

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

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



Marhaba

2023-2024
February & March 2024 Issue

District 2452 **Rotary** Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



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Gordon R. McNally
Rotary Club of South Queensferry,
Lothian, Scotland

District 2452 Governor
Bashar Haddad
Rotary Club of Amman Citadel
Amman, Jordan

Assistant District 2452 Governor
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Rotary Club de Beyrouth
Beirut, Lebanon

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IPP **Samir El Khoury**
President Elect **Hayham Kurdi**
Vice President **Subhi Jarudi**
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PP Mona Jarudi
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CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



Letter from the Editor PP Mona Jarudi

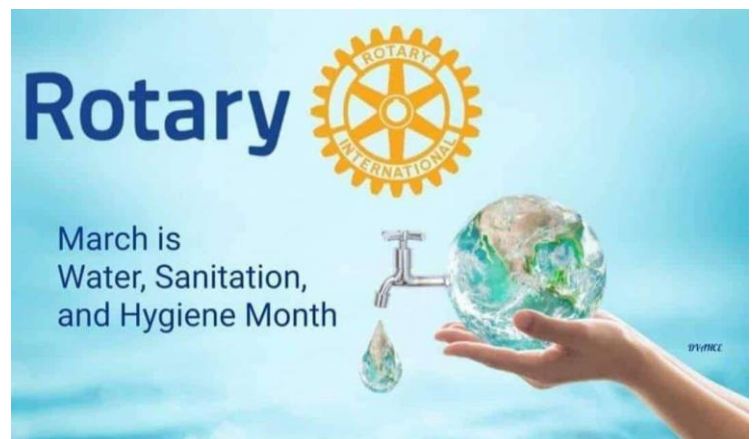
Every month of the Rotary year carries its own theme and message, and every month addresses one of the areas of focus that provides us Rotarians with guidelines as to the course of action we need to take, be it service projects or interactive meetings with prominent guest speakers.

February was Peace Building and Conflict Prevention month. It is also the month when Mental Health and Well Being was at the forefront of our Rotary conversations. RI President Gordon McInally at the onset of this Rotary year called for Rotary to Create Hope in the World by working for peace and mental wellbeing. He acknowledged that the world now, with all its conflicts and post Covid is witnessing an unprecedented need for awareness about the importance of mental health. In line with that call to action, our District 2452 invited President McInally to the first Mental Health conference in our region which took place in Beirut, Lebanon in February. It was a very successful conference that attracted experts in the field of mental health and was attended by Rotarians, doctors, and health workers.

Recognizing the importance of mental health in our communities, our club Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan has launched a Global Grant to support the largest Psychiatric Hospital in Lebanon Deir El Saleeb (Convent of the Cross) that serves thousands of patients irrespective of ethnicity, age, gender, or religion. With Lebanon still weighed down economically, Rotary, and other organizations are the only hope that underprivileged communities have in the absence of effective governing bodies.

As we are navigating the difficult times we are facing, we need to keep our faith in our mission, we need to persevere to achieve our goals no matter how hard the path. As we forge ahead with our service in our communities, we should find solace in belonging to a large global network that will support us when the going gets tough.

I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my greetings and best wishes for A Ramadan Mubarak and a healthy Lent. Happy Easter to those who are celebrating now... may these occasions and the advent of spring bring new beginnings. Together, hand in hand, we can bring hope and peace to our bereaved world!



ROTARY DISTRICT 2452 MWG IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEBANESE HOSPITAL GEITAOU-UMC PRESENT

UNDER THE PATRONAGE & PARTICIPATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT R. GORDON R. MCINALLY
"BUILDING HOPE WITHIN" MENTAL HEALTH IN THE ARAB REGION"

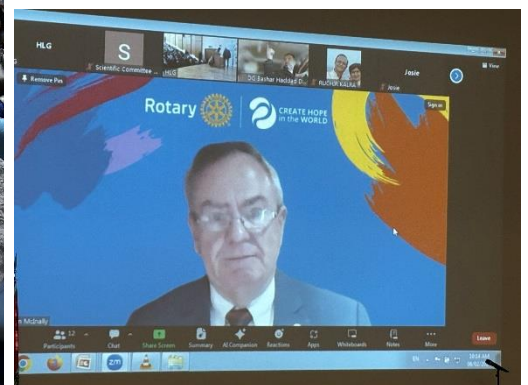
2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE LEBANESE HOSPITAL GEITAOU

February 6, 2024

Months into the making, PDG Michel Jazzar (D2452) extended an invitation to RI President Gordon McInally to visit Lebanon and laid the most comprehensive plan for the four-day visit with a committee overseeing all the logistics.

Mental Health this Rotary year takes front stage in the focus and is a subject close to RIP McInally's heart. Seizing this opportunity, Dr. Rami Sarkis organized a Mental Health day and conference, Building Hope Within Mental Health in the Arab Region with MWG and LHG, in collaboration with the Geitawi Hospital. Sadly, RI President was not able to travel to Lebanon but was gracious enough to give the welcoming remarks and attend most of the conference virtually. It was a very successful conference attended by more than 300 people of the medical community and Rotarians from the majority of clubs.

Many thanks go to the leadership of PDG Michel Jazzar, Dr. Rami Sarkis with his team Dr. Lara Ahmadih and Dr. Samar Saab for their relentless efforts at making this conference the success it was.



Rotary District 2452 MWG
In partnership with
The Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui-UMC
present:

"BUILDING HOPE WITHIN"
MENTAL HEALTH
IN THE ARAB REGION

**2ND ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

TUESDAY 6 FEB 2024



FULL DAY
PANELS &
DISCUSSIONS

Under the Patronage & Participation of
Rotary International President
R. Gordon R. McInally

FOR INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:

-Rotary MWG: Dr. Lara Ahmadih | 71 392 303
-Geitawi Hospital: events@hospitalibnais.com
-Com Media&PR: Tony Abou Naoum | 03 785 588

MAHA ZUWAYHED

ABLE LEADER AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT AUB INNOVATION PARK

"MAKING ACCESSIBILITY THE NORM"

BUSINESS MEETING

The Phoenicia Hotel

February 13, 2024

On February 13, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Ms. Maha Zuwayhed who spoke about an important subject, Making Accessibility the Norm. She was one of the main speakers at the ABLE Summit at the American University of Beirut. Our club as the first inclusive club in D2452 always tries to bring forth all the latest information about how to make our communities more accessible to people with disabilities.

ABLE, Accessibility for a Bolder Learning Experience, is an initiative brought about by the office of Innovation and Development at AUB. ABLE aims at increasing the retention and success rates of students with disabilities and to support their readiness for life after university by developing and deploying accessibility to campus-wide IT resources. ABLE scope covers: Assistive Technologies, learning content, services, resources, policies and inclusive IT support.

Our guest speaker took us through a comprehensive presentation identifying the focus of the initiative, ABLE audience and ABLE Outcomes. The audience are: students with special needs, educators and academics, special education schools, therapists and medical professionals, policy makers, employers who accommodate special needs, disability support organizations, Tech professionals and digital content creators.

The following slide outlines the ABLE outcomes:

Through education and training, the program ensures awareness among the different stakeholders about the importance of accessibility and how to use accessible technology. It also trains the different types of users on disability types and accessibility guidelines. Through this program, students will have accessible digital content, accessible classrooms, accessible testing centers, and trained staff. To make accessibility the norm, there are four principles: it should be Perceivable, Operable, Understandable and Robust.

It is truly remarkable the advances happening in the world of education and technology to enable people with disabilities to assimilate into their communities and be the productive and assertive individuals they could be.

ABLE Outcomes



- Helped connect students with administration to support enrollment
- Led the first Lebanese participation in the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)
- Fostered students' projects through innovation competitions
- Established university guidelines
- Trained key public user groups (IT, Content Creators, Instructional Designer, Educators)
- Started REACH (Research for Education Accessibility Challenges)
- Started collaboration with AUB's Human Resources department in cooperation with the NGO ProAble to implement inclusive
- Partnered with the Office of Communications to elevate communications accessibility and spread awareness starting with accessible design tips and e-mail accessibility
- Established the ABLE Advisory Board (leaders from leading global organizations)
- Established the ABLE students club to support accessibility projects and inclusion activities including peer support
- Launched technical and non-technical training activities for multiple user groups
- Raised fund funds for assistive technology and started granting aids for students in need
- Partnered with peer organizations to acquire funding for national level implementation

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

JUMEIRAH CREEKSIDE HOTEL
Dubai-UAE

February 16,2024

The District D 2452 Membership Seminar was held in Dubai, UAE on February 16,2024 under the patronage of DG Bashar Haddad. Many Rotarians attended this very important conference where ideas were shared on how to keep Rotary growing and vibrant.

Rt. Toufic Abillamah represented Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and reported back with the latest information about rotary membership.

Join The:

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

16 FEBRUARY 2024
JUMEIRAH CREEKSIDE HOTEL
DUBAI UAE

- Fees: 100USD (Dinner included)
- Accommodation: not included
- For registration and inquiries please contact dsyaseen2425@gmail.com

Rotary
District 2452



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

CLUB ASSEMBLY

Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut

February 27, 2024

In the presence of AG Toufic Ariss, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held its fourth club assembly this Rotary year.

President Amal Talhouk presented the club achievements thus far, the work of all the committees and the plan of action till the end of this Rotary year.



ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN In Collaboration With ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT PAX POTENTIA

CHILDREN IFTAR

Burger King, Jal El Dib

March 21, 2024

On March 21, per tradition, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan in collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia hosted an iftar party for 33 kids ages 7 to 14 with their assistants. These less privileged, non-institutional kids were treated to an evening of fun at Burger King in Jal el Dib.

Games, face painting, picture taking were provided by the young Pax Potentia Rotarians. Service Committee chair offered roses to all on the occasion of Mother's day. Upon their departure, every child was given a gift bag with a cupcake to enjoy later.

This heartwarming event was attended by few Rotarians from Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan who equally enjoyed the evening. Nothing beats a smile on a child's face, and nothing is more noble than spreading cheer and good will.



ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN

Annual Ifar

BEBABEL RESTAURANT
Beirut

March 26, 2024

The holy month of Ramadan is all about family gatherings, giving, introspection and service. Our Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan rotary family per tradition had the annual Ifar at BeBabel restaurant, Minet el Hosn, with good food and the utmost fellowship spirit.

Ramadan Kareem to all our Rotary family!

May this holy month bring peace to our bereaved region.



FUNDRAISING EVENT

FOR
"COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE"

LE MONNOT THEATRE
Beirut

February 24, 2024

On February 24, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan members and guests were treated to a very entertaining evening of theater preceded by snacks and drinks in the most welcoming and fun ambiance.

Fundraising chair, Joelle Feghali, and her committee chose a Lebanese play, written and directed by a famous Lebanese author Yehya Jaber featuring the brilliant talent of a Lebanese actress, Nathalie Abu Naoum, who brilliantly dominated the stage in a monologue of the utmost relevance and complexity of emotions.

Many thanks go to the fundraising committee for thinking out of the box to find ways to enable us to continue our work and service for our community. In these hard times, we Rotarians cannot do enough to serve the ever growing list of demands of people and communities disenfranchised by the terrible circumstances.



REACHING OUT

1. On February 22, president Amal Talhouk attended on behalf of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan a business meeting featuring as Dr. Ogarit Youman as a guest speaker.



Rotary Club Kesrouan en collaboration avec les RC Aley, Beïrut Cosmopolitan, Metn, Praxis Metn et Tyre Europa vous invitent à une conférence donnée par:

Dr. Ogarit Younan

Sociologue, Co-Founder (With Walid Slaiby), President of Board of Trustees of "AUNOHR "Academic University for Non Violence & Human Rights"

Non-Violence: Philosophie, Culture et Stratégie D'action
اللاعنف: فلسفة، ثقافة واستراتيجية عمل

Jeudi 22 Février 7:00 pm
ATCL - Salle L'Amiral

RSVP SH Adham El Khoury 03-010037
SE Angela Abi Aad 03-789184
Frais: 5\$/personne



2. On March 27, President Amal Talhouk attended a seminar given by my District Learning Facilitator PDG Jamil Mouawad. The conference was hosted by Rotary Club Beirut cedars.



Rotary's Impact on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

District Learning Facilitator PDG Jamil Mouawad

Wednesday, 27 March 2024 | 18:30 (Beirut Time)
Smallville Hotel, Badaro

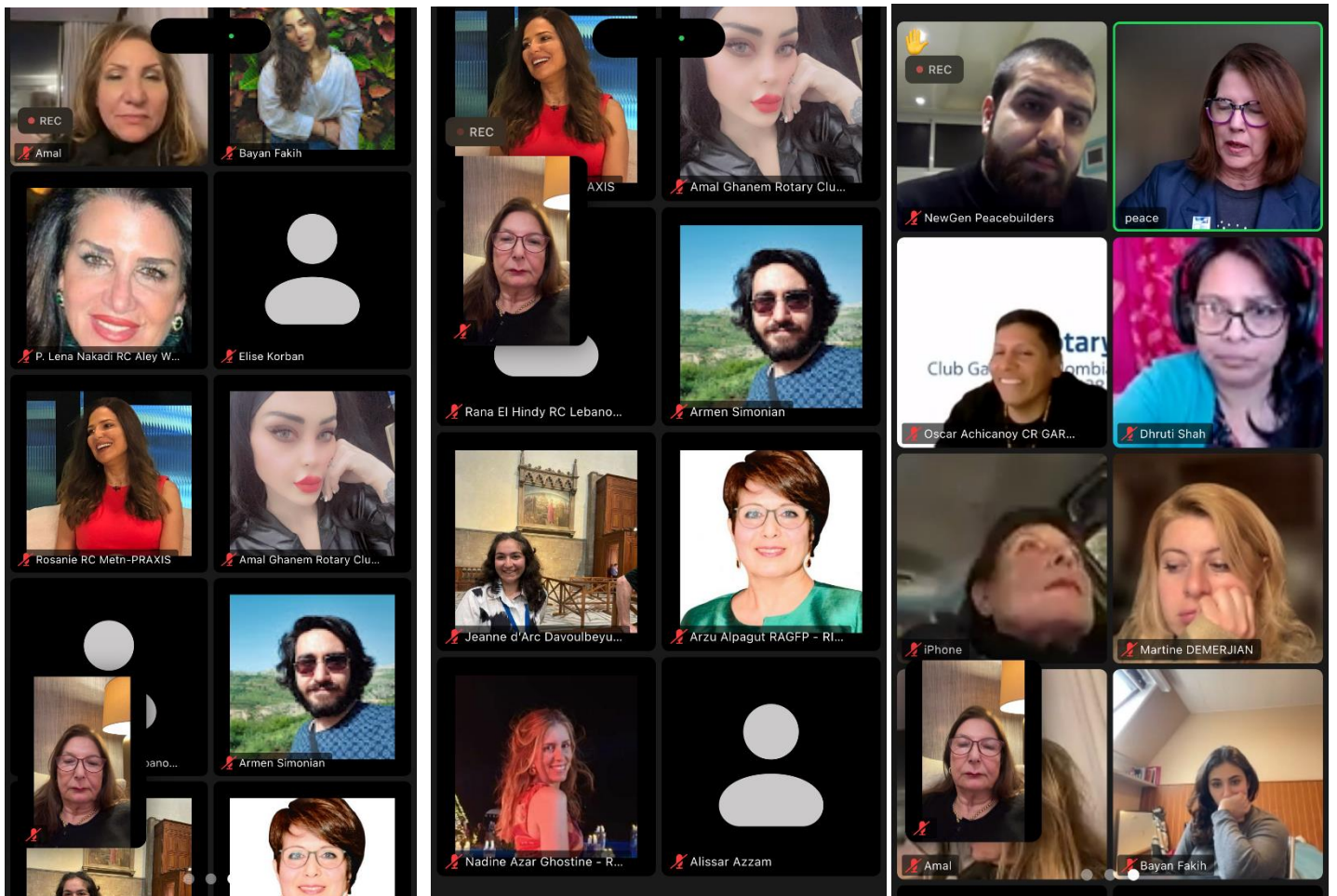
Via Zoom: Meeting ID: 890 238 6541 | Passcode: RCB Cedars

For reservation contact us at rbeirutcedars@gmail.com
No entrance fee to this event

3. Members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan attended a movie fundraiser hosted by Rotary Club Beirut Liberty.



4. President Amal Talhouk and PP Mona Jarudi attended a zoom meeting hosted by Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia on Peace Building in February. The guest speaker was Patricia Shafe, Director of NewGen Peace Building program. This meeting was attended by several rotary clubs in Lebanon and from the District 2452.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



One of the most valuable attributes of Rotary is connecting people around the world.

Our club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, has a long history of developing relations with other clubs at the international level which led in some cases to twinning with other clubs.

PP John Edde established a few years back our close cooperation with Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades in India which led to projects done together. This started during the hard times of Covid when our club sent much needed ventilators to India and they reciprocated over the past three years in sending much needed medications for the Children's Cancer Center as Lebanon was passing through its worst economic crisis.

Most recently, Rotary Club Bangalore sent 100 Kgs of medications to be dispensed by Caritas Lebanon. The organization distributed the mentioned medications to all needy areas in Lebanon.

This mission would not have been possible without the participation and cooperation of Mr. Fuad Bawarshi, Deputy CEO of Gezairi transport (FEDEX), and facilitated by our PP John Edde.

Many thanks go to our twin club Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades for their generosity and continued support for our projects.





March Birthdays

Lina Shair (5)

Rana Salhab (14)

Nora Haddad (29)