



Marhaba



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

October 8, 2014 – Meeting followed by Dinner at the Phoenicia Hotel In Honor of D 2452 DG Khalil Alsharif

On his visit to Rotary Clubs in Lebanon, DG Alsharif met with the RCBC Board and Committee Chairs who presented and discussed with him their plans for 2014-2015.

In welcoming DG Alsharif, P Lina Shair said that our Rotary Clubs have an exceptional opportunity to "Light Up Rotary" this year, what with the conflict and turmoil that pervades our region. Significant segments of our populations are being displaced or forced to migrate; they face severe economic difficulties as a result. Whole generations are suffering from malnutrition and disease and the young from lack of education in addition. We also face a resurgence of Polio in our region. As Rotarians, all this places upon us a big responsibility to make a difference -- here and now and wherever and whenever needed. That is how we plan to "Light Up Rotary" this year.

A dinner followed, in honor of the DG, hosted by RCBC and two other clubs: RC Aley and RC Saïda -- see p 2 following.



Front Row Left to Right, see RCBC RT Rabab Safieddine, ADG Samir Hammoud, DDG May Chmaitelly, DG Khalil Alsharif, and RCBC P Lina Shair. Behind them is a number of RCBC members.

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

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 Editors: Walter Day (wjd770@yahoo.com)
& Kamal Saad (knsaadrcbc@gmail.com)**

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



October 8, 2014 – Dinner at the Phoenicia Hotel In Honor of DG Khalil Alsharif



Rotarians and guests standing up for the Lebanese National Anthem



Left to Right, P Lina Shair, Mrs. Shohra Alsharif, DG Khalil Alsharif, DDG May Chmaitelly, ADG Samir Hammoud



RC Aley P Nasser Jauhari, RCBC PP Georges Beyrouiti, PDDG George Azar, P Lina Shair, DG Khalil Alsharif, PDG Jamil Mouawad, and ADG Nader Chohayeb, PP RC Aley .



P Lina Shair, RC Saida P Hisham Assad, RC Aley P Nassar Jauhari, Mrs. Shohra Alsharif and DG Khalil Alsharif.



RCBC RT Mazen El Farra, RCBC Inner-Wheeler Adela Bassoul, and RC Beirut Center RT Rimane Jabre



RCBC P Lina Shair, DDG May Chmaitelly, PDDG George Azar, RC Saida P Hisham Assad, RCBC RT Rabab Safieddine, RC Saida PP Bana Kalash, RC Saida Mona Kotob and RCBC PP Mounir Jabre.



October 14, 2014 – Business Meeting at the Hotel Vendome – Guest Speaker PP Riad Saade – Topic: “Is The Green Revolution Truly As Green As We Are Led To Believe?”

Dr. Riad Saade is a PP and member since 1969 of RC Beirut (the first Rotary Club in Lebanon) and a Founding Member and PP of RCBC. He is a graduate of the “Institut National Agronomique – Paris” and holds a Doctorate in Economic Geography from the Sorbonne University as well as an INSEAD degree. He has had a distinguished career in academe, scientific research, business, and public service and is an authority on Lebanese and Middle East agriculture.



In his presentation Dr. Saade shared with us his 55 years of experience in the agricultural sector. Ideally, a “Green Revolution” should seek to guarantee the food security and preserve the environment of the world’s population. Is it likely to meet the needs arising from the explosive growth of the world’s population? Estimated at 3 billion people in 1960, the world population is expected to triple by 2048.

Whilst new technologies have substantially increased the agricultural GDP of developed nations, this has been at the expense of the wellbeing of their rural communities and of their environment. Moreover, the agricultural GDP of developing countries has stagnated or, as was the case for Lebanon, decreased. Why so? Because the Green Revolution was led by business groups whose aim was to maximize their own profit by controlling world agriculture. The first (chemical) Green Revolution was followed by a second one, this time genetic. Whilst the profitability of Genetic Engineering business leaders soared, so did the danger to nature and mankind. In its two successive phases the world “devolved from a once -productive, national, family-based agriculture system to a neo-feudal state system dominated by a handful of powerful and wealthy land owners, controlled by a few supra-national groups. Had the Green Revolution guaranteed the world food security through sustainable agriculture and preserved the environment of our planet for our progeny, we might have accepted this domination and control; and the systematic destruction of the social fabric of the much debilitated rural community.

But with the ever-growing world hunger and the dramatic impact on our increasingly polluted environment, we doubt that any reasonable person would grant the so called “Green Revolution” a passing mark.



RT Rana Salhab (see photo LHS) offered the meeting her thoughts about volunteering. The reasons why people volunteer are many and varied: To give (or give back) to their community; to help or influence others; to network; to follow tradition; to learn; or simply because they are invited. Volunteering can be episodic and short-term, or issue-oriented and long-term, as is the case when joining Rotary, which poses inter-generational adaptation challenges.

The socio-cultural, economic, and technological changes that are sweeping through every part of our lives have major implications for volunteering and for attracting and retaining effective Rotary members.

See page 4 following for RT Salhab’s presentation on “Issues Facing Rotary Membership” at the D 2452 Seminar on Membership.



October 18, 2014 -- D 2452 Seminar on Membership at the Hilton Habtoor Hotel

Two presentations by RCBC members are summarized below.

PP George Beyrouti, Public Image/Public Relations Lebanon Country Committee Chair 2014-2015: "The Impact of Rotary Public Image on Membership Development"

Opening his presentation with the question "Are we who we say we are?", he suggested that improving our public image is best achieved by:

- The way we behave and reflect the spirit and core values of Rotary;
- Our ability to convince others as to who we are and what we do – absent an official creed;
- Our ability to convey to others the advantages of joining Rotary, apart from the opportunity to serve: e.g. the scope for professional and social growth and development; the fellowship potential; the opportunity to network with fellow citizens of the world.
- Our ability to tell the Rotary story in an inspiring and compelling way.

He also offered a number of issues for reflection:

1. How to change negative perceptions of Rotary clubs;
2. What clubs should do to make visitors feel welcome;
3. What clubs should do to promote the core values of Rotary: Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership;
4. What clubs should do to ensure transparency and objectivity in the way they publicize activities and projects.

RT Rana Salhab: "The Implications of Corporate Talent Trends for Rotary Membership"

Corporate human resource management trends have significant implications for attracting professionals from the business world into Rotary as volunteer new members and retaining them.

Globalization is putting a premium on faster development of business leaders at all levels. This involves (a) simplifying the work environment to address the overwhelmed employee "syndrome", (b) establishing global supply chains for skills, (c) providing intensive coaching and development assistance, (d) motivating passion and purpose in managers, (e) allowing greater work schedule flexibility for managers, (f) encouraging managers to prolong their active lives at work.

RT Salhab proposed that for Rotary the old days of making volunteers fit in our box are gone. She recommends a number of tactics to attract 21st Century Volunteers into Rotary:

- Spread the word through storytelling, including in the social media;
- Differentiate Rotary by brand positioning;
- Attract volunteers with more than one value proposition;
- Introduce flexibility for members to engage a wider group;
- Address generational differences; mid-level professionals desire to serve but the proposition has to fit with life-cycle challenges;
- Networking is the hook for younger generations (40+ included);
- Remember: "In the war for talent, talent won"
- Heed: "In the war for the 21st century volunteer, the volunteer **WILL** win."



October 21, 2014 - Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel - Guest Speaker Mr. Gabriel Fernaine -- Topic: "Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and EU Laws Affecting US/EU Dual Nationals", plus Comments on the Future of Banking.

Mr. Fernaine (see photo RHS) is the Branch Manager of Byblos Bank Sassine Branch, Ashrafieh, Beirut. FATCA requires US nationals as well as US Green Card holders to report to the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) all financial accounts held by them outside of the United States; it also requires foreign financial institutions to provide information to the IRS about U.S. clients as above. The topic generated a great deal of interest among attendees.



He also commented on technology developments impacting the future of the Lebanese as well as other banking sectors: Mobile banking and e-branch (Do It Yourself) banking that have already emerged in Lebanon; plus teleconferencing, paperless banking and the e-store that have yet to do so.

"World Polio Day October 24, 2014" by PP George Beyrouti

In view of the imminence of World Polio Day, PP Beyrouti presented an overview of the state of Rotary's top priority -- a polio-free world for all children.

Polio cases world-wide were down to 223 in 2012 -- from 250,000 in 1988 -- but the work is not yet finished. If polio rebounds, it could paralyze over 200,000 children per year within a decade. As long as it exists, unimmunized children everywhere remain at risk. To eradicate polio world-wide would cost US \$ 5.5 billion; funding commitments amount to US \$ 4 billion only.



Polio was recently confirmed in Syria, a country that had been free of the disease since 1999.

Rotary and RotarAct Clubs in Lebanon have joined forces with the Lebanese Ministry of Health, WHO, and UNICEF to help vaccinate children. National Immunization Days are taking place this year from October 15 to 21 and from November 15 to 21, 2014.

Volunteer help is needed; please contact RCBC RT Nora Haddad - Phone +961 71 199 907.

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



October 28, 2014 -- Business Meeting at the Phoenicia Hotel – Guest Speaker Ms Heli Uusikyla, Acting Director, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Topic: “Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Palestine Refugees”.

Ms. Uusikyla holds Doctorate in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki in Finland has over 15 years of experience in international development and humanitarian operations. Accompanying her was Ms. Leila Kaissi, Chief Field Relief and Social Services Officer of UNRWA Lebanon, (see photo extreme RHS).



Around 480,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) are registered and 44,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) are recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon. However, a survey by the American University of Beirut in 2010 estimated the number of PRL at 270,000 of whom 62% lived in camps and the balance, i.e. 38% lived in 42 Palestinian “gatherings”.

There are no social security services for PRL in Lebanon. Two thirds of them live in poverty and more than half rely entirely on UNRWA’s services. They suffer from restrictions on ownership and employment; and from the impact of the regional crisis. The 12 recognized Palestine refugee camps all suffer from serious problems including overcrowding, unemployment, poor housing conditions and lack of infrastructure – in addition to poverty.

UNRWA provides all PRL, as well as PRS in Lebanon, with education services through its 68 schools in Lebanon attended by 39,000 students; with health care services through its 27 health centers; relief and social services; shelter rehabilitation and camp infrastructure improvements; and microfinance and emergency assistance. Funding remains a continuous challenge and concern.



RCBC P Lina Shair exchanging banners with visitor PP Igor Syriamin of RC LVIV Zamok, Ukraine -- October 14, 2014

Many Happy Birthday Returns to

Habib Bassoul 8

Nabil Challah 30

Mazen El Farra 20

Samir El Khoury 11

Jean-Paul Moubarak 31

Adib Mounla 18

Asaad Salhab 28



Addendum -- RotarAct Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan "The October Summary in 4 Pictures"



Professional Development Session

30 Rotaractors and guests attended a presentation by Credit Bank top managers. They learned about student loans, how to manage their personal finances, and much more. Special thanks to active member Georgio Demian for making this happen.



Train the Trainer Session

Our members attended this session to prepare themselves to train others in cleaning water in the context of the D 2452 Lebanon School Water Filtration project.

Our Godmother's Happy Wedding

Christine Arzoumanian, a pillar of RCBC RotarAct Club, tied the knot. The lucky guy is Khoren Ghazarian. The celebration and happy moments were shared by current and past members of our Club.

