

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

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



Marhaba

2023-2024
July 2023 Issue

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Rotary Club of South Queensferry,
Lothian, Scotland

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Rotary Club of Amman Citadel
Amman, Jordan

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Rotary Club de Beyrouth
Beirut, Lebanon

RCBC Officers 2023 - 2024
President **Amal Talhouk**
IPP **Samir El Khoury**
President Elect **Hayham Kurdi**
Vice President **Subhi Jarudi**
Secretary **Christine Arzoumanian**
Treasurer **Haytham Kurdi**
Directors
Joseph Boulos
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CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



Letter from the Editor

PP Mona Jarudi

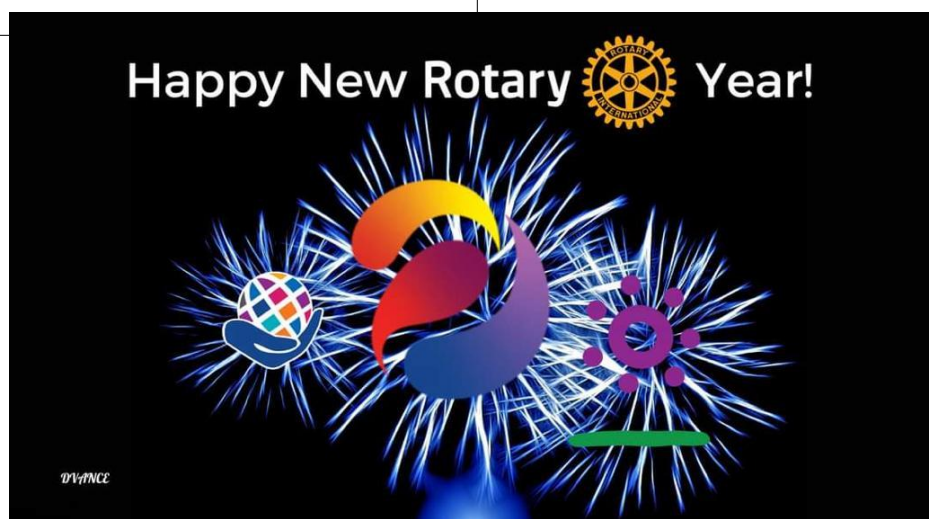
July is the month of changing of the guards in Rotary! From the top of the pyramid all the way down to clubs and committees, we witness the making of new teams and fresh outlooks while guarding the wisdom of the past. New themes are concocted, new vision and new hope! From IRIP Jennifer Jones who inspired us all to Imagine Rotary and imagine we did! To RI President R.Gordon R. McNally with his theme CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD! These are two themes that coincide in vision, while one imagines doing good in the world, one creates hope in the world!

RI President McNally chose this theme because his goal is “to restore hope to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and to help achieve lasting change”.

This year, he is also prioritizing projects to support mental health, open discussions about emotional and mental wellbeing, and highlight the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment. In his words “Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World”.

At our club level, our new President Amal Talhouk and the members are all in line with Rotary’s vision about inclusion and about the importance of mental health and the importance of Peace Building. In fact, just recently Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan was launched as the first club in the D 2452 to be an inclusive club for People with Disabilities. And, on July 21, a Peace Building Impact Club was chartered, the first of its kind in the world, an initiative that was born in Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan. Our club is a firm proponent of DEI and a staunch believer in the power of peace building as a tool to build better individuals and communities!

Best wishes to the new guards as they receive the helm of leadership for a very successful new rotary Year. Together, united, we can truly Create Hope in the World!



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan: In The News

A Star is Born



From a successful Global Grant, NewGen Peace Building, initiated in 2019 by Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan together with local and international partners, to the charter of a new Rotary Club, Beirut Pax Potentia (Peace Builders Impact Club) in June 2023, was a journey traveled with resilience and determination Against All Odds.

In the midst of Covid and the worst financial and infrastructural crises that Lebanon was going through, 280 students from the top 10 universities in Lebanon applied to join the NewGen Peace Building Program. A Lebanon specific brochure was made to advertise the program, and after a careful selection process, 100 students were chosen to enroll in the program. Patricia Shafer, the Director of NewGen Peace Building, flew to Lebanon and conducted the training to this group who against internet challenges, gas shortages, financial difficulties found their way into perfect attendance. Workshops were designed, projects executed in teams, train the trainer sessions were given and twenty-five certified Peace Builders were born. The process spanned over three months and culminated in YOUNited celebration in January 2021.

After the Covid cloud was lifted, and at the beginning of RY 2022-23, PP Mona Jarudi of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, who co-chaired the Global Grant with PP George Beyrouiti, reignited her passion for peace building in Lebanon, and started on another journey to charter a peace building club capitalizing on the talent and brilliant young people who completed the program successfully.

Together with Patricia Shafer as an advisor, and working with the Impact Clubs of Rotary International headed by PDG Chris Jones and PP Patrick Longano, with the support of DG George Azar D 2452, the 35th club in Lebanon was born, the first of its kind in Lebanon, D 2452 and the world: Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia, NewGen Peace Builders Impact Club. Twenty-two charter members, majority are NewGen alumni with few Rotaractors and students majoring in Peace Studies. This club was proudly announced in RI conference in Melbourne with special recognition in May 2023.

In his congratulatory remarks, PDG Chris Jones said "This is outstanding and so good to see another pathway into Rotary membership. This club is the FIRST of its kind and will always be the very first in this new genre of clubs. It is like the very first Rotary Club ever. You are now and forever will be, the first Rotary Impact Club started by NewGen Peace Builders alumni. This is a monumental moment."

The club members, with their Charter President Anhal Kozhaya, were pinned in a beautiful ceremony given by PDG George Azar in the Officer's Club on July 21, 2023.

Wishing this, one of a kind club, continued success!



Michel Jazzar

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I welcome the new star in the Rotary world, the "Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia." This New Generation club, mentored by PP [Mona Jarudi](#), District Governor representative, is the first of its kind worldwide and was announced during the Rotary International Convention in Melbourn, May 2023. Congratulations. Please stay tuned.



District 2452
Rotary
Beirut Pax Potentia





HANDOVER CEREMONY

Between
President Samir El Khoury
&
Incoming President Amal Talhouk
Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut
July 25 2023



On July 25, in a very elegant setting Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan had its changing of the guards. P Samir El Khoury handed over the presidential reins to Incoming P Amal Talhouk with all honors associated. This event was attended by IPDG George Azar, DDG Shawkat Houwalla, AG Toufic Ariss, President Rita Meouchy from Rotary Club De Beyrouth and President Ramzi Abu Samah from Rotary Club Cedars, plus club members and friends.

Outgoing President Samir thanked his board and club members for their support and team work throughout the year. He highlighted the accomplishments of his year, most importantly is Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan becoming an inclusive club for people with disabilities. He also gave a shout out to the newly formed Peace Building club, both of these initiatives came out from Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan as a club known for its innovative and forward thinking.

Incoming President Amal, in her acceptance remarks, emphasized the importance of membership as the most important corner stone of a club and how cooperation and team work makes the Rotary wheel well-oiled and functional. She went on to say that in order to succeed, the human being should be our top priority: educating, instilling values, respecting one another irrespective of color, gender, religion, ethnicity or disability. Her sentiments mirrored those of outgoing P Samir by sharing her pride in the major accomplishments of our club Beirut Cosmopolitan.

The lighter and entertaining part of the evening was the brainchild of PP Joe Boulos who never runs out of funny ideas to kick out a sitting President in style and with utmost humor.

**Thank you PP Samir for a great year and best of luck to P Amal on an even better year.
TOGETHER, WE CAN!**







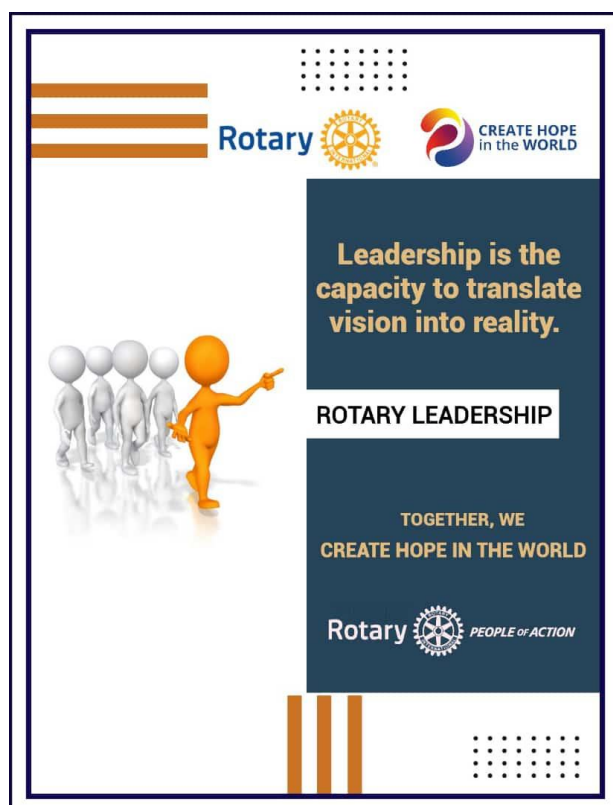
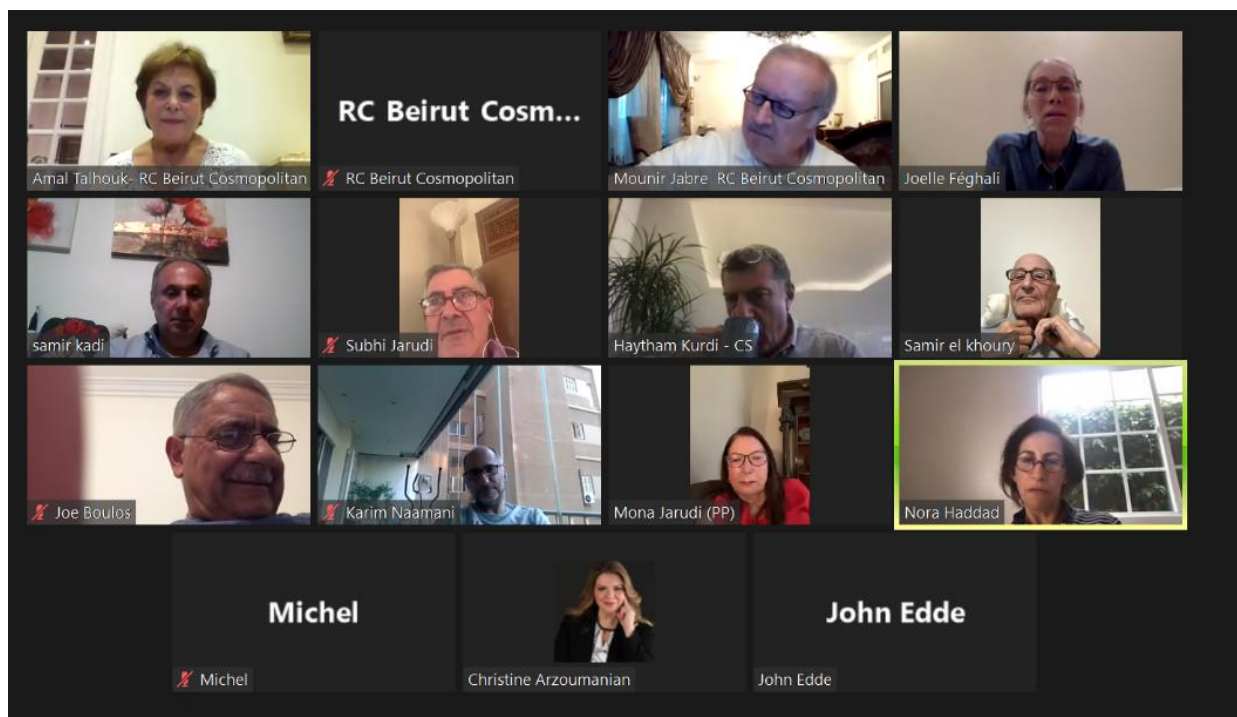
CLUB ASSEMBLY

Zoom Meeting

July 11 2023

Per tradition, every July is the month when the President introduces the board, the different club committees and their teams, and most importantly the road map for the year. The theme that P Amal Talhouk chose is education, and all committees presented their aspirations for RY 23-24.

Wishing everyone a very productive year crowned with great accomplishments and best fellowship spirit!



MANY HAPPY RETURNS

July Birthdays

Joelle (Olga) Feghali
July 29

The End