



# Rotary

## Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



# Marhaba

## 2025/2026

### Rotary International President

Dr. Francesco Arezzo  
Rotary Club of Ragusa,  
Sicily, Italy

### Rotary District 2452 Officers

#### **District 2452 Governor**

Peter Ashdjian  
Rotary Club of Larnaca-Kition,  
Cyprus

#### **Assistant District 2452 Governor**

Maroun Elias Al Najjar  
Rotary Club of Lebanon International  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Rotary**  
District 2452



**DISTRICT 2452**

Club ID 30893  
Chartered 1995

### Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Officers

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| President       | Olga (Joelle) Feghali |
| IPP             | Haytham Kurdi         |
| President Elect | Christine Arzoumanian |
| Vice President  | John Edde             |
| Secretary       | Jean Paul Moubarak    |
| Treasurer       | Nada Maalouf          |

#### **Directors**

PP Joe Boulos  
PP Mona Jarudi  
Rtn Rana Salhab

#### **Marhaba Editor**

PP Mona Jarudi  
monajarudi@gmail.com



## Letter From The Editor

### PP Mona Jarudi

#### “Rotary International and Polio.”

October in Rotary is the month of Economic and Community Development. But it is also the month commemorating the global fight against Polio. For nearly four decades, Rotary International has led the global fight to eradicate Polio, a disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children every year.

In 1985, Rotary launched the **PolioPlus** program, the first worldwide initiative to immunize all children against Polio. Through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)- a partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the CDC, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary has helped reduce polio cases by over 99.9% worldwide. Rotary members have contributed more than US\$ 2.7 billion and volunteered countless hours to vaccinate over 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. Thanks to these efforts, wild polio virus remains endemic in only two countries- Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Rotary Clubs in Lebanon have been a major partner in this fight for many years. Every year, on October 24, a country wide campaign is held to carry out vaccination in different health centers in the country. We have a national Rotary committee that spearheads all the coordination with the Ministry of Health, in providing the polio vaccines necessary and works hand in hand with all Rotary Clubs in the country. This year, the campaign enjoyed huge success, where clubs collaborated and members were present to help in the immunization process. It is always very rewarding to witness such a historic achievement.

Despite major progress, challenges persist, including misinformation, conflict zones, and hard to reach communities. Rotary's continued advocacy, fundraising, and fieldwork remain vital to ensuring no child ever suffers from Polio again.

Ending Polio will mark the second time in history that a human disease has been eradicated, after small pox. Rotary International's perseverance, global partnerships, and the compassion of millions of volunteers make this goal achievable.

As Rotary's founder Paul Harris once said, **“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves”**. A world free of polio will stand as Rotary's greatest achievement, a gift to all generations.



# ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI)

## Location: Bethania, Harissa

October 4 & 5, 2025

On the weekend of October 4, 2025, the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) brought together Rotarians from Lebanon for two days of learning and fellowship.

This was held at the Bethania Harissa Hotel overlooking magnificent views of the Jounieh Bay.

District Governor Peter Ashdijian (D2452) came from Cyprus to join the sessions, highlighting the power of learning about all things Rotary and how to shape its future.

The weekend was enriched with leadership workshops, skills development that enabled the participants to strengthen the foundation of Rotary by being capable, ethical and visionary leaders.

Rotary Learning will become a cornerstone in Rotary Lebanon and the DG's participation affirmed the District's commitment to cultivate Rotary leaders across all nine countries of D 2452.

President Olga J. Feghali of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in this important weekend, together with a prospective member Bernard Jabre who got a perfect introduction to Rotary and its values.







|  <b>ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE</b><br>4-5 October, 2025 - BETHANIA HARISSA   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>SAT. 4 OCT 2025</b><br>10:00 : WELCOME NOTE<br>DDC RANEA ZADOK<br>10:05 : A WORD FROM THE DG<br>DG PETER ANJUM<br>10:10 : A WORD FROM RI DISTRICT CHAIR<br>PP FASAL KUMA<br>10:15 : A WORD FROM THE DGE<br>DGE MAY MOUNA GHANTILY<br>10:20 : INTRO TO RI BY RI COUNTRY CHAIR<br>PP VICTORIA CHERTANI<br>10:30 : MY ROTARY WORLD<br>PP PINA LEBROS<br>11:30 : COFFEE BREAK<br>12:00 : THE 4 PILLARS OF LASTING CHANGE<br>PDC MICHEL JAZZAR | 13:30 : LUNCH - HOTEL CHECK IN<br>14:30 : ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE: SEEN, HEARD, FELT<br>PP NAJAH ELIAS<br>15:30 : THE ROTARY FOUNDATION: SUPPORT THE FUTURE<br>EMGA AHMAD HUSSEINI<br>16:30 : COFFEE BREAK<br>16:45 : STRENGTHENING ROTARY: ENGAGEMENT, TEAMWORK, AND OPPORTUNITIES<br>PP JACOB DANIELGIAN<br>17:45 : CLOSING REMARKS<br>PDC JAMIL MOUADAD<br>18:00 : FUN ACTIVITIES<br>20:30 : DINNER |
| <b>SUN. 5 OCT 2025</b><br>08:30 : BREAKFAST<br>09:30 : MASTERING STRATEGY EXECUTION<br>PDC JAMIL MOUADAD<br>10:30 : ETHICS & VOCATIONS IN ACTION: SERVICE PROJECTS<br>PP VICTORIA CHERTANI<br>11:30 : COFFEE BREAK   | 11:45 : THE ROTARY FOUNDATION: FUNDRAISING THROUGH STORYTELLING<br>EMGA AHMAD HUSSEINI<br>12:45 : BUILDING A STRONGER CLUB<br>AG ROLA RZAR<br>13:45 : CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTION  |



**THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

4 - 5 October, 2025  
 Bethania Harissa Hotel

**Rotary Lebanon**





## A visit to the Saleh Barakat Gallery Owned by Saleh Barakat to view the Dia al-Azzawi's exhibition "False Witnesses"

October 7, 2025

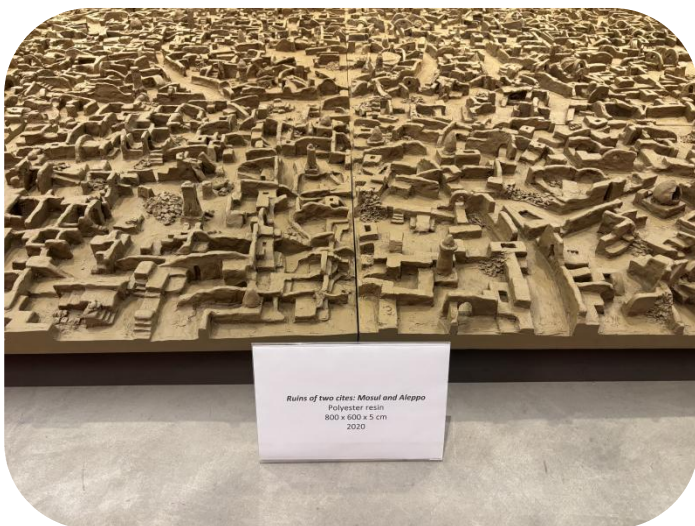
Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan's President theme of the year is Art to Heart and in line with this, a group of members enjoyed a very interesting visit to Saleh Barakat gallery in Beirut to view the exclusive collection of Iraqi artist Dia al-Azzawi.

The artist's iconic work is inspired by the long and shared history of the Arab world, from ancient Mesopotamia to the present day. The exhibit is part of Azzawi's ongoing endeavor to highlight injustice in general and champion the voices of all victims of oppression through his work.

The exhibit was surely a feast for the eyes and senses and a perfect interpretation of pain and suffering. After the exhibit, all enjoyed an hour of fellowship and camaraderie.









The Rotary Clubs of  
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley West, Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Liberty, Beyrouth,  
Chouf, Kesrouan, RC International, Sahel Metn, Tripoli Cosmopolis and Zahle Capitol



Guest Speaker  
**HE Minister Haneen Sayyed**  
Minister of Social Affairs

Presentation Topic:  
**From Social Affairs to Social Development: Strategy towards Zero Poverty in Lebanon**

October 28, 2025

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, together with nine other Rotary clubs in Lebanon, hosted her **Excellency Haneen Sayed, Minister of Social Affairs**. Appointed in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam in February 2025, she brings with her 30 years of experience in economic and social development. At the World Bank, she led major strategic engagements, business development, reform programs and policy dialogue in economic and human development, spanning four regions of the world (ME and N Africa, East Asia, South Asia and Europe). Since 2023, she is a senior fellow at Malcolm Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center. Her sectors of expertise include social protection, labor and jobs, education, poverty and gender. An economist by academic training with undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford and Colombia and executive training at Harvard University.

Minister Haneen was the perfect speaker in line with October being the month of Economic Development in Rotary. Since she assumed her position, she has accomplished a lot in her ministry. She proudly announced the transition of her ministry from Social Affairs to Social Development that reflects the change in Lebanon's social policy from providing short term aid to long term empowerment. Minister Sayed explained that her mission highlights three pillars:

1. **Social assistance through the Aman program that helps over 800,000 individuals monthly.**
2. **Economic inclusion that links needy individuals to employment, vocational training and microfinance opportunities.**
3. **Social Services that are provided in collaboration with Lebanese NGOs to reach communities nationally.**

In addition, she shared with us the latest agreement signed between her ministry and the ministry of Technology to promote digitization to enable data- driven policy making.

Lebanon has been undergoing crisis after crisis for seven years now, the middle class disappeared, a large segment is living below the poverty line, food security is virtually nonexistent, and the system is taxed with 2 million refugees. The data base of the ministry has been updated with 800,000 people requiring basic assistance. She spoke about the impact of the Syrian refugees on the economy, 400000 of them already left and a new system will be put in place to accommodate a certain number of laborers but sending their families back to Syria. Inclusion and human rights are at the top of her agenda, working to make the country accessible and kind to people with disabilities. Few in the audience shared their heart wrenching stories about their kids struggling to make it in Lebanon because of their disabilities.

No doubt, Lebanon has great talent and great minds with the ability to turn things around and bring the country up to the level it enjoyed in the past. All we need is the political will to put country above all else. It will be the only way to stop the brain drain and retain our young brilliant minds to be a part of rebuilding the country. **When there is a will, there will always be a way!**









# Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Participation in Rotary Clubs Events

**Rotary Clubs of Kesrouan, Beirut Cosmopolitan,  
Beirut Pax Potentia, and Metn  
Jointly  
Batonnier Maitre Fadi Masri: La Culture de la paix au Liban  
Location: ATCL, Salle l'Amiral**

**October 08,2025**



**D2452 RLI Committee: RLI Experience Share:  
RI President Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola:  
How to Plan and Execute Inspirational Service Projects  
- Implementation of Service Projects**

**October 08,2025**

District Governor Peter Ashdajian (D2452) started a series of webinars under the banner of Rotary Learning Institute. On October 8, the guest speaker was Rotary International President Nominee Mr. Olayinka Babalola. The topic was : How to plan and execute inspirational service projects. The session was moderated by DDG Faisal Jumaa from Bahrain and among the attendees was PP Mona Jarudi from RCBC.

RIPN 's presentation was inspirational and motivational. It was an honest conversation where he shared his own personal experiences in his own journey as a Rotarian and as a member of his club. The secret to success in every service project is its impact on the community and its sustainability, the number of beneficiaries and the ability to replicate a model across communities.



**Rotary Clubs Beirut Center & Beirut  
Cosmopolitan  
Jointly  
Dr. Georges Haddad: Magic of the Brain  
Location: Warwick Palm Beach Hotel**

**October 09,2025**

Rotary Club Beirut Center  
District 2452  
**UNITE FOR GOOD**  
Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan  
Rotary Metn Praxis  
**Rotary Club Beirut Center  
in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of  
Beirut Cosmopolitan and Metn Praxis**  
Cordially invite you to an insightful talk  
titled:  
**The Magic Of The Brain**

Speaker: Dr. Georges Haddad , MD, FRCS(C),  
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada,  
Diplomate of the American Board of Neurosurgery



Thursday, October 9th at 4:00pm  
Warwick Palm Beach Hotel, Beirut  
\$20 per person

Kindly RSVP before Oct 5th by sending a WhatsApp message to  
03 645 298





October 12, 2025



Rotary Club Zahle Capitol, in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Hammana Upper Metn, Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley West, Sahel El Metn, Zaghrat Zawie, Tripoli Cosmopolis, Batroun, Saïda, Beirut Cedars, Aley, Tripoli Maarad, Lebanon Eco, Chtaura Bekaa Gate, Bekaa Vision, Zahle Bekaa & RAC Zahle Capitol,

under the patronage of Dr. Michel Antoine Ephrem  
(Chairman of the Board & Director General of the Lebanese  
Agricultural Research Institute)  
present its ENVIRONMENTAL DAY under the theme: Our  
Symbol of Eternity.





**Rotary Beirut Cedars**  
is leading a Cedar Tree Planting initiative, with the trees provided  
by Jouzour Loubnan

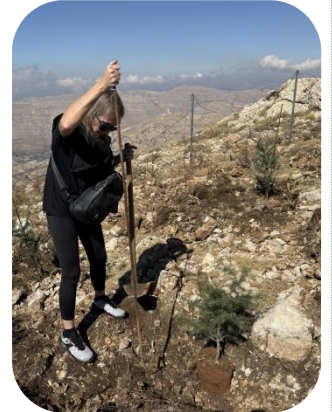
**October 18,2025**



Rotary Beirut Cedars is leading an inspiring Cedar Tree Planting initiative in collaboration with Jouzour Loubnan. Participants had the opportunity to adopt a cedar tree approximately 100 cm tall, each personalized with a tag and GPS coordinates. This meaningful project aimed to promote environmental conservation and community involvement.

The event took place on Saturday, October 18, bringing people together to plant these vital trees and contribute to a greener future.

Additionally, President Olga from Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan proudly adopted two cedars as part of this impactful initiative



**French Rotarian Group Visit  
and Joint dinner with Lebanese clubs**

**Place: Mhanna Sur Mer, Amchit**

**October 24,2025**







# WORLD POLIO DAY

October 25, 2025

The meeting of the national restricted committee of polio plus in Lebanon has developed a social mobilization action plan to raise awareness among the population to maintain the vaccination of their children aged between 0 and 5 years old. It is an action plan of 3 essential elements to motivate the Lebanese Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.

- Communicate the latest update on the polio plus program to eradicate polio 100%.
- Explain the importance of the commitment of Rotarians as People of Action.
- Recognize the importance of the partnership between Rotary of Lebanon and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).

Three dates for launching the support of Rotary for social mobilization were submitted to the relevant department at the Ministry to choose the national day for Rotarians in Lebanon which was October 25. It is noteworthy that the ministry has an ongoing campaign to keep polio under control especially when we have over one million Syrian refugees who have not returned to Syria yet.

Rotary Lebanon representatives, Dr Yousseh Rachkidi, known as "the 1000.000 kids paediatrician", and Lawyer Nagi Audi, leader of the project, were interviewed on "OTV" [Orange TV] about Rotary's social mobilisation across the country under the supervision of the Minister of Public Health.

All kids should be vaccinated against polio. Saturday, 25 October 2025, is Rotary Day at more than 20 Governmental Primary social Centres. Rotary International and its Polio Plus Program will be present, responding to community needs through

communication and awareness for families and kids.

The social mobilisation and transport of polio vaccines to 20+ social centres are covered by a "polio partners grant". Thanks to the Rotary Foundation.

**Polio Plus, Rotary International, Carol Pandak,**







Rotary Club Tyre Europa, with Rotary Clubs of Lebanon International, Lebanon Eco, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley, Beirut Center, Chouf, and Sahel Metn

October 29, 2025



President Olga and PP Mounir Jabre represented RCBC in this conference that was dedicated to exploring how social entrepreneurship can transform service initiatives into sustainable projects. The event brought together innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders to exchange ideas, share success stories and support those who needed help in turning their ideas into sustainable projects.

October 30, 2025

Rotary Club Kesrouan and Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

PP Nader Chehayeb: Rotary at the Dawn of Artificial Intelligence  
Location: ATCL



# Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan & Rotary Club Lebanon ECO Fundraising Event

## Kezbe Bil Sanieh



Rotary  
Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



Lebanon Eco  
Rotary  
District 2452



**KEZBE Bil Sanieh**  
كذبة بالصينية

إخراج: ريك النجار | كتابته: ريك النجار و ريك النجار | مسرحية ل ريك النجار

**KEZBE BIL SANIEH**

LE MONNOT THEATRE, BEIRUT  
DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025  
TICKET PRICE 30\$

HAPPY HOUR AT SANTANA - 6:00 PM BEFORE THE THEATRE!  
(CONFIRM IF JOINING SO WE CAN RESERVE)  
DRINKS, SNACKS, OR A LIGHT BITE - EVERYONE ON THEIR OWN.  
THE PERFORMANCE IS SCHEDULED TO START AT 8:30 P.M.

TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| RC BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN<br>CONTACT DANI<br>WHATSAPP 03-771-487 | RC LEBANON ECO<br>CONTACT HALA ABI TARABAY<br>WHATSAPP 03-641-361 |
|---|---|

Rotarians and guests enjoyed the social comedy that borrows a page of modern life.

Many thanks go to all those who attended and contributed to help us support our causes: climate awareness and helping the Lebanese School for Blind and Deaf.





# ROTARY & ROTARACT POTLUCK DAY!

On October 26, 2025  
Rotary Clubs Beirut Cosmopolitan & Lebanon Eco  
And

Rotaract Clubs Beirut Cosmopolitan & Lebanon Eco  
together visited P Hana Abi Tarabey Place in Baabdat for a joyful day filled with fellowship, food, and fun. This event was a wonderful opportunity to share smiles, enjoy the outdoors, and create lasting memories side by side.





# In The Spotlight

## ***ROTARY International Magazine - BI***

### **ARTICLE ON INCLUSION**



**Story written by: PP Amal Talhouk  
Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan  
Lebanon- District 2452.**

It is amazing how things work out in life sometimes, but they do when they are meant to be.

Rotary International President (2022-2023) Jennifer Jones Theme of the year was Imagine Rotary, and one of her main targets was (DEI) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

DG George Azar was a great supporter of this new Rotary concept and wanted to initiate it in District 2452 in support of People with Disabilities (PwDs). Of all the 95+ Rotary clubs in the district, his choice fell on RC Beirut Cosmopolitan giving this noble task to PP Amal Talhouk knowing her life experience, academic education and administrative role in this domain, and to PP John Eddeh being a board member in a school for the Deaf and Blind.

Both Amal and John embraced the idea, especially that (PwDs) are often neglected and put on the margin; the reason which causes them to be passive instead of vibrant citizens in their communities.

The main idea was to start a new Rotary club for (PwDs) that would be sponsored by RC Beirut Cosmopolitan.

Amal connected with Rochester Deaf Rotary-New York and discussed the feasibility of founding a similar club in Beirut, and the steps and basics needed. She asked for guidance concerning administrative planning, any specific bylaws or policies to abide by, or any special strategies to consider. This phase consumed several connections until all questions were answered and the most important point was that the rules and basics of such a club are similar to Rotary International bylaws.

After discussing the matter with John, Amal interviewed several highly educated (PwDs) for the purpose of creating a new club. At the end of each interview Amal received the



same answer, “I am already in a club of (PwDs). I am not very interested. Why don’t I join your club?” Another common question was, “Why are you interested in us?”

I would like to highlight your capabilities and show society how efficient you are. **Most people, no matter how well educated and open minded, have no idea about PwDs and their capabilities.”** Amal would answer.

Having been engaged in several interviews with People with Disabilities, Amal was convinced that such clever well educated persons would be an added value to the club and realized the importance of transforming RC Beirut Cosmopolitan into an Inclusive Rotary Club for PwDs.

Things were not as easy as they might seem. It was important to discuss the matter with the club members and test the waters. How would they feel about this new idea of having RC Beirut Cosmopolitan open its doors to People with Disabilities? A concept that may be strange to most of them.

That was the big challenge.

Sometimes people who don’t have the experience or any contact with People with Disabilities may think that life has a silver lining and all humans are ‘perfect’ never realizing their own imperfections, or never thinking that such an experience may occur in their own social circle. Unfortunately, disability is still considered a taboo in many communities. That is when Talhouk prepared a training session presentation for the club members on the importance of Inclusion not only in the club, but in daily life as well.

Club members showed interest in the information that seemed new to them and the training session had a positive impact. “It was a well- researched important presentation that was delivered with clarity.” as some of them commented.

Claiming to be an Inclusive Club was a big challenge for it’s not only by name, but by deed and practice that the club has to earn this characteristic, on condition that ethical and professional standards are applied in dealing with PwDs. Accessibility to the meeting venue was taken care of and the DEI commitment statement was included in RC Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) bylaws and applied in daily communication.

Having laid the foundations of the general background and showed readiness for receiving People with Disabilities at RC Beirut Cosmopolitan after two and a half years of research, interviews and spreading social awareness, it was time to announce the date of the big day.



**“The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan was launched as an Inclusive club in March 2023, inducting Ibrahim Abdallah , who is blind, and later May Talhouk, who is deaf”**

Launching RC Beirut Cosmopolitan an Inclusive Club was on March 9, 2023 with guest speaker DEI District Chair Rotarian Rana Ghandour Salhab and an outstanding audience from District 2452.

First member, Mr. Ibrahim Abdallah with an MA in International Law and working on his PhD, was inducted on April 30, 2024.

Second member, Ms. May Talhouk, painter with a BA in Art History will be inducted on April 29, 2025

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan is 'Walking the Walk' with slow but sure steps.

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#### Some General Tips to Keep in Mind

- Language matters. Use terminology that is inclusive
- Treat adults as adults
- Speak directly to people with disabilities
- Listen patiently and attentively
- Remember that a person's mobility is a part of their personal space.  
Don't move a cane or a wheelchair without their permission
- Not all disabilities are visible, but that does not mean they are less real
- If you are unsure how to act with a person with disability, ask them!

#### Some Slogans for People with Disabilities

- ✓ Yes, I have a disability, but I don't need your sympathy
- ✓ I have a disability, but that does not mean you are smarter than me
- ✓ See the person, not the disability
- ✓ The quicker is not always the better
- ✓ Open your eyes and see, you have some disabilities too
- ✓ You recognize my disability, I recognize my abilities
- ✓ The only disability in life is A BAD ATTITUDE







## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIP**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

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

 [@rcbeirutcosmopolitan](https://www.instagram.com/rcbeirutcosmopolitan)

 [Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofBeirutCosmopolitan)