



Rotary

Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

Marhaba 2025/2026

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Sicily, Italy

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Assistant District 2452 Governor

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



DISTRICT 2452

Club ID 30893
Chartered 1995

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Officers

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Directors

PP Joe Boulos
PP Mona Jarudi
Rtn Rana Salhab

Marhaba Editor

PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

Marhaba Design Coordinator

Dani Barakat
rcbclb@gmail.com



Letter From The Editor PP Mona Jarudi

February 23 is celebrated annually as World Understanding and Peace Day, marking the founding of Rotary International on February 23, 1905 and emphasizing peace, goodwill and global cooperation.

February is also Rotary's Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month, encouraging clubs worldwide to focus on peace-related service and initiatives.

In Lebanon, clubs have been innovative in their approach to highlight peace building. Our club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, invited Rebecca Crall, RI manager of the area of focus Peace Building and Conflict Prevention, to shed a new light on how Rotary can weave peace building into service projects across all areas of focus. To fulfill this, Rotary International carved a partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a partnership to further understanding of Peace and its meaning. According to sociologist Johan Galtung there is Negative Peace and Positive Peace. The conventional concepts of peace often focus on the negative state, which includes the absence of war or fear of violence, and how ending violence and trauma might end up in peace. Positive Peace, however, is building long-term conditions that enable societies to reconcile, unify and flourish. With this in mind, Rotary encourages using the 8 Pillars of Positive Peace set by IEP which help in understanding peace and they also provide a framework for defining the direction and scope of a service project.

On February 24, an online mega meeting took place with the topic Peace Begins at Home. Past Rotary International Presidents shared their thoughts on the importance of dialogue, active listening and respect for one another. When we look at the world with the lens that we are all equal with equal rights and responsibilities, that we all crave justice and the rule of law, then the world will become a better place!

**We, Rotarians, have a huge task ahead!
Lets all work United for Peace and United for Good!**



**The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan,
in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kesrouan**



Guest Speaker

Mr. William ABELA

**Co-Founder of “Crossing Together”
Founder of NGO “Breathing Together”**

Presentation Topic:

“He Was There. He Chose to Serve. From the trauma of August 4 to lasting service, through Crossing Together, leading to Breathing Together at August 4 Square.

February 3, 2026

In collaboration with Rotary of Club Kesrouan, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Mr. William Abela, co-founder of “Crossing Together, and founder of NGO “Breathing Together”

William Abela is a Lebanese humanitarian whose life took a decisive turn on August 4, 2020, the day of the Beirut Port explosion. Present in Lebanon at the time, he rushed to hospitals overwhelmed with casualties and, with his own hands, stitched the wounds of the injured. Witnessing so much suffering, he realized he could not simply return to France, where he had been living and working. Instead, he made a life-changing decision:

He chose to stay, to turn tragedy into action, and to dedicate himself fully to serving the most vulnerable in Lebanon.

Out of this commitment, he founded the humanitarian association Breathing Together. Guided by the philosophy that “to breathe together is to live together,” the NGO provides mobile medical care to communities abandoned by a collapsing health system. With a fully equipped ambulance and a mobile clinic, Abela and his team—led alongside nurse Melissa Dibeh—travel across the country to deliver urgent care, medication, and dignity to those in desperate need.

His vision does not stop there. Building on the lessons of crisis, he is now working on the creation of a comprehensive emergency and resuscitation service, in collaboration with Beirut hospitals, NGOs, and health institutions, to strengthen Lebanon’s fragile medical response.

In recognition of his extraordinary service, Pope Francis awarded William Abela the title of Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2023—one of the highest papal honors, reserved for those whose courage and generosity embody the spirit of Christian service.

Today, William Abela stands as a living example of resilience and compassion: a man who, faced with despair, chose hope; who, when others fled, decided to stay; and who, by creating Breathing Together, reminds us all that healing begins with solidarity.

Our Services

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We offer a comprehensive range of medical services, including emergency care, medical consultations, patient transfers, ultrasounds, ECGs, blood tests, awareness sessions, and more. As a dedicated NGO, we strive to ensure the delivery of primary healthcare to remote regions, making a difference in the lives of those we serve.



Where to Find Us

Stay connected with us and follow our journey.

[@breathingtogether.lb](#) [Breathing together](#) [Breathingtogetherlb.com](#)

Missions and Impact

Breathingtogether

Since we started, we have conducted numerous missions, benefiting more than 10,000 patients through emergency care, home care services, awareness campaigns and mobile clinic services.



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The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan,
in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kesrouan



Guest Speaker

Rebecca Crall

Manager of RI Area of Focus :
Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

Presentation Topic:
“Pathways to Impact: the future of Peacebuilding in Rotary”

February 10,2026

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention is one of Rotary’s areas of focus and is recognized in the month of February.

In compliance with Rotary monthly themes, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan invited as a guest speaker Rebecca Crall, the Manager of the Area of Focus Peace Building and Conflict Prevention at Rotary International. She also holds the position of Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Peacebuilding. Her decade-plus career has been dedicated to strategically developing and expanding Rotary’s impactful peacebuilding initiatives worldwide.

Ms. Cralls expertise centers on strengthening peace-promoting structures and institutions, and her collaborative approach has resulted in ground breaking partnerships with the Institute for Economics and Peace and the Carter School at George Mason University. Currently, she is focusing on the intersections between technology, polarization, and peacebuilding.

Our speaker first outlined the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that span all the seven areas of focus. SDG 16 that deals with Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions states “We envision a peaceful world with investments in peace education that build the capacity for peace, foster strategic relationships locally and globally, and integrate peacebuilding into our programs and service projects”.

Every year, Rotary evaluates its status and comes up with a Rotary’s Action Plan as indicated on the slide:

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



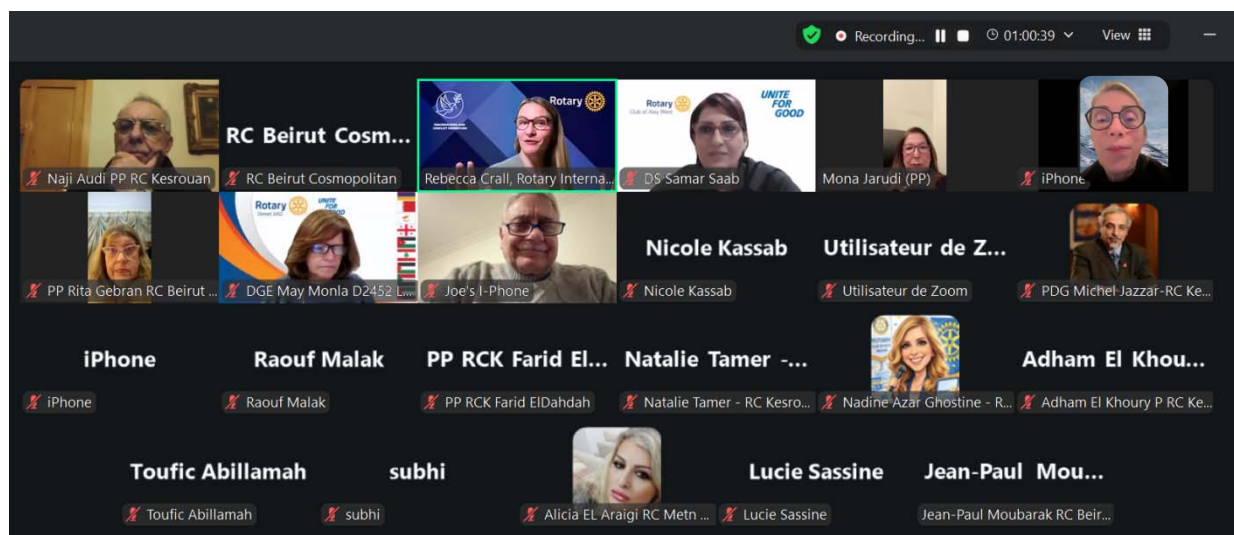
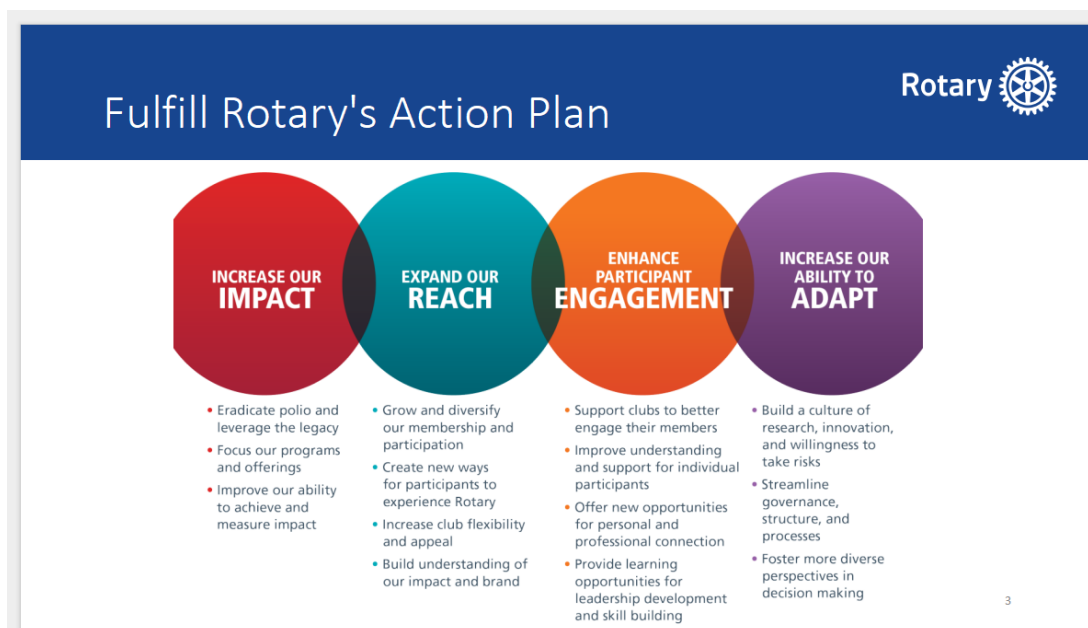
ENVIRONMENT

What are the strategic goals for all Areas of Focus?

- ◆ Increase measurement and reporting
- ◆ Move towards changing attitudes and behavior in addition to delivering equipment and building infrastructure
- ◆ Move towards long term service projects
- ◆ Emphasize connections across the areas of focus
- ◆ Increase service projects opportunities and strategic partnerships in priority programming areas

In this regard, the actions that Rotary members are taking are:

- ◆ Promoting peace education that builds the capacity of peace and development professionals and helps communities address conflict
- ◆ Developing regional networks for peace
- ◆ Integrating peacebuilding into service projects across all areas of focus.



Reaching Out

Monday February 9, 2026 - Rotary Club of Madras Magnum (India) Visit to Our Club



Reaching Out

Saturday February 14, 2026 - RCs of Tyre Europa, Lebanon International, Lebanon Eco, Beirut Cosmopolitan

Tackling the important topic of Social Entrepreneurship, Rotary Club Lebanon Eco presented a session on Saturday Feb.14, in collaboration with Rotary Club Aley and Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan.

What is social entrepreneurship? It is solving social or environmental problems through sustainable business models, revenue generating activities to be financially self-sustaining, with a market driven approach with a long-term change and scalability. This highly interactive session was led by Lebanon Eco, Rana el Hindi, and facilitated by Mr. Tarek Matar tackled Turning Ideas into Sustainable Social Enterprises. The attendees were fully engaged in breakout rooms to discuss the two plans put forward by PP Nader Chehayeb of RC Aley and P Olga Feghali of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan.

As an artist, art teacher and curator, P Olga presented her Art to Heart Project comprehensively. Her mission and vision were clear with the hope of involving Rotary Clubs in Lebanon. The seed of her project will be planted on April 14, 15 and 16 at the Corm Foundation, details of which will be forthcoming in a timely fashion.

The other project presented by PP Nader Chehayeb is the ACC Abey Community Center, a hub for learning, innovation and empowerment in the community. This project is a joint Rotary and Evangelical Church Innovative Center

Rotary Clubs of Lebanon TYRE EUROPA, LEBANON INTERNATIONAL, LEBANON ECO, ALEY BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN

FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT
Rotary Projects Ideation online conference

Join us for an interactive conference that invites Rotarians and Rotaractors to co-create, rethink and strengthen existing projects, transforming them into sustainable, high-impact initiatives and unite around a major common social project.

TAREK MATAR
Entrepreneur, president, Business Growth and Social Entrepreneurship programs expert

NADER CHEHAYEB
RC Aley, Abey community social project

OLGA FEGHALI
RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, From art to heart project

Saturday 14 February 2026, 10-12 am

ONLINE SESSION Zoom id: 861 9160 9560 Password: 627333

Social Impact KPIs (5 Years)

- * 1,500+ direct trainees
- * 100+ emerging artists showcased
- * 20+ inclusive jobs created
- * 40+ itinerant exhibitions nationwide
- * Over 300,000 USD redistributed to artists

Strategic Advantages

- * First inclusive art hub of its kind in Lebanon
- * Strong emotional engagement and measurable outcomes
- * Triple-pillar economic model reducing dependency on donations
- * Full alignment with Rotary values: Education, Innovation, Community Development
- * Scalable and replicable approach, including regional outreach

CONCLUSION

FROM ART TO HEART LEVERAGES ART AS A TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE FOR SOCIAL DIGNITY, CULTURAL REPRESENTATION, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. THIS PROJECT EMBODIES THE PASSION AND VISION OF ITS FOUNDER WHILE OFFERING A SELF-SUSTAINING MODEL FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT IN LEBANON.

Project Structure and Core Components

Comprehensive Community Hub
The project integrates conference rooms, lecture spaces, makerspaces, and digital learning centers for diverse community needs.

Makerspace and Vocational Training
Makerspace provides tools for mechanical, electrical, sewing, prototyping, and 3D printing for hands-on vocational skills.

Sustainable Energy Integration
Solar power installation ensures reliable electricity supply, addressing energy challenges in public institutions.

Digital Learning and E-Learning Platforms
E-learning platforms like Moodle enable students to access courses and skill development beyond school hours.



Reaching Out

Sunday February 15,2026 - Rotary Lebanon Eco in collaboration with City Sightseeing Lebanon



City Sight Seeing Bus tour

A tour around Beirut important sights



National Museum of Beirut

An interactive and fun guided tour

Sunday February 15, 2026

Departure at 10 am Martyr's square

Return at 2 pm

Fundraising for the School Environmental Awareness Project

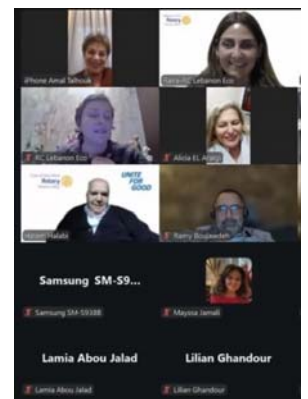


Tuesday February 24,2026 - Clubs of Lebanon Eco, Beirut Pax Potentia, Chouf and Beirut Cosmopolitan

Rotary Club Lebanon Eco, in collaboration with other clubs, invited Professor Mohammad Abyad from the American University of Beirut to deliver his thoughts on the environmental consequences of the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. PP Amal Talhouk, PP Samir El Khoury and CS Jean Paul Mubarak attended the session.

Professor Abyad's talk highlighted that war is not only a humanitarian and political crisis, but also an environmental one. Since October 2023, South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley witnessed severe ecological damage: Farmlands damaged, olive trees burnt, forest fires, livestock lost, a considerable increase in soil phosphorous levels and over 200,000 people displaced. Beyond the visible destruction, the environmental impacts food security, public health, biodiversity are all affected. Consequently, there is an urgent need for monitoring soil and water, safe management of hazardous materials, agricultural recovery and long-term strategies.

Environment and climate change is one of Rotary's areas of focus. As Rotarians, we have our work carved for us to prioritize this area in our work, to preserve our planet for future generations.



Reaching Out

Tuesday February 24, 2026 - THE SUN NEVER SETS IN ROTARY(SNSR) 121 Rotary Anniversary

Welcome to the Magic World of "Sun Never Sets in Rotary"

SNSR 2026

121 ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

24 Hours of Live Streaming

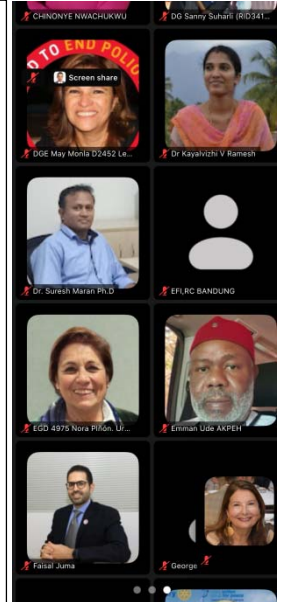
TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 24
SLOT 23 12:00 - 13:00 (GMT)

BAHRAIN 3:00-4:00pm	CYPRUS 2:00-3:00pm	JORDAN 3:00-4:00pm	LEBANON 2:00-3:00pm

On Tuesday February 24, 2026, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan represented by PP Mona Jarudi, participated in the event on line **THE SUN NEVER SETS IN ROTARY(SNSR)**, a global, 24-hour non stop event held annually from February 23 to February celebrating the First Rotary Club and World Understanding and Peace Day.

Throughout these 24 hours, Rotary Clubs from across the globe host one-hour segments, showcasing Rotary's impact, diversity, and shared commitment to service.

This year, 4 countries from our District participated: Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan and Lebanon.



Tuesday February 24, 2026 - Beyond the Club

On the occasion of Rotary's 121st anniversary, an International Online Mega Meeting took place on Feb.24 for the sole purpose of renewing, as Rotarians, our commitment to peace building , beginning in our homes, families, groups and communities, where values are shaped and a sense of belonging is nurtured.

PP Mona Jarudi attended this meeting featuring keynote speakers Past Rotary International Presidents Mike Maloney and Stephanie Urchick and others. In her remarks, PRIP Stephanie emphasized how Rotary in its 121 years has been working on promoting world understanding and peace. Peacebuilding and conflict prevention became one of its areas of focus. The message now is the importance of building peace at home that eventually spills over to the community.

She stressed the importance of dialogue, respect for one another and the role youth can play because they have a keener sense of what's right and wrong. The partnership of Rotary with the Peace Centers is graduating young people who are equipped with the proper tools to bring more peace into our world.

THE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL - MEGA - MEETING

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

PEACE BEGINS AT HOME

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MEGA MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 24 Feb. 2026
TIME: 9:30 PM (AEST)

MIKE MALONEY Past Rotary International President	STEPHANIE URCHICK Past Rotary International President	ADITI MUNMUN SENGUPTA Rotary International Representative	ALLISTER Rotary International Representative



Reaching Out

Thursday, February 26, 2026 - Rotary Clubs of Kesrouan & Beirut Cosmopolitan in collaboration with Mecapharma S.A.L.

Lebanon
Rotary District 2452 Clubs of Kesrouan & Beirut Cosmopolitan

“CONNECTED BY CARE – UNITED FOR RARE”
ON THE OCCASION OF RARE DISEASE DAY,
ROTARY CLUBS OF KESROUAN & BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN,
IN COLLABORATION WITH MECAPHARMA S.A.L.,
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT DEDICATED TO RAISING AWARENESS
AND SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH PATIENTS LIVING WITH RARE DISORDERS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
7:00 PM
ATCL, SALLE POLYVALENTE

The evening will feature insights from five distinguished panelists:

 Dr. Pauline Abu Jouda Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics - Specialized in Pediatric Nephrology, Dialysis, and Kidney Transplantation, Hôtel Dieu de France University Hospital, Beirut - Lebanon	 Dr. Rami Chabré Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics - EPR Board Certified in Pediatric Nephrology, Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, Beirut - Lebanon	 Dr. Micham Mansour Professor of Clinical Pediatrics - Specialized in Inborn Errors of Metabolism, Neurovascular Diseases, Pediatric Neurology, Epileptology and Child Endocrinology, Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, Beirut - Lebanon	 Dr. Zaina Rida Consultant in Pediatric Gastroenterology - Specialized in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Sahlgrenska Hospital, Beirut - Lebanon	 Dr. Tony Zbeidy CEO Mecapharma S.A.L.
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Optional dinner to follow
Kindly RSVP by Friday, February 20
at +961 3 789184 (Angela Abi Aad) OR at +961 81 915158 (Cynthia Aoun)

Five distinguished medical professionals came together at a meeting organized by Rotary Club Kesrouan, to share their expertise, practical insights and compassionate approaches to managing and supporting individuals with rare conditions.

This was a highly informative session where the attendees gained expert medical insights, learned practical strategies for patient care, help people connect with professionals and advocates to be part of a united community supporting rare disorders.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Annual Club Iftar Sittedine Restaurant, Beirut

February 27, 2026



District 2452 Membership Seminar Beithania, Hariisa, Lebanon

February 6, 2026

Under the leadership of DG Peter Ashdjian, D-2452 held the District Membership Seminar in Beithania, Hariisa, Lebanon. The District Learning Chair, PDG Christina Covotsou-Petroclou, and District Membership Chair PDG Bashar Haddad led the round table discussions on all matters relating to membership.

The seminar delved into the importance of Rotary's Action plan, and the state of the district in the plenary session, followed by round table discussions on how to Increase Rotary's impact, Expand our reach and Enhance participants engagement, Increase our ability to adapt and implement change.

This interactive seminar is very valuable as it promotes dialogue among members to keep them active and motivated. The round table discussions are an innovative way of allowing participants to practice ways to make club meetings more enjoyable, and strengthen club members' connections.

Through the hands-on activities, attendees learnt how to support members, and how to foster a more welcoming club where every member feels valued.

DGE May Monla presented her Membership Goals for 2026-2027. Membership is the soul of Rotary, and this seminar highlighted practical ideas to build a more committed Rotary community with greater positive impact in our communities.



DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR – 6 FEBRUARY, 2026



Touching Lives, Transforming Futures

FUNDRAISER EVENT

February 12, 2026

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, an Inclusive Club, held a fundraising event on February 12, 2026 in support of the Lebanese School for Blind and Deaf. Stemming from the belief, that every child has the right to education and self-expression, what better way to accomplish both than by helping the school improve its art facility to help cultivate and nurture artistic expression of the kids with disabilities.

In order to realize this huge undertaking, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan invited all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon to participate in this fundraising, but the dream was too big. Against all odds, Rotarians and friends gathered and enjoyed a Musical Theater that took the audience back in time to Che Guevarra days, with a new production by the Sabbagh Brothers.

This event's success would not have been possible without the support of PDG George Azar, the Rotary Clubs of Aley, Aley West, Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Center, Beirut Liberty, Hammana Upper Metn, Kesrouan, Lebanon Eco, Zgharta Zawie, Rotaract Beirut Cosmopolitan, and Rotaract Kesrouan. Many thanks go to the above-mentioned clubs, and guests whose generosity will spread joy as every child showcases their talent in the best possible environment.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Olga Feghali, an art teacher and curator, will be spearheading the project to equip, purchase needed materials and train teachers in the school of Blind and Deaf. An art exhibition will be held on April 16, 17 and 18, that will include artwork of the children.

One more example of how Rotarians, as People of Action, mobilize and cooperate to serve our community in innovative and much needed ways.



Rotary Connects the World

Wednesday February 24, 2026

On her visit to Athens, Greece, P Olga Feghali visited with the President of the Rotary Club of Athens, Talos Ballas, founded in 1928 making it the oldest Rotary Club in Athens.

This club, D 2475, boasts of 72 members, all working towards the humanitarian mission of the club, focusing on children with serious health challenges and disabilities.

P Olga shared our club's vision and mission and invited President Ballas to visit Lebanon.



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

1 Is it the **TRUTH**?

2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

3 Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIP**?

4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

 www.rcblebanon.org

 @rcbeirutcosmopolitan

 Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan