

RCBC Marhaba: 2021-2022 Issue No. 4 November & December

ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN

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

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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES District 2452

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Letter from

President Sona Kourtian Doniguian

President 2021-2022

Six months, half of a Rotarian year, Christmas & New Year resolutions...



Is it a coincidence, or a carefully planned agenda, or simply luck that completion of half a Rotary year actually falls on Christmas/New Year timing?

The first months being the most difficult part of the Rotary fiscal year – planning, set up, and initiation -their completion is in fact getting half-way through the mandate. And while reflecting on those months, one cannot but link them to the actual Christmas & New Year resolutions...

In this time of the year, we reflect on the challenges we faced, and celebrate our accomplishments; we remember the ups and downs and how we maneuvered around them, how we turned every obstacle into an opportunity.

We plan for our future, we wish the best for the upcoming year/days, and we look back to memories made... and for us at RCBC, those memories are purely jewels of success....

Yes, we can confidently say that we had a fabulous half a year, six phenomenal months, busy exciting agenda with outstanding program, distinguished speakers, exceptional fellowship, and of course our main aim: noteworthy & remarkable projects.

We had our business meetings, without missing any week; we addressed Rotary monthly themes, hosting international rotary figures; we addressed our dear Lebanon's day-to- day issues, with

prominent professionals in each field; our zoom meetings turned to be the attraction for our international friends & partners; our fellowships became not only talk of the town, but actually "talk-of-the-district" and even beyond!

We continued with our humanitarian projects, and despite the international economic difficulties due to the covid pandemic, we were still able to secure funds to two large new projects, in addition to many smaller projects running in parallel, through our proper, meticulous, and dedicated approach in selecting our projects, our professional & transparent communication with our one-of-a-kind international friends and partners.

We could achieve these all by the cooperative work of dedicated professional team members, who knew well the difference between words vs. action, plan vs. implementation, sweet soft smiles vs. serious hard work....

We achieved so much, that we are comfortable to say we've done our share of the year already.... But our success stories inspire us and add on our ambitions to dream and crave for more... and here we are, with our Christmas and New Year resolutions, planning and wishing for more...

Joy to the World, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All, Our best is yet to come...

Sona

Online Business Meeting With **Mr. Larry Lunsford** TRF Trustee 2021-2025

NOVEMBER 2, 2021





On November 2, RCBC had the honor to host Mr. Larry Lunsford, Trustee of the Rotary Foundation for a 4-year term 2021-2025.

Mr. Lunsford joined the Rotary Club of Kansas City- Plaza, Missouri in 1991 and has just celebrated his 30th anniversary as a Rotarian in that club. He served as President, and as District Governor of D6040 in 2001-02 and as RI Director in 2013-15. He is past member and Chair of RI Membership Committee and is now on his fourth year as a member of the Shaping Rotary's Future Committee for Rotary International. This year he also served as Chair of the Rotary Peace centers committee of the Rotary Foundation, helping in the selection of the

Rotary Peace Fellows.

The Rotary Foundation was given 4 stars by the Charity Navigator, an honor that only 1% of organizations has been given. In all the turbulent years in our generation, Rotary stood tall relying on personal acts of service and generous donations. The success that TRF had in fighting Polio worldwide helped it in attempts at dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic and more than 46 million dollars were used in that fight.

TRF has its sights on 2026 as the culminating year of a 40-year journey to fight Polio. The estimated remaining cost to achieve the Polio target in 2026 is 5.3 billion dollars. Larry went over some programs that TRF is involved in:

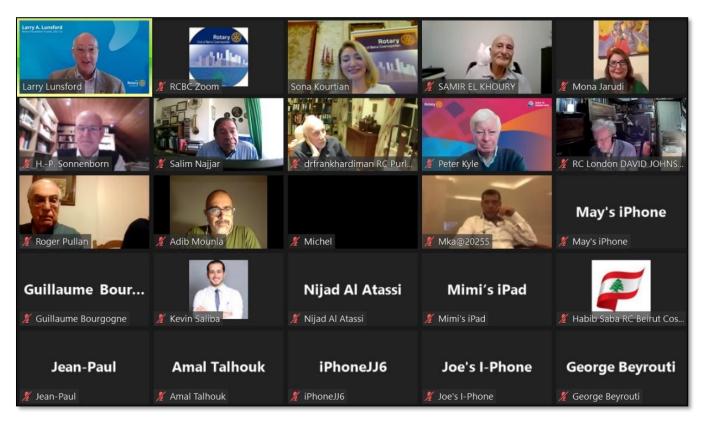
- Grant programs of Scale: in March, multi million dollars were spent for a malaria-free Zambia, reaching 1.3 million people. TRF plus World Vision plus Bill Gates Foundation donated 2 million \$ each and this grant is already paying dividends. Rotarians are engaged and the enthusiasm in Zambia led to the formation of many Rotary Clubs there.
- Environment related projects.
- The demand for Global Grants is very high. 267 GGs were given last year, more than 143m \$
 were allocated for that.
- Rotaract Clubs: as of July, 2022, D2452 will give DDF to Rotaract clubs.
- Rotary Peace Centers: by 2030, there will be 4 new Regional Certificate Programs to complement the Masters Program. A new Rotary Peace Center was established, 15.5 m \$ was gifted to start the ME and North Africa new Peace Center which will give certification in 2024.
- Endowment: by 2025, TRF needs to build 2.025 billion \$ of which they have now 1.6 billion\$.

This is a very modest summary of the rich and extensive presentation given by Mr. Lunsford. One can only hope to maintain the level of dedication and generosity required by the army of Rotarians working locally and globally to make this world a better place.









<u>Marathon</u> <u>Teach A Child RCBC Participation</u> <u>November 13,2021</u>



After an interruption of two years due to the Covid pandemic, the famous Beirut Marathon was revived against all odds. The event was done on two days to respect social distancing.

The atmosphere was euphoric. People were singing and dancing, taking advantage of the temporary respite that the virus afforded us and with the utmost enthusiasm many organizations joined for support. Our club walked with the organization Teach a Child, in line with the club's theme of this year: Education.

Many club members joined including a very dear friend from California and the Interact Club.

As usual, a day of fun and giving with the added benefit of exercise!











RC BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN in collaboration with RC TYRE EUROPA & RC ALEY WEST

Business Meeting With Major General Stefano Del Col Head of Unifil Mission

NOVEMBER 16, 2021







On Tuesday November 16, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Major General Stephano del Col, Head of UNIFIL Mission in Lebanon. The meeting was held in Le Gabriel Hotel jointly with RC Tyre Europa & RC Aley West and was highly attended by Rotarian friends from clubs in Lebanon.

In his remarks, Major General stated that UNIFIL has been contributing to the stability of Southern Lebanon for the past 43 years. "The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 425(1978) and 426 (1978) of March 19,1978 and mandated to confirm the withdrawal of the forces from Southern Lebanon, restore

international peace and security and assist the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. The mandate, renewed yearly by the Security Council, was adjusted as a result for developments in 2006 following resolution 1701.

UNIFIL is now a 10,000 troops mission hailing from 46 different countries which includes many international and a large number of Lebanese civilians. UNIFIL conducts daily more than 200 operational activities in Southern Lebanon, many of which are in strict coordination with the Lebanese armed forces. UNIFIL operates with the final aim of ensuring the political and diplomatic solution necessary for a permanent ceasefire".

After a very interesting question and answer session, the attendees were treated to a cocktail party highlighted by the celebration of President Sona's Birthday, where she was feted by all and received a souvenir from the Major General del Col.





















Online Business Meeting With RC Picton

NOVEMBER 23, 2021



Our club, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, prides itself in its international partnerships with other Rotary Clubs. One of our partners, RC Picton (D 7070), held a joint meeting with us on Tuesday, November 23 to learn more about our club activities, explore new avenues where we can mutually benefit for our service projects. RC Picton's club treasurer, Maurice Carlier, is a past member of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan few years back when he lived and worked in Beirut and is a cherished friend among our members.

President Sona gave a very detailed overview of all the club's activities, projects, Global Grants and fellowships. It is important to note that RC Picton has been a major partner in our GGs over the years, the most recent of which is the rehabilitation of the pediatric wing of the government Karantina Hospital that was totally destroyed by the August 4 Beirut Explosion.

Our gratitude goes to all our international partners and RC Picton for all their support in our continued drive to serve our communities. These partnerships are the essence of the rotary spirit and a true reflection of team work and fellowship.



District Participation November 26,2021

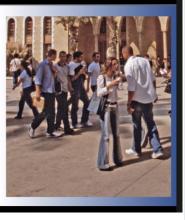
On November 26, RCBC participated in the Rotary Foundation District Seminar where prominent speakers were featured shedding light on the Rotary Foundation, what it does and its policies of grant implementation this year.

RCBC featured PP George Beyrouti, District Chair of Rotary Peace Fellows Program. George spoke about the program, selection process, funding and highlighted the great interest for this program by many candidates in our District.

Global Grant Scholarships

This type of scholarship is for graduate students only studying in one of the seven areas of focus, and lasts from one to four academic years.

A key feature of global grants is the partnership between the district or club in the study location and the district or club in the scholar's home country.



Rotary Peace Fellowship Selection Results for 2022

Out of 19 candidates endorsed by District 2452, 8 were selected, 5 finalist and 3 alternate, 1 from Lebanon, 1 from Cyprus and 1 from Sudan for the master's program, and 2 from Sudan for the Certificate, and 3 alternate from Palestine. Up to **130** Rotary Peace Fellows are chosen annually Out of 600 endorsed applications received globally from over 500 Rotary districts.

Abstract

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

Our Foundation projects that change lives.

by RID Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou





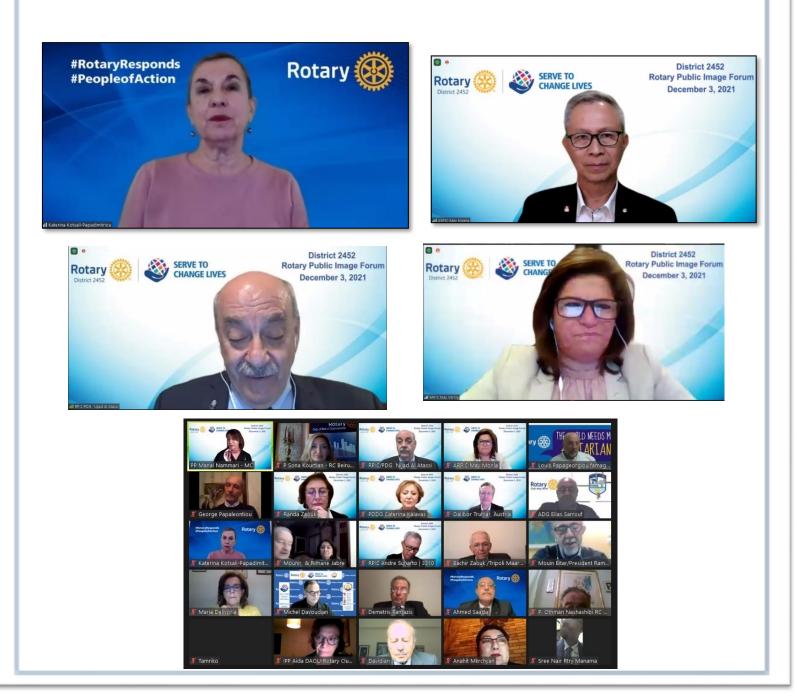
District Seminars Participation December 03,2021



PUBLIC IMAGE

The opinion that people have of an organization based on its actions RC Beirut Cosmopolitan is always present and engaged at D 2452 level.

On December 3, our club attended the District Public Image Seminar where valuable information was disseminated about promoting Rotary Public Image.



Club Assembly Election of the 2022-2023 Board President Nominee (2023-2024)

DECEMBER 7, 2021

On Tuesday December 7, an in-person club assembly was held. The purpose of the meeting was to elect the Board of Directors of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan for RY 2022-2023.

Protocol and procedure was applied. Quorum was met and the tally was handled by three independent members.

The elections were conducted in the presence of AG Shant Chinchinian and VP Joe Boulos on zoom to ensure proper protocol and procedure were observed.

The new Board elected:

President Elect President Nominee Vice President Immediate PP Club Secretary Club Treasurer Farida Najjar Amal Talhouk Samir el Khoury Sona Kourtian Doniguian Kevin Saliba Haytham Kurdi

Directors:

Mona Jarudi Michel Mansour Habib Saba





Congratulations to the new Board!

Many good wishes go to our club for continued success and service









Per tradition and with great enthusiasm and optimism, RCBC held its annual Christmas event on Friday, December 10 at the AGBU center, Salle de Chevalier.

This year, P Sona and the board decided not to have it an exclusive RCBC event, but rather invite all our Rotarian friends from all clubs in Lebanon, near and far. Everything about that evening spelled joy and fellowship. Many Rotarian friends joined us from all over Lebanon. The place was beautifully decorated, the accessories a big hit with our guests and the generous spirit, warmth and camaraderie were abound.

Many thanks to all who graced our Festive Christmas party...it was surely an evening to remember!





















Welcoming RC Beirut Cosmopolitan New Honorary Member **Major General Stephano del Col**, Head of the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon.



Annual Christmas event with children December 14,2021



What is Christmas if not for the gift of giving and spreading joy among the unfortunate among us in this world.

On December 14, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted 100 kids at the Azarieh Convent in Achrafieh. The Rotaract and Interact Clubs of Beirut Cosmopolitan were our partners in this beautiful event that brought smiles and cheers to all the children and adults present.

At hand was also the Rotary Mascot that was provided by RC Metn (PP Najah Elias) and proved to be a big attraction and hit with the kids.

Games were played, dinner was served and toys were distributed to put a lovely final touch to an event that leaves us all thankful for our blessings and fills our heart with the joy of giving. Nothing rivals a smile on a child's face!!!





Photo souvenir with Sœur Rita Sœur Josephine And Mme Nawal Sfeir, Presidente de L'Association des Dames de la Charite.

RCBC PROJECTS

Infant MILK PROJECT November 07,2021

A project by Lebanon Strong Canada, reception organized by the ALRC & RCB Cedars, in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador.

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan distributed its shares to 3 humanitarian organizations: Assameh, Nusaned & Live Love Lebanon





Donating Sanitary Products December 03,2021

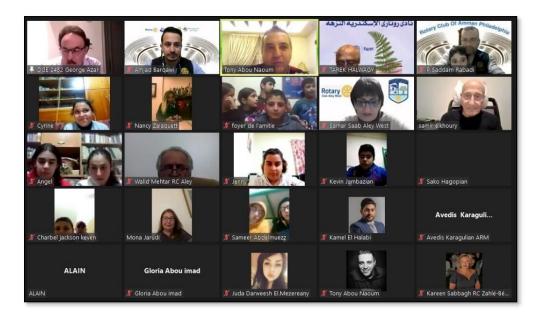
RCBC donated children and adults' sanitary products to CPMI (Centre de Protection Maternelle et Infantile), thanks to Gift of Life-Lebanon.





Guardian Angels December 08,2021

With the continuing spirit of giving this season, our club participated in an initiative spearheaded by PP Tony Bou Naoum and RC Zahle. This event hosted several underprivileged kids from schools in Bekaa where a live conversation was conducted with them and participating Rotarians from different clubs. These children were adopted for Christmas by different Rotarians to bring joy to their hearts. Our club was privileged to adopt three kids, toys were bought for each which will be received on Christmas.









RCBC Interact Club News

The PP and Founder of our Interact Club Said el Kadi was accepted to Harvard to study Public Policy, Economics and Government.

When I met Said as a fifteen year old, I was thoroughly impressed with his maturity, focus and desire to serve the community. Within a couple of months, he managed to generate enough interest among his school mates, and our Interact Club was born. Since then, this young club has been engaged with our Rotary activities and in their own community service.

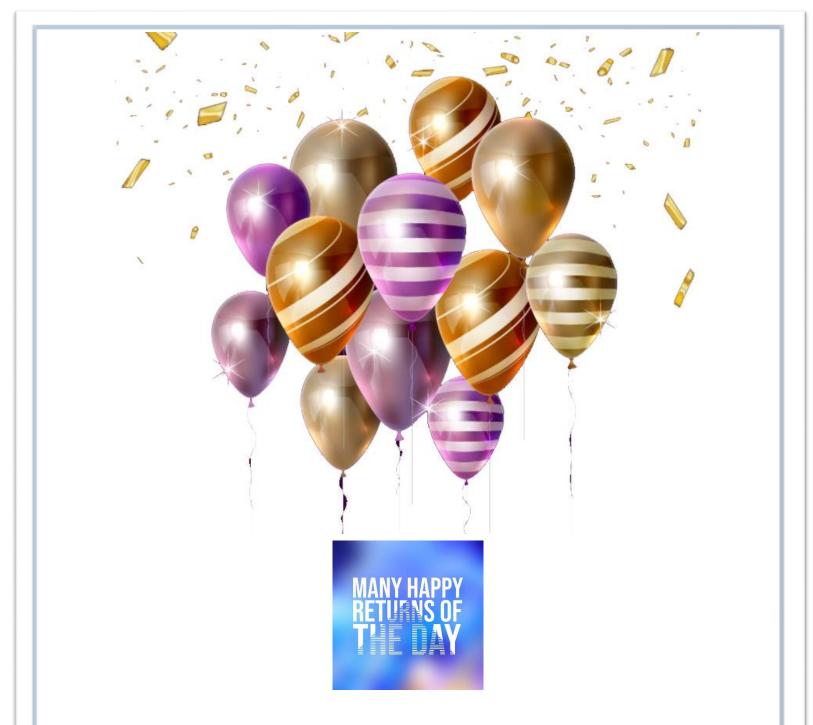
Congratulations to Said.. Lebanon will lose another young talent ! We wish him continued success and a bright future.











November

Michel Mansour	November – 5
George Theodory	November - 10
Sona Kourtian	November - 17

<u>December</u>

Subhi Jarudi December - 7

THE END