

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

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



Marhaba

2023-2024
May 2024 Issue

District 2452 **Rotary** Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



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CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



Letter from the Editor

PP Mona Jarudi

Dear fellow Rotarians

As this Rotary year draws to a close, I would like to thank you all for sharing the journey of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan. It was a productive year full of service, accomplishments and fellowship.

Please allow me to share the below article that just appeared in Rotary International magazine. Having chartered the first Rotary Peace Building Club in the world, Rotary Club Beirut Pax Potentia (power of peace), the board of the club and myself were interviewed to learn more about us. This model of the club will be exported worldwide, a great honor and exciting venture.

Proud to be a Rotarian and a member of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan!

THE INNOVATOR ▶ TARTAN'S CHECKERED PAST ▶ A FELLOWSHIP FIELD GUIDE ▶ LAST BITE

OUR CLUBS

VIRTUAL VISIT

Peace generation

Rotary Club of Beirut
Pax Potentia, Lebanon

Like many young professionals in Lebanon, Anhal Kozhaya was ready to take his place among the latest generation to flee the country's troubles — not war this time but an economic crisis that has driven widespread poverty, social unrest, and a collapse of public services. Then, he had second thoughts.

"Rotary is, honestly speaking, what kept me here in Lebanon," says the 22-year-old, who works as an administrative officer at the British Embassy in Beirut. "Rotary is what kept me motivated and inspired and always wanting more for my country. If that wasn't the case, I would have left this country a long time ago and wouldn't have thought twice about coming back."

Kozhaya is president of the Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia, or "the power of peace" in Latin. The year-old club, which focuses on peacebuilding, has its origins in a project funded by a Rotary Foundation global grant. Another notable attribute: Its 17 members have an average age of 23, a young demographic that's leaving Lebanon in high numbers.

Lebanon, once known as the Switzerland of the Middle East for its status as a regional banking center, has experienced waves of emigration over the past half-century. Those migrations started with the 1975-90 civil war and have accelerated during an economic crisis beginning in 2019 that has fueled triple-digit inflation, shut down the banking sector, and pushed millions into poverty.

Rotary clubs in Lebanon have stepped in to provide critical services, and the new club is furthering those efforts through a peacebuilding framework. Its young members are steeped in the principles of Positive Peace, an approach that seeks to foster the institutions, attitudes, and conditions that can allow peace to flourish.

The club's first public event was an international conference on youths as agents of peace that helped generate ideas for projects. The club, chartered in June 2023, typically meets weekly either online or in a coworking space in Beirut. Its members are so committed that even those who've had to move overseas to Italy, Malta, and Belgium to study continue to log on when they can.

In the background of the economic crisis, Lebanon also remains deeply divided along sectarian lines more than three decades after its devastating civil war. Today, 18 recognized religious sects compete for power in a fractious political system, with near-constant interference by neighboring countries.

Lebanon's challenges need to be examined in relation to Positive Peace, Kozhaya says. "You cannot talk about

the environment without addressing peace," he explains. "You cannot talk about women's rights, tolerance, human rights, and community economic development without bringing in a peacebuilding perspective."

For one project, club members have visited the Maryam and Martha Community, an organization helping women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. They raised funds for the organization and collected donations, including food, basic hygiene products, and clothing.

In February, they hosted a workshop on the relationship between peacebuilding and theater. Among its other aims, the club is planning another peace conference, a fashion show with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity, and a scholarship fund focused on peacebuilding. Members also want to mentor high school students.

Mentorship from older Rotarians is what brought the club into being. Mona Jarudi, a member of Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, and fellow Rotarian George Beyrouti applied for a global grant that delivered peacebuilding training to young people within their Rotary district in 2021. They worked with NewGen Peacebuilders, an education and training skills program led by Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer.

"Lebanon is a multisectorial, highly politicized country, and the youth need a way to express their opinions that are different than those of their parents or different than their surroundings," Jarudi says. "The students themselves chose the topics they wanted to work on. And de-



Members of the Rotary Club of Beirut Pax Potentia, including (from left) Elissa Tabet, Jeanne d'Arc Davoulbeuyukian, Noor Akoum, and Anhal Kozhaya, are steeped in the principles of Positive Peace.

spite everything, including internet problems, electricity problems, fuel shortages, you name it, those students never missed a beat."

Jarudi encouraged some of those NewGen alumni, including Kozhaya, to create a Rotary club. As interest grew, the students and young professionals would spend time on the weekends at Jarudi's apartment overlooking Beirut to prepare their club for its charter.

Bayan Fakih, 21, another of those founding members, is studying for her master's in international politics in Belgium but makes sure to join the club's online events. She is surprised by how much the club has opened up her perspectives related to peace and what can be achieved at the community level. "We're not policy-makers. We're trying to promote the idea of peace from a tangible perspective to people around us, to our communities, and even to the world," she says.

For member Elise Korban, 31, the club is a place where she can mix her artistic

interests with her peacebuilding passions. She works at a human rights nonprofit organization and has a background in visual arts, architecture, and social science.

Korban, who has had difficult discussions with her father about his experiences in the civil war, believes it's important for artists to help foster a collective memory about Lebanon's history. "Our history books stop after World War II," she says. "The civil war is not in the books because there are different points of view. So as artists we are responsible to give a collective memory to these events."

A shared vision of the future is important too. "I believe Rotarians are the torchbearers and they bring light to communities where they are present," Kozhaya says. "Beirut has been the subject of much violence and yet it is a phoenix that has risen from the ashes so many times. Our work with Rotary offers a message to everyone in Lebanon that we have a duty to work within a framework of peace." — DHRUTI SHAH

MAKE YOUR CLUB A PEACEBUILDING POWERHOUSE

Want to explore ways your club can get involved in peacebuilding? The Rotary Action Group for Peace offers Rotary members ideas, resources, and support to advance peace. Here is a sample:

- Plant a peace pole and hold a dedication ceremony to engage your members and community on peacebuilding and Positive Peace.
- Take the Rotary Positive Peace Academy free online course.
- Search the action group's curated list of peace programs that Rotary members can use in their communities for everyone from pre-K students to adults.
- Join the Peacebuilder Club program by committing to engage in dialogues and projects that promote Positive Peace.
- Support the work of Rotary Peace Fellowship alumni in your area.
- Volunteer with Rotary Youth Exchange and inspire young leaders to serve as catalysts for peace and social justice.

To learn more and get involved, visit rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org.

DR. KAMAL KALLAB

PROF OF NEUROLOGY
PAST DEAN OF USEK MEDICAL SCHOOL
MEMBER OF LEBANESE NATIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE (CCNLE)
“PREDICTIVE MEDICINE AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES”

BUSINESS MEETING

The Phoenicia Hotel

May 14, 2024

The past decade has witnessed a fast pace in technology and research, and a race in an effort to find cures that will address communicable diseases and other conditions. There has been reported success in some areas and in other more complicated disease situations the road is long to find better options of treatments and cures.

Recently, people have been resorting to DNA testing to find out if they are susceptible to contract any disease that is genetically linked. There are many questions and concerns and approaches regarding this, the few answers to which were provided by our guest speaker, Dr. Kamal Kallab, eminent Neurologist, Lecturer, clinical investigator for new drugs and serves on the Lebanese National Ethics Committee.

Dr. Kallab started his presentation by comparing the old traditional medicines that deal with relief and compassion versus the modern medicine that treat with drugs, prevent by vaccines and screening and PREDICT pre-symptomatic diagnosis. To help his audience understand how difficult is predictive medicine, our speaker shared with us his own personal experience in France in 1988 when he was studying medicine about cases of Huntington disease. This disease was described in 1872, gene discovered in 1993. Its clinical onset is at middle age. Four members of one family carried the gene but each had a different reaction to whether they want to know if they will get the disease: a young man said he will still would live his life and start a family with the hope that at middle age a cure is found; the priest did not want to know, the lawyer argued that knowing will not impact his life positively especially that there was no cure and the pregnant daughter was clear of the disease. There is no doubt that with genetic diseases, prenatal and newborn screening proves useful. However, when we want to look at ethical considerations when dealing with predictive medicine, we need to look at the benefits and disadvantages. The following two slides are clear on these two considerations:

Benefits

- In case of available treatment, and reliable test: EVIDENT
 - Stop the diffusion: Thalassemia, HIV
 - Early treatment: Hemochromatosis, phenylketonuria, Monogenic hypercholesterolemia
 - Early prevention: Colorectal cancer gene, Breast cancer
 - Personalized medicine
- In the absence of treatment and/or not yet reliable test; DOUBTFUL
 - Genetic counseling for the family
 - Intensive follow up
 - BUT; very difficult ethical issues

disadvantages

- Medical issues:
 - Tests reliability: Alzheimer disease, polygenic diseases, multifactorial (genetic and environmental)
 - Bad gene can be useful
- Non medical issues:
 - Personal: psychological, Genetic intimacy: Biological Identity
 - Familial: rejection, guilt
 - Professional
 - Future plan
 - Discrimination:
 - Insurances: selection and reverse selection
 - Legal;

DR. Kallab went on to elaborate on the complexity of issues as doctors are trying to deal with predictive medicine. They need to tread carefully on what advice they can give, how to explain to the patients that genetic testing is growing much faster than development of new treatments, that genetic testing is costly and not very reliable in some cases. And when we undergo genetic testing, do we live our lives in fear? Or we ignore and move on with the hope that cures will be available in the future? How do doctors feel about the Hippocratic oath and should it be reviewed? Should the oath be amended to the following:

“...I WILL PRESCRIBE TO MY PATIENTS THE TREATMENT THAT SUITS THEM, WITH AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND JUDGEMENT AS I CAN AND I WILL ABSTAIN FROM ANY HARMFUL OR USELESS INTERVENTION WITH REGARD TO THEM...EVERYTHING THAT I SEE OR HEAR...AND WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED, I WILL KEEP IT SECRET...”



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

BCRAC & RYLA



BUSINESS MEETING
The Phoenicia Hotel

May 21, 2024

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan prides itself in having solid relations with its Rotaract Club (BCRAC). Since it was chartered, both clubs have worked closely on several projects to benefit the community and have maintained close ties with our young Rotarians.

On Tuesday May 21, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Jirayr Keshishian, Patil Harmandayan and Ralph Tannous, who represent the incoming board of BCRAC. They shared with us their experience at the RYLA conference last month.

Ralph, the Incoming Secretary, said that RYLA was an exhilarating experience that helped in honing his skills, get over his insecurities and help him develop new character traits. RYLA helped him establish wonderful connections while benefitting from a myriad of subjects of interest to our youth.

Patil spoke about self-discovery and leadership enhancement. During RYLA she could identify her leadership style, leverage her strengths and address her weaknesses. She was most impressed with the interactive sessions with hands-on exercises, personalized feedback and the supportive environment.

Jirayr's experience was equally valuable. RYLA was about building connections, networking with like minded peers and mentorship opportunities. He was complimentary of the skills enhancement like communication skills, team collaboration and problem- solving techniques. Most of all, he was in awe of leadership in action like leading team activities and decision making under pressure.

These young people and Rotarians are our pride. Their values and determination renews our hope for the future!



IN THE SPOT LIGHT



Our club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, prides itself on its members and their diversity that contributes greatly to the wealth and energy of our club. The last spotlight of this year is cast upon PP and PAG RT. Assad Salhab who over the years has contributed a lot to the club and to the community at large. Assad is married to our Rt. Rana Ghandour Salhab and is a proud father to Melda.

Who is Asaad Salhab



The topic of PP Assad's talk was Alternate Investments and Value Creation. In a very clear and smooth narrative, the audience were treated to a very informative session on a very dry subject. To give this presentation its full credit, will share the slides that clearly explain the spirit of the topic and the talk.

What is Alternate Investments / Private Capital

Private Capital considers a collection of investment strategies, usually facilitated through funds, that are focused on private assets i.e. assets not accessible through public markets. Private Capital, as a term, covers diverse investment classes.

- For Private Capital, involvement in these assets or asset categories commonly takes the form of **Limited Partnerships**, with investors known as **L.P.s**.
- **General Partners**, identified as **G.P.s**, function as investment managers, overseeing the mobilization and allocation of capital from the L.P.s.
- Investments can be made in these asset classes by sovereign entities, large corporates, or individuals off-balance sheet directly into each of the asset classes.

The Six Pillars of Private Capital



What is Private Equity?

Private Equity is situated within the realm of alternative asset classes under "Private Capital". PE investments are directed towards well-established enterprises in conventional sectors traded for equity or ownership shares.

- Private Equity constitutes an asset category wherein funds are **invested in non-publicly traded companies**, leading to the acquisition of equity or ownership.
- It is **capital raised through LP Structures**, on investment funds, separate accounts and private mandates for investment programs into non-listed businesses.
- Companies involved in PE are not publicly listed or traded on stock exchanges. Investors may acquire public companies, causing a transition from public to private.



Private Equity versus Venture Capital Business Objectives

Venture Capital (VC)	Private Equity (PE)
Acquire a minority stake in each existing startup with the objective of hyper-growth	Majority stake investment in established enterprises to foster growth for exit
VC/ CVC/ Accelerators/ Family Office/ Individual VC/PE	Private Equity/ Sovereign/ PE FOF
Early to mid-stage companies with high growth potential, focused on Technology	Mid-stage to mature companies across all industries
High Risk-the possibility of returns stemming from successful startups	Moderate Risk-Investments are made in companies with proven record
People (Founders/Leaders)	Financial figures

Private Equity versus Venture Capital Financial Objectives

Venture Capital (VC)	Private Equity (PE)
Minority stake of less than 50%	Controlling stake of 50% and up, most often 100%
\$10M Range	\$100M to \$100n Billions
Only Equity (Cash)	Combination of Equity & Debt
Exit after 4-7 Years	Exit after 6-10 years
>15X Return Targets	>25X ROI

Public

Private Markets AUM

\$ 13,000,000,000,000 - \$24 Trillion

- PE - Private Equity Trillion \$ 5.3
- Debt. + Real Estate + Infrastructure Trillion \$7.3

Public

Known PE Firms

BlackRock

\$ 7.5 Trillion

Blackstone

\$ 951 Billion

KKR

\$ 471 Billion

CVC CAPITAL PARTNERS

\$ 146 Billion

- Nvidia, Alphabet, Meta, Intel
- Apple, Microsoft, Salesforce
- Amazon
- Tesla, SpaceX
- Berkshire
- Eli Lilly
- Visa, Master Card
- J&J, P&G
- PepsiCo, Coca Cola
- Exxon, Chevron
- Home Depot
- Nike, McDonald's
- Norway \$1.63 T
- China \$1.35 T
- SAFE Invest Corp \$1.05 T
- ADIA \$995 B
- PIF \$925 B
- KIA \$923 B
- GIC \$770 B
- QIA \$526 B

Public

Middle East Biggest PE Firms

- Invest Corp \$35B
- NBK Capital \$9B
- Al Inma Invest \$20B
- Shuaa Capital \$5B
- Fajr Capital \$700M
- Gulf Capital \$3B

After that, our speaker treated the audience to some case studies that his company ventures into all over the world, outlining the complexities and degrees of success in their ventures.

It was truly a captivating narrative that was well received by all.



REACHING OUT



May 8, 2024

President Amal Talhouk attended a presentation given by Rotary Club Beirut Cedars.



Wednesday, 8 May 2024 | 18:30 (Beirut Time)

Smallville Hotel, Badaro

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

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



May 9, 2024

Rotary is all about Service, Fellowship and Networking. Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Amal Talhouk together with few club members have been active in participating in other clubs' activities.

In collaboration with Rotary Club Kesrouan, P Amal Talhouk, PP Mounir Jabre, IP Haytham Kurdi and PP Joe Boulos attended a conference given by PDG Michel Jazzar.

Rotary Kesrouan

Rotary Club de Kesrouan en collaboration avec les RC Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cosmopolitan et Praxis Metn vous invitent à une conférence donnée par:

PDG Michel Jazzar

Cadre Expert Technique de la Fondation Rotary, Représentant du RI auprès de l'ESCWA 2006/2020

**Votre Club Vu Autrement
Your Club Seen Differently
ناديك: رؤية مختلفة**

Jeudi 9 Mai 7:00 pm
ATCL - Salle L'Amiral

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



May 12, 2024

On May 12, P Amal Talhouk and PP Mounir Jabre attended the country conference in Country Lodge, Bsalim, Lebanon.

In the presence of DG (D2452) Bashar Haddad, our club was once again recognized as the first Inclusive Club in the district and our newest inclusive member, Mr. Ibrahim Abdallah was pinned and recognized by the DG and all the attendees.

It is a great honor for RCBC to be recognized for such an accomplishment!



FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISING EVENT



On Saturday May 18, 2024, a lovely fundraising - fellowship event was organized by Fundraising Chair Olga Joelle Feghali in the most beautiful setting of **IRIS Domain** in Bhamdoun with its lush greenery, delectable food, good wine and highlighted with the utmost fellowship spirit.

The following pictures are a clear indication of how lovely the day was!







May Birthdays

Mounir Jabre (22)