



ROTARY YEAR IN REVIEW

2024-2025

ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT
COSMOPOLITAN

DISTRICT 2452

JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

Club ID 30893

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Rotary Officers 2024-2025

■ Rotary International President

Stephanie A. Urchick
Rotary Club of McMurray
Pennsylvania, USA

■ Rotary District 2452 Officers

District 2452 Governor

Hussain Ali Al Jaziri
Rotary Club of Jumeirah-Dubai
United Arab Emirates

Assistant District 2452 Governor

Aida Daou
Rotary Club de Beyrouth
Beirut, Lebanon

Assistant District 2452 Governor

Mona Kanaan
Rotary Club Beirut Cedars
Beirut, Lebanon

■ Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Officers

President	Haytham Kurdi
IPP	Amal Talhouk
President Elect	Olga (Joelle) Feghali
Vice President	Mona Jarudi
Secretary	Toufic Abillamah
Treasurer	Christine Arzoumanian

Directors

PP Joe Boulos
RTN Toufic Abillamah
PE Olga (Joelle) Feghali

Marhaba Editor

PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com



Letter from the editor PP Mona Jarudi



This issue of Marhaba is dedicated to Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and to its President Haytham Kurdi who led the club for the Rotary Year 2024-25.

Congratulations President Haytham on a very successful year

The first half of the year was clouded with uncertainty and difficult times imposed on our country. Meetings were canceled, plans had to be paused, crisis management became the word of the day. Your leadership in those tough times was nothing short of inspiring. Together with the board and all club members, you dug deep and forged ahead. Rotary Lebanon, overnight, formed a Disaster Relief committee and every Rotarian in Lebanon was participating in lending a hand to those most affected by the daily bombardments and displacement. Our club, with your leadership, managed to create an impact by providing medications, shelters, sanitary supplies and whatever else needed to maintain the dignity of the displaced. We contributed to a mobile library to keep the students engaged and informed. We were all a beehive of activity, soliciting help and dispensing it. Thanks to your leadership, we all were motivated to serve and showcase our work as Rotarians.

This issue , a Year in Review, is a comprehensive summary of RCBC in action. It highlights the projects, the Global Grants, the fellowships which are a true reflection of who we are as RCBC members. It was a lovely year at every level !

On behalf of RCBC Board and club members, thank you for leading the club with grace and wisdom and for navigating the challenges with patience and dedication.

We are all proud RCBC Rotarians!

Best of luck to President Olga Joelle Feghali who will undoubtedly keep the banner of RCBC flying high!

Mona Jarudi

Vice President 24-25
Rotary Peace Activator 2025
District Peace Fellowship Chair 22-23
Country Membership Chair 20-23
Past President 2018-19
Editor Marhaba Newsletter 2017- present



Beirut Cosmopolitan
Rotary
District 2452





Letter from President Haytham Kurdi



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Back in 2023, few of our club members suggested my name to become the president of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan for the year 2024-2025.

I was thankful for the trust but in awe of the gravity of the task at hand. Would I be able to live up to this honor?

By June 2024, I felt ready to take the helm, guided by my passion for Service and empowered by fellow RCBC dedicated and supportive Rotarians. Together, we can do it! And together, we did it! One hand, one heart!

The first six months of the Rotary year were nothing short of challenging. We had a strategic plan for the year, which was abided by to a great extent. Despite everything the country was going through, our work as Rotarians was amplified and our impact magnified. Through Rotary Lebanon Disaster Relief, we were part of making a difference in the thousands of lives displaced and uprooted.

My year as President was enriched by our collective work. Many thanks go to the board members: VP Mona Jarudi, IPP Amal Talhouk, IP Olga J. Feghali, PP Joe Boulos, Treasurer Christine Arzoumanian, Club Secretary Toufic Abilammah for all the support.

A very special mention goes to PP Samir el Khoury for carving the best Program for the year, Rt. Silva Guiragossian for her support of Service Projects, and to each and every member who was there, lending a hand when needed.

We had a great year of Service and fellowships. Our Public Image exposure was better than ever. Our Newsletter, MARHABA, was our ambassador to the world, showcasing our achievements and Rotary spirit. We were honored with three awards and were commanded on our work by D2452 Governor Hussain al Jazairi, by DDG Mona Kanaan, PDG George Azar and AG Aida Daou, who we consider as friends and part of our Rotary family.

Our club now can boast of being the first Inclusive club in Lebanon and the District, and a Peace Building Club who also is a charter member of the First Lebanon Chapter, Rotary Action Group for Peace. And furthermore, we have three Global Grants, one is nearing completion and two in the process.

Moreover, two new members joined our family: Rt. Lucie Sassine and Rt. May Talhouk who were warmly welcomed.



My heart swells with pride as I complete this Rotary year. I cannot be happier sharing all the special moments, the challenges, the problem solving, the great fellowships that strengthened further our ties. I am proud of our collaborations with other Rotary Clubs as we emphasized our unity as one Rotary family working for our communities under one banner: Service Above Self and showcasing the Magic of Rotary.

Now, the time has come to pass the torch to President Olga J. Feghali and I do so with my very best wishes for her and her board for another successful year, building upon the long history of RCBC as a leading club steeped in Rotary values, rich in its history of Service and proud of its fellowship spirit and cooperation!

Thank you all again for your trust in me and am truly honored to have led our club with you by my side! I am proud of what we have accomplished as a team, united in Service!

Sincerely

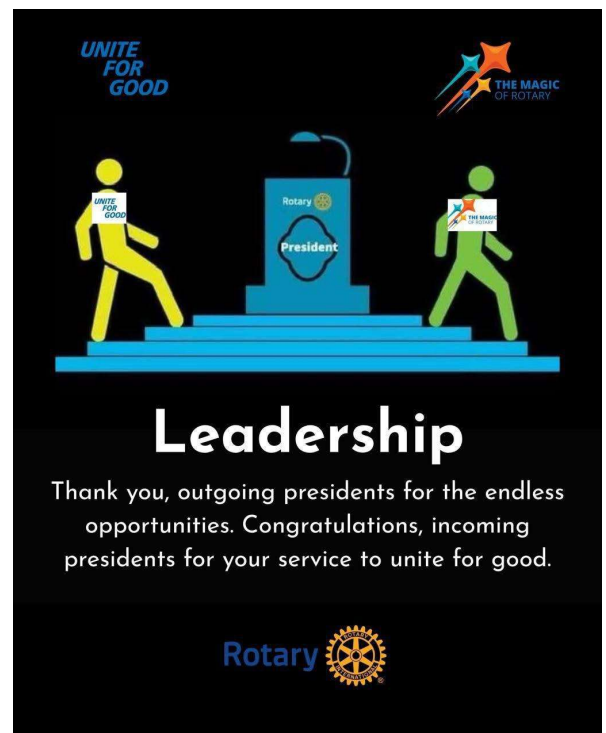
Haytham Kurdi

President 2024-25

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Beirut Cosmopolitan

Rotary
District 2452





Message from AG Aida Daou



Dear RCBC members,
Dear Rotarian friends,

For the 2nd time, I lived a precious Rotarian experience as Assistant Governor to DG Hussein Al Jaziri with a club I learned to know more and more.

I shared official moments since the wise President Haytham took the command till the ceremony where he will hand over the mission to the energetic President Olga Joelle. I shared Rich moments where members of this club donate from their time, from their energy, from their know-how to organize meetings, conferences, fundraisers, because they believe in " Service above Self" ... I recall "Friendship" gatherings where pleasure and fun mixed together made these occasions too short.

Wishing all the success to the vibrant RCBC, I would remain part of your fan club.

Best Rotarian Regards.

Aida, your AG for 2025-2026

PP Aida DAOU

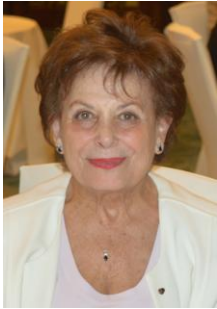
Rotary Club de Beyrouth District 2452

Commission de l'Image Publique Responsable des Rotaractiens AG 2024-2025



Meet Our Club Members

(Names are listed in alphabetical order)



Amal Talhouk
PP (2023-2024)



Asaad Salhab
PP (2012-2013)
AG (2018-2020)



Dr. Christine Arzoumanian
District RYLA Chair (2016-2017)



Ghaleb Mahmasani
Member (1996 - Present)



Haytham Kurdi
P (2024-2025)



Ibrahim Abdallah
Member (2024 - Present)



Jean Paul Moubarak
Member (2012 - Present)



John Edde
PP (2005-2006)



Judge Joseph Akl
Member (2009 - Present)



Joseph Boulos
PP (1999-2000, 2016-2017)



Karim Naamani
PP (2000-2001)



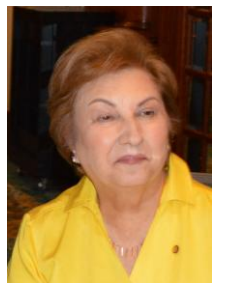
Dr. Kevin Saliba
Member (2021 - Present)



Lina Shair
PP (2014-2015)



Lucie Sassine
Member (2025 – Present)



May Baroudi
PP (2017-2018)



May Talhouk
Member (2025 – Present)



Dr. Michel Mansour
Member (2016 - Present)



Mona Jarudi
PP (2018-2019)



Mounir Jabre
PP (2013-2014)



Nada Maalouf
Member (2015 - Present)



Nora Haddad
Member (2013-2018,
2023 - Present)



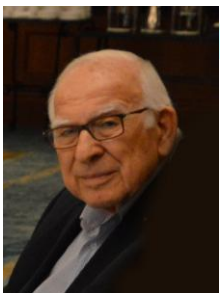
Olga Joelle Feghali
Member (2017 - Present)



Rabab Safieddine
PP (2017-2018)



Rana Salhab
Member (2013 - Present)



Raouf Malak
PP (2007-2008)



Samir el Khoury
PP (2022-2023)



Silva Guiragossian
Member (2002 - Present)



Sona Kourtian
PP (2021-2022)



Subhi Jarudi
PP (2010-2011)



Toufic Abillamah
Member (2023 - Present)



Business Meetings, Partnerships and Collaborations



September 3, 2024

Dr. Elie Badr

AU Vice President for Business Development and Global Affairs

Presentation Topic: 'LAU Pharmaceutical and Research Center'

September 17, 2024

Coach Mike J. Tolan

International Speaker, Entrepreneur, Best-Selling Author, TEDx Speaker, Trainer, and Executive Coach with over 25 years of experience

Presentation Topic: 'Quantum Leadership: Transforming Teams with heart, Courage and Empathy, through transparency'



September 24, 2024

David Alvarado

Global Grant Scholar, attending American University in Beirut for the 2024-25 academic year

Presentation Topic: "From Sao Paulo to Beirut: Life-long growth with the Rotary family"

November 12, 2024

Abbas Sibai

RCBC - Board Member - Club Secretary 2024-2025
Rotary District 2452 - Lebanon Alumni Chairperson 2023-2025

Presentation Topic: "The Rotary Learning Center"





November 19, 2024

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’

December 10, 2024

Amer Makarem

President of the Youth Association for the Blind (YAB)

Presentation Topic: ‘Fostering the Inclusive Culture’



January 7, 2025

**Joint Meeting with Rotary Clubs of
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Beirut Cedars, De Beyrouth, and Metn Gate**

Marwan Habre

MEA Head of Commercial Divisions, including Sales, Marketing Strategy & Alliances

Presentation Topic: “MEA: An Airline's Journey Through Crisis”

January 14, 2025

Mrs. Roula Doughan

Operation Manager at Balsam - Lebanese Center for Palliative Care

And

Ms. Farah Demachkieh

Head of Quality, Research and Development Unit at SANAD

Presentation Topic: "Why Palliative Care Matters"





January 21, 2025

Dr. Randa Hamadeh

Head of the Primary Healthcare and Social Health Department
Ministry of Public Health

Presentation Topic: "Back to Basics in Health through Primary Healthcare"

February 4, 2025

Joint Meeting with Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan & Beirut Pax Potentia

Patricia Shafer

Senior Fellow for Peace Education at the Alliance for Peacebuilding
Director of the international nonprofit organization NewGen Peacebuilders
(NGP) and associated Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) initiative

Presentation Topic: "Building Positive Peace in the World - the
Essential Impact of Rotarians in Lebanon"



February 18, 2025

Rotary
District 2452



The District Governor Visit

HUSSAIN AL JAZIRI

District 2452 Governor
Rotary Year 2024-2025

Represented by PDG George Azar

April 8, 2025

Joint Meeting with Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Beirut Cedars, De Beyrouth, Metn Gate, and Beirut Cadmos

Adel Afiouni

Former Minister for Investment and Technology

Presentation Topic: "Lebanon: Challenges and Roadmap for
Economic Growth"





May 20, 2025

Dr. Ghassan Moukheiber

Politician, Lawyer, Former MP, Activist for Human Rights

Presentation Topic: “The Civil State and How to Move Beyond the Sectarian Reality in Lebanon”

June 17, 2025

Joint Meeting with Rotary Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Beirut Cedars, and De Beyrouth

Dr. Fadi Makki

Minister of State for Administrative Reform

Presentation Topic: “Reforming the Public Administration & Reinventing the State”



Global Grants of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Healing Hands: Restoring Hope at Quarantina Hospital

(Approved and currently in its final stages)

The project, "Healing Hands: Restoring Hope at Quarantina Hospital," seeks to support critical healthcare operations at Quarantina Hospital in Beirut by providing essential medical equipment, expanding capacity for maternal and child health services, and supporting vulnerable populations—especially women, children, and displaced families—affected by Lebanon's ongoing crises.

The initiative aims to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality rates, improve healthcare quality, and ensure sustainable, measurable health outcomes for the community.

Gift of Life Lebanon (GOLL) Global Grant:

(Approved and currently in process)

Gift of Life Lebanon (GOLL), a chapter of Gift of Life International, was founded in 2015 by PP Lina Shehayeb in collaboration with other Rotarians. Since its inception, GOLL has made significant strides in providing free pediatric cardiac checkups and surgeries for underprivileged children with congenital heart disease. Through partnerships with various Rotary Clubs and international organizations, GOLL has successfully performed hundreds of life-saving surgeries, conducted thousands of medical checkups, and organized numerous awareness campaigns and training missions. Currently, Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary Club is serving as the host club for a new Global Grant in collaboration with other local Rotary Clubs and international partners, aiming to support the treatment of approximately 50 children through pediatric surgeries and catheterizations at two hospitals. They invite partners to join this humanitarian effort to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children with congenital heart conditions.

Elpis H.O.M.E. Equipment Grant:

(In the pipeline for approval)

Supports the provision of essential medical equipment to clinics serving underserved populations in Lebanon. This is not the first time our club has formally assisted Elpis H.O.M.E., highlighting our ongoing commitment to supporting healthcare facilities for the less privileged.



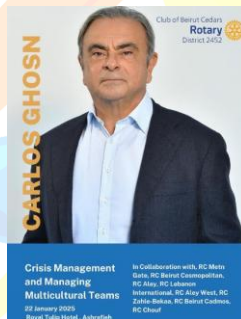
Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan in Action



The Rotary Clubs of Kesrouan, Beirut Cosmopolitan, and Sahel Metn jointly hosted an event with Dr. Marcel Massoud, attended by President Haytham Kurdi and members from Beirut Cosmopolitan, focused on hematology and oncology.



PP Mona Jarudi's visit to the Rotary Club of Atlanta highlighted strengthening international ties through fellowship, networking, and discussions on Atlanta's emerging status as a culinary capital, fostering potential collaborative projects.



RC Beirut Cedars, in collaboration with RC Beirut Cosmopolitan and other Rotary Clubs from Lebanon, attended the meeting where Carlos Ghosn addressed pertinent issues in life and business.



DDG Mona Kanaan hosted an evening gathering of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors from Rotary Lebanon to celebrate their heroic disaster relief efforts in response to the October war, showcasing their dedicated service during a challenging time.

PP Mona Jarudi participated in the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference held in Istanbul from February 20 to 22, 2025, and received certification from Rotary International as a Peace Activator





Service Projects

Response for the Rotary Disaster Relief

1. Through a private donor, 14 mattresses were donated to a school in Bawaerta.
2. A private donation to Dar Onboz to provide books for children in schools.
3. RCBC participated in a major donation organized by RC Metn Gate to send food and sanitary products to Rmeish, a village in South Lebanon whose residents refused to leave their homes, risking their lives under continuous bombardment.



On December 7, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in the national drawing contest "Arzati Hawiyati" sponsored by Fabriano and co-funded by LA Cedars, with Rt. Olga J. Feghali supervising 34 children from Ain Ebel and Boucherieh; the event celebrated children's love for Lebanon through their artwork

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, led by Rt. Olga J. Feghali, organized a two-day event at Telephrique and Harissa for 253 underprivileged children from five schools, featuring cable car rides, entertainment, and gifts, with generous support and sponsorship from members, PP Joe Boulos and family (rides and treats), Original Marines (jeans), and Mrs. Nsouli (hoodies), embodying the spirit of service and bringing joy to those in need.





PP John Edde together with our twin club Rotary Club Bangalore Brigades in India arranged for a large donation of shoes for the needy that was received and distributed by our partners Rotary Club LA Cedars



Donation of Hygiene products in collaboration with Gift of Life Lebanon



Members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan visited the School for Blind and Deaf to spread cheer and kindness among the children.



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, in collaboration with Rotary Club Pax Potentia and Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotaract Club, organized a traditional iftar for 50 underprivileged children aged 6 to 13, featuring games, face painting, food, and goodie bags, with Mrs. Sana Tawil facilitating the event.

On May 3, the Gift of Life Lebanon Global Grant was officially handed over by RC Cadmos in collaboration with several other clubs, including RCBC.





Donation by RC Beirut Cosmopolitan to Children Cancer Center, Beirut Lebanon.



Our BCRAC attending RYLA.



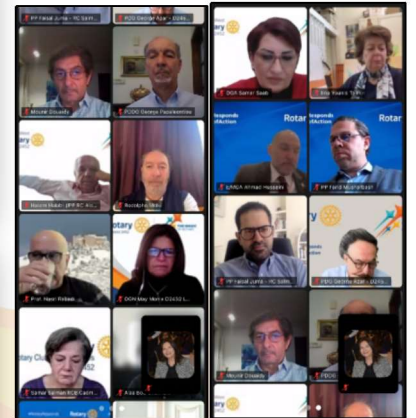
P. Haytham Kurdi, along with members of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan and other Lebanese Clubs, attended the inauguration of the new Mother and Child Wing at Karantina Government Hospital, which serves underprivileged communities in Beirut.





Reaching Out

On March 15, 2025, members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in an online seminar led by Rotary leaders from D 2452, where they learned about the Rotary Foundation, global grant projects, various donation options, and effective partnership strategies to address global challenges through collaboration.



RC Kesrouan, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, and
RC Beirut Pax Potentia

ROTARY - IEP PARTNERSHIP

MARCH, 20, 2025 - ATCL KASLIK

MEETING & IFTAR - 40\$ | 5:30 PM
MEETING - 10\$ | 7:00 PM

We will be hosting an iftar, then followed by a joint meeting, at ATCL Kaslik, about the partnership between Rotary and IEP.



Guest speaker
ANHAL KOZHAYA
PP - RCBPP



Guest speaker
NOOR AKOUM
P - RCBPP



Guest speaker
MONA JARUDI
PP - RCBC



Guest speaker
ELISSA TABET
PM - RCBPP



On March 20, 2025, Rotary Club Kesrouan hosted an iftar and business meeting in collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan and Rotary Club Pax Potentia, featuring presentations on peacebuilding initiatives, certification of members as Positive Peace Activators by IEP, and a shared commitment to peace projects in Lebanon.



On April 3, 2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in the Country Public Image Seminar led by President Emile Mouawad, emphasizing the importance of consistent branding and storytelling through various channels to effectively promote Rotary's mission, vision, and community impact.



On April 15, 2025, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in the 15th Anniversary celebration of Rotary Club Beirut Cedars, enjoying an evening of fellowship, recognition, and shared successes.



Members of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan attended a gala evening at the Casino du Liban to elect Miss Rotaract Lebanon.

Patil Harmandayan from BCRAC was first runner up.



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotarian Rana Salhab was invited as a guest speaker at Rotary Club de Beyrouth, sharing her expertise on current global issues, with a detailed presentation forthcoming.

Presentation Topic

“Recent transformational trends in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Landscape”



On February 21, 2025, Istanbul hosted over a thousand Rotarians to promote peace through the conference “Healing in a Divided World,” emphasizing the importance of commitment, understanding, and inclusive efforts in addressing conflicts and building lasting peace as central to Rotary’s humanitarian mission



The Lebanon Chapter of the Rotary Action Group for Peace was launched mid June with 9 participating Rotary Clubs who are officially peace building clubs now. RC Beirut Cosmopolitan is a charter member of this chapter.



Fellowships, and Fundraising Initiatives for Community Assistance



RC Beirut Cosmopolitan members celebrated the end of 2024 with a joyful fellowship full of camaraderie and fun.

January 8, 2025, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, in collaboration with Rotaract Beirut Cosmopolitan and other Rotary clubs, hosted a festive evening celebrating Orthodox Christmas with special contributions from PP Joe Boulos and BCRAC, showcasing Rotary fellowship and community spirit.

The event aimed to raise funds to support people with disabilities.



On Saturday, February 22, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan organized a visit to the Lebanese National Museum in Beirut.

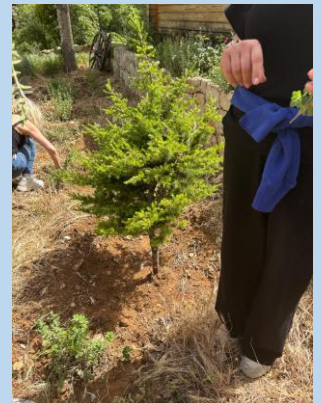
The event was coordinated by Committee Chair Olga J. Feghali, with members from the club, participating and enjoying a guided tour and lunch at the Nuhad Said Pavilion, celebrating Lebanese heritage and history.



The Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan traditional Ramadan Iftar was held at a lovely restaurant in Beirut where members and friends enjoyed an evening of good food with great fellowship.



RC Beirut Cosmopolitan In collaboration with RC Pax Potentia and RC Lebanon Eco, Earth Day was celebrated with an outing to Arz Ehmej and planting a cedar tree.



On May 1, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan and Rotaract Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in the Beirut Marathon, showcasing community engagement and team spirit.



A fundraising evening was held at Théâtre Monnot, where RC Beirut Cosmopolitan members and their guests enjoyed the play "Shou Mnelbouss," sponsored by Yehia Jaber and featuring Anjo Rihan, to support our humanitarian initiatives.

The end of this Rotary year was celebrated in a lovely outing to the beautiful village of Hammana famous for its cherry festival.

The outing was organized by RC Beirut Cosmopolitan in collaboration with RC Hammana Upper Metn.

It was a day of fellowship, fun and laughter that was enjoyed by many Rotarian friends,





Pinning New Members



Lucie Youssef Sassine

Lucie is a civil engineer graduated from the USJ (ESIB), married to Nassri Sassine, also an engineer, mother of Roman, & twins Andrea & Sacha. Roman is studying architecture- they are a family of engineers, and the twins still at school.

Lucie is a professional, who managed many high end projects in central Beirut (around us), and that's where I've met her and we were colleagues, and during those years the twins were born.

MAY TALHOUK



May holds a BA degree in Art History from Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. the only university for the Deaf in the world. May is a painter and revealed her painting talents at the age of 5 years. She has displayed her artwork in over 15 exhibitions in Lebanon, Europe and USA. May has been a staff member at the American University of Beirut-Jafet Library, at the Restoration and Conservation Department since 2014. May has been a friend of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan for many years. She will be an asset to the club through the projects she is planning through Rotary, which aim to make everyday life more accessible for people with disabilities."

District Awards Granted to Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan



Community and Vocational Service Silver Award

12th Rotary District 2452
Conference in Dubai



Youth Silver Award

12th Rotary District 2452
Conference in Dubai



Public Image Silver Award

12th Rotary District 2452
Conference in Dubai



Handover Ceremony

One of the most anticipated events in Rotary is the annual handover ceremony when clubs witness the changing of the guards.

In the most convivial environment and among fellow Rotarians and friends, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Haytham Kurdi passed the torch to Incoming President Olga J. Feghali.

The ceremony was witnessed by PDG George Azar, PDDG Mona Kanaan and PAG Aida Daou along with distinguished guests P. Ghassan Hajjar – RC Beirut Cedars, P. Wissam Masry – RC Hammana Upper-Metn Gate and Patil Harmandayan – President, Rotaract Beirut Cosmopolitan.

In a heartfelt speech, President Haytham shared the feelings, hopes and dreams of every President, the trials and tribulations, challenges along the way and the numerous successes. What starts as a daunting task ends up being very rewarding especially when one measures the impact of our work and service to our communities.

President Olga's words were full of promise to uphold all the principles and values of Rotary and to continue leading the great journey of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan in its mission and vision.

It was an evening where we showcased Rotary as one big happy family, enjoying the moment with the promise of another Rotary year in upholding [Service Above Self](#).







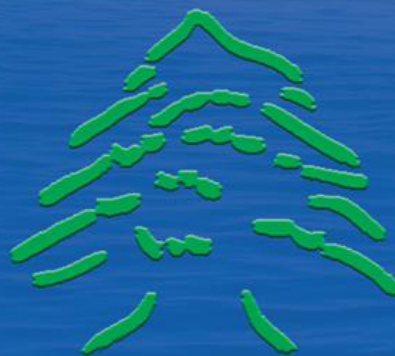


The End



Rotary

Beirut Cosmopolitan



District 2452