



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Newsletter September/October 2015



Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Ravi Ravindran

RC Sri Lanka

District Governor

Mustafa Nasreddine

RC Amman

Deputy Governor

Kamal Katra

Assistant Governor

Rami Majzoub

RCBC Officers

2014—2015

President

Marie (Mimi) Hamam

President Elect

Joe Boulos

Vice President

Lina Shair

Secretary

Amal Talhouk

Treasurer

Jean Paul Moubarak

Directors

Tony Asfour

George Beyrouti

Nora Haddad

Adib Mounla

Rabab Safieddine

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

SERVICE ABOVE SELF IS AT THE HEART OF RCBC

During the month of October, RCBC saw the completing and handover of two major projects in which the club participated as financial sponsors. On October 8th, part of a Rotary Lebanon **GLOBAL GRANT FOR COMPUTER LITERACY** was completed for Achrafieh High School, which is one of the six (six) targeted schools. PP Habib Saba (*standing end right*) was the RCBC member spearheading this project that totalled more nearly \$125,000 in funding efforts by many Rotary clubs throughout Lebanon. The photos of the completed lab speak volumes of value for the futures of our youth.



The second project completed was that of the **SPECTRA OPTIA CELL SEPARATOR**. This equipment is an advanced state-of-the-art technology that will allow the collection of stem cells for bone marrow transplantation post ablative chemotherapy. It has revolutionized the treatment of malignancies, hematologic and autoimmune disorders.

This project was made possible through the combined efforts of RCBC, RC Cedars, RC Kesrouan, RC Byblos, RCBC Rotaract & Inner Wheel, RC Reno (Nevada, USA), RC Santa Monica (California, USA), RC Athens (Georgia, USA), The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Districts (2452, 5190, and 5280).

The leader of the American University of Beirut Medical Center was most appreciative and enthusiastic in receipt of the equipment that means so much to so many suffering patients for many years to come.

Participants included Dr. Ghazi Zaatar, (Chair of the Department of Pathology, Director of the Naaf K Basile Cancer Institute and Childrens Cancer Center of Lebanon), Dr. Hassan El Solh (Chief of Staff), Mrs. Salwa Salman (CCCL Chair) and RCC President Mimi Hamam.



RCBC PINS TWO NEW MEMBERS



On October 6, 2015, LPresident Mimi Hamam (*left*) welcomed two new members to the RCBC family. R Nada Maalouf (*right*) and R Nadim Hissen (*center*).

The addition of these two new members is a significant event that addresses one of RCBC's primary goals of increasing membership.

RCBC/ROTARY COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 3

Dinner Meeting w/Speaker
HE Francois Barras Swiss Ambassador
"Switzerland: The Most Innovative Country In
The World & What Lies Behind Its Success"

NOVEMBER 6

Movie Premiere Fellowship & Fundraiser
"Spectre 007"

NOVEMBER 10

Business Meeting w/Speaker
Mr. Andre Sacy, "Churches in Saida"

NOVEMBER 14

RCBC Fellowship Luncheon
"La Terraasse-Kaslik"

NOVEMBER 17

Business Meeting w/Speaker
Ms. Zeina Saab

"Empowering Low Income Youth To
Drive Lebanon's Startup Ecosystem"

NOVEMBER 24

Business Meeting w/Speaker
Ms Farida Younan
"Organ Tissue Donors"

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

RCBC has reached a significant milestone in the life of the club. RCBC was chartered 20 years ago and will be celebrating the history and community service contributions of the club in the near future.



LOOK FOR IT!! BE THERE!!!

WHY JOIN ROTARY???

Personal Growth and Development:

Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development

Leadership Development: Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education. Leadership: - learning how to motivate, influence, and lead leaders.

ARE YOU APPLYING THE 4-WAY TEST???

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Does it promote **GOOD WILL**
and **BETTER FRIENDSHIP**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all?

RCBC Meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut
Business Meetings at 7:00 PM — Dinner Meetings at 8:30 PM

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PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015: GIFT OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL, LEBANON AND ROTARY



The GOLI Representative, Mr. Rob Raylman and associate Fredlee Kaplan visited RCBC on the occasion of RCBC's first participation in the funding of a child in need. Rob gave a heartfelt presentation of the historical link between GOL and Rotary and the importance of this relationship.

The traditional beginning for Gift of Life was to identify and help one child at a time. GOLI would rely upon Rotary Clubs and Districts throughout the world to identify children in need of heart surgery and then work to have them treated in the United States by one of our affiliated hospitals. This method of helping children remains an important focus of Gift of Life programs in that our volunteers are able to see the impact they can have on that one life and it motivates and inspires others to continue to support our programs. RCBC sponsored a child this year with a life saving contribution.

Over the years Gift of Life programs have evolved with the assistance of Gift of Life International. GOLI is now a well-coordinated global network which maximises our capacity to help children in need of heart surgery. While children are still brought to the United States and elsewhere around the world for surgery, we have focused on strategically siting centers of excellence to treat children in their country or region of birth. RCBC and Rotary Lebanon have fostered such a relationship with AUBMC in Lebanon.

Through the expansion of Gift of Life efforts into the development of sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare programs, it is now helping over 1,000 children receive treatment every year. GOLI programs are focused on sustaining reliable pediatric cardiac programs for years to come. Based on a 2014 survey of existing Gift of Life programs, over 18,000 children have now been treated through Gift of Life programs over the past 4 decades.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015: DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT WITH RCBC

The District 2452 Governor, Mustafa Nasreddine, made the DG annual visit and assessment of RCBC process, procedures and programs. He met with the RCBC Rotaract leadership as well as the club officers, directors and membership. His comments about the club were very positive and enthusiastic, especially regarding the scope and significance of the club's commitment to serving the community.



RCBC President Mimi Hamam (right) exchanges banners with DG Nasreddine (left) to commemorate his visit and to establish a link across Rotary and country boundaries. The annual DG visit is, in a sense, a yearly quality control assessment and feedback for every club in the district. The assessment for RCBC was very positive for all aspects of the club.

Following the formal meeting, a dinner was held to honor DG Nasreddine and commemorate his visit to the club.



SEPTEMBER 22, 2015: ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS

In the absence of many club members who were traveling for an official club visit to Bavaria, the remaining members used this time productively to discuss environmental issues. Of particular emphasis was the issue of trash collection and subsequent pollutant hazards. Discussions were lead by PP Habib Saba.

RCBC specifically and Rotary Lebanon generally should be serving our community and country in a more significant way by focusing on the major problem areas in the country. This may include areas such as solid waste collection and sorting, generation of electricity, resolving the water shortage issue, etc. This is not something that RCBC can do alone but requires the collaboration of all the Rotary clubs in Lebanon which when unified in tackling a major issue represents a significant force of influence.

As garbage is still a major and pressing issue we could take the initiative by working on projects specifically related to sorting at the source as very little is still happening on that front. One such initiative could be in collaboration with the public schools where we would put in place a sorting infrastructure for garbage in the school playgrounds to condition and educate school children the importance of separating garbage at the source. This would be a relatively inexpensive exercise and we could capitalize on our experience from the water filtration project and our extensive contacts with the public schools. We could also create a competition amongst schools to encourage the necessary behavior amongst children.



SEPTEMBER 29 2015: BAVARIA FELLOWSHIP REPORT

PP Edward Rassi report on the successful fellowship visit to the RCBC sister-club, RC Wasserberg in the Bavaria region of Germany. Fifteen (15) RCBC members made the trek to Germany and were thrilled with the resulting fellowship. RC Wasserberg has collaborated on projects with RCBC for several years. Last year members of the RC Wasserburg club visited Lebanon to review the ongoing project to establish and enhance a school serving Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley.

Needless to say the hospitality was spectacular with visits to local historically significant sites, stunning Bavarian scenery and cuisine, and participation in the Munich Oktoberfest. The fellowship among the members of both clubs was exceptional and very personal. It can truly be said that RC Wasserbug and RCBC are connected in significant and personal ways for the enhancement of the lives of a struggling community. Bavaria is beautiful, hospitable and fabulous. More photos are available on the RCBC website.





PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

OCTOBER 6, 2015: PADG SAMIR HAMMOUD, "BANKING CONTROL"



PAG and Head of the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon Samir Hammoud gave a presentation about the Role of Banks in the Lebanese Economy. RCBC honored PAG Samir Hammoud with a trophy in appreciation to his impressive work to the Lebanese society and economy.

Banking controls are critical for Lebanon to help avoid legal and illegal problems for the country. Money laundering is a particularly difficult problem and needs constant monitoring to avoid internal and international sanctions.

OCTOBER 13, 2015: HANNES SEIBERT, "DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS BUILDING"

Hannes Siebert of Common Space, UNDP- PAF, advisor to the UN common space initiative and facilitator to numerous national dialogues in zones of conflict in the Mena Region and Myanmar, shared his experience in mediation and negotiations. With the increasing number of civil wars there are no more 2 parties involved in a conflict, but many parties. Additional information can be secured at www.commonspaceinitiative.org.



Mr. Siebert talked about his experience in the national dialogues of Yemen, South Africa and Lebanon as well as Burma (which is the most complex case he worked on). He reviewed the KEY ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE to be:

- Mechanism bringing all major political decision makers and stakeholders **together after serious conflict or when constitutional bodies (e.g. Parliament, Government) and constitution fail** to address needs, rights and expectations of all groups and communities
- **Include all** major interest groups, armed groups and concerned parties.
- **Non-constitutional entity** that functions best when it is linked to existing constitutional bodies or interim structures to guarantee implementation.
- **Results in decisions and binding frameworks** for political reforms and constitutional changes.
- **Dialogue table**, process, decision making and implementation mechanisms are determined by the parties themselves.
- **Mandated by** participating stakeholders (constitutional, military, political, non-constitutional)

OCTOBER 20, 2015: RAJA HADDAD, "THE 7-HABITS OF EFFECTIVE PEOPLE"



The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and the 5 Levels of Leadership. As we look at the problems we create as we live and interact with the Personality Ethic, we realize they are deep, fundamental problems. We need a new level of thinking - a paradigm based on the principles that accurately describe the territory of effective human being and interacting to solve these deep concerns. To try to change outward attitudes and behaviours does very little good if we fail to examine the basic paradigms from which they flow.

The 7 Habits presents a step-by-step pathway for living with fairness, integrity, service and human dignity that are the principles that give you the security to adapt to change, and the wisdom and power to take advantage of the opportunities that change creates. These habits will move any individual who embraces them to the ultimate state of interdependence, which is a requirement to have societal effectiveness and influence.

OCTOBER 27, 2015: "MR. GEORGES HOMSI" A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE ECONOMICAL DRIVES AFFECTING GEOPOLITICAL DECISIONS IN THE MENA REGION"

A joint meeting between RCBC and BCRAC during which the Rotaractors of BCRAC, lead by President Fouad Boulos (2nd Photo), talked about the projects they worked on during the first part of the Rotarian Year and the projects they are planning for the second half. Then Mr. Georges Homsi, Head of Private Banking at the Credit Libanais, talked about the Economical Drives Affecting Geopolitical Decisions in the MENA. Mr. Homsi focuses on global changes in resources, regional organizations (EU, Arab Mena), global affecting al economic stability.



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