



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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District 2452 Governor

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Rotary Club of Jumeirah-Dubai,  
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Marhaba Editor

**PP Mona Jarudi**

[monajarudi@gmail.com](mailto:monajarudi@gmail.com)

# Marhaba

2024/2025

Beirut Cosmopolitan

# Rotary

District 2452



Charter Date June 21, 1995

Club Number 30893

District 2452 Rotary International

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### PP MONA JARUDI

As this year is drawing to a close, one cannot but take a moment to reflect on the months and days gone by.

2024 was not a very kind year locally and globally. Our country was oscillating between wars, deeper economic crises and events that were too much for a small country to handle. Every day brought its own challenges and fears, plans were shelved and dreams shattered. Anyone would have buckled under the pressure of the unknown. And yet, we dug in and changed weakness into strength and despair into hope.

Our role, as citizens and Rotarians, was elevated to higher grounds. Our 38 clubs in Lebanon were a beehive of activity, crafting ways and means to help alleviate the suffering and the pain of the thousands of people displaced. Schools became shelters, armies of Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors were rushing to distribute basic needs for the displaced. Kitchens were running at full steam to provide daily meals to all those displaced. Our Rotarian friends all over the world reached out and extended the safety net for those in need. It was the most heartwarming scenes of solidarity, love and unity of spirit. In our core of beliefs as Rotarians, this was our way of spreading and keeping the peace in the displaced communities. Mental health was also first and foremost in our list of considerations, creating workshops for children and adults to help them deal with the difficult circumstances they were thrown into. Every day witnessed a success story to tell for generations to come.

Resilience has been one of the important traits that the Lebanese are guilty of. But it is this kind of resilience where individuals and communities rise above dire circumstances, maintain the hope, keep a smile and carry on against all odds, that should be glorified.

As we bid farewell to this year, we sincerely hope that the coming year will be crowned with peace, prosperity and good will to all. As Rotarians, we have a lot to look forward to and accomplish while we are spreading peace and promoting service in our communities!

On behalf of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, we extend our warmest wishes to all our fellow Rotarians worldwide for a very bright and successful 2025! We also seize this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks to all our partners whose support and care over the years made our Rotarian journey so much more rewarding.



“Wishing you a joyous holiday season filled with hope, peace, and the warmth of cherished moments with loved ones.”

November 12, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



**Abbas Sibai**

Rotary Club Beirut  
Cosmopolitan, Board Member  
- Club Secretary 2024-2025

Rotary District 2452 -  
Lebanon Alumni Chairperson  
2023-2025

**Presentation Topic**

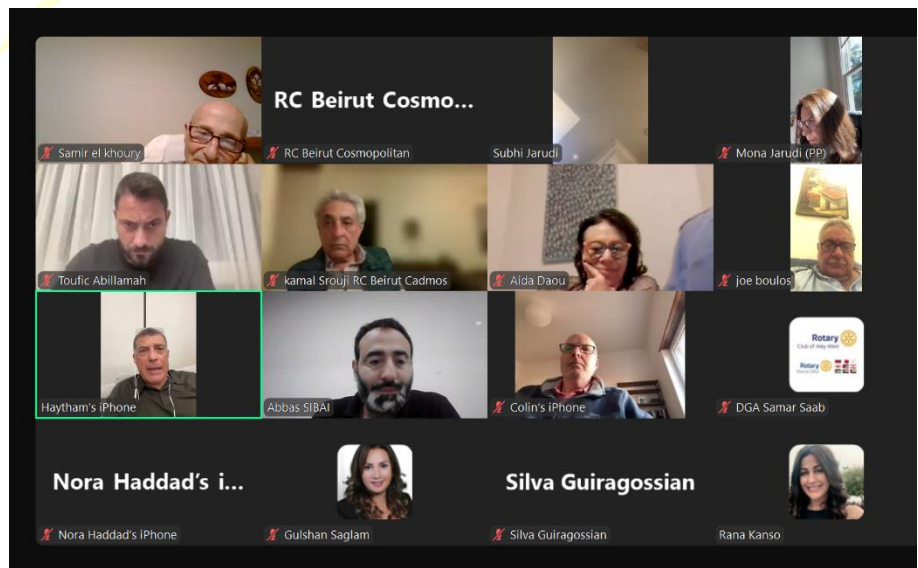
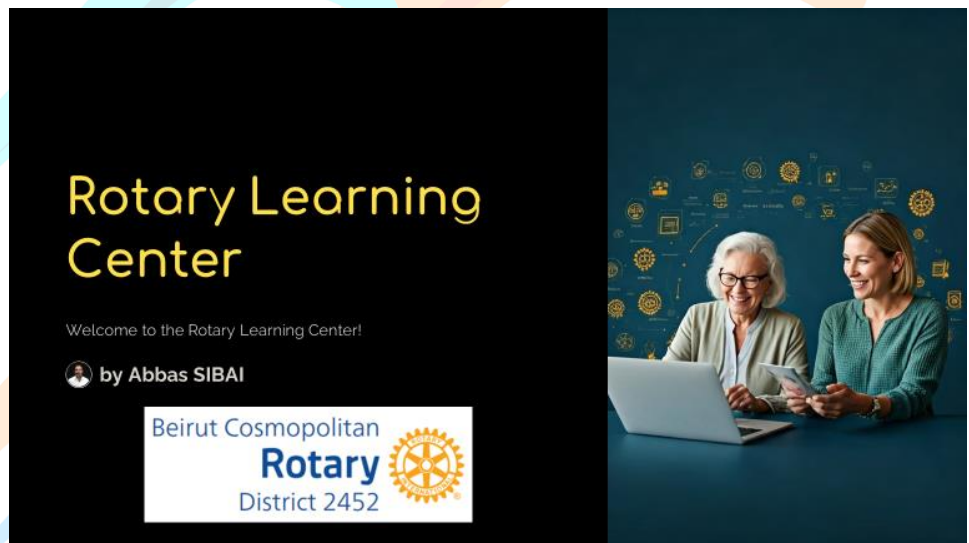
'The Rotary Learning Center'

On November 12, our Club Secretary Rt Abbas Sibai shared with the club members his extensive knowledge about Rotary and how to use the Learning Center. His presentation was smooth, interesting and very informative.

The Rotary Learning Center is a resource for Rotarians with an online platform providing courses, articles and resources. It provides learning skills and enables one to grow as a Rotarian.

In an interactive manner, the speaker proceeded to show the audience how to log into My Rotary and how to navigate the website and explore by topic or role. He demonstrated how user friendly the learning center is and how it provides flexible learning.

Who should use the Learning Center? All Rotary members are encouraged to use it because it has courses for everyone, enhances leadership skills, and provides fundraising and service tips, and keeps members updated on the best practices in Rotary.



November 19, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



**Nancy L. Griffin**

President & Founder –  
Women, Worth & Wellness  
Club President (2024-2025)  
Rotary Club Picton – Canada

**Presentation Topic**

‘Women’s Leadership  
Globally With Heartfelt  
Philanthropy’

On November 19, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Nancy Griffin, President of Rotary Club Picton in Canada as our guest speaker in an online meeting.

Nancy had an illustrious career with Proctor and Gamble in Toronto in finance and HR. In 1992, she was recruited to Private Client Wealth Management as a wealth advisor, then in 1994, she created Women, Worth and Wellness for her practice and business development, celebrating 30 years this year. She is a champion in women’s leadership, personal health, wellness and wealth for positive impact in this world.

**The Essence of Women, Worth & Wellness**

- **Mission**  
Empowering women to live as fearless, respectful, caring, and sharing leaders.
- **Focus Areas**  
Health and wealth, net worth and self-worth, philanthropy and legacy planning.
- **Purpose**  
Created for women who have a disproportionate amount of responsibility for the health and wellness of their family members and themselves, to ensure that they can have a lasting legacy through philanthropy.

**Women, Worth & Wellness®**

**The Essence of Women, Worth & Wellness**

- **Core Belief**  
Women, Worth & Wellness believes in the power of women to lead and transform their communities through health, wealth, and philanthropy.
- **Holistic Approach**  
We provide resources, support, and opportunities for professional women to thrive for positive impact in every aspect of their lives.
- **Community Focus**  
Our community fosters connection, collaboration, and shared learning among women who are committed to making a positive impact with their unique leadership.

**Women, Worth & Wellness®**

According to the McKinsey Health Institute, the gap between men’s health and women’s health remains wide, which directly affects everyone. Closing the health gap could boost the global economy by at least \$1 trillion annually by 2040.

Narrowing the health gap would lead to fewer early deaths, fewer health conditions, extended economic capacity to contribute and increased productivity. For every \$1 invested in women’s health, about \$3 is projected in economic growth.

Our guest speaker further delved into Canadian women and philanthropy with donations from women increasing from \$1.5 billion in 2011 to \$4.3 billion in 2021. These donations are critical to the functioning of 86,000 Canadian Charities. Nancy cited two women role model philanthropists: Melinda Gates and Makenzie Scott.

A fact worth sharing... Elon Musk said that Makenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Jeff Bezos, is destroying western civilization by donating hundreds of millions of dollars to women’s charities and causes. Her Response: Double her donations!!

December 10, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker



## Amer Makarem

President of the Youth Association for the Blind (YAB)

### Presentation Topic

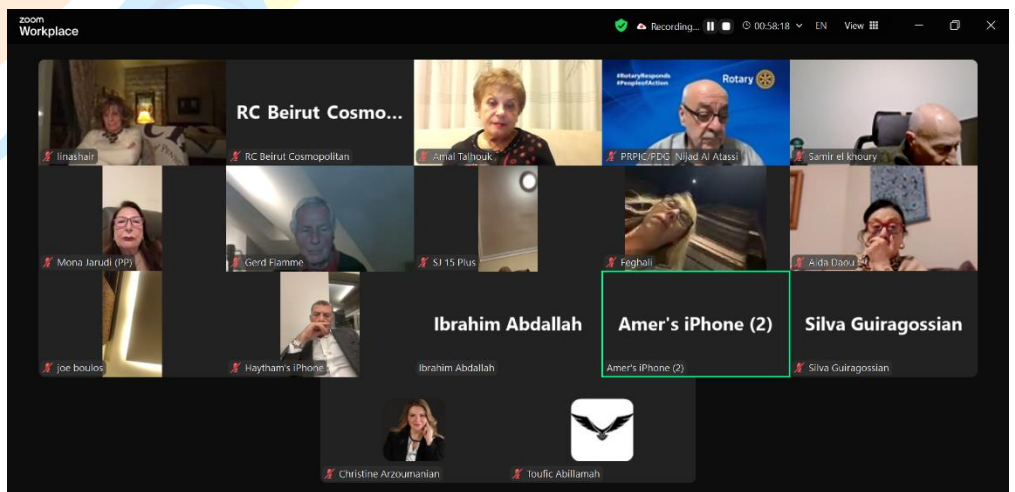
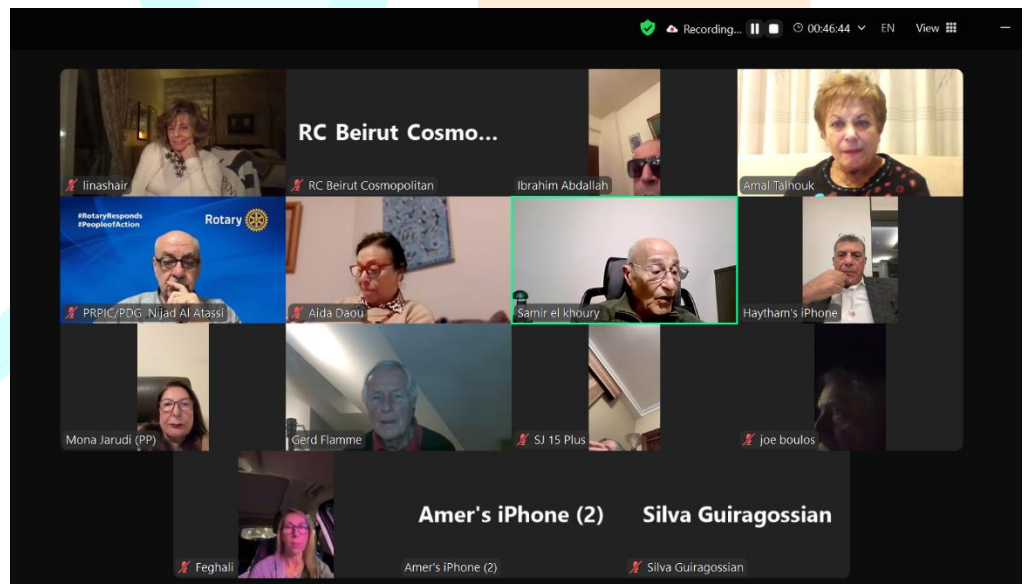
“Fostering the Inclusive Culture”



On the occasion of International Day for People with Disabilities on Dec 3 and Human Rights Day on Dec 10, RCBC hosted Mr. Amer Makarem, President of the Youth Association for the Blind (YAB). Fostering the inclusive culture

Mr. Makarem lost his sight at the age of 12 by a hunting gun accident. With a BA in Arts and Science and a Masters in Philosophy from the American University of Beirut, he heads the YAB Association for 30 years and is an expert in scholastic and educational inclusion. He designs and executes programs in Lebanon and abroad.

The topic of the speaker, Fostering the Inclusive Culture, was very interesting and thought provoking. He delved into explaining why a person who is visually challenged and disabled should not be treated differently. They have acute senses and once the resources are provided to enable their learning, they can excel at anything. Any person with a disability when surrounded by love and care can see all the light we cannot see!



# Reaching Out

November 26, 2024

To promote our international ties, while in Atlanta, PP Mona Jarudi visited the Rotary Club of Atlanta, the third largest in the world with 574 members. They meet for lunch where 200 members usually attend.

Per procedure, the President welcomed those present. There was a panel of top chef/ restaurant chain owners who spoke about the change in the culinary scene in Atlanta and how fast Atlanta is becoming a culinary capital of the South.

Fellowship and networking highlighted the visit and some important connections were made with the hope of exploring projects together.



# Reaching Out

Lebanon  
**Rotary**  
District 2452

Clubs of Kesrouan, Beirut Cosmopolitan  
& Sahel Metn

## The Breakthroughs in the Fight Against Cancer الإنجازات في مكافحة السرطان

with our guest speaker

### Dr. Marcel Massoud

Chief of Hematology/Oncology  
at Notre Dame des Secours Hospital - Jbeil



**DATE**  
Thursday 12 December, 2024

**TIME**  
7:00 pm

**LOCATION**  
ATCL - Salle L'Amiral

**Fees**  
10\$/person

December 12, 2024

The Rotary Club of Kesrouan, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan and the Rotary Club of Sahel Metn, organized an event featuring Dr. Marcel Massoud, Chief of Hematology/Oncology at Notre Dame des Secours Hospital in Jbeil.

President Haytham Kurdi, along with members from the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, attended this important meeting.



# December Events

## Arzati Hawiyati

On December 7, a national drawing contest was launched at the country level.

Arzati Hawiyati (my Cedar is my identity) is a project of RC Beirut Cedars, takes place all over Lebanon through local Rotary Clubs and is co-funded by the sister club LA Cedars and sponsored by Fabriano.

Our club, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated under the direction of Rt. Joelle Feghali, chair of fundraising committee. She supervised 34 children from two schools, Ain Ebel and Boucherieh. The drawings submitted by the kids were judged by a panel and several winners were announced whose drawings were exhibited in Farra Design Center.


One of the winners is 10-year-old Ella Waked from College des Soeurs des Saints Coeurs, Bouchrieh.

Many thanks go to RC Cedars for initiating such a project where the children got to express their love for Lebanon through their eyes.



**Rotary**  
ARZATI HAWIYATI Club of Beirut Cedars

### AIN EBEL



December 7, 2024  
Launch of Arzati Hawiyati national drawing contest in Ain Ebel. Contest is a project of Rotary Club Beirut Cedars and takes place all over Lebanon through local Rotary Clubs and is co-funded by our sister club LACedars RC and sponsored by Fabriano



Ella Waked (10 yrs old)  
College des Soeurs  
des Saints Coeurs - Bouchrieh  
Bauchrieh

**Rotary**  
ARZATI HAWIYATI Club of Beirut Cedars

### BAUCHRIEH



December 7, 2024  
Launch of Arzati Hawiyati national drawing contest with Saint Coeur Bauchrieh School with Rtn Olga Joelle Feghali, Head of Fundraising at the RC Beirut Cosmopolitan. Contest is a project of Rotary Club Beirut Cedars and takes place all over Lebanon through local Rotary Clubs and is co-funded by our sister club LACedars RC and sponsored by Fabriano



# Christmas Celebrations!

This year, due to the dire circumstances that our country passed through, our efforts were doubled in trying to spread love and cheer among less privileged children. This event, led by Rt. Joelle Feghali and supported by our club members, brought 253 children from 4 different schools to the amazing location of Telephrique and Harissa over two days filled with joyful rides, entertainment, food and gifts. The children hailing from Saints Couers Ain Ebel, Orphans St. Charbel Baabdate, Centre St Paul, Saints Couers Falougha, and the Blind and Deaf School Baabda. Our own BCRC were there over the two days to support in all the activities, plus a group of Scouts who were instrumental in monitoring the kids to ensure their safety in their rides in the cable cars.

Heartfelt thanks go to:

- Rt. Joelle Feghali who spearheaded the events.
- All Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan members for their generosity and participation.
- PP Joe Boulos and his family, Doris and Rawad who generously offered the rides on the cable cars for the children to savor the beauty of the area from different heights. Also for providing the treats to the children.
- Thanks to CT Christine Arzoumanian who orchestrated behind the scenes the support from BCRC, our future Rotarians and hope for a better future.
- Thanks to PP John Edde who facilitated the contact with Mr. Wehbeh and secured a generous donation of 100 jeans from Original Marines.
- Special thanks to Mrs. Nsouli who provided beautifully crafted hoodies of excellent quality at a great price, adding a stylish touch to the children.

The events are a true embodiment of the Rotarian spirit and Service Above Self. Seeds of love and joy were planted, and light was brought to those who needed it most.

**“Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away.” Brian Tracy**

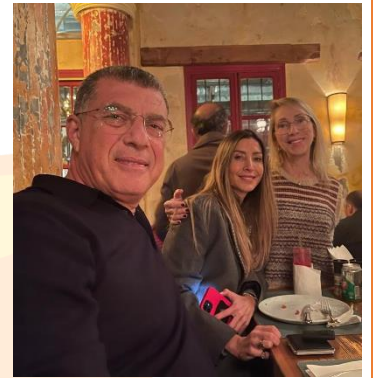




# Farewell 2024

To celebrate and bid farewell to this challenging year, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan members met for a fellowship that was highlighted with the utmost spirit of camaraderie and fun.

**Cheers to all and best wishes for a peaceful 2025!**



Beirut Cosmopolitan  
**Rotary**  
District 2452



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
and Happy New Year

May this Christmas bring warmth and peace to  
your heart, and may the new year bring you closer  
to all your dreams.



The End