



RCBC Marhaba: 2021-2022
Issue No. 3
October

ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN

Charter Date June 21, 1995
Club Number 30893
District 2452 Rotary International

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Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar
West Bengal, India
District Governor **Ashot Karapetyan**
District Governor 2021-2022, District 2452
PP- Rotary Club of Gyumri, Armenia
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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES
District 2452

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Letter from the editor

PP Mona Jarudi

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples” Mother Teresa

This quote, by a person whose motto was Service above Self and above Else, resonated deeply for me and made me reflect on how our contribution as Rotarians mirrors that of the stone. One Rotarian alone, one club alone, one country alone, will not produce the desired powerful impact in the world; but our collective efforts together, as a team, with one mission and vision can create enough ripples to effect great change in our communities and the world.

Eradication of Polio worldwide was an idea that was conjured and incubated by few people who wanted to see this world free of a debilitating disease that destroyed the quality of life of millions of children around the world. The campaign started and the ripple effect was so powerful that we can proudly say that the world is polio free now, except for few cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The fight has to go on because as Aidan O’Leary, the polio eradication director for WHO, states: “Eradication is a zero- sum game, anything short of zero is a failure”. October 24, World Polio Day, was widely recognized and celebrated all over the world with the focus that our fight has to go on.

The ripple effect was indirectly given as a message from RI President, Shekar Mehta, as he was addressing the issue of Rotary membership worldwide. “Each one, bring one” was a clear message and today he declared that Rotary membership crossed 1.4 million people and the message worked. Congratulations Rotary!

Our club, RCBC, had its Service engines in full throttle this month. The President was on a mission to clear the cobwebs and start in-person fellowship and meetings. Projects that serve the community were delivered and a major Project was completed in record time focusing on the theme of this year: Education in Lebanon, so no child will be left behind. Our international partners are always there, attending our virtual meetings and providing us all the support our country needs. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Let us all keep our hands together and toss the stone across the waters, so we can create the giant ripple and see the change we want to see in the world!

Online Business Meeting With **Ms. Majda Labadi**
Vice President of Human Resources for Hikma Pharmaceuticals,
Jordan

**"CHALLENGES OF MIDDLE EAST PHARMA COMPANIES
DURING COVID TIMES"**

OCTOBER 5, 2021

hikma.



What is Hikma?



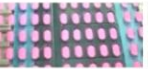





Hikma develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of branded generic pharmaceutical products across the US, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe. It was founded over 40 years ago in Jordan, with 8600 employees, around 2.2 billion \$ in revenue. It boasts of 31 manufacturing sites around the world, ranked in the top 10 generic pharma company in the US and producing more than 690 compounds.


Ms Labadi (BA Business administration from AUB, Masters in Health Economics from Berlin and completed an Advanced management Program at INSEAD/ France), started with Hikma in 1985 and is now its VP for Human Resources globally and member of the executive team.

Ms. Labadi, in a detailed and scientific account, began her talk by introducing Hikma and outlining how the company operated through the pandemic. As the global community began to tackle the outbreak of Covid19, Hikma's immediate priority was to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its employees all over the world. Hikma's mission is to manufacture high-quality affordable medicines and make them accessible to the patients who need them most, and because of that they needed to stay ahead of the potential implications of this rapidly spreading disease to avoid any interruptions to the supply. They moved fast to secure strategic materials for injectables and increase stock levels in preparation for the second and third wave of the outbreak. To accomplish that, great incentives were given to employees to help them overcome the difficult times, prioritized products based on market/patients needs, identified best shipment modes, coordinated with authorities to allow cross-market sales or accelerate approvals of changes. Like every other operation and company, Hikma tried its best to overcome the logistical nightmares experienced during the pandemic.

She went on to say that as the company continues to navigate the far-reaching implications of this pandemic, Hikma's commitment remains to the patient and minimizing the severity and duration of any Covid19 disruptions to ensure that they are able to deliver on their promise of providing better health every day.

Hikma today

 40+ years in existence	 +\$2.2bn 2019 revenue	 7 billion doses made annually	 ~8,600 employees
 ~31 manufacturing sites around the world	 Top 10 generic pharma company in the US	 ~50 countries	 690+ compounds



Fellowship to Anjar With
DG Ashot & Mrs. Emma Karapetyan
October 9, 2021

After a long year of imposed lockdowns and enduring the Covid-19 repercussions, President Sona decided to clear the cobwebs by planning the first fellowship outing of the year. What started as a simple visit to the village of Anjar in the Bekaa valley for the club members, evolved into an epic day of sightseeing, projects handovers, tree planting and a sumptuous lunch at the most famous restaurant in the area.

The intense planning started when DG Ashot Karapetyan (D2452) confirmed his visit to Lebanon with his wife Emma, as part of his tour to the countries in the district. The agenda of this day was rich and attractive, and it started early morning on the bus by welcoming words from P Sona to DG Ashot and Emma, DGE George Azar and all the friends who joined the trip from other Rotary clubs. After driving through the beautiful mountains of Lebanon and enjoying breakfast on the bus, the first stop was the KEFRAYA WINERY in Bekaa Valley, where everyone experienced first hand the beauty of the area and the richness of the winery.



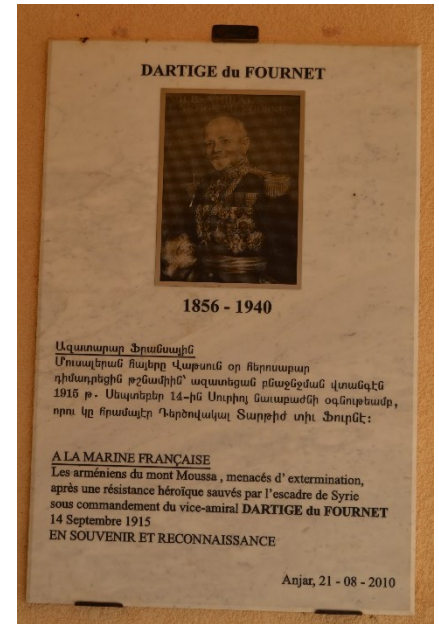
The second stop was the GERMAN SCHNELLER SCHOOL, a long-time partner of RCBC, where several service projects and Global Grants were executed over the years. The most recent Global Grant is RCBC's PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER PROJECT, that was inaugurated that day in the presence of DG Ashot and other esteemed guests. Our main partner in the project, Rev. Traugott Plieninger PP Of RC Bietigheim-Vaihingen, flew in from Stuttgart, Germany especially to participate in the ceremony. The visit was completed by a tour of the school campus guided by Principal Rev. George Haddad who provided detailed explanations of the different programs and the functions of the different buildings in this technical academy.



The group reached its final destination: ANJAR. This visit was kicked off with a welcome reception in the gardens of ECO PARK of Anjar, where the 75 Rotarians and friends were treated to ethnic delicacies and drinks. Here, in the presence of DG Ashot, P Sona together with Rt. Rana Salhab, concluded the second project of the day, handing over 15 LAPTOPS (Donated by Deloitte) to Anjar's Calouste Gulbenkian School.



The group then headed to the Anjar Municipality, where guides recounted the history of the town, the Ottoman occupation of their original homeland, their heroic resistance, French assistance and finally the mass exodus of almost the entire village from the original Moussa Dagħ to Anjar. The guests were given the chance to visit the museum where many relics and documents were on display depicting the history recounted by the tour guides. After the museum, the group walked up to the center of the village to visit the memorial monument with a special tribute to the French Admiral Dartige du Fournet, next to the main church, dedicated to the heroic resistance of Moussa Dagħ.



Following the monument visit, the group toured the different landmarks of the village and continued towards the reforestation project area, to partake with RCBC's third project of the day: Planting/ Adopting 22 trees, a project initiated by RCBC, to which many Rotarians as well as other Rotary Clubs also contributed (RC Cadmus, RC Aley West, RC Hammana, RC Zahle).

RCBC took the opportunity to dedicate one tree to DG Ashot and Emma Karapetyan, as a memory of their visit and an heirloom for them to visit Lebanon and Anjar more!



In a continuing atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie, the group were treated to a sumptuous lunch at the famous AREV/ Al SHAMS restaurant. During lunch, RCBC took the opportunity of the DG's visit to honor two of its founding members: PP Riad Saade and PP Megeurditch Bouldoukian, a continuation of RCBC's 25th Anniversary celebrations.





The day was concluded by a visit to the Anjar Citadel- the Ummayyad Ruins.



October 9 was a day to remember: Three projects, an exceptional fellowship and many pleasant memories carved in everyone's mind.

Stay tuned for our next fellowship!!

Country Wide Assembly
with
DG Ashot Karapetyan
October 10,2021

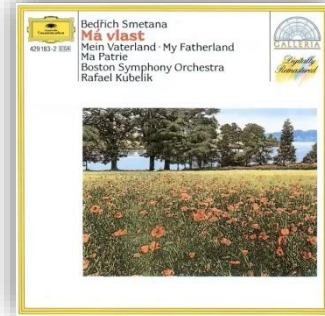
On Sunday October 10, a country wide assembly was held in the presence of DG Ashot Karapetyan while he was on a week long visit to Lebanon to meet with all the Rotary Clubs.

This assembly was attended by PDGs, DGE George Azar, Club Presidents and Officers. Rotary business was discussed and presentations were made on the importance of Membership, Awards, Rotary Foundation updates and all pertinent matters to clubs in Lebanon.

RCBC was represented by P Sona, and IP Farida Najjar.



OCTOBER 26, 2021



In the midst of the heavy clouds engulfing Lebanon now, a ray of light and hope was cast fleetingly by the brilliant guest speaker our club hosted. Born in Beirut, Lebanon to a family of prominent artists of Armenian descent, Harout Fazlian, Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, is the Music Director of the Dubai Expo 2020 Music Department and Principal Conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra- LPO-(formerly known as the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra, where he assisted in its establishment). Fazlian played an essential role in rejuvenating and popularizing classical music to the wider Lebanese people. His biography is too rich and too extensive to give it justice in few lines so will try to represent his musical genius in reflecting the richness of his presentation

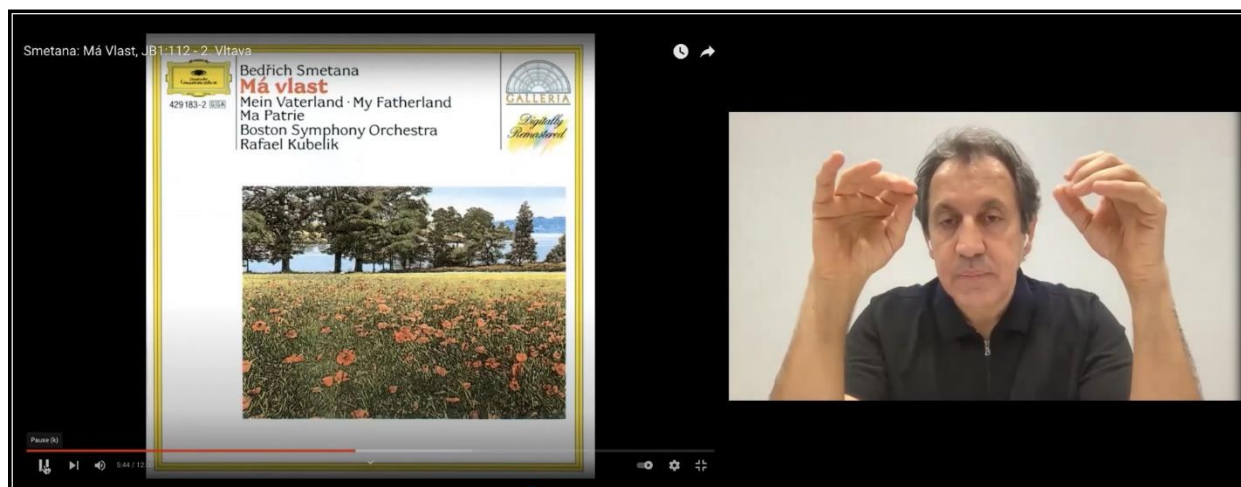
Maestro Fazlian is known for his passionate and fiery conducting style. His masterly approach to sound and intensity reflects his deep understanding of the score to the orchestra and audience. The journey we were taken on as we listened to Bedřich Smetana, *Ma vlast*, my fatherland, played by the Boston Symphonic Orchestra, was nothing short of magical. I would like to share this journey with our readers and hope that they listen to the music as they are reading these lines, as faithfully reproduced as possible from the words of Maestro Harout.

For the Maestro, every piece tells a story, a place, a historical event, a love affair. This piece was written on a river in Prague that divides the city into two banks and it is a patriotic description of the country Czech Republic. The listener has to imagine the music through the eyes of the river. This camera is hovering on top of the mountain and the score is written. One single Flute depicting a tiny stream coming from the mountain, other Flutes come in, crossing each other, Clarinets come in, one line forms, the Cello comes in and the river forms and swells. The river descends into the city dividing into two banks. The camera now looks to the left bank where there is a hunting scene in a bohemian forest and you can even see the hunting dogs excited and happy. Now the river moves and looks to the right where there is a village, a wedding, many dancers, and the camera fades while hearing church bells. It starts getting dark and quiet, and you have to imagine the evening of a spring night, moon hitting the river and a mermaid dancing on the water.



The Horns come in and you have to imagine this moment when it is very late at night, super dark sky and in one instant there is a ray of light and colors change and the sun comes out and the river comes back. It is morning now and the river faces the St. John's rapids where the river crushes against the gigantic rocks, with all the turbulence and violence..... all of a sudden, what happens is the free fall of the river, bright dawn, and the river survives the rapids and moves on.... Camera now is slowing, camera detaches, goes upwards and the river goes to the end where the camera looks at it from the horizon.

The meeting took a nostalgic turn when members of our club were sharing memories with Maestro Harout and family friendships that spans generations. A personal friend of P Sona and Rt. Silva Guiragossian, he affectionately shared a screen shot of a painting of his father done by the late prominent artist Paul Guiragossian who is the father of Silva. Our international guests were very engaged and complimentary of this amazing cultural evening that left us wanting more and in the words of Rt. Rana Salhab: we will never hear music the same again!!!



Reaching out

The motto of Rotary, Service Above Self, is exemplified in the life of every Rotarian. The opportunities of service present themselves in the local communities, and beyond. Our club, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, has a history of cooperation with other clubs locally and globally to facilitate projects that create an impact in the communities. With the Covid pandemic ravaging the world, Rotary Clubs were a beehive of activity, being creative in coming up with ways and means of extending help where needed. Our most recent international project is providing much needed equipment to Jain Mission Hospital in Chikkaballapur, India.

Oxygen concentrators, ICU medical ventilator, IR thermometers and Oximeters were sent jointly by the Rotary Clubs: Troy, Michigan(D6380), Beirut Cosmopolitan, Baabda, Cedars, Aley, Cadmos, Aley West (D 2452).



RCBC Projects

On October 2, 2021, under the banner of “Together We’re Strong”, RCB Metropolitan initiated the second phase of this project. In collaboration with:

- CIP France Liban
- Pompiers de L'urgence Internationale PUI
- District 1720 (RC Loches and RC Tours Plumereau
- District 1740 (RC Thiviers Sorges)

Three containers of medical supplies were shipped to Lebanon with the compliments of CMA CGM. Donations were distributed and divided equally among all the 28 Rotary Clubs in Lebanon. Each club received: two medical beds, two side tables, one recliner, one food serving trolley, one cane and medical accessories. Additional items were allocated randomly.

RCBC received its share and P Sona donated the lot to the Armenian Old People's Home.

Many thanks go to RCB Metropolitan! Together we are Strong!



RCBC projects in collaboration with (Lebanon Strong Canada)

(1)

Distributing donations from “Lebanon Strong Canada”, including medical & nutritional goods. The goods were received by Dr. Silva Keushkerian, head of AEBU Dispensary in Rmeil area



(2)

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan has a long standing collaboration with the Child and Mother Welfare Society with many Global Grants and service projects completed. CMWS is an organization that targets helping the community across all ages on need basis.

On October 25, 2021, RCBC distributed medical supplies and supplements, donated by “Lebanon Strong Canada” to MCWS, which was received by its Medical Director Dr. Marwa Samhoun. The ceremony was well attended by Officers of the Organization and RCBC was represented by P Sona Kourtian, PP Mounir Jabr and PP May Khoury.



RCBC Projects

iPads & Laptops Donation, in line with RCBC theme of the year - Education



In line with RCBC's theme for this year, Education, another project was successfully delivered on October 29 to the AGBU School.

President Sona, RT. Rana Salhab and PP Joe Boulos of RCBC were warmly welcomed and feted by the Principal Ara Vassilian and the AGBU Education Committee headed by Mrs. Aida Yanikian.

30 laptops (offered by Deloitte) & 24 iPads (in partnership with Rotarians from the Netherlands) were donated in support of AGBU schools iPad-iLearn program. These gifts were received with lots of appreciation by the administration and children. RCBC was gifted two precious gifts: a shield from the administration and the most heart warming hand crafted gift from the

children: a painting of the tree the leaves of which represent the names of the children who will benefit from these laptops.

This event was a true representation of Rotarian spirit of Service and an expression of our mission statement this year: no child shall be left behind especially when it comes to EDUCATION.

Many thanks go to P Sona for spearheading this project and to Rt. Rana who facilitated the donation with Deloitte!

Together we can!



Monday October 11, 2021
PP Riad Saade Conference

P Sona and PP Mounir Jabr represented RCBC in a meeting hosted by RC de Beyrouth featuring PP Riad Saade as a guest speaker.

PP Saade is the founding President of our club and a valued friend.




Rotary
Rotary Club de Beyrouth

Le Rotary Club de Beyrouth
vous invite à assister à la conférence, en langue arabe, du
**PP Riad Saadé, PDG du Centre de recherches et d'Etudes
Agricoles Libanais - CREAL - sur :**

تشخيص وضع الزراعة اللبنانية في ضوء الأزمة المالية
الاقتصادية الراهنة

Date : Lundi 11 octobre à 16h00 (heure de Beyrouth)
Lieu : Chambre de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture de Beyrouth - Sanayeh
**La conférence, qui sera également disponible via Zoom, sera suivie d'un
verre d'amitié dans les locaux de la CCIAB.**
Zoom meeting ID : 821 8678 6546 | **Passcode :** 240152
R.S.V.P.: rotarybeyrouth1@gmail.com - 03-852090

 **SERVIR POUR
CHANGER DES VIES**

 **#RotaryResponds
With Peace**



WORLD POLIO DAY

On Saturday October 23, P Sona participated with the fellowship day initiated by RC Beyrouth in observance of WORLD POLIO Day. It was a full day of activities in the town of Batroun and environs, with full emphasis on the drive to eradicate Polio around the world.

In attendance were a large group of Rotarians and guests who were warmly received by President Aida Cherfan, IP Antoine Amatoury and AG Ghada Ayoub .





October

Diana Cotran – October 2

Habib Bassoul – October 8

Adib Mounla – October 13

Asaad Salhab – October 18

Mazen El Farra – October 28

Jean Paul Moubarak – October 31



RCBC family lost recently a very good friend and great supporter of our club. The wife of our dear Rt. Joseph Akl, Norma was always present, with her sunny attitude and cheerful smile. She will live in our hearts and we will surely miss her.

Rest In Peace our dear Norma.



THE END

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