nearly two million Syrians have fled their country since the beginning of 2011, half of them children. Of the one million children, more than 75% are under the age of 11.



It is difficult to envision a realistic solution in the foreseeable future. Ideally, one would build camps with the help of the international community on the Lebanese side of the border with Syria -- which camps would be fully under Lebanese control. This would both help control the inflow of refugees and help improve the quality of medical and humanitarian services. One could also build camps within Syria -- in areas endowed with a minimum of infrastructure and so far spared by the war -- over which no-fly zones would be imposed. All such solutions need Security Council resolutions as well as funding, both of which are difficult to obtain.

Wine Tasting Fellowship Event Le Taillevent

October 29, 2013

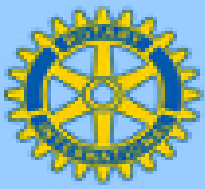
This special fellowship event of RCBC was held in the specially warm and charming setting of Le Taillevent in the Achrafieh District of East Beirut. Members, their spouses and their friends co-mingled in a relaxed atmosphere to chat and taste a fine selection of wines served with hors d'oeuvres and delicate charcuteries.

We were delighted that guests from other clubs joined us for the occasion, notably RT Rabab Safieddine from RC Saida and Mrs. Hala Khammar (see top RHS photo) as well as President Amal Talhouk and RT Walter Day from RC Sahel Aley (see middle RHS photo).

Also present was our most recent member to join RCBC, RT Nora Haddad, shown together with her husband ENG Joseph Hage in the bottom RHS photo.

Our warm appreciation goes to PP Asaad Salhab and his spouse RT Rana Salhab for organizing this event.





Visit of RT Mimi Hamam to the Rotary Club of London -- October, 2013

In October, RT Mimi Hamam spent some time in London (her homestead for many years) and visited The Rotary Club of London (RCL). She received a warm welcome and was invited to attend their meeting in the "Churchill Room" (see LHS photo below) where she exchanged club banners with P Yasi H-Daniel of RCL -- see RHS photo below.



RT Mimi also contacted Roger and Jill Pullan (who are actively involved with their churches in raising money for the Home of Hope project) as well as the President of the Rotary Club of Sudbury Mrs. Lynda Sebbage to whom they introduced Mimi and the project. All three will be visiting Lebanon in March 2014.

PP Tony Asfour added a footnote to the effect that between 2002 and 2004 he spent a substantial amount of time in London and often visited The London Rotary Club as a guest from RCBC. Indeed our two clubs sponsored a matching grant in 2002 under which they provided the School for the Blind in Beirut with special monitoring and reading machines.

During the month of October, RCBC Club Secretary Christine Arzoumanian, as always indefatigable, visited seven Rotary Clubs in Armenia and Georgia. She has accepted to write up her experience for the November issue of Marhaba.

Many Happy Birthday Returns to Our Fellow Members

Azmi Hajjaj: Sept. 9 -- Karim Naamani: Sept. 15

Christine Arzoumanian: Sept. 21

Habib Bassoul: Oct. 8 -- Samir El Khoury Oct. 11 -- Asaad Salhab: Oct. 18

Mazen Farra: Oct. 28 -- Nabil Challah: Oct. 30 -- Jean-Paul Moubarak: Oct. 31