



Rotary

Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

Marhaba 2025/2026

Rotary International President

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	Christine Arzoumanian
Vice President	John Edde
Secretary	Jean Paul Moubarak
Treasurer	Nada Maalouf

Directors

PP Joe Boulos
PP Mona Jarudi
Rtn Rana Salhab

Marhaba Editor

PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com



Letter From The Editor

PP Mona Jarudi

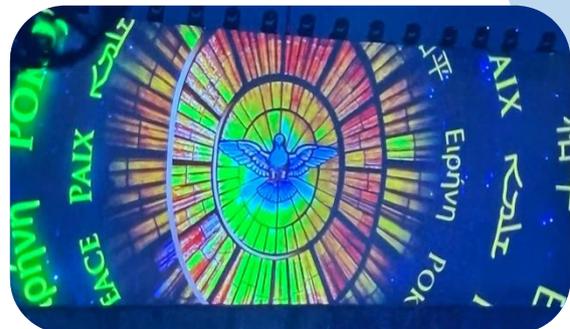
“Blessed are the Makers of Peace”

A message from Lebanon

Am writing this as the historic visit of **Pope Leo X IV** to Lebanon draws to its end. For three days, the country wore its true colors, draped in its flag with the powerful symbol of the Cedar. Lebanon stepped out with its diversity, unifying its voice calling for Hope and Peace. The voices of the poor and down trodden were heard, the voices of the heart broken were heard, the voices of the disabled were heard. But the loudest voices were those of our young generation who yearn for peace and stability and whom the Pope made sure that he speaks the loudest to them. He addressed the tens of thousands of young people by telling them they are the present and the future, but it is in the present that they have to hope and dream and never lose their enthusiasm to change the course of history. He implored them to dare to live and stay in the country that deserves their vision and abilities. The key words were always: Hope, peace, unity, justice, and respect for the other.

All this evoked for me the mission and vision in Rotary. Peace Building and Conflict Resolution is one of the seven areas of focus. Rotary works closely with 9 Peace Centers in the world where young people have the ability to earn higher education in peace building. Moreover, the focus of Rotary in strengthening its youthful arm is gaining traction. Rotaract and Interact Clubs are on the rise, giving new life to the shade of grey in the Rotary world. We cannot stress enough the importance of our young people with their fresh ideas and energy they bring to the table. They are the present and window to the future of every society. Let us help them shine and express their hopes and dreams. Let us instill in them the values of service. Let us, as Rotarians, be the instruments of creating hope. Every project we undertake as Rotarians results in peace and giving hope to communities around us: from eradicating diseases to providing clean water, from economic development to climate awareness, all this leads to more resilient, peaceful communities.

Let us be the elements of change, let us be the peace makers!



The Rotary Clubs of
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Center, Beirut Liberty
Kesrouan, Lebanon Eco, and Tripoli Cosmopolis



Guest Speaker
Destiny Nobles-Kim
Regional Grants Officer at the Rotary Foundation

Presentation Topic:
Strengthening your Global Grants: Planning for Success and Sustainability

November 4, 2025

The Rotary Foundation month started on a very high note with a prominent guest speaker, Rt. Destiny Nobles Kim, who addressed us on zoom from Rotary International Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

Destiny is a Regional Grants Officer at the Rotary Foundation, serving districts in 15 countries across the Middle east, Eastern Europe, and West and Northern Africa. As a grants officer, she helps Rotary districts and clubs navigate the grants process as they apply for global grants, carry out grant-funded projects, and report on grant activity. She joined Rotary in 2018, previously working with Rotary’s Endowment/ Major Gifts Advisers as they supported TRF through major gifts fundraising, and in the Foundation in Donor Relations, where she helped to steward and recognize Arch Klumph Society donors.

In a highly attended meeting, the speaker walked us through every detail of global grants and their mechanism. The following slides are an overview of the main headlines expanded on in the presentation. Starting with community assessment, how sustainable is the project, the importance of monitoring and building a measurement plan to assess the success of the project, the speaker left the audience fully informed and educated about global grants and the important support that the Rotary Foundation offers clubs around the world.

GLOBAL GRANT: KEY FEATURES

-  Sustainable Impact
-  Community Assessment
-  Partnerships
-  Training
-  Monitoring and Evaluation (Measurement)

GLOBAL GRANTS

- Fund longer projects with **sustainable, measurable** results
- Align with our **areas of focus**
- Must have international partner
- \$30,000 minimum budget
- 80% match from the World Fund for District Designated Funds (DDF)
- Can fund humanitarian projects, vocational training teams, or scholarships



AREAS OF FOCUS

- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Maternal and child health
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Basic education and literacy
- Community economic development
- Environment



COMMON APPLICATION MISTAKES

- Project idea is not developed from a community assessment
- Plan for sustainability is missing
- Project timeline is too short
- Monitoring and evaluation is minimal or not considered
- Documents are not included (Cooperating organization MOUs, Pro-forma quotes or invoices, Training plans)



District Governor Visit Peter Ashdjian Rotary Club Larnaca Kition, Cyprus District 2452 Governor RY 2025-2026



November 52025

On November 5, 2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan warmly welcomed **District Governor (D-2452) Peter Ashdjian** on his annual official visit to all Rotary Clubs in Lebanon. DDG Randa Zaouk and DS Samar Saab attended as well in their official capacity.

DG Peter started the meeting with few words sharing his background and history with Rotary that started June 30, 2008, in Larnaca, Kition. He held many positions and is recognized in RI as a benefactor, Paul Harris Fellow and TRF giving.

In his remarks, he highlighted the values of Rotary, the importance of selecting members to be admitted, the stories to be told about our work as Rotarians as a tool to attract new members into our Rotary family. He also spoke about the district goals and how to implement them. He was particularly passionate about him starting D2452 Legacy by creating its historical archive. This major feat is in the capable hands of Marina Gavriel, District Media Correspondent and District History Archive Chair who will lead the effort to collect historical data from all clubs.

DG Peter went over the club discussion agenda: Strategic Plan, Membership growth and retention, public image, service projects and Global grants that the club is currently leading:-

- Medical equipment for Karantina Government Hospital
- Gift of Life Lebanon; heart surgeries for 55 underprivileged children born with congenital heart disease.
- H.O.M.E clinic: medical equipment.

The meeting ended on a very positive note when DG Peter pinned two new members joining our Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan family.







Pinning New Members

On November 5, 2025, and during the District Governor visit to our club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan warmly welcomed two new members to its family.

They were both pinned by DG Peter Ashdijian with all accompanying honors and protocol.

Mr. Bernard Jabre , sponsored by VP John Edde, was pinned in person.

And in an unprecedented way, Mr. Arthur Jaffet, sponsored by President Olga Feghali, was pinned virtually all the way in Brazil.



It is with great **honor and pride**, gratitude, and heartfelt emotion that I receive my Rotary pin today as a member of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan.

This is a truly special day — honored by the presence of our District Governor Peter Ashdijian and made even more meaningful as I share this moment with my dear friend Arthur Jafet, who is also being pinned today. Together, we embrace a path of service and fellowship.

What drew me to Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan are its values and its spirit: a club known for integrity, compassion, and action — and proudly one of the few inclusive clubs, welcoming members with diverse abilities and perspectives. This inclusivity is not only admirable; it is essential to the Rotary ideal and to the Lebanon we aspire to build.

I am deeply thankful to Vice President John Edde, my sponsor, for his trust, encouragement, and guidance, and to President Olga Feghali for her inspiring leadership. I am proud to wear this pin as a pledge to live *Service Above Self* — to contribute to our projects, to strengthen our bonds of friendship, and to serve our community and country with integrity and heart.

With gratitude, humility, and joy,

Bernard Jabre

Proud to be a Rotarian of Beirut Cosmopolitan — an inclusive family united by Rotary values.

It is with immense joy, deep gratitude, and heartfelt emotion that I join today the great Rotary family as a proud member of **Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan**.

Although I am miles away, here in São Paulo, I can truly feel the warmth, fellowship, and genuine spirit of service that define your club. This first *pinning at a distance* is far more than a symbolic act — it represents a strong bond of heart and purpose, uniting us beyond borders through our shared values of compassion, inclusion, and humanity.

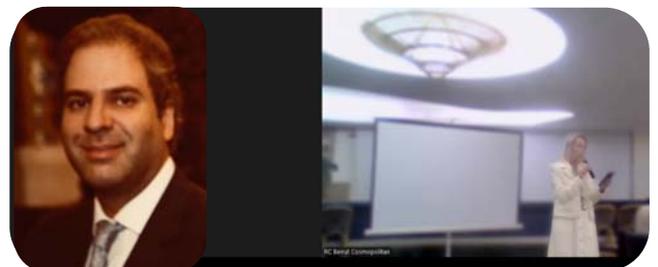
I would like to express my sincere thanks to **President Olga Feghali, my sponsor**, for her trust, her encouragement, and her inspiring leadership — and to each of you for your friendship and the example you set through your actions. Joining this remarkable club fills me with both pride and humility.

I look forward to visiting Beirut soon — to meet you all in person, to experience firsthand the patriotic and humanitarian spirit that drives your projects, and to contribute actively to your meaningful initiatives. I am deeply aware of the responsibility that comes with being a Rotarian, and I will do my utmost to live up to this honor — to serve with integrity, dedication, and heart.

Thank you once again for welcoming me into such an inspiring, inclusive, and visionary Rotary family.

I am truly proud to wear the Rotary pin and to live by our common motto: "**Service Above Self.**"

With warm regards and heartfelt appreciation,



The Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan and Kesrouan



Guest Speaker

Paul Edde

Board Member Children Cancer Center

Presentation Topic:

**Rotary Between Yesterday and Tomorrow
The Fundamentals of Its Survival — Membership and Governance Disorders,
a Matter of Perception**

November 11, 2025

The meeting with PP Paul Edde was a walk down memory lane. A friend of our club since its inception 30 years ago, Paul witnessed first hand the growth of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and its rise in the Rotary world, locally and globally. He paid tribute to the great people of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan journey, those who passed and those still making their mark in our club.

PP Paul spoke with truth and passion. He invoked Paul Harris and how Rotary started with few people meeting for Service and fellowship. In 1925, the expansion of the rotary started. There was a call to add clubs and increase members who are the backbone of clubs.

But in this quick disruption of order, and the race for increasing membership, clubs were growing in a disorderly manner. Innovation took a back seat to tradition, competition among clubs trumped the real joy and reward that a club gets through Service.

PP Paul went on to highlight the value of young people and the positive change they can inject in aging clubs. The youth are the people who provide vision and creativity, guided by the wisdom and experience of older members. According to Einstein" Order takes you from A to Z, but creativity takes you everywhere."

It was certainly a thought provoking address, coming from the heart of a true Rotarian who believes in the mission and vision of Rotary.

The meeting culminated in PP Paul birthday celebrations in the utmost spirit of fellowship.





The Rotary Clubs of
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley West, Chouf, Kesrouan, Lebanon International
and Tripoli Cosmopolis



Guest Speaker

Ahmad A. Husseini

Endowment & Major Gifts Adviser, Region 25
TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers
Rotary Club Lebanon International

Presentation Topic: The Joy of Giving

November 25, 2025

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan concluded the Rotary Foundation month with a presentation titled "The Joy of Giving" by guest speaker RT. Ahmad Husseini, Endowment / Major Gift Advisor (E/MGA).

This meeting was in collaboration with Rotary Club Aley West, Rotary Club Chouf, Rotary Club Keserouan, Rotary Club Lebanon International and Tripoli Cosmopolis who were represented by their presidents and members.

District Governor Nominee May Monla Chmaitelly and PDG George Azar also attended this important meeting.

In a very comprehensive presentation, Rt. Ahmad took the audience through the structure of Rotary, governance and administration, international leadership. Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Rotary is made of 3 parts: Clubs, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation (TRF) which is considered the intelligent heart of Rotary. TRF helps Rotary members advance world's understanding, good will and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. To support this mission, the Foundation has several programs, which are only made possible thanks to the generosity of donors around the world.

There are six avenues for gifts designations: Annual Fund, Polio plus Fund, Disaster Response Fund, Endowment Fund, Global Grants, and Rotary peace Centers.

The speaker went on to ask what is the best way to fundraise? It is all about **STORYTELLING**. With the world progressing towards AI, we need to learn how to tell our Human Stories in a Machine Generated World.

This was a very enriching presentation which shed a new light on the joy of giving and how each donation can make a positive impact in the area it is intended to.



ANNUAL FUND



Solidarity between Rotary clubs and donors both locally and worldwide (**SHARE system**)

General support for TRF grants

Donors have an **impact now**

Supports the **donor's own district**

Donors can also support the **World Fund and Areas of Focus**

POLIOPLUS FUND



Number 1 Priority of the Rotary Foundation

Rotary Making History

Major Impact to Polio

Eligible for the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation **2:1 match**

DISASTER RESPONSE FUND



Supports **immediate disaster relief effort**

Donations kept in a **separate fund**

Sometimes special funds for **specific major disasters**

ROTARY ENDOWMENT Long-term Impact

Donations are invested and the **spendable earnings used** to support any program or area of focus chosen by the donor **in perpetuity**.

The **value of donations increases over time**.

Gifts to the endowment can be made **today**, or **in the future** through a bequest. Option to create a **Named Endowed Fund**

GIVING OPTIONS SUPPORTING GLOBAL GRANTS



Global Grants are attractive Foundation programs

GIVING OPTIONS ROTARY PEACE CENTERS



Important TRF scholarship program to train future leaders with the potential to become effective catalysts for peace

ROTARY PEACE CENTERS



8 leading universities

130 fellowships (=scholarships) per year

Master program (50 fellowships; 15-24 months)

Professional Development Certificate (80 fellowships, one year)

Over 20 years, more than 100 M\$ invested. Over 1,800 Peace Center alumni working on peace and development in more than 115 countries

2025 goal: 200 M\$ (net assets and commitments) for a fund that will sustain this program in perpetuity

The Art of Storytelling

People will forget what you said,
People will forget what you did,
**but people will never forget
how you made them FEEL.**

Maya Angelou

WHY DONORS GIVE

Reason given by donors for why they give:

- I wanted to do something for others.
- It makes me feel empowered.
- It felt good to be do something good with my club.
- I have been given so much, I wanted to give back.



The Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan and Beirut Cedars Fellowship Outing the Sursock Museum “Divas: From Oum Kalthoum to Dalida”

November 20, 2025

On the occasion of the Lebanese Independence Day and coinciding with an important exhibit at the elegant Sursock Museum, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted a special meeting to view the special exhibition: “Divas: From Umm Kulthoum to Dalida.”

This fellowship outing was in collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Cedars and was attended by Rotarian friends from Rotary Club Center, Rotary Club Keserouan, Rotary Club Batroun and guests. It was an exceptional guided tour that took us on the journey of divas who left their mark in the world. We also enjoyed viewing beautiful art work in their permanent exhibition of famous Lebanese artists.

The evening paid homage to the beauty of the Sursock Museum and to our artists who propelled Lebanon and the Middle East into universal fame.

A fellowship was enjoyed by all in the cafe on the beautiful grounds of the museum.

Lebanon, we love you!



Reaching Out

On November 3, 2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Olga Feghali attended the inauguration of the Lebanese School of Blind Deaf Project, initiated by Rotary Club Baabda, providing Solar Panels to the Lebanese School of Blind and Deaf in Baabda.

District Governor Peter Ashdijian and AG Aida Daou attended this important event, supporting a community in need and highlighting the importance of inclusivity in Rotary.



On the same day President Olga Feghali represented Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan in an event at the Karantina Hospital, upon the invitation of President Abboud Chami. The French Ambassador with representatives from the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Assameh group and members from Rotary Club de Beyrouth. A tour of the hospital showing the renovated sites after the Beirut Port Explosion .

Our Club Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan is proud of our partnership with Karantina Hospital and all the renovations that we contributed to in the past few years.



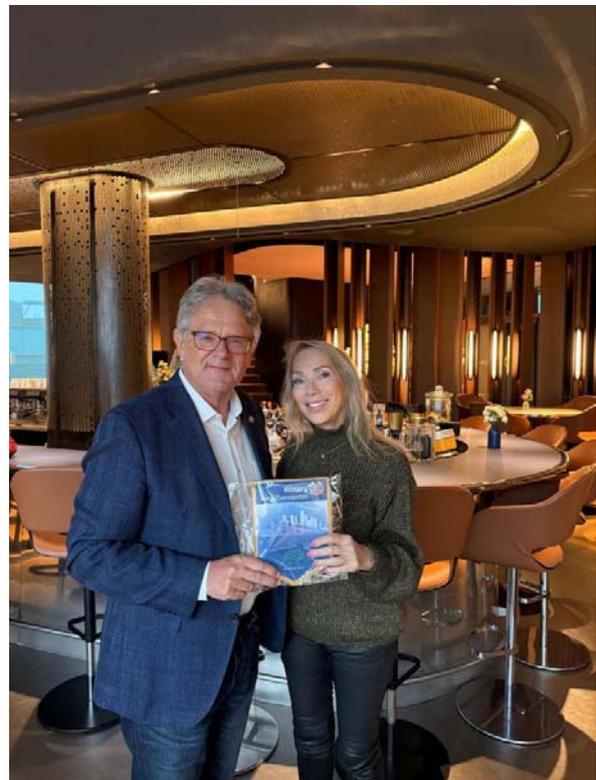
Rotary Connects the World

On her recent visit to Luxembourg, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Olga Feghali visited two Rotary Clubs where banners were exchanged and the warmth of Rotary spirit prevailed.

1. Rotary Club Luxembourg (Cercle Munster : President Andre Welch)

This is the oldest club in Luxembourg, founded 95 years ago and often referred to as the Gentlemen's Club. They meet at the prestigious Cercle Munster. This meeting provided a framework of friendship that will lead to collaboration between our clubs.

2. Rotary Club Luxembourg -Horizon : President Jean Marie Hoffmann



Rotary Connects the World

When it comes to Service Above Self and creating a positive impact in the world, Rotary is a leader in creating the most powerful network of 1.4 million Rotarians always ready as people of action.

One of the several networks built are the twinning of clubs to create a common ground for Service. Our club Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan boasts of being a part of a global network that has provided support in projects and global grants. One such partnership of note is our connection with Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades in India, a club that has supported Lebanon in its worst of times. At times, when Lebanese hospitals and institutions were in dire need of medications, our partners in India were ready to send shipments of medicines at all times. In the past, AUBMC received much needed cancer medication that provided a lifeline to terminally ill people. The Lebanese Red Cross and Caritas Lebanon were also recipients of needed medicines.

Heartfelt thanks to PP John Edde and our partner Rt. Ashwani from Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades who facilitated this community assistance project.

Lebanese Red Cross
Secretary General



الصليب الأحمر اللبناني
الأمين العام

Beirut, November 27, 2025
Ref: 934/2025

Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan,
Rotary Club of Bangalore Brigades (India),

Dear Messer's,

On behalf of the Lebanese Red Cross, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generous and thoughtful contribution of essential medications designated to support vulnerable individuals and families in need across Lebanon.

Your donation came at a critical time and will make a meaningful difference in improving the well-being and dignity of those who are struggling. Your continued commitment to humanitarian service is truly inspiring and reflects the spirit of solidarity that Rotary embodies.

Thank you once again for standing with us. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts as we pursue our shared humanitarian goals.

Warm regards,



Email: secretary-general@redcross.org.lb | www.redcross.org.lb

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Rotary Connects the World



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**MESSERS,
ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN
ROTARY BANGALORE BRIGADES (INDIA)**

November 11, 2025

Dear Sirs,

I am pleased to extend my sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan and the Rotary Club of Bangalore Brigades (India) for their generous and thoughtful contribution of essential medications, designated to support vulnerable individuals and families in need across Lebanon.

Your invaluable initiative, driven by a spirit of compassion and solidarity, comes at a time when access to healthcare and medications remains a critical challenge for many. Through your collaborative efforts and commitment to humanitarian service, you have provided concrete relief and renewed hope to those most affected by the current social and economic hardships.

On behalf of Caritas Lebanon's family, staff, and beneficiaries, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your support and trust in our mission. We look forward to continued collaboration in promoting human dignity, social justice, and solidarity with the most vulnerable.

With renewed gratitude and respect, I pray God to bless all of you and reward you for your generosity.



FATHER MICHEL ABBOUD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michel Abboud".

President of Caritas Lebanon

Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



Stemming from our strong belief in the power of youth in every walk of life, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan boasts of partnering with a group of dedicated Rotaractors , BCRAC, who are mentored by RT. Christine Arzoumanian from our club. Whether we are working together on service projects, or enjoying a fellowship or supporting their learning and growth, we are always proud of our young Rotarian leaders.

On November 5,2025, BCRAC was invited to participate in our meeting with the DG Peter Ashdijian during his annual visit to Lebanon. President Patil Hermandian of BCRAC presented to the DG their plans for this Rotary year.They were received with lots of appreciation and encouragement by the DG and Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan members.

November 28,2025, BCRAC participated for the weekend in RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. this is a Rotary program that develops the leadership skills of young people through intensive training, workshops, and team-building activities. Designed for youth aged 14-30, RYLA helps participants build confidence, strengthen communication and teamwork, and learn the values of service and ethical leadership.

Through camps and seminars organized by local Rotary clubs and districts, RYLA creates a supportive environment where motivated young people can grow, connect with peers, and become future community leaders.

Many thanks to our Rotarians who are always ready to support our youth in their Rotary journey.





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](https://www.instagram.com/rcbeirutcosmopolitan)

 [Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofBeirutCosmopolitan)