

Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan District 2452

# ONE HAND, ONE HEART!



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Mona Jarudi 2018-19 President Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan +961 3 858 087 monajarudi@gmail.com



The Year It Was! One Hand, One Heart!

Here we are, the end of another Rotary year and the time for changing of the guards. The 24th year of Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) is now in the history books, adding pages to its glorious existence and successful track record. It was an honor and a privilege to be the President and steward of the club this past year. I am humbled by the support of the board, committee chairpersons and the membership at large. Together, our accomplishments speak for themselves. Ten Global Grants exceeding \$ 800k are in the pipeline, five new members, vibrant and engaging meetings with very interesting speakers, stronger Rotaract Club, new Interact Club, active participation in the District Conference and winning a large number of awards that accentuate RCBC excellence. All this was accomplished in the utmost spirit of fellowship and friendship, while upholding the core values of Rotary.

Rotary, as we all know, is a way of life. It is an oasis in the midst of chaos and confusion. It brings the best out of people and teaches us all the art of giving, sharing and spreading some joy to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Now, as I am passing the helm to a new President and a new Board, I am confident that RCBC will continue its journey in making a difference in people's lives, being the Inspiration to our youth and in our communities. Presidents come and go, but what remains is the club, its members who are its heart and soul and the Rotary values that are inscribed in stone.

I wish President Adib and his Board a very successful year in continuing the journey of RCBC to new heights. Together we can!



Sincerely, Mona Jarudi President 2018-19 Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



#### Word from RI President



Barry Rassin President, 2018-19

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29 March 2019

Dear Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan members,

I'd like to offer my congratulations for your excellent service and its positive impact on local and global communities.

All that we have done and all that we hope to do can be accomplished through Rotary. Our organization was once sought out mainly for fellowship, but it has since become a way to take action for good. Through the years, we have formed partnerships that have increased our impact. We launched the world's largest health initiative and have played a critical role in the fight against polio. We continue to improve communities around the world through meaningful, sustainable service. When we work together, not for ourselves but for the good of others, anything is possible.

We are all responsible for moving Rotary forward so that it can continue to make meaningful, long-lasting change for the sake of our communities, our children and grandchildren, our shared planet, and our common future. Together, I have no doubt we can get the job done. Your efforts are proof of that.

As our new vision statement says: Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change —— across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Congratulations again, and thank you for your efforts to *Be the Inspiration* to our world.

Sincerely,

Barry Rassin 2018-19 President, Rotary International





Michel P. Jazzar RI District 2452 Governor, 2018-19 M +961-3-225525 F +961-9-931773 dg1819micheljazzar@gmail.com



#### A shining star in the Rotary sky!

Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan [RCBC] under the Leadership of President Mona Jarudi for Rotary year 2018/19 is an active and vibrant service team. Most of RCBC members are prominent business and civic leaders, as well as dynamic young entrepreneurs and professionals. This combination of experience and innovation creates a powerful energy that is constantly moving us forward toward new ways of fulfilling the core values of Rotary: friendship, fellowship, integrity, diversity and service above self.

The strength of your club comes from your strategy of "Puzzle concept" where each member of the club is unique and unmissable piece, where everyone respects the history and legacy of the club that was shaped by former members and past presidents.

RCBC has served the Lebanese community since 1995 not only by following opportunities for service, but also by creating new opportunities as well and building its wide projects in the 6 Areas of Focus on the solidarity of its members and the trust of the community in needs.

Your club's impact extends beyond our national borders as you work to improve the lives of others, at District and internationally level. The following are some examples of your club's current service projects, in your own neighborhood and around the world:

- Impact of RCBC donation of 'Braille Equipment on the Improvements in the School Program'.
- Impact of RCBC Donation on the 'AUBMC Department of Ophthalmology & Patients'.

The History of RCBC in Service\*, which started in 1997, after a period of two years of training and information about Rotary, is so amazing and has covered all aspects of communities' life be able to create a lasting change that crossed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Your club reflects the new vision statement of Rotary International "*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change* — *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*"

I expressly ask you to transmit the virus of your Rotary commitment, engagement and dedication without fear and without limits. This is the only virus that if passed on, it can only be beneficial to infected people.

Michel P. JAZZAR District 2452 Governor, 2018-2019



#### Word from Assistant Governor



Najat Francis Assistant Governor D 2452 RY 2018-2019



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan has brought together a dynamic and wonderful community of people who have worked with dedication and in harmony at all levels. Their efforts have made this year truly successful under the guidance of President Mona Jarudi. I wish them all the best in their upcoming endeavors and I am grateful to have worked with them towards improving our society.



Adib Mounla Incoming President 2019 - 2020



I would like to thank you my fellow Rotarians for selecting me to lead the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan as President for the next Rotary year. I am indeed honoured to be given this opportunity to serve in this capacity and with the help and support of my Board members and fellow Club members, I will do my best to meet the challenge. You have my sincere assurance that I will be dedicated to the cause of Rotary in this role, the same way I have demonstrated my commitment over the past few years when I was first introduced to the club.

Looking back when I first joined the Rotaract Club of Beirut in 2003 and met my wife Dana and later in 2014 the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan where I met you my dear lifelong fellows, I just realized how much you have helped me grow as a person with your generous guidance, friendship and constant support all though my ups and downs.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Immediate Past President Mona and all RCBC Past Presidents for a Job Well done !! You all raised the bar. In all seriousness, I am honoured to follow the line-up of people who have provided guidance for our club in the past; each of our past Presidents has brought a different vision with them and all have proven to have different strengths.

I would also like to congratulate each of the new Board members. Our fellow club members have shown their confidence in you and me by electing us to our respective positions, and I look forward to serving with you. I have already seen the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment that you bring to the Board.

My main goals for next year would be to prepare and start implementing a 5-year Strategic Plan that will cover some goals such as membership development, digitization of the Club processes, diversified and sustainable service projects. Above all, I will strive to foster a two-way communication between Club members and Committee Chairs by making sure that all members are constantly updated on the regular operations in the Club.

The purpose of the life of every human being, should be, to make a positive contribution to the continuance and wellbeing of humanity. So, here is where we as Rotarians differ and that's why we are here... to make a difference.

Thank you



#### **GLOBAL GRANTS PROJECTS 2018 - 2019**

Since its inception in 1995, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan has executed around \$ 5 million worth of Global Grants Projects in the community. The leader of Global Grants (previously known as Matching Grants) in our club and who was the chair of TRF for few years is PP Tony Asfour. He mentored and provided support for all members involved in Global Grants.

For any Global Grant to qualify and be approved by The Rotary Foundation, it has to be under one of the six areas of focus:

- Peace and conflict prevention/ resolution
- Disease prevention and Treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development.

The List below identifies all Global Grants Projects for 2018- 2019, some approved and some pending approval and in the pipeline.

- AUB MC Ophthalmology Dept. Disease Prevention and Treatment OCT System Value: \$ 75,000 Approved
- Mission de Vie Palliative Hospital Disease Prevention and Treatment Medical Equipment Value: \$ 53,000 Approved
- Child and Mother Welfare Society Disease Prevention and Treatment Obstetric and Dental Equipment Value: \$ 58,000 Approved
- LeBAM Youth Orchestra- Beirut Branch Peace and Conflict Resolution Musical instruments and VTT Value: \$ 97,000 Pending

- Hotel Dieu Hospital Heartbeat Disease Prevention and Treatment 10 Heart Surgeries Value: \$ 50,000 Application submitted
- Bridge of Hope Disease Prevention and Treatment Dental care for refugees Value: \$ 39, 534 Approved
- German Evangelical Academy of Technology Basic Education and Literacy Equipment for Academy and VTT Value: \$ 298,000 Being prepared
- Red Cross Ambulance Economic and Community Development Ambulance Equipment and VTT Value: \$ 50,000
- New Generation Peace Builders Peace and Conflict Resolution/ prevention Training Value: \$ 95,000
- 10. ELPIS HOME CLINICDisease Prevention and TreatmentEquipmentValue: \$ 50,000
- Princess Basma Center- East Jerusalem Approved
- Twinning of RCBC and RC Zurich Zurichberg Signed, sealed and Delivered April 2019

#### Projects



#### HANDOVER CEREMONY NEUROSURGERY DEPARTMENT - HDF

On October 1, 2018 Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, together with local partners RC Sahel Metn and RC Keserouan and major international partners donated two state of the art machines to the Neurosurgery Department at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Beirut.

This donation was made through Epsilon Association for the treatment of Epilepsy. The President of Epsilon, Dr. Ronald Mousa, explained about the importance of the two machines. The first machine is a Bipolar Coagulation Generator which provides a precise medium



for coagulation of vessels and tissues during brain surgery without causing damage to the surrounding normal tissue. The second machine is a stereotactic software from INOMED France that allows the surgeon to guide an electrode deep in the brain with very high accuracy. It is used in epilepsy, tumor surgery and treatment of Parkinson's disease.

This Global Grant Project was made possible through the efforts of PP Mimi Hamam with the expert support of PP Tony Asfour and PN Adib Mounla and all the members of RCBC.



The handover was attended by doctors from the hospital, representatives from Epsilon and Rotarians from the afore mentioned clubs. The event was widely covered in the media, newspapers and publications.

We cannot highlight enough the importance of our work in helping the community at large by helping to fight diseases and inject new hope among the less privileged in our communities.

#### Projects



#### CHRISTMAS WITH KIDS

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has a long standing tradition of sharing the joy of Christmas season with children less fortunate than others. This year, RCBC hosted 83 children from the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in the Dbayeh Camp.

The children were treated to an afternoon of fun, games and Gifts from the heart. Nothing beats the feeling of a smile on a child's face. We, RCBC,



always strive to do more for humanity and to uphold Rotary motto Service above Self.



#### **KIDZMONDO IFTAR**

The holy month of Ramadan this year culminated in the Iftar for underprivileged kids at Kidzmondo...the children whom we had the honor of hosting came from Sabra

through the organization of the Lebanese Women association of Tariq Jdideh. The children come from different backgrounds and circumstances. The group we had were ranging in age from almost three years to 11, boys and girls who were so excited to experience Kidzmondo for the first time. After two hours of fun and games, the kids were treated to a kid friendly



Projects





Thank you RCBC for this annual tradition and for the generosity of some members who make it happen!

meal and were bid farewell, each with a gift, with the hope that the smiles we saw on their innocent faces will never be erased, and with a prayer that one day they will all grow up and realize their dreams!









A STEP-UP FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. the still

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# **RCBC IMPACT ON COMMUNITY**

As Rotarians, our main objective is service and improving the quality of life of people in our communities. Our projects all fall within Rotary's six areas of focus. Some projects take over two years from inception to completion and we are always very proud to hand over to the hospital or NGO the fruit of our labor. The impact of our donations remains abstract most of the time, so to reconnect with our beneficiaries we started inviting them to give our club a feedback of the impact of our donation in the community.

# AUBMC – Ophtalmology Department: Dr. Bahaa Noureddine

As Rotarians, we invest time and energy in community service projects that improve the quality of life of the underprivileged among us. We provide hospitals with state of the art machines that improve the quality of life of people. One such example is our collaboration with the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), Ophthalmology Department, since 2002.

To further our understanding of the impact of our donations over the years, RCBC invited Dr. Bahaa Noureddine, Chairman of the Ophthalmology Department at AUBMC to give us a feedback on the impact of our donations on the community.

In a very concise, fact filled and interesting presentation, Dr. Bahaa outlined the equipment



donated and the number of patients in the outpatient department that these equipments helped. The first donation in 2002 was the Novus Verde Diode Pump Laser for the treatment of Glaucoma and vascular retinal diseases. The second donation in 2008 for exclusive whole comprehensive eye exam of patients coming to OPD. The 3rd donation was in 2013, a Ret-Cam Camera for the diagnosis, Follow up and treatment of potentially blinding retinal diseases in infants and children. It is now a regional center for Pediatric Ocular Cancer. The number of patients covered in 2018 are 2012 new cases and 4863 Follow UP patients.

RCBC is very proud of its collaboration with AUBMC and all this would not have been possible without our partnership with other Rotary Clubs, locally and Internationally and certainly the huge support given by the Rotary Foundation.

#### Projects - RCBC Impact on Community



# Lebanese School for Blind & Deaf: Mrs. Marie-Rose Gemayel

RCBC hosted students from the Lebanese School for Blind and Deaf with the directors of the school Mrs. Marie-Rose Gemayel and Mrs. Chamoun. It was a very heart warming, emotional meeting where the students shared with us their musical talent in singing and playing instruments coupled with a demonstration of the Braille typewriter and laptop use. It was a demonstration of the resilience of the human spirit, and an affirmation that there is nothing impossible when there is willpower.

These students were a true INSPIRATION in every sense!

# Child & Mother Welfare Society: Dr. Marwa Samhoun

RCBC hosted for its business meeting Dr. Marwa Samhoun, Vice President of the Child and Mother Welfare Society(CMWS), together with the President of the Association Mrs. Aida Ghandour Chouwaiki and members of the board. The goal of this visit and talk was to highlight the collaboration of RCBC and CMWS and to showcase the impact of this collaboration on the community at large.



Dr. Samhoun gave an overview about CMWS. It is a non-profit NGO, which has been promoting humanitarian objectives since 1944. The charity is run by a governing board of 21 benevolent women who are involved in all its sectors: health, social welfare, educational and vocational training sectors. At CMWS, they believe that health is a basic right and they ensure that the sick have access to quality medical treatment regardless of religious affiliation, ethnicity and financial means.

In the case of the health sector, the addition of advanced medical equipment was made possible by contributions of private donors and Rotary Clubs. In 2015, the Radiology department was upgraded with a state-of-the-art "Fuji Film Computed Radiography System" to develop all X-ray exams, through a generous donation of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan together





with local and international clubs and the Rotary Foundation. The total number of BENEFICIARIES from January 31,2015 until April 8, 2019 is 12,921 patients.

In 2017, another quality and vital machine was added, the GE "ARIA" Bone Mineral Densitometer or BM for the early detection of Osteopenia and Osteoporosis that lead to debilitating and potentially fatal bone fractures. This was also made possible through a generous Global Grant with RCBC as the host sponsor, together with local and international Rotary Clubs partners and of course, The Rotary Foundation. The total number of beneficiaries to date is 70, includes 69 women and one-man aged 34-84. The association is promoting their efforts to make sure that more people will benefit from these tests.

Another Global Grant by RCBC and partner clubs, which has been recently approved, is much needed equipment: Two Birthing Beds for the Labor Room at the Hospital, A Stateof -the-art Baby Warmer for newborns in the Delivery Room at the hospital of CMWS, and a quality Dental Chair for the Primary Health Care Center.

Dr. Samhoun's presentation was a testament to the importance of our Rotary mission of Service and the impact of our donations in improving the quality of life of those less privileged.

# Heartbeat: Dr. Ramzi Ashoush

RCBC invited Dr. Ramzi Ashoush, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon with Heartbeat, to present his work on heart surgeries for underprivileged children in partnership with our club. Dr. Ashoush stated that 1% of children worldwide are born with heart disease, without treatment most would die before the age of one, but with proper treatment 95% will be cured. In Lebanon, 600 children are born with heart disease every year, 400 need medical intervention. The cost of the medical treatment is prohibitively expensive and families often cannot afford it. The mission of heartbeat is to provide the highest level of advanced technology to treat those kids in need. Thanks to The Rotary Foundation and partners, RCBC is able to afford ten children a chance at a longer, healthier and better life. In the words of Dr. Ashoush: "Every Heart has the right to Beat".



# CIVIC EDUCATION FOR PEACE BUILDING

One of the most important areas of focus in Rotary is Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. At the beginning of RY 2018-2019, D 2452 Governor Dr. Michel Jazzar wanted to implement this area of

Projects







focus by engaging all Rotary clubs in the District in a Pilot Project "Civic Education for Peace Building". It is a project that was implemented in schools with children ages II-14 to teach them Rotary values and work with them on a project that will teach them how to engage and dialogue in a conflict











situation, how to deal with adverse conditions among young adults like bullying and how to arrive at the middle ground that creates an environment of Peace.

RCBC participated in this very worthy project and signed an MOU with the Armenian Evangelical College with the support of its Principal Dr. Armen Urneshlian. Our Rotaract club was a partner and work started by planning questionnaires and games to engage seventh and eighth graders. The exercise culminated in wonderful art work that expressed the children's vision of peace.

This will be an ongoing project based on demand from the students, the school and the District Committee who saw the value of the work that took few months to accomplish.

# AriaTM DXA system Better bone health

# for more people





### July 2018 Mrs. Nayla Fahed (LAL) Education Is A Great Equalizing Force

In the presence of District Governor Michel Jazzar and Mrs. Dia Jazzar, Assistant Governor Mrs. Najat Francis, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held its first dinner of Rotary year 2018-2019 featuring Guest Speaker Mrs. Nayla Zreik Fahed, Co-Founder of the NGO Lebanese Alternative Learning (LAL).

Lebanese Alternative Learning is a Lebanese non-profit organization with a mission to develop multilingual free alternative culturally adapted educational resources through technology. A network of educators and education technology experts are working together to enhance teaching methods and practices in Lebanon and innovating on access solutions to be present in the most



remote areas. LAL priority is to empower vulnerable communities and ensure all high risk students receive an engaging and effective learning experience and keep learning.

LAL's main project, Tabshoura, is a digital platform, providing interactive support activities in 3 languages, based on the Lebanese Curriculum Learning Outcomes and targeting all school topics and all levels from KG to Grade 9 as well as extra-curricular pedagogical activities on art, sciences, culture and civic education. What makes this project unique is that relevant content, focusing on autonomous learning and learning to learn approaches, is combined to innovative offline access solutions, mainly, our Equals in tech, UN award winner solution, Tabshoura in a box. This pocket size device is not internet and electricity dependent. It is based on the Raspberry PI technology, where relevant content is stored on a micro SD, and can provide local wireless access to up to 30 devices (smartphones, tablets and computers ...).

Lebanese Alternative Learning is a pioneer in offline educational resources in Lebanon, and is committed to creating new innovations that could benefit not only the organization but also external parties. Lal team participated this year in many tech and innovation conferences and is currently exploring the role Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Blockchain can play in solving emergency education issues such as delay and credentials.

LAL is currently developing a project with Malala Fund and got the opportunity to meet with Apple management and get their expertise in developing digital learning systems.

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC



# September 2018 Mrs. Rosy Boulos, Lebanese Red Cross

On September 4 and after the summer break, RCBC hosted Mrs. Rosy Boulos, the Director of Emergency Services at the Lebanese Red Cross which was established in 1945. The mission of the Lebanese Red Cross, is to provide 24/7 emergency services to all Lebanese territories. Today, the Red Cross serves 32 communities, has 46 EMS stations, 4 dispatch centers, 13 blood banks and has 8000 volunteers.

Mrs. Boulos was accompanied by a team of young dedicated volunteers who proceeded to give a live demonstration to the audience of the basic rules of CPR and the need of everyone to learn them.



Over 70 years, the Lebanese Red Cross has become the backbone of emergency service in the country and a critical compliment to the government and private emergency services.

# Education & Peace Building

September 18, 2018



In celebration of World Peace Day, and in line with our area of focus this year highlighting Civic Education and Peace Building, RCBC had a business meeting on September 18 with

two guest speakers. Dr. Ghada Ayoub Abi Fadel, District Chair for Pilot Project - Civic education for Peace Building- presented the highlights of the District 2452 area of focus, underscoring the needs for a project like this with our youth ages 11-14 and encouraging the participation of all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon. This is a project that will span over one year, that commences with identification

of prospective participating schools and target students. Initial and final assessments/questionnaires will determine the success of the program and its longevity.





This presentation was followed by another interesting speaker Mr. Abbas Sibai whose topic was "WHY DO WE NEED TO INVEST IN PEACE". Mr. Sibai started by stating that as Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provide skills for conflict resolutions. He stated that if we are about violence against women, hunger, economic development, child soldiers, education and the environment then we definitely care about conflict resolutions. His work at Common Ground highlights the following:

Conflict is inevitable, violence is NOT. Humankind is interdependent. Change is always possible. When everybody wins, change lasts. Common ground matters.

#### Bridging Communities Mrs. Maya Najjar Tuesday September 25, 2018

RCBC business meeting featured guest speaker Mrs. Maya Najjar, Founder and President of Ayadina Association. This is an NGO whose core belief lies in the fact that every individual has an innate talent that should be nurtured and cultivated. Accompanying Mrs. Najjar were Elissa Abi Daher and Nadine Homsi. In a sincere, non scripted short presentation, Maya was able to convey the mission of Ayadina which captured the attention of the audience. A short film about one of her students whose talent at ballet was spotted in a recital. Reine was given a once in a lifetime opportunity to go to New York City and



experience dance classes with the best! She is now giving dance classes at Ayadina! This is only one example of how Ayadina helps the less privileged in exploring their horizons and showcasing their talents!

#### October 2018

Business meeting with Dr. Henry Azzam October 2nd, 2018

Dr. Azzam is Senior Lecturer of Finance and Director of the Masters In Finance Program at the Olayan School of Business (OSB) at AUB. Dr. Azzam, an accomplished author of 5 books on Finance and Emerging markets has had a long and distinguished career in the worlds of finance and banking in the region.

In his talk, titled Digital Currencies and the Future of Money, Dr. Azzam briefly narrated the history of money as a medium of exchange of goods and services culminating

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC

in the introduction of crypto currency in 2008 following the financial crisis. Bitcoin was introduced by reclusive Japanese named Satochi Nakamoto, whose real identity remains a mystery. Bitcoins, or any other crypto currency for that matter, does not require a third party (such as banks or government). It is based on Blockchain technology that keeps track of who owns how much bitcoin. The coins themselves are neither physical nor digital but entries in a Blockchain ledger. The computer network behind the bitcoin protocol would allow money to go around without a central authority i.e. eWallet-to-eWallet.

Dr. Azzam warned of the danger of trading bitcoins without discrediting the value and role of cryptocurrency in



the future. He then added about the drive of Central Banks around the world, including Lebanese Central Bank to delve in the development of a digital currency. A move in that direction will improve transparency and efficiency. Central Banks, could then trace transactions and collect real time comprehensive data monetary indicators such as Velocity of money and Credit growth by sector. He, however, does not see the implementation of such a plan before 5-10 years.

#### Business meeting with Mr. Ziad Hayek: October 9, 2018

The guest speaker at RCBC was Mr. Ziad Hayek, Secretary General of Lebanon's Higher Council for Privatization. Prior to that Mr. Hayek has a long and distinguished career spanning many years and continents in firms like Bear Sterns, Salomon Brothers and CitiBank.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Hayek pointed out that there are encouraging but timid signs that the Lebanese economy is stabilizing and starting a slow recovery. He cited hotel occupancy this past summer, the prospect of Oil & gas and the role Lebanese companies can play in the reconstruction in Syria. He also stressed the tremendous benefits



that will flow into the Lebanese economy once implementation of the \$11.8 billion covering 280 projects approved by the Cedar 1 conference held last spring in Paris gets underway. It is expected, he pointed out, that those projects will generate over 250,000 jobs over the next 5 years.

Mr. Hayek is the architect and the driving force behind the PPP (Private



Public Partnership) law recently passed in Lebanon. He explained that PPP is not about government sharing revenue or profit but sharing risk. He strongly believes that this the right platform to implement Cedar projects or any project that will come afterwards. He went on to say that, transparency is the key factor for a successful implementation of a PPP project. We also need to build investor confidence in our laws, financial institutions and laws. In addition, ALL stakeholders in any project need to be consulted to ensure a successful outcome. All in all a very sobering but hopeful talk about what the future might hold for Lebanon.

# Business meeting with Dr. Karim Najjar: Tuesday October 16, 2018

RCBC hosted at its business meeting Dr. Karim Najjar, Associate Professor at AUB's Department of Architecture and Design. His work gained international recognition, winning several awards, with contributions to a variety of books and exhibitions in major cities.

"Crisis as Opportunity"

Taking crisis as an opportunity for innovation and sustainable design

The exodus of Syrian refugees fleeing that country after March 2011 has been described as one of the largest refugee crises since World War II. Neighboring Lebanon has assumed the heaviest burden among countries hosting these refugees. Such events might be viewed as heartbreaking, but pessimism is not an option for an architect; we must embrace the crisis



in crisis regions.

as an opportunity to meaningfully reposition our practice. Creating spaces with understanding guides architecture as it assumes its role as a form of cultural practice with the goal of improving the quality of human lives.

At DI-Lab, we believe that such paradigms should remain intact when it comes to responding to a crisis. We research, design and implement projects with excitement and energy, keeping both the needs of the displaced and the practical realities in mind.

With a focus on education for refugee children, DI-Lab has developed an action-oriented design approach that puts design innovation at the core. With this approach, DI-Lab aims to create shortcuts towards sustainable development

Through the lecture, DI-Lab highlights its involvement with designing sustainable makeshift schools and the rehabilitation of public schools, explaining how design explorations of high-performance structural systems and climate-responsive strategies can be useful and applied in a cost-efficient manner.



# Business meeting with Mrs. May El Khalil: Tuesday October 23, 2018

RCBC hosted at its business meeting Mrs. May El-Khalil to whom Running was a passion for a very long time, and she had always hoped to spread that passion to others in her home country, Lebanon. After living in Nigeria with her family for 23 years, She returned to Lebanon.

"To most, running is a sport. To me, it was always something more." May El Khalil

In 2001, she suffered a fateful accident while on her routine run that would put her in a coma and leave her unable to walk for months. After two years of struggling with injuries and undergoing 36 operations, El-Khalil was able to walk again. Out of her own struggle, she was inspired to start a movement that



would create a sense of community, inspiring others to fight through and overcome the adversities in their lives. This is when she founded the Beirut Marathon Association.

The first Beirut Marathon was held on October 19, 2003, attracting 6,000 participants from 49 different nationalities. It was the realization of El-Khalil's vision of bringing running culture to Lebanon that would continue to grow year after year. The marathon soon became a globally acclaimed event, and a source of pride and community for the Lebanese population. In 2014, the marathon received the silver label accreditation from the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), and the most recent marathon attracted over 48,000 participants from 105 different nationalities.

The Beirut Marathon Association organizes multiple events alongside the Beirut Marathon, namely the Women's race and the youth race. It also works on spreading the running culture through training programs, focused races and themed runs.

Speaking of the Marathon's legacy in Beirut, Mrs. El Khalil says: "The Beirut Marathon is a powerful statement on the tremendous effect sports can have on any community. It's more than just the physical - it has the power to change lives and spread a message of hope, health, happiness and even peace to every member taking part. Through all the difficult times Lebanon has witnessed over the past 16 years, the Beirut Marathon has given us a reason to believe in what we can accomplish when we come together as a community, in overcoming our own fears as individuals as well as a society. This was all done through sports."

When she took the stage of TED global in 2013, May ended her talk with a statement that denotes: "Peacemaking is not a sprint; it is more of a marathon." What makes the marathon in Beirut different from any other marathon in the world lies in the spirit of the event itself. Running is so much more than a sport. To Lebanon, it is a statement of unity, perseverance, tolerance, giving and most importantly, a statement of peace.



#### November 2018

# Dinner Meeting with her Excellency Christina Lassen, Ambassador of the European Union to Lebanon

Tuesday November 6, 2018

The Ambassador of the European Union to Lebanon, Christina Lassen, held a presentation entitled "EU-Lebanon relations – a strategic partnership". Ambassador Lassen

highlighted that the EU's relations with neighbouring countries, including with Lebanon, was built on the founding principles of cooperation, peace and security and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. The EU Lebanon Association Agreement was signed in 2006 and set the basis for a relationship based on common value and interests, regular political, security, economic and social dialogue and substantial development and humanitarian assistance. Since, then EU's relations with Lebanon had deepened and became more strategic with a long-term and comprehensive approach. When signing the Partnership Priorities in 2016, the EU and Lebanon decided to intensify the cooperation in four areas: security and counter-terrorism, governance and the rule of



law, economic growth and job creation (including strengthening the private sector), and migration and mobility.

Ambassador Lassen described EU efforts with regard to the priorities highlighting that progress in these four areas will contribute to the long-term stability and development of Lebanon. Highlighting the important work of the Rotary Club in building people-to-people relations, Ambassador Lassen concluded that the EU-Lebanon relationship was not only a relationship between governments, but also with partners, organizations, communities and individuals from all parts of society.

# Business meeting with Coach Johnny El Ghoul "Fixing Life, How to make emotions work for you" Tuesday November 27, 2018

The meaning we give to emotions makes each individual react and feel differently. What meaning is given to a certain emotion depends on early experiences, parental and cultural values and beliefs.

To feel better and / or to achieve goals one has to be aware of the meaning assigned to the emotion and find another meaning that serves the person better. The process of giving meaning, Coach Johnny calls making an emotion as opposed to having an emotion.

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC



So emotional intelligence depends mainly on the awareness that emotions are individualistic and to learn processes of changing their meaning. All emotions, anger, sadness, jealousy etc. stem from two core emotions, namely, love and fear. Knowing that one can ask:

What is it that I love and cannot have or want more of? And what is it that I fear to lose? What do I fear could happen to me?



This process aims at looking at any situation from a different perspective and hopefully finding solutions and coping skills that were not available before.

### December 2018 Business meeting with Dr. Joseph Jabbra "Innovation in Education" Tuesday December 4, 2018

RCBC was privileged to have Dr. Joseph Jabbra, President of Lebanese American University (LAU) as its guest speaker. Dr. Jabbra received his Law degree from Université St. Joseph in Beirut and his PHD in Political Science from the Catholic University in Washington DC. He assumed the presidency of LAU in 2004.



Previous to that he held senior positions at Loyola University in the US and St. Mary's University in Halifax, Canada. In his remarks, Dr. Jabbra pondered the role of higher education in light of, what he described, the breathtaking advances in nanotechnology, Biotechnology and artificial Intelligence. To meet those challenges, LAU has decided to transform itself from the traditional role of a university to become an Innovation center to equip the new generation with the tools that would allow them to succeed in the new world.

It has redefined the role of a professor from being the "high Priest" of knowledge to a mentor and facilitator

in this new world of interactive learning. In this new age of learning, equipping the new generation with the spirit and tools of becoming true entrepreneurs. To accomplish this, different faculties need to work and talk to each other to customize learning and equip the new generation with the tools they need to succeed in this new world order.

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC



January 2019 Business meeting with PP George Beyrouti Tuesday January 22, 2019

The club reconvened after the holidays to welcome three new members to RCBC family. May Khoury, Samir el Kadi and Abbas Sibai were pinned and warmly received by fellow Rotarians.

In keeping with the spirit of monthly Rotary themes, January being Rotary Awareness Month, the guest speaker was our own PP and PDDG George Beyrouti whose spoke about Rotary Membership Development



and Engagement. He outlined the criteria for new members, the process followed, the role of the sponsor and the spirit of fellowship and service that should be the mainstay of every club. Rotary started with the the vision of one man, Paul Harris. He formed the first club in Chicago in 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong relations and give back to their communities. Since then, clubs have been more diverse in gender and professions while adhering to the core values of Rotary.

Business meeting with PP Paul Edde "The Globality of St. Jude & Rotary: with emphasis on CCCL/St. Jude" Chairman of the International Board of Children Cancer Society Lebanon, CCCL Tuesday January 29, 2019

In a most passionate and genuine presentation, PP Paul Edde captivated the audience with facts and accounts about St. Jude Children Research Hospital and the Children Cancer Center Lebanon while keeping true to himself as a veteran Rotarian, determined to make a



difference in a world of indifference.

In his remarks, PP Paul stated that St. Jude saw the light in 1962 in Memphis, Tennessee by an American entertainer of Lebanese descent Dany Thomas who believed that every child deserves the opportunity to live life to its fullest, disease free regardless of their race, religion, nationality and financial ability. He dreamt of bringing St. Jude to Lebanon, which became a reality in 2000 after an agreement was signed with the American University of Beirut, the Children Cancer Center and St. Jude Children Research Hospital and gave birth to Children Cancer Center Lebanon (CCCL). Sixteen



years later, CCCL cares for almost 40% of kids with cancer in Lebanon, treated over 1300 patients, with a remarkable 80% full cure rate.

The CCCL cumulative revenue over the years has exceeded \$100 million and the CCCL Brand distinguished itself in Lebanon and the Arab region as an NGO, which exemplifies credibility, integrity, humanitarian and professional service.

St. Jude with its arm CCCL, were built on the dream and dedication of one person like Rotary was built on the dream of Paul Harris, who over the years built an arsenal of dedicated Rotarians all over the world who worked to eradicate childhood Polio globally and to make a difference all over their communities. It is all about thinking locally and acting globally with passion and determination.

# February 2019 Business meeting with Artist Tom Young "The Art of Revival" Tuesday February 05, 2019

Tom Young is a full time artist, based in Beirut, Lebanon and where he has been living for the past nine years. In his remarks, Tom spoke about coming to Lebanon, why does the country inspire him and how he uses his art to contribute something positive to a place, which gives him so much.

As a painter, he is concerned with light and space. Influenced by his architectural training, he explores the changing nature of Lebanon; through the symbolism of motifs such as flowers and carousels, he suggests dramatic contrasts in the city and the coexistence of pain and joy. Young combines



his painting practice with architectural activism. He takes his art out of the normal gallery context and exhibits his work as site-specific installations, which grow from the buildings he works in.

By transforming deserted spaces and endangered buildings into living centers of creativity, he hopes to protect and recreate vital public spaces, which go on functioning as cultural venues long after his intervention.

The audience were treated to a private viewing of his work and the premiere screening of his short film The Sofar Tapes, done in The Grand Sofar Hotel featuring interviews with people who remember the great days of the Grand Hotel.



#### Dinner Meeting with Mrs Claudine Aoun Roukoz

On February 19, RCBC welcomed Mrs. Claudine Aoun Roukoz, President of the National Commission of Lebanese Women as its guest speaker. The mission of the commission chartered some two years ago, is to champion women's rights in Lebanon by amending current laws and introducing new ones that will accord Lebanese women their rights in society.

Mrs. Roukoz pointed out some of the early successes of their efforts, The parliament, for example, passed a law giving women equal rights in benefiting from family support allowances and Social Security



benefits. Also, the Parliament extended maternity leave to 10 weeks. A lot more needs to be done, added Mrs. Roukoz. The commission is currently working closely with Parliament to introduce or amend laws that will protect rape victims that are minors. Currently, the perpetrator cannot be prosecuted if he marries his rape victim!! Another area of focus is domestic violence. Recently, a hot line was set up to receive calls from victims of domestic violence.

Another major goal of the commission is to work on granting Lebanese women the right to pass citizenship to their children if the husband is not a Lebanese citizen.

The road to gender equality for Lebanese women is long and arduous. It will take a lot of determination, patience and buy in from all stakeholders for progress to be made.

# Business meeting with Mrs. Noha Karanouh Kabbani "Official Document from an Artist's Eye"

Tuesday February 26, 2019



In a most interesting presentation, guest speaker Noha Karanouh Kabbani shared her story behind design security. A prominent graphic designer, who worked on important projects in Europe, showed how proud she is to have designed the new biometric passport of Lebanon.

Mrs. Kabbani stated that a passport is used to represent our identity. It needs to be personal, secure and satisfying the highest level of international standards. The new technology used in the passport is the culmination of eight months of hard work, planning and synchronizing creative designs with security requirements.

Starting with the new Cedar tree on the cover of the passport, Noha redesigned the tree and called it

The Arze, authentic, custom drawn and based on facts. The natural branches of the tree have 8 levels and 26 empty spaces, each level representing Lebanon's governorates, and the space between them symbolizes Lebanon's 26 districts. Special paper and process was used, 22 landscapes of Lebanon were used with complex guilloche lines embedded in the illustrations.

After her success with the design of the new biometric passport, she moved on to design other legal documents: the new driver's license, car registration, license plates and others.

Mrs. Kabbani stated that it is only after understanding what truly goes into making official documents that we can fully appreciate them.

# March 2018

Business meeting with Mr. Philippe Adaime "A Fair Trade Wine in Lebanon" Tuesday March 12, 2019

On March 12, RCBC hosted Mr. Phillipe Adaimi the CEO and founder of Fair Trade Lebanon (FTL) an NGO that aims to improve the economic conditions of people living in rural areas of Lebanon thus allowing them to live in dignity, generate income and reduce exodus from their homeland.

FTL is a member of a global Fair Trade network that aims to pay farmers a fair and sustainable price for their produce. To achieve this goal, the

middleman between the producer and the end user has to be eliminated. FTL today has 36 centers all over Lebanon and works with 30 Cooperatives. The produce from those centers is sold locally and internationally. FTL works closely with farmers (men and women) to improve the quality of their produce to enable them to compete at international levels.

### Dinner Meeting with Ambassador of Spain

On March 26, RCBC was fortunate to host HE Jose' Maria Ferre' de la Pena the Ambassador of Spain to Lebanon and his wife Mrs. JumannaTrad as guest speakers. In his remarks, the ambassador gave an overview of how Spain has dealt with the severe financial crisis that has hit the country in 2008.





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#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC



The economic fallout was severe and Spain had to adopt strict measure to lift the country from a severe recession that has swept through globe. GDP the growth, negative unemployment north of 20% and soaring current а account deficit were

the highlights of this recession.

Ten years later, the severe and sometimes painful measures the government had to take are starting to bear some fruits. Unemployment has dipped to 17%, exports of Spanish goods and services have risen and tourism has soared. Still, more work needs to be done. The Spanish government is determined to continue its structural reforms to bring the country back from the brink of economic collapse to more solid grounds of economic prosperity and growth.

In the second part of the evening, we were treated to a talk by the wife of the Ambassador Mrs. Jumana Trad. Mrs. Trad is the president of the Social Promotion Foundation. The foundation is a private Spanish non-profit organization established in 1987. Their mission is to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable human, social and economic development.

The foundation footprint extends to more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Europe. Mrs. Trad explained in some detail the work the foundation is doing with the Syrian refugees in the region. In addition, the foundation works on other avenues of service like education and healthcare. Over a span of over 30 years, the foundation has raised and spent over 125 million Euros, half of which in the Mediterranean region.





The areas of focus for the foundation are: Cooperation for Development, Humanitarian Aid, Education, Volunteering, Culture and Youth.

Lebanon was the first country in the region to benefit from the foundations' work. To date, Some 56 projects were executed valued at over 29 million Euros.

One organization working in affiliation with Promocion Social is the Social Sports School FPS in Lebanon. Rima Khoury Katbeh presented their interesting work. Their goal is for sports to become an essential pillar in education, a tool for dialogue and peace building and for sports to be accessible to all children in Lebanon. The coaches are educators, role models and change makers who aim to develop social skills in children like teamwork, self-esteem, communication, respect, sharing and fair play.

The schools they are working with are Paradis d'Enfants with 210 students and Mezyara Public School with 60 students.

#### April 2018

### Business meeting with Mr. Georges Metni "Reshaping Road Safety Education in Lebanon & MENA" Tuesday April 02, 2019

RCBC hosted Mr. Georges Metni from the Adel Metni Foundation, a non-profit

organization working on Road Safety Management, Defensive Driving Training and Education.

Mr. Metni stated that the foundation's mission goes beyond awareness. The goals are to reduce road fatalities by 50% by 2030, because based on statistics, 3500 lives are lost daily worldwide due to road crashes, and 80% of road crashes are caused by human errors. The organization studies whether young drivers are trained to control their vehicle in multiple extreme scenarios; and are there driving exams standards and what is the learning process.

In the MENA region and particularly in Lebanon the problem is exasperated by lack of traffic laws enforcement, road conditions and lack of driving



education. Through a partnership with Renault, the foundation is offering courses on defensive education to help drivers of all ages how to become better and safe drivers and citizens.



### Business meeting with Dr. Toufic Gaspard "Where is the Lebanese economy heading to? A short-term perspective" Tuesday April 09, 2019

Dr. Gaspard is a noted economist who has held senior positions at the Central Bank of Lebanon and the IMF. In his remarks, Dr. Gaspard noted the structural problems the Lebanese economy has been facing for over 30 years. Since 1993, successive governments have spent an aggregate of some \$244 billion. Two thirds of which on salaries and servicing the rising debt of the country, 10% on subsidizing fuel to generate electricity while total spent on investments amounted to only 8.5%.

What Dr. Gaspard also finds alarming the balance of payment deficits for the past several years, which exasperates the problem facing the country.



Dr. Gaspard was also critical of the so called financial

engineering conducted by the Central Bank to shore up its foreign reserves and protect the Lebanese pound, albeit at a high cost estimated at \$5 billion per annum. As a result, Lebanese banks are finding it more attractive to place their dollar deposits with the Central Bank earning around 7.5% rather than engaging in commercial lending that is essential for the wheels of the economy to turn.

Dr. Gaspard concluded on a somewhat hopeful note by calling on government to take strict measures in finalizing the 2019 budget to adopt serious measures to reduce expenditures and bring some common sense and order to the country's bleak financial outlook.

#### Business meeting with Ms. Raya Boustany "Verbal Martial Arts" Tuesday April 16, 2019

Raya Boustany, a Communication specialist, Harvard Master Negotiator and a Certified Mediator, was the guest speaker in our business meeting. Her topic was Ninja Negotiation, a verbal martial arts skill that was insightful, thought provoking and very useful in our daily lives.

The idea of negotiating like a kung Fu, judo master or even a samurai fighter has been suggested by illustrious modern-day negotiators. Harvard Negotiation guru Bill Ury talks

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC

about Negotiation Jujitsu (the ancestor of Judo), FBI crisis negotiator Chris Voss talks about deflecting moves in verbal interactions, while US police officer George Thompson has developed the famous Verbal Judo program that is now taught in most US Police departments.

The natural reaction of retaliating, reacting and using confrontational brute force always leads to many disasters like broken personal relationships and wars. Most of the time, this type of response is energy draining and leads to a lose-lose outcome. Inspired by martial arts masters, modern day negotiators, peacemakers and moderators put together verbal techniques to aim



at win-win outcome, preserving interests and relationships with using minimum coercive force. Some of these techniques are how to avoid or deflect an attack, reduce the use of force and redirect the opponents move to one's advantage. One very interesting and simple example is the contrast between the beautiful Cherry tree with its extended branches that can be broken easily and the humble Willow tree that bends with the wind, rain and snow and never breaks.



#### Dinner Meeting with Dr Tarek Metri

On Tuesday April 30, RCBC hosted Dr. Tarek Mitri, ex Minister of Culture and a Scholar as a guest speaker. His topic was Being In Dialogue, a topic that was addressed in the context of the complexity of the Lebanese reality. It was thought provoking and interesting and left the audience wanting more dialogue on the scientific, philosophical and political realities.

This meeting was also attended by Mr. Peter Kyle and his wife Margaret. Mr. Kyle is the Director Nominee of Rotary International 2020-2022. He was in Lebanon to attend D2452 conference in Beirut.

#### Prominent Guests and Speakers of RCBC



May 2018 Business meeting with PP John Edde "Survival Experience" Tuesday May 07, 2019

Our business meeting featured our very own PP John Edde as the guest speaker. In a heartfelt talk, John shared with the fellow Rotarians his battle with cancer and his eventual triumph over the disease. His story sheds the light on how important it is to be vocal about any disease, create awareness, share facts and provide a support system. Advances in science



and medical treatments facilitate dealing with pernicious diseases, but nothing beats the resilience and strength of the human spirit, and nothing is as important in dealing with life's adversities as having a positive attitude and the will to live and overcome.

### Business meeting with Mr. Jimmy Keyrouz "Cinema: A Universal Language" Tuesday May 14, 2019

RCBC hosted Jimmy Keyrouz a rising star in the world of Lebanese cinema. Jimmy treated the audience to a brief history of cinema and movie making as an art form that can impact society and shape its culture. He cited movies like All the Presidents Men, Jaws, Lord of the Rings, Titanic etc., movies that had a profound cultural impact.

Jimmy talked about a documentary he shot in Senegal following a group of children trying to cope with a severe drought that hit the country as a result of climate change.



Jimmy's next project is a feature film titled Broken Peace. The movie is about a musician living in an ISIS controlled territory, trying to rebuild his life and Piano.

He then commented about the cinema industry in Lebanon. Contrary to the dismal economic condition of the country, the cinema industry is thriving. In the last three years, Lebanon had two movies nominated for an Oscar, The Insult & Capernaum. This bodes well for the future of Cinema in the country, as it will encourage young and talented people to pursue a career in cinema to tell a story, highlight a social issue or simply record the history of the country.

# شوف الدنيا من فوق

# تلفريك جونيه حريصا



## Halloween Fundraising Dinner Tuesday October 30, 2018

On 30 October 2018, RCBC restated an old tradition of the Club: Halloween Fundraising Party.

In a cheerful competition among Rotarians and guests, IP Adib and wife Dana won the prize for the best disguised couple, while PP Joe Boulos and Adella (Boulos), wife of PP Habib Bassoul, won the prizes of the individual categories. The photos say it all!

















## Beirut Marathon Sunday November11, 2018

In support of Polio Eradication in the world, RCBC together with RC Beirut Metropolitan participated in the annual Beirut Marathon, an event that attracts people from all ages and walks of





life, in a great atmosphere of sportsmanship, fun and enthusiasm. Our Rotary Clubs walked under the banner of End Polio Now. It was a memorable walk for a great cause!

## **Christmas Dinner** Tuesday December11, 2018

RCBC members celebrated the holiday season in a most festive evening. A choral group led the Christmas carols, which some members joyfully joined in. Our club happens to boast of









## Movie Fundraiser January 7, 2019

RCBC had an avant- premiere for the Lebanese movie Wanted.., a humorous take on the plights of senior citizens. The director Nibal Arakji and the cast met with our members in support of service in our community.



# Al-Bustan Festival

Per annual tradition, a group of RCBC Rotarians and friends enjoyed an evening of culture at al Bustan Hotel that houses a month long festival every year,





bringing to Lebanon artistic talents from all over the world. La Traviatta, featured that evening, was enjoyed by all. See you all next year for another fellowship at al Bustan!





# REBC & Sister Club RC Wasserburg

RCBC and sister club RC Wasserburg visited in Abey the vocational school, under construction, a Global Grant project by both clubs. This school when finished will be able to provide vocational education in

technology to over 100 young adults in the area. Another great endeavor and collaboration between both clubs and another fine example how Rotary connects the world.













# Dinner with fellow German Rotarians

Dinner with our fellow German Rotarians, RC Wasserburg. An evening of fun, good food and good vibes.













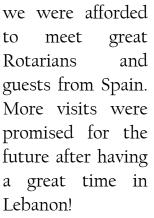






## Spanish Rotarians Visit March 15, 2019

On March 15, a group of Spanish ES visitors from RC Elche ILLICE, came to Lebanon on a social visit, to explore the beauty of the country and meet with members of our club. The visit was very productive where we exchanged ideas and information about both clubs and















## **Gift of Life Dinner** Saturday May 14, 2019

George PDDG and wife Beyrouti well Lola, as as Incoming secretary husband Sona Ø Doniguian, Guy represented RCBC at Gift of Life dinner of good cheer and music at Joe's Lounge









number of GOL committee members, past district governors, and Rotaractors.

Monot, on Saturday May 4th. The dinner was hosted by PP Lina Shehayeb, President of GOL Lebanon Chapter in honor of the Rotary delegation from Troy, Michigan, and visiting PDG Chehab El Awar from RC San Bernandino Sunset, California, and it was attended by a





RCBC was represented at an Iftar given by the Child and Mother Welfare Society, an organization that prominently among those we help.



The Lebanese Food Bank hosted its annual Iftar at the Phoenicia Hotel on May 17. This Iftar was highly attended by supporters of this NGO and the Minister of the





Interior Mrs. Raya al Hasan. RCBC was well represented at this Iftar.

PP Ronald Farra of RC Cedars and member of LFB board, with HE Mrs. Raya al Hasan, Minister of Interior



As per tradition, RCBC held its annual Iftar at Liza Restaurant. It was an evening of fellowship at its best which was enjoyed by all.

















Rotary Leadership - District and Country Participation

## Rotary Leadership - District and Country Participation

#### Inaugural Dinner of DG Michel Jazzar

On July 20, DG (D2452) Michel Jazzar inaugurated RY 2018-2019 with a celebration that brought together all Rotary clubs in Lebanon. It was an evening of hope where DG Jazzar stresses the importance of education and the role of youth in our future.





#### Together in Lebanon

The week of October 13-20 witnessed a very important event where one of the major

attributes of Rotary was clearly displayed. Rotary has created a worldwide family connecting Rotarians across continents and countries. This event, Together in Lebanon, brought this year 50 Rotarians from USA, Brazil, Belgium, France, United Kingdom and Germany. The group was received with the utmost

hospitality and were treated to a full week of sightseeing across Lebanon where they met members of host Rotary Clubs and solidified the bonds of friendship.

The event highlighted the Rotarian spirit at its best. Exchange of banners took place at the gala dinner that captured the essence of the week.





#### Rotary Leadership - District and Country Participation



#### DG Visit to RCBC

On November 13, DG (2452) Dr. Michel Jazzar and AG Mrs. Najat Francis paid an official visit to our club. Presentations by different committees chairpersons were given in the presence of RCBC and BCRAC members. It was a very informative and productive meeting highlighted by the positive closing remarks of the Governor who is a close friend and supporter of our club.

Thank you DG Jazzar and AG Najat for your visit.









#### District Conference in Beirut, Lebanon

Rotary D2452 hosted its District Conference in Beirut May 1-4, 2019, under the auspices of General Michel Aoun, President of the Lebanese Republic.





In the presence of Rotary International Secretary General John Hewko and RI Director Nominee Peter Kyle and other dignitaries, D2452 Governor Michel Jazzar opened the conference which was highly attended by Rotarians from all countries in the district. Over three days of a well planned and executed agenda with major guest speakers and informative breakout sessions, the visiting Rotarians were also treated to fun evenings and cultural activities highlighting the Lebanese hospitality.



#### Membership Seminar in Yerevan, Armenia

In January 2019, Rt. Sona Kourtian-Doniguian participated in the Membership seminar that took place in Yerevan-Armenia.





Rotary Leadership - District and Country Participation

#### RI Convention in Hamburg, Germany

Rt.-ICS Sona Kourtian-Doniguian represented RCBC in the RI Convention that took place in Hamburg, Germany, where she met many of RCBC's cosponsors, and established new connections & friendships and

exchanged banners with many international Rotarians. Upon her return, Sona shared with the club her experience & impressions, delivered the RI convention banners for both 2019 & 2020 to P Mona & IP Adib respectively, and encouraged all to participate in future conventions.





With DGE 2021-2022 Ashot Karapetyan & his team

WILL'



With RI President Barry Rassin



During the District conference, RCBC had a RECORD NUMBER of awards (the highest number for the past several years), thanks to the outstanding efforts and collaboration of Rt. Sona Kourtian with P. Mona.

A major achievement was securing the District Governor's Citation for D2452 (a first!) in recognition of the services to the community, in addition to a trophy for Membership (5 new members in one year).







Rotary () ETHE INSPIRATION District Governor's Citation Presented to

Rotary Club of Beinut Cosmopolitan

This citation is awarded with high appreciation in honor and recognition of their services to the Community during the Rotary Year 2018 - 2019

Reinit May 4th 2019

District Governor 2018-19



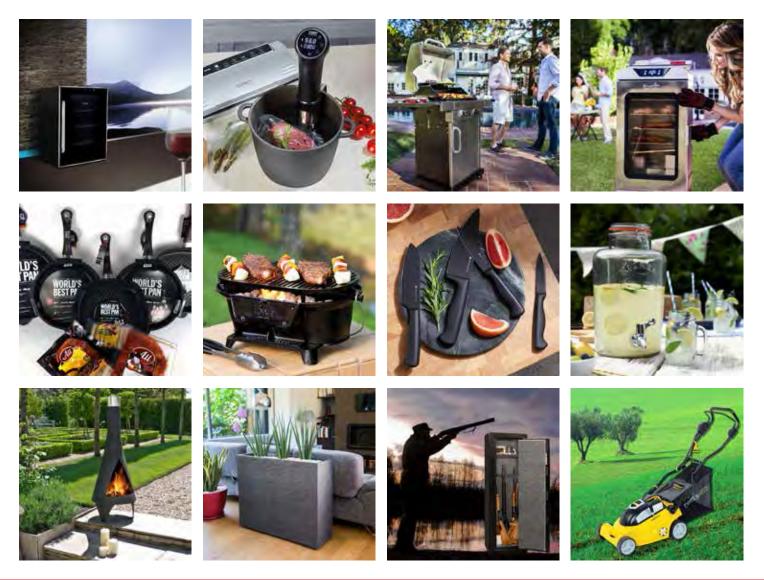
Another special award was for RCBC participating in the District Pilot Project "Civic Education for Peace Building", a Project initiated by DG Jazzar and chaired by Dr. Ghada Ayoub, PE RC Saida.





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#### ROTARACT CLUB OF BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN (BCRAC)



Carla Bou Diab



Peter Rassie



Nour Mashaka



Joanne About



Gaelle Mounsif



Mariam Siklawi



Nermine Al Kassar



Ramy Paul Kiwan



Farah Rteil



Taline Stanboulian



Mohammad Rifaii



Sirvart Bardakjian

#### Rotary Youth Programs

## BCRAC ACTIVITIES

Every year is a new challenge for us, to push our limits harder, to grow, double our number, to reach higher mountains.'The biggest challenge after success is shutting up about it.' So let's start

#### **Community Service**

- We started the year off by a mega community service joined with 12 clubs Global Tree Plantation Movement planting 200 cedar trees under the name of rotaract in falougha
- Keeping the BCRAC tradition alive. Clothe Drive

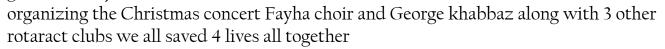
where we managed to deliver 3 times bulk huge of а clothes to 3 different organizations, we also managed to collect during the Christmas market in zero 4 that was held

for 2 weeks and BCRAC had a booth at the entrance collecting winter clothes

- Through our Halloween fundraiser, we raised enough money to help renovate the hygienic areas of a Torossian school 500\$
- Our Christmas project that won the hearts of the rotaractors by spreading candies with anonymous messages not only made rotaractors spread joy but also brought smiles to the kids with a collaboration of smile in a box where the money was used

to bring box of supplies and toys for young boys and girls

Another tradition in our club is the Gift of Life where we saved a young girl's heart by













#### Rotary Youth Programs



• Our last successful and biggest project was the AED machine where we gathered almost 2300\$ through selling calendars and successfully buy the machine with the help of YOHAN organization, an awareness session will be held at the school at the beginning of next academic year

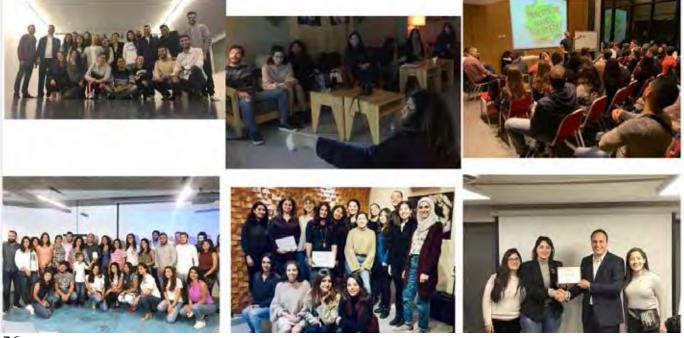


#### Onto Professional Development Sessions

- Started off with mega pd 8 clubs joined about bitcoins
- Laughter yoga with 2 other clubs
- International pd about violence against women where we had a speaker from ABAAD Raghida ghamloush and a psychologist luciene farah from Lecorvaw



- We had the speaker was Jihad el hokayem talk about Lebanese economy challenges and the opportunities in Lebanon it was joined with 6 other clubs
- Drama therapy with 2 other clubs
- Body language 101 by Mr habib khooury
- Joint with our lovely rotary club about Palestinian employment in Lebanon Thank you mr Samir
- How Lebanese graduates can shape a good career joint by 2 university based rotaract clubs by dr. haitham khoury
- Persuasive selling and negotiation skills by country manager at Diego Anthony abou haidar



#### Rotary Youth Programs



#### International

- Women against violence was international pd that was joint by in parallel 3 clubs in Egypt
- Smaller world project where BCRAC is part of a all year long collaboration with 6 other clubs such as India, Spain, Cyprus, Guatemala, Egypt



#### Club service

- Let's dance joint 4 clubs at Caracalla proper dabke
- Chocolate making session joint with club of Aley at chocolate story, Beirut

Thank you for all the supporters, we wouldn't stand this strong if it wasn't for our rotary club. You give us a reason to look above our shoulders and push ourselves harder. Which is why we wish to be Rotarians someday

you believed in us, supported us and like all relationships it is time for us to do the same to you.

Thank you president Mona for understanding and being a role model all through the year. RCBC are family to us and it will always be.



#### INTERACT CLUB OF BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN (INTERBC)

RCBC welcomes the new youth under the age of 18 years old who are bright, eager and dedicated to establish Interact Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

Very proud to be working with the new generation! Welcome the new faces Celine Effendi, Wajih Rafei, Mariah Kassem, Said El Kadi, Anwar Agha (missing)







#### RCBC BOARD 2018-19

- Mona Jarudi
- Adib Mounla
- Rabab Safieddine
- Edouard Rassie
- Olga Feghali
- Mohamad Baltaji
- Mimi Hamam
- Nada Maalouf
- Georges Beyrouti / Habib Saba
- President President Elect IPP Vice President Secretary Treasurer Director Director Director



#### RCBC BOARD 2019-20

- Adib Mounla
- Habib Saba
- Mona Jarudi
- Joe Boulos
- Sona Kourtian-Doniguian
- Mohamad Baltaji
- Edouard Rassie
- Nadim Hissen
- \_\_\_ Mimi Hamam

President President Elect IPP Vice President Secretary Treasurer Director Director Director

#### **Past Presidents**





Rabab Safieddine 2017 - 2018



Joe Boulos 2016 - 2017



Mimi Hamam 2015 - 2016



Lina Shair 2014 - 2015



Mounir Jabre 2013 - 2014



Asaad Salhab 2012 - 2013



Habib Saba 2011 - 2012



Subhi Jarudi 2010 - 2011



Edouard Rassie 2009 - 2010



Georges Beyrouti 2008 - 2009



Raouf Malak 2007 - 2008



Pierre Azar 2006 - 2007



Tony Asfour 2005 - 2006



Habib Bassoul 2004 - 2005



Gladys Younes 2003 - 2004



Fawzi Metni 2002 - 2003



Fahed Assaf 2001 - 2002



Karim Naamani 2000 - 2001



Joe Boulos 1999 - 2000



George Theodory 1997 - 1999



Meg Bouldoukian 1996 - 1997



Riad Saade 1995 - 1996





Joseph Akl



Christine Arzoumanian



Tony Asfour



Mohammad Baltaji



Habib Bassoul



George Beyrouti



Joe Boulos



Diana Cotran



John Edde



Samir El Khoury



Mazen El Farra



Joelle Feghali



Colin Gibson



Sylva Guiragossian



Edouard Hakimian



Mimi Hamam

#### Members





Wael Hamdan



Nadim Hissen



Mounir Jabre



Mona Jarudi



Subhi Jarudi



Samir Kadi



May Khoury



Sona Kourtian



Haytham Kurdi



Nada Maalouf



Mahmasani



Raouf Malak



Michel Mansour



Jean Paul Moubarak



Adib Mounla



Karim Naamani





Farida Najjar



Edouard Rassie



Karin Saab



Habib Saba



Rabab Safieddine



Asaad Salhab



Rana Salhab



Lina Shair



Abbas Sibai



Amal Talhouk



George Theodory



# BAYVIEW HOTEL



## Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Welcomes Five New Members



Mrs. May Khoury



Mr. Abbas Sibai



Mr. Samir Kadi



Mr. Haytham Kurdi



Mr. Colin Gibson

#### General Snap Shots



#### International Relations

This year RCBC had the maximum number of visiting Rotarians. As the first English speaking Club in Lebanon, we enjoyed meeting and hosting Rotarians from Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Malta, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro and USA. This is a testimony to how Rotary Connects the World and how friendships can start as well as possible future partnerships on Service Projects.







OLITA

























## Dinner at RCB with Elizabeth Villiger and Christina Covotsou-Petroclou

On Monday November 26, RCBC was represented by CS Joelle Feghali in the dinner meeting of RCB hosting Rotarian Elizabeth Villiger Linley from Limassol.



Also present was the beloved PDG Christina Covotsou-Patroclou.



### Handover Ceremony of RC Koura

On October 5, PP Mounir Jabre attended the Handover Ceremony of RC Koura.



## LeBAM concert

In support of LeBAM, forty people from our Club went to the concert and movie fundraising event, which was a great success.



#### General Snap Shots

### Visit of Rt. Samir Kadi to RC Amman

Every Rotarian and every RCBC member is an ambassador to the world to spread the mission and vision of Rotary and to enhance the cooperation and exchange of ideas with other clubs.

On a recent trip to Amman, Jordan our new member, Rt Samir Kadi proudly represented RCBC and exchanged banners with the President.



## Visit of Rt. Jean Paul Moubarak to RC Paris Avenir

Rotarian Jean Paul MOUBARAK met the President Phillipe Costed and D1660 Governor Catherine Monier







There is no limit to the adjectives that describe the man. He was generous and thoughtful. He was armed with a savvy judgment and great sense of humor. He was perceptive and intuitive. He was a supporter of the arts, and a great educator. And above all he was a humanitarian and a great human being!

Walter, you will be remembered for your kindness, your smile and your dedication to the vision and mission of Rotary!

Rest in peace dear Friend... you live in our hearts and in the hearts of all those who loved you!

#### end, and we are all the better for knowing him. I asked three people who were very close to him to say few words, fellow Rotarians Tony Asfour, Mounir Jabre and Karin Saab. Little did I know that there would be an avalanche of messages from everyone who met him and was touched by him. I need pages and pages to relay these messages and in his honor I will sum up what our dear Kamal meant to us all: a kind and gentle person, a scholar, a true Rotarian, a true friend, a leader and a noble spirit who battled some bad days with determination to overcome, with a smile and with the love of his sweet Eva always by his side.

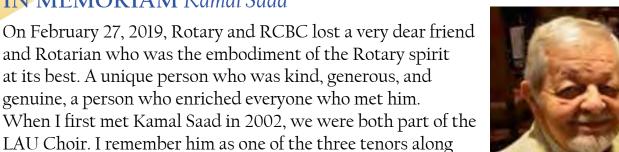
Rest in peace, dear Kamal. You are our role model and inspiration, and you will always be alive in our hearts and minds.

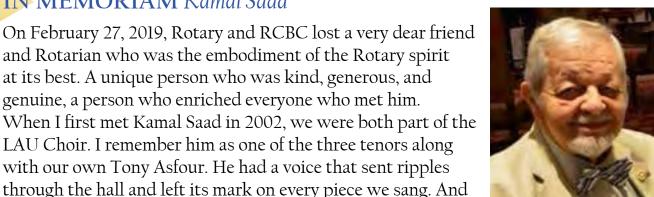
# **IN MEMORIAM** Walter Day

I am dedicating this editorial to the memory of a very dear friend and fellow Rotarian, Past President Walter Day. His sudden departure left a big void in the hearts of people who loved and worked with him. Walter loved Lebanon and made it his home away from home. He loved Aley, the beautiful town where he spent most of his life, educating generations at the Universal College. He loved the people of that town and never wasted an opportunity to show them how much they meant to him. And he was a Rotarian who embodied all the values of Rotary and Service Above Self.

with our own Tony Asfour. He had a voice that sent ripples

in the audience, always looking at him with admiration was his sweet Eva. Our friendship started then and continued till the









#### HO Ceremony from P Mona Jarudi to P Adib Mounla

On June 15, RCBC held its handover party in the most beautiful home of our member PP May and Habib Khoury in Bsous. The evening was



memorable in every way: the sunset, the fellowship spirit, the hospitality of our hosts and the vocal talents of our members who literally sang the night away! Per tradition, PPs Samir Khoury, Edouard Rassie, Asaad Salhab, Joe Boulos and Subhi









Jarudi evoked great humor as they were expressing their relief that the streak of female power in the club is finally over.., with that , President Mona Jarudi was compelled to handover the helm to IP Adib Mounla,

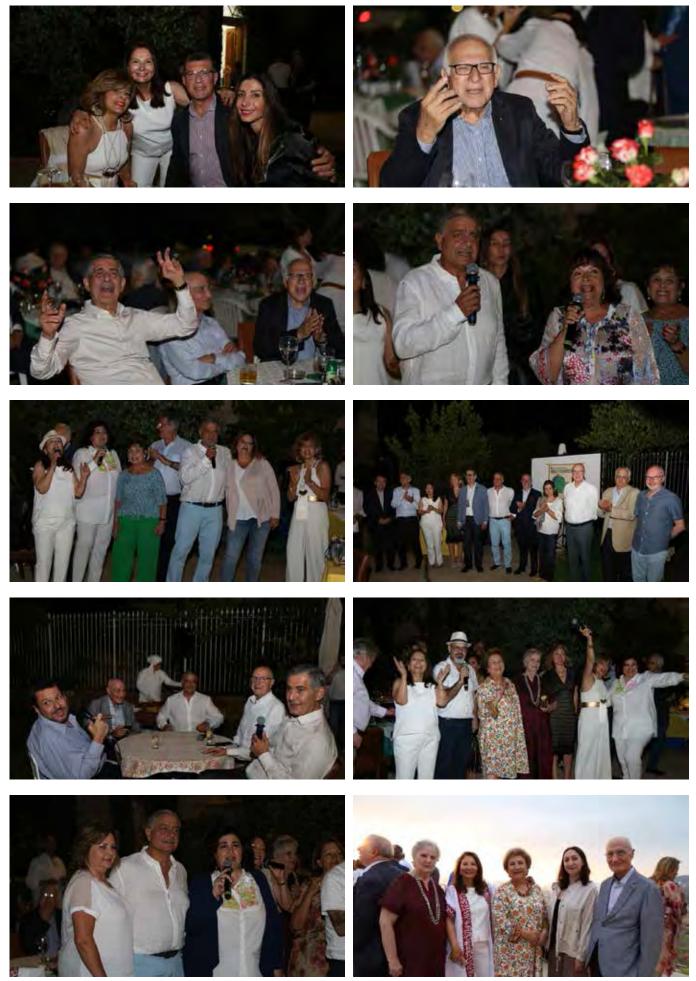




wishing him success for the new RY 2019- 2020.



#### Handing Over Ceremony 2019-2020



# ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

## As a Rotarian, I will:

- 1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians



# THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a non-partisan and non-sectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings.

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 and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

## CORE VALUES

#### **Core Values**

Rotary's core values represent the guiding principles of the organization's culture, including what guides members' priorities and actions within the organization. Values are an increasingly important component in strategic planning because they drive the intent and direction of the organization's leadership.

#### Service

We believe that our service activities and programs bring about greater world understanding and peace. Service is a major element of our mission. Through the plans and actions of individual clubs, we create a culture of service throughout our organization that provides unparalleled satisfaction for those who serve.

#### Fellowship

We believe that individual efforts focus on individual needs, but combined efforts serve humanity. The power of combined efforts knows no limitation, multiplies resources, and broadens our lives and perspectives. Fellowship leads to tolerance and transcends racial, national, and other boundaries.

#### Diversity

We believe Rotary unifies all people internationally behind the ideal of service. We encourage diversity of vocations within our membership and in our activities and service work. A club that reflects its business and professional community is a club with a key to its future.

#### Integrity

We are committed to and expect accountability from our leaders and fellow members, both in the results of our efforts and in the processes we use to accomplish our goals. We adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work and personal relationships. We are fair and respectful in our interactions, and we conscientiously steward the resources entrusted to us.

#### Leadership

We are a global fellowship of individuals who are leaders in their fields of endeavor. We believe in the importance of leadership development and in leadership as a quality of our members. As Rotarians, we are leaders in implementing our core values.

All of these core values are reflected in the Object of Rotary and The Four-Way Test, which we use in our daily lives. They inspire us to foster and support the ideal of service for developing and maintaining high ethical standards in human relations.