



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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District 2452 Governor

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Rotary Club of Jumeirah-Dubai,  
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Rotary Club de Beyrouth  
Beirut, Lebanon

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# Marhaba

2024/2025

Beirut Cosmopolitan

# Rotary

District 2452



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

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

PP MONA JARUDI

On February 21, 2025, Istanbul hosted over one thousand Rotarians from all over the world to celebrate Peace under the big banner “Healing in a Divided World”. Throughout the conference, there were key words reverberating: Polarization, Conflict, Bridging Divides, Healing, Understanding, Commitment, and Dedication, all very important words that outline the journey towards achieving lasting peace.

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a corner stone of Rotary’s mission. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, Rotarians take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. Our commitment as Rotarians to peace building answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest impact and how we can achieve our VISION for lasting change. Rotarians are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of the meaning of peace building and finding ways for more people to get involved.

In her opening remarks, RI President Stephanie Urchick described the dedication required for true healing to take place in our polarized world. “Our time together here is a testament to our shared belief in the power of peacebuilding, but let’s acknowledge something essential: the Act of ‘Healing in a Divided World’ is not something we can achieve quickly or easily. It takes an intentional commitment over time.”

The different guest speakers over two days outlined how that commitment could take shape.

1. In technology: the impact of artificial intelligence, ways technology can bolster peace building efforts and the wide threat of misinformation. Sheldon Himelfarb, an award-winning film maker and the founder of PeaceTech Lab, called for peace builders to forge a global response to MISINFORMATION. The danger it poses, he said, is comparable to that of war, pandemics and climate change.
2. Environmental Issues in the MENA region is considered one of the world’s hotspots which makes it highly vulnerable to negative impacts of global warming. One speaker said “we have to understand that there will be no lasting peace between countries throughout the middle east if the protection of our shared environment is not put at the center of conflict resolution.”
3. The Peace Fellowship Program, a collaboration of Rotary with the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) provides certificate and Masters degrees from the nine Peace centers worldwide in top universities where more than 1800 Rotary Peace fellows have graduated. Another Peace Center was inaugurated in Istanbul on Sunday February 23, 2025 at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul thanks to a \$ 15.5 million gift from Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.
4. The Rotary Action Group for Peace is another avenue for promoting peace building. Two weeks ago, the Lebanon Chapter was launched of which Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan is a charter member.

5. During last week in Istanbul as well, 37 Peace Activators from the MENA region were certified by Rotary International in collaboration with the Institute for Economics and Peace. This was an intensive three-day training where we were provided with the tools and additional skills to build positive peace. I am very proud to be among the 37 people who were certified. Together we can work on projects that will help in eliminating conflict and promoting peace.

As Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, our work on peace building started in 2018-19, where we participated in D-2452 initiative led by PDG Michel Jazzar, Civic Education for Peace Building. And that year, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan also commenced on a new Global Grant, NewGen Peace Building, where 100 University students underwent training, designed their own projects with their mentors, which culminated in 25 train the trainers certification to carry on with peace building.

In June 2023, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan led by PP Mona Jarudi chartered the first youth-led Peace Building Club in the world,

Beirut Pax Potentia who are an independent Rotary Club doing great work and leading meaningful projects. We, as Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, are very proud of recognizing the importance of Peace Building and inclusivity which put us as a leading club in our work in the seven areas of focus.

Our success as Rotarians has been rooted in partnerships, between clubs, districts, local communities or with global institutions. The challenges we face today demand combined efforts of all sectors to amplify our impact and drive real progress. Our work, our service, our members are what makes Rotary what it is and our unity of purpose and fellowship is what creates The Magic of Rotary!



## Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.
- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities careers in government, education, and international organizations.
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February 4, 2025

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



## Patricia Shafer

Senior Fellow for Peace  
Education at the Alliance for  
Peacebuilding

Director of the international  
nonprofit organization  
NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP)

and associated Youth &  
Peace in Action (YPA)  
initiative

### Presentation Topic

'Building Positive Peace  
in the World - the  
Essential Impact of  
Rotarians in Lebanon'

On February 4, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Patricia Shafer, Executive Director of the international nonprofit organization NewGen Peace Builders and Youth and Peace in Action initiative, whose mission is to train, educate and mentor young peace builders ages 14 to 35 in 18 countries including Lebanon.

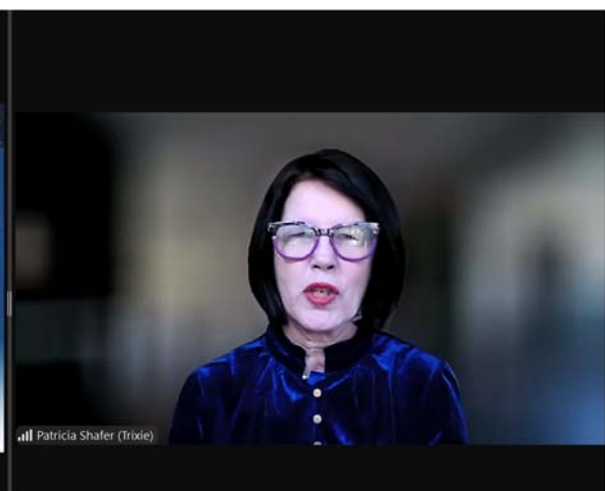
Patricia has an extensive record of leadership in peace building and conflict resolution with Rotary International. She is a Rotary Peace Fellow, Rotary Positive Peace Activator and Global Ambassador with Rotary's partner, Institute for Economics and Peace. She has delivered workshops, training and presentations to more than 20,000 Rotarians at conventions and district conferences.

PEACE in our time? What's a Rotarian to do?

For more than 100 years, Rotary International and its members have been advocates for peace. In fact, what is known as the "fourth object of Rotary" is to "promote international understanding, goodwill, and peace." Just over 20 years ago, Rotary made a strategic investment in this ideal by creating a system of Rotary Peace Centers around the world and identifying leaders with experience in peace and development to benefit from fellowships for study and reflection at these centers. Less than 10 years ago, RI further expanded its commitment to Peace as an Area of Focus through a strategic partnership with the global research and think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

Now what? There are a variety of indications that social cohesion, trust, and peace have been declining worldwide. Yet, the conversation within Rotary about "positive peace building" has increased. The speaker poses the question in her remarks "How do Rotarians contribute to Peace in the age of pluralism" - a state of society in which communities and countries live in unity by celebrating diversity?"

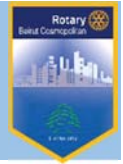
Ms Shafer also spoke about the 8 Pillars of Peace, her work with us, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, for NewGen Peace Builders/ Lebanon and her love and appreciation for the country and its people. She elaborated on her work Bridges to New Horizons, a program that was developed two years ago advocating for a world with young people at the center of global peace building.



# The District Governor, Mr. HUSSAIN AL JAZIRI, Visit



## To Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



On February 18, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted PDG George Azar as DG Hussein el Jaziri's representative for all his visits to the Lebanese clubs. Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan also warmly welcomed to the meeting DDG Mona Kanaan and AG Aida Daou.

President Haytham Kurdi presented the mid-year review, highlighting the club's accomplishments and giving relevant updates on membership, Public Image, Service projects, TRF, Fellowship and Fundraising and club administration.

A donation to Polio Plus was given in lieu of an appreciation gift to the DG.

PDG George sent our club a note recognizing the great work that RCBC continues to do as a leading rotary club in Lebanon





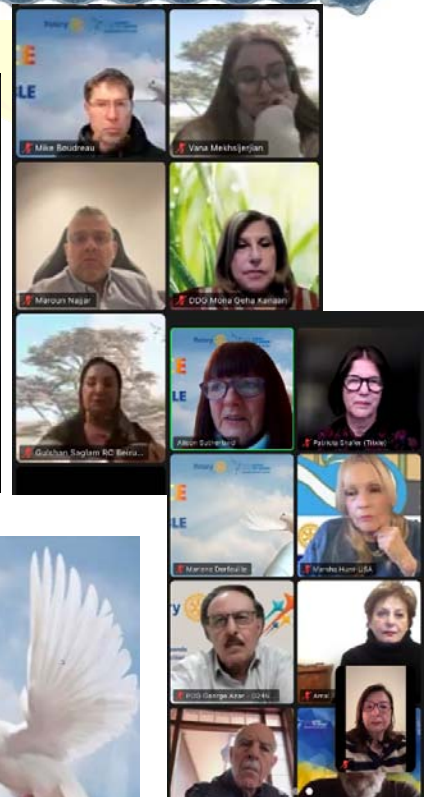
# Launch

After months of preparations, the Rotary Action Group for Peace / Lebanon Chapter was launched. This group comprises of several Rotary Clubs: Beirut Pax Potentia as the founding club, Beirut Cosmopolitan, Lebanon International, Sahel el Metn, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Cadmos

The launch was well attended by Rotarians and other RAGFP chapters outside Lebanon. A beautiful message was delivered by PRI President Gordon McNally who is a firm proponent of peace building and youth empowerment.

Other messages were delivered by Grace Van Zyl, the director of Rotary Action Groups for Peace and by Patricia Shafer, Director of NewGen Peace Building who has a long standing working relationship with projects in Lebanon, and DDG Mona Kanaan who shared a moving personal message that inspired her journey in service and peace building.

The president of the chapter, Anhal Kozhaya introduced his board and the mission and vision of the chapter.





# Reaching Out

February 6, 2025

Lebanon  
**Rotary**  
District 2452

**Rotary**  
District 2452

**THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

Rotary Club Beirut Cadmos

In collaboration with Rotary clubs of Aley, Aley West, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Center, Beirut Cosmopolitan, Beirut Liberty, Beirut Pax Potentia, de Beyrouth, Hammana Upper Metn, Kesrouan, Lebanon Int'l, Metn, Metn Gate, Metn Praxis, Sahel Metn, Tripoli, Tripoli Cosmopolis, Tripoli Maarad, Tripoli Mna, Zahle Bekaa, Zahle Capitol, & Zgharta Zawie.

Invites you to join our seminar on

**WHAT'S NEW IN ROTARY & PEACE BUILDING:  
A VISION FOR TOMORROW**

Thursday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:00pm at Royal Tulip Hotel – Ashrafiyeh, Beirut



**DGN MAY MONLA CHMAITILLY**  
RC Tripoli-Maarad – D2452  
RLI Chairperson 2022-25  
Cadre Advisor 2023-26



# Reaching Out

## February in Rotary is the month of Peace Building and Conflict Prevention/ Resolution



Nicole Kassab  
Congratulations on delivering such an insightful and much-needed seminar on peace opportunities in Rotary. It was informative, guiding, and reinforced how Rotary naturally integrates peace into every initiative we undertake. This in itself is a tremendous privilege and a powerful force for positive change.

Looking forward to collaborating and continuing this journey of peace together.

9:48 PM

On Monday Feb 27, Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia held their seminar on peace building with collaborating clubs. President Noor Akoom had her opening remarks and introduced PP Anhal who gave a very interesting and interactive session on Rotary and its many arms of promoting work on peace building.

Anhal spoke about the collaboration of Rotary with the Institute for Economics and Peace, the 8 pillars of peace that are incorporated in every service project or grant, the scholarships that Rotary provides for Peace Fellows in the peace centers in the world where qualified individuals can acquire Masters degrees or certificates to empower their passion for peace building.

The speaker also spoke about the launch of the Lebanese Chapter for Rotary Action Groups for Peace. He announced its mission and vision with the hope that all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon will become peace building clubs.

The below message from Rt. Nicole Kassab is a testimony of how well received is our work on peace building in Lebanon. After all, all the areas of focus in Rotary are a vehicle of promoting peace in communities.

# Donation of Hygiene products in collaboration with Gift of Life Lebanon



## February Events

As an extension to our Christmas activities, members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan visited the School for Blind and Deaf early February to spread more cheer among the children who enjoyed opening packages after Christmas... love and good will are timeless and acts of kindness should be ongoing in our troubled times.



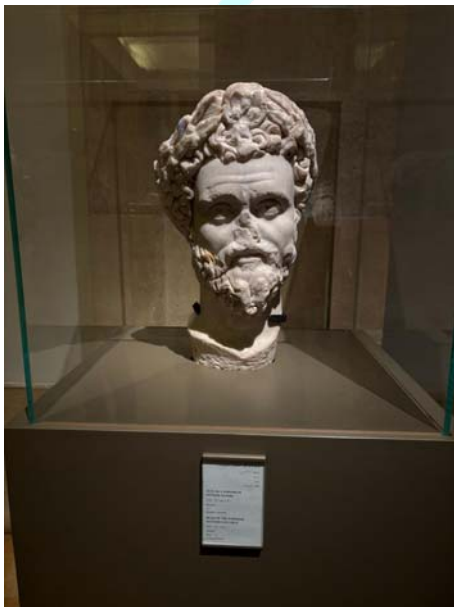
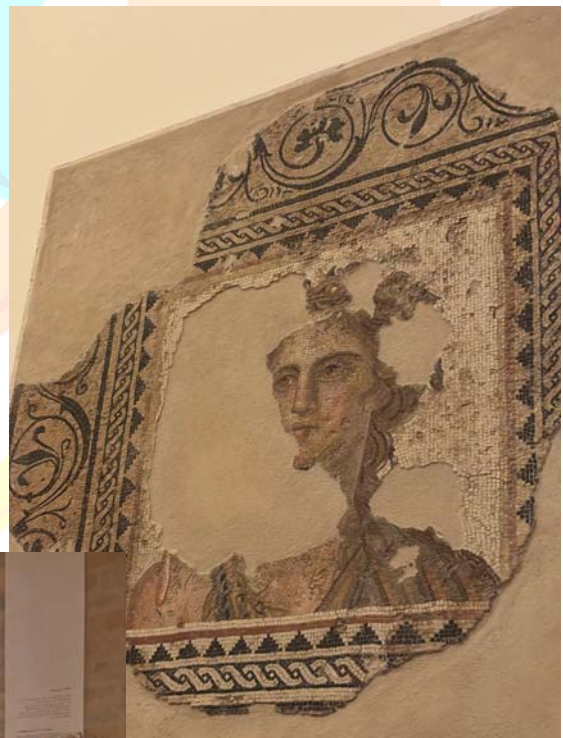
# Fellowship at the Lebanese National Museum

Saturday, February 22, was a day highlighted with culture and fellowship.

Committee Chair Olga Feghali organized a beautiful visit to the National Museum followed by a lunch at the Nuhad Said Pavillion.

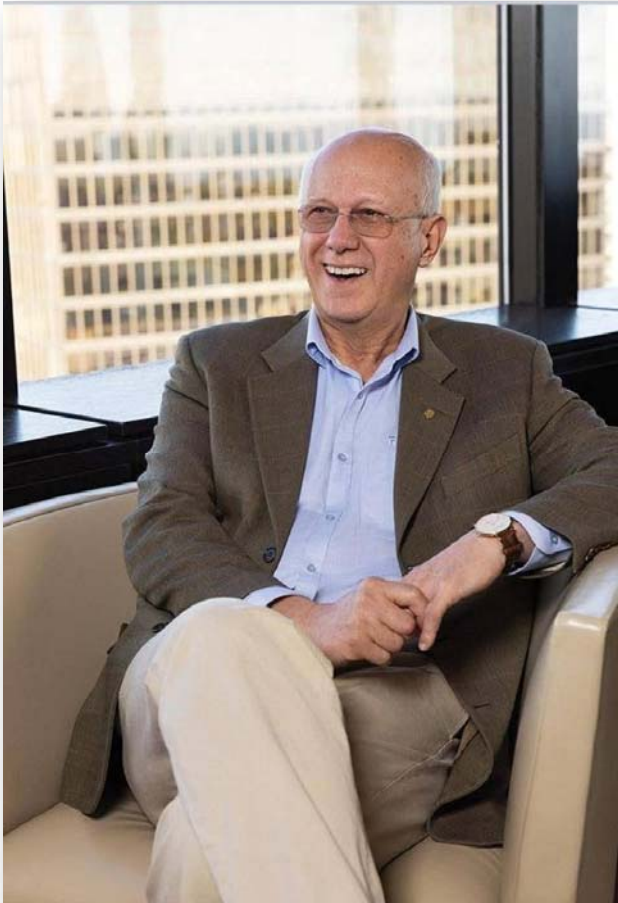
Two fascinating hours were spent, listening to the narration of the expert guide, our senses totally immersed in our history and emerging prouder than ever of our heritage.

The Lebanese National Museum is a jewel in the heart of Beirut.. like our history, the museum went through violent periods when the civil war in the seventies almost wiped away some relics. Thanks to some Lebanese, whose sense of the importance of preserving our history, made sure that the relics were well hidden and protected.





# Message from RI President 2025-2026



Rotary Club of Faisalabad  UNITE FOR GOOD

In a world often divided, Rotary stands as a beacon of unity and hope, Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies, and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a shared purpose: to do good in the world. ... Let's build a Rotary that **unites for good** and ensures a brighter future for all.



**Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo**  
President Elect 2025-26  
Rotary International

The End