



Rotary

Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

Marhaba 2025/2026

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Dr. Francesco Arezzo
Rotary Club of Ragusa,
Sicily, Italy

Rotary District 2452 Officers

District 2452 Governor

Peter Ashdjian
Rotary Club of Larnaca-Kition,
Cyprus

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

President	Olga (Joelle) Feghali
IPP	Haytham Kurdi
President Elect	Olga (Joelle) Feghali
Vice President	John Edde
Secretary	Jean Paul Moubarak
Treasurer	Nada Maalouf

Directors

PP Joe Boulos
PP Mona Jarudi
Rtn Rana Salhab

Marhaba Editor

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Message from the President Olga Feghali



As we step into a New Year, Rotary reminds us more than ever of the strength of its universal message: **Service Above Self — serving with heart, conviction, and unwavering faith in humanity.**

Across the world, Rotarians form a living chain of solidarity, united beyond borders, cultures, and differences. We share one common vision: **to build a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world, where every action, no matter how small, can change a life.**

Rotary embodies essential and timeless values:

- Peace, as a daily commitment.
- Education, as the foundation of enlightened societies.
- Sustainability, to protect our planet and future generations.
- Health, through our historic and ongoing fight to eradicate polio — a powerful symbol of what global unity can achieve.
- And above all, human dignity, at the heart of every project we undertake.

In a world wounded by conflict, crises, and visible and invisible suffering, Rotary remains a beacon of hope, carried by women and men of goodwill who believe that peace begins with listening, respect, and action. This new year, however, opens for me with a light shaped by both trial and hope. Because leadership is also about walking forward with authenticity, embracing vulnerability, and transforming it into inner strength. It is with humility and faith that I share these personal words, expressing both the pain of loss and the certainty that love endures beyond time.

As we step into a New Year, my heart is still carrying the pain of loss. Losing a mother leaves an immeasurable emptiness, yet my faith reminds me that love never dies and that life does not end with death.

As the Gospel tells us:

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (John 11:25)

These words sustain me and give me peace, strengthening my belief in eternal life and in the continuity of life through the Lord.

Jean d'Ormesson once wrote with great wisdom:

"There is something stronger than death: the presence of those who are gone in the memory of the living."

My mother remains present — in our memories, in the values she passed on, and in the love she gave. Her eyes still guide me, even from beyond. She deeply loved Florent Pagny, whose words resonate today with profound meaning: "We are rich by what we give, and poor only by what we refuse." She gave so much. She loved so deeply.

At the beginning of this year, I extend my warmest wishes to all Rotary District leaders, to my friends in Lebanon and abroad, to my family, and to all those dear to my heart.

**May this New Year bring peace and serenity; Peace to a wounded world;
Peace to countries torn by conflict; Peace to broken bodies; Peace to wounded hearts.**

I raise a white rose and a heart lifted to heaven for all those who have left us, especially for my beloved mother, who has entered eternal life. May her soul rest in peace.

With faith and hope, I move forward, convinced that love is stronger than death and that resurrection is a promise.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful New Year

As we begin this new chapter, may Rotary continue to be a place where action meets compassion, where service is guided by conscience, and where unity prevails over division. Together, let us move forward with courage, solidarity, and love, confident that every act of peace is a victory for humanity.

With my warmest Rotary regards,

Olga Feghali

President 2025-2026-2027

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

District 2452

The Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley and Kesrouan



Guest Speaker

Nicolas CHAMMAS

General Secretary - Lebanese Economic Organisations,
Chairman - Beirut Traders Association

Presentation Topic:

**“The main challenges facing the trade sector and the Lebanese economy”
Topic Updated : The Gap Law, an unsavory holiday meal**

January 13, 2026

In collaboration with Rotary Clubs Aley and Kesrouan , Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Mr. Nicholas Chammas as the first speaker in the new year.

Nicolas Chammas is the General Secretary of the Lebanese Economic Organizations and the Chairman of Beirut Traders Association. Lebanon, as we all know, is a complex case of challenges and the quest for solutions is ongoing . In a very frank conversation, the speaker outlined the main challenges facing the Trade sector and the Lebanese Economy and pivoted to a more pertinent, hot subject which is the Gap Law which was presented on December 26 as an unsavory holiday meal. This law, which is still under debate, received 13 out of 24 votes in favor in the cabinet with 9 opposed. These 9 votes represent the majority parties in the Lebanese Parliament.

To date, this law is under study in the Parliament, hoping that the right decision will be made that will be fair for the majority of the people in the country.



The Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley, Kesrouan, and Tyre Europa



Guest Speaker
Michel JAZZAR

TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers (2020-2027)
District Learning Facilitator (2026-2027)
PDG - Rotary Club of Kesrouan

Presentation Topic:
“ From Input to Impact: Peacebuilding through the IOOI Framework”

January 20,2026

On Tuesday January 20,2026, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan invited PDG Michel Jazzar (D-2452) to be our guest speaker. This meeting was in collaboration with Rotary Clubs Aley, Kesrouan and Tyre Europa.

PDG Michel is TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers (2020-2027) and District Learning Facilitator (2026-27). The presentation titled : From Input to Impact: Peacebuilding through the IOOI Framework was a very interesting, interactive session where all the attendees were engaged in dialogue and brainstorming.

PDG Michel used this meeting as a platform to launch the Positive Peace Activators Symposium to be launched in May 2027.

The attached is a glimpse into this meeting . the future of Peacebuilding in Lebanon holds lots of promise. Stay tuned to all future developments and announcements.



The Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Kesrouan and Lebanon Eco



Guest Speaker

Maroun N. CHAMMAS

Lebanon and Technology Entrepreneurship:
Reality, Challenges, and Readiness

Presentation Topic:

“A discussion on the Shark Tank experience, the limited presence of technology startups, the current state of internet infrastructure in Lebanon, and the country’s readiness for a technological leap”

January 27, 2026

Maroun Nicolas Chammas was our prominent speaker on January 27. This meeting was organized by Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, in collaboration with Rotary Clubs Kesrouan and Lebanon Eco.

Mr. Maroun Chammas is a prominent Lebanese entrepreneur, investor and business leader, widely recognized for his contribution to innovation, energy, and entrepreneurship in Lebanon. He holds an Engineering degree and an MBA from Boston University. He is the Chairman and GM of MEDCO holdings, the Chairman and CEO of Berytech, Lebanon's leading innovation hub supporting startups and venture capital initiatives. Most recently, he is known as one of the investors in Shark Tank Lebanon where he mentors and supports emerging entrepreneurs. Mr Chammas has played a pivotal role in modernizing and expanding Lebanon's industrial and technological landscape .In 1995, he acquired a significant stake in Data Management , one of Lebanon's first internet service providers, which evolved through mergers into a leading technology platform. He also helped launch several IT and communications businesses, contributing to the growth of the country's digital ecosystem.

Our speaker captured the audience for almost two hours , in a fireside chat manner, starting with his experience on Shark Tank Lebanon in its first season here, an experience that proved to be very interesting which brought to the forefront the wealth of the lebanese minds and entrepreneurial spirit and what they can accomplish with a push from investors and experienced mentors. Mr. Chammas gave a very interesting behind the scenes of filming Shark Tank Lebanon and how well received the program was, with a promise for a new season.

The speaker went on to talk about energy, its challenges in the country and the role of sustainable energy that will be the future. He then went on to talk about Tech, the internet and all the possible scenarios that exist to maximize the efficiency of this sector.

It was a meeting to remember!





Reaching Out

Wednesday January 21, 2026 - Rotary Club Beirut Cedars - Maxime Chaya



Few members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan attended the inspiring talk of Maxim Chaya, the famous Lebanese who scaled the seven summits.

The Talk, titled There is an Everest for Everyone, was a story of courage and how extreme conditions taught him about purpose, and resilience and change.

Maxim's journey was a proof of mind over body, and a testament that perseverance leads to success no matter the obstacles along the way



Left: Chaya on Everest with supplemental oxygen; back in Beirut on Friday; and on a top of the world flying the Lebanese flag

Peak-hungry climber becomes first Lebanese to bag Everest

Max Chaya described a crystal-clear view from the peak, where a blanket of death covered the horizon, only occasionally pierced by dark, jagged peaks, along with a not-much-to-be-seen snow-capped mountain range that would eventually swallow any climber.

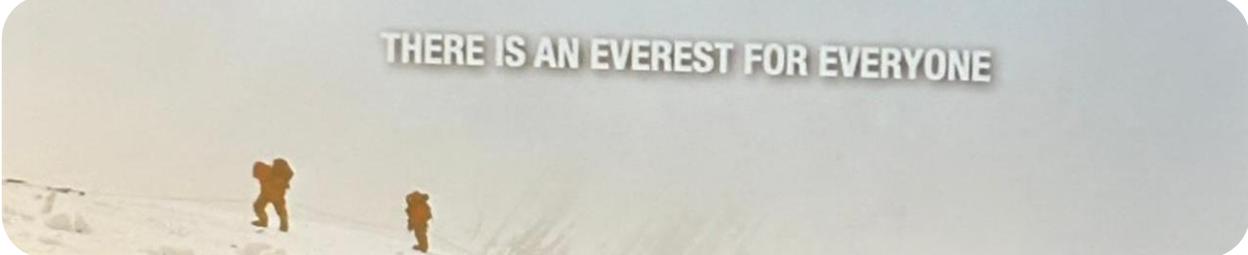
"It was an amazing feeling," he said. "I have always been lucky, as I haven't suffered any frostbite or any other accidents."

Chaya added that one of the most difficult moments came when he climbed through the level 100 meters to all of his fingers and feet were numb, and he was "on the edge of losing all 19 kilograms of my body."

"Everest is blessed with oxygen, and it is dangerous. I was not here for so long and couldn't be there, but after an hour of staying with him, I had to leave him there to die. At night, I was in the middle of a war, and there were no sleep, and I was not eating and drinking anything and everything was so cold."

Chaya added his sincere thanks to his sponsor, Bank Audi, for helping him "reach the summit."

"I don't believe I am normal, but I believe I am a human, and I believe I am a human."



Friday January 23, 2026 - District Awards & Citation Tutorial Invitation

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan P Olga Feghali and Club Secretary Jean paul Mubarak attended the District Tutorial session on Awards. Very informative information was given, and awards applications shared for the following categories: Club Administration, Community Service, DG Citation, Membership Award, Public Image Award, Youth Award and The Rotary Foundation Award.

Reaching Out

Friday January 23,2026

On Friday, January 23, 2026 PP Amal Talhouk met with her excellency Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs. Hanine El Sayyed at the ministry in the presence of President Olga Feghali and PP Haytham Kurdi . The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate accessibility for People with Disabilities in the following departments:

- Media -TV News (Clause Captions). Communicating, if in need, with:
- Public Health (Red Cross)
- Security Services (Fire Fighters & Police Security) as a first step to help them feel congruent in accessibility in these areas as the rest of the country's citizens.

The meeting went on very smoothly, and her excellency was very cooperative and a good listener. She promised to follow up with the above requests and reforms and will stay in touch for the benefit of PwDs.



Sunday January 25,2026 - ICC India Lebanon, Joint Meeting with the Rotary Clubs of Lebanon

One of Rotary International's features is creating Inter Country committees to promote Peace and International Understanding while improving Awareness, Engaging Diversities and bridging communities.

In January 2022, Lebanon chartered the ICC India Committee and has been very active since. Our club Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan had great relations with Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades, initiated by PP John Edde and PP Sona Kourtian which led to the Twinning agreement between the two clubs. The ICC Lebanon -India meeting planned the road map for future plans.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmoplitan was represented by P Olga Feghali.





DG D3911 Anup Mittal
DG D3 142 Mayuresh Warke
DG D3086 Santosh Pradhan



**Inter-Country Committee
India - Lebanon
Charter**
Jan 31, 2022

*To Promote Peace and International Understanding
while Improving Awareness,
Engaging Diversities and Bridging Communities*

Rajnish Mittal
Rtn. Rajnish Mittal
ICC President India

May Monia
Rtn. May Monia Chmaytelly
ICC President Lebanon

Deepak Talwar
Rtn. Deepak Talwar
ICC National Coordinator
India

Cyril Noirin
Cyril Noirin
Rotary Inter-Country Committee Executive Council

Randa Zaid
Rtn. Randa Zaid
ICC National Coordinator
Lebanon



DG D2452 Ashot Karapetian

Reaching Out

Thursday, January 29, 2026 - Rotary Club of Kesroun and Beirut Cosmopolitan



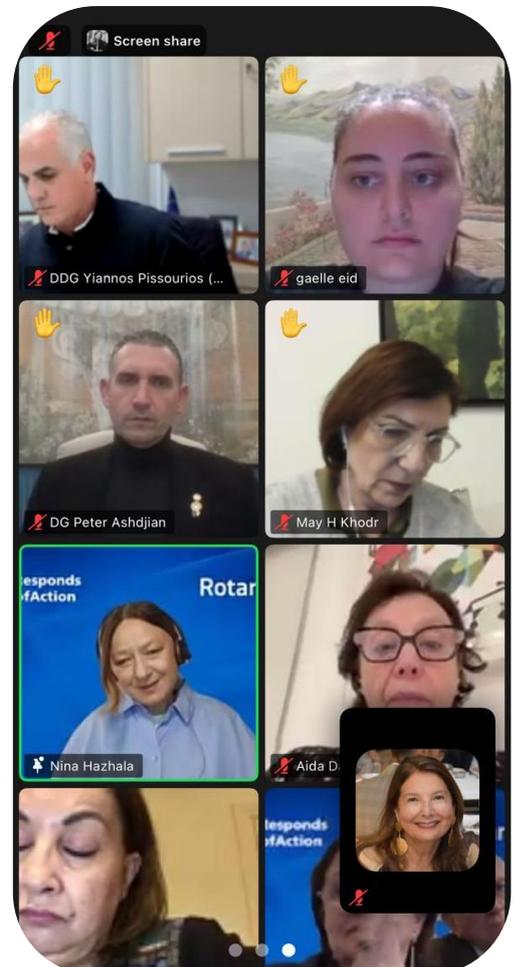
Friday, January 30, 2026 - Public Image District Meeting

On Friday January 30, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan attended the District Public Image Seminar and was represented by P Olga and Public Image Chair PP Mona Jarudi.

The seminar was organized by DG Peter Ashdgian hosting guest speaker Sr. EPIC Officer Nina Hazhala. Attended by 110 Rotarians from D 2452, the session detailed the Do's and Dont's of Public Image, covering Branding , Messaging and Social Media. In a District as diverse as D2452, proper branding ensures that Rotary is well recognized in every country. When the image is unified then our Impact as Rotarians will be more recognized. A unified brand also increases trust, greater effectiveness in membership attraction and creates a unified voice across all nine counties. In an overcrowded digital world, a unified brand will give Rotary a clearer identity.

Rotary's Impact and visibility relies on a strong Public Image. It is not about publicity only, but it is about purpose, consistency and pride in our Rotary Brand.

It was a rich session highlighted by the latest guidelines from Rotary International to enhance Rotary Public Image and apply it to our clubs.



“Rotary in Action: A Month of Fellowship and Service”

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Our end of year celebrations and festivities culminated in a lovely evening on January 7, 2026 to uphold the tradition of celebrating the Orthodox Christmas and the lucky winners of the new year as several Gallettes de Roi were shared.

The evening was a true expression of fellowship and good times.



Saturday, January 10, 2026 Christmas celebration for the children of BASSAM

Per tradition and as an ongoing service project, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held a beautiful Christmas event for less privileged children from the Basma organization. The children were treated to a cable car ride on the famous Jounieh Telepherique, courtesy of the Boulos family whose generosity spans years, making sure that the kids enjoy a great day.

The festive entertainment was provided by Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club. The children enjoyed the ride, a delicious meal, fun and games and a very generous Santa. Nothing rivals a smile on a child's face and the feeling that there is still hope for a better world.



Saturday January 24, 2026

A glimpse into a beautiful moment of sharing: our visit to the Blind & Deaf School, bringing Christmas joy through a \$1,000 cash donation, 20 Original Marines outfits for boys and girls, and a box full of sweet treats to brighten the children's hearts. We were also joined by Hana Abi Tarabay, President of Rotary Eco Club, who presented inspiring eco-projects for the same school, including recycling and composting initiatives, the possible creation of a small chicken coop to provide eggs for the children while supporting composting, and ideas to introduce children to sustainable practices. She also proposed contributing to the development of safe playground areas using recycled materials. Studies are currently underway — more to come





<p>Water Filtration Project At Public Schools in Lebanon Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary Club of Baabda Rotary Club of Tripoli Maarad Rotary Water & Sanitation Committee District 2452 – Lebanon Rotary Club of Belleville Rotary Club of Picton Rotary Club of Bluefield Rotary Club of South San Francisco Districts: 7070, 7570, & 5150</p>	<p>مشروع ترقية مياه الشفة في المدارس الرسمية في لبنان نادي روتاري بيروت كوسمبوليتان نادي روتاري بعيدا نادي روتاري طرابلس المعرض اللجنة الروتارية للمياه و الصحة المنطقة ٢٤٥٢ – لبنان نادي روتاري بيلفيل و بيكتون - كندا نادي روتاري بلوفيلد و نادي روتاري جنوبي سان فرانسيسكو المناطق: ٧٠٧٠، ٧٥٧٠، ٥١٥٠</p>
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This project was made possible in part by a grant from
 THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY – June 2016.

**EQUIPMENT DONATED TO
 THE LEBANESE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE DEAF**

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan (Host Sponsor),
 Rotary Club of Beirut Center (Lebanon)

Rotary Club of South Bunbury (Australia),
 Rotary Clubs of Reno, NV, V/aikiki, Hawaii, Bellville, ONT,
 Mounzer Foundation
 RI Districts 2452, 9465, 5150, 6560, 5190, 5000

This project was made possible in part by a grant from
 THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary June 2018

Rotary Connects the World



Rotary Connects the World was a motto adopted several years back by RI President which still holds true. When Rotarians travel, they always find a club or a family to welcome and host them.

This month, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted visiting Rotarian Keith David Watenpaugh from the Rotary Club of Davis Sunrise , California, of which Keith has been a member since 2007.

Keith is a Professor of Human Rights Studies at University of California, Davis where he founded and directed for 10 years, the UC Davis Human Rights Studies Program. Currently, he is on a sabbatical and a faculty affiliate of AUB's Department of History and Archaeology. Keith is deeply connected to Lebanon, his father attended the American community School in Beirut in the 1950's and Keith is married to a Lebanese who is also a professor of AArt and Architecture at UC Davis..

Keith was warmly welcomed by all.



Rotary Corner

Guidelines to Introduce Rotary to a Prospective New Member

1. Start with the Core Purpose

“Rotary is a global network of leaders and professionals who come together to create positive, lasting change, locally and internationally.”

2. Rotary’s Core Values

“Rotary is built on strong values that guide everything we do:

- Service:
 - ◆ Placing community needs above personal interests.
- Fellowship:
 - ◆ Building meaningful human and professional relationships.
 - ◆ Integrity: operating with honesty and strong ethics.
 - ◆ Diversity: welcoming people of all backgrounds and professions.
- Leadership:
 - ◆ Developing strong, ethical leaders who serve.”

3. The Four-Way Test

“One unique aspect of Rotary is our ethical compass, the Four-Way Test. Before we say or do anything, we ask:

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?

These principles guide Rotarians in their personal, professional, and community life.”

4. Rotary’s Global Impact

“Globally, Rotary has over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries. We played a leading role in the fight to eradicate polio and continue to support education, peace initiatives, clean water projects, and youth development.”

5. Local Achievements in Lebanon (District 2452)

“In Lebanon, Rotary has delivered some of the most impactful and wide-reaching community projects, including:

- Planting more than 250,000 trees all over Lebanon, contributing to environmental restoration and climate resilience.
- Creating 10 Cedar forests, each with 1,000 Cedar trees, preserving our national symbol for future generations.
- Installing around 900 water filtration systems in public schools, ensuring thousands of students have access to clean, safe drinking water.
- Ongoing initiatives in education, medical assistance, solar energy for public institutions, and humanitarian support.”

* Also mention your club major projects.

6. Benefits to the New Member

“Joining Rotary allows you to become part of a respected global network expand your professional and personal relationships, grow as a leader, and contribute to real, measurable impact in your community.”

7. Clear and Modern Commitment

“Rotary today is flexible. Your involvement can be through meetings, service activities, expertise, mentoring, or project leadership. It’s not about time pressure it’s about meaningful contribution.”

8. A Personal Invitation

End the introduction by an invitation to attend a club meeting, if he got the Rotarian qualifications.

“I believe your values and your commitment to community development align perfectly with Rotary.

I would be honored to invite you to attend one of our meetings or participate in a service project to experience Rotary’s spirit and impact firsthand.”