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RCBC Marhaba

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Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan



RI President **Jennifer E. Jones**
Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland,
Ontario, Canada

District Governor **George Azar**
Rotary Club Aley, Lebanon

Assistant Governor, **Aida Daou**
Rotary Club de Beyrouth, Lebanon

RCBC Officers 2022 - 2023
President **Farida Najjar**
IPP **Sona Kourtian Doniguan**
President Elect **Amal Talhouk**
Vice President **Samir El Khoury**
Secretary **Kevin Saliba**
Treasurer **Haytham Kurdi**
Directors
Mona Jarudi
Michel Mansour
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Letter from

President Farida Najjar

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It is with a great sense of honor and responsibility that I serve as Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan's President for Rotary year 2022-23, a club with a proud past and an exciting future. I am deeply grateful and humbled by your trust as I take on this essential role. A role that has always ensured that our club has maintained the highest professional standards, close friendships and importantly service to the community.

As we look forward, I wish to acknowledge the notable achievements of more than 25 years of selfless hard work and effective team effort as our club tackles the most audacious initiatives. Here, I would be amiss if I did not express on behalf of our club my sincere admiration and gratitude to all the Past Presidents and their teams, for they have defined each of the past years with a unique and notable success.

Our club has always been characterized by its diversity and cosmopolitan nature, all united by the same high Rotarian values, goodwill and a strong commitment to serve above self. Our rich pool of knowledge, expertise and strong fellowship is our most valuable asset as we work hand in hand to serve our community, despite the global challenges and the extreme and unprecedented challenges facing our beloved Lebanon.

The Rotary International theme for Rotary Year 2022-23 is 'Imagine Rotary'. A broad scoped theme that brings with it a powerful message of hope and a strong belief that we in Lebanon can overcome the dire circumstances and together make a significant difference. As we witness the situation unravel in our country, compounded by the fuel crisis with its devastating effects on all sectors in our society and especially its toll on the underprivileged communities; coupled with a heartfelt devotion to preserve our environment, the theme chosen for our club for the incoming Rotary year is 'Renewable Energy'.

With the invaluable backing of our incoming Board along with all the teams and members, and the creativity and dynamism of our vibrant Rotaractors, I have no doubt that RC Beirut Cosmopolitan will mark the incoming year with impactful projects that will enhance the community's social and economic growth while deepening the bonds of friendship and fellowship. It is with your support and trust that I take the helm of this prestigious club for the incoming year as we join hands to contribute to our community while we strive to preserve our club's proud legacy.

As we embark on this journey together, I wish each and every one of you the best of luck and much success with the knowledge that you will enrich our club with your own unique contribution as we serve above self!

Farida Najjar
President 2022-23

Handover Ceremony

July in Rotary is Handover Month. This is the month when changing of the guards will be underway and the passing of the helm of leadership takes place.

In the presence of DG George Azar, AG Aida Daou, DS Samar Saab and AG Shant Chinchinian, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan held its handover ceremony on July 5. The event was attended by Rotarian friends from RCs: Aley, Aley West, Chouf, Cadmos, Beirut Liberty, Beirut Center, Beyrouth, Chtaura Bekaa Gate, Metn Gate and RC Tyre Europa.

In the beautiful setting of Beit Meri, Outgoing President Sona Kourtian Doniguian bid farewell to the year in an emotional, heartfelt speech. After a lockdown of two years, and despite the dire economic situation that Lebanon is entrapped in, P Sona forged ahead with projects, global grants, fellowship events and participation in District conferences and events. The club enjoyed awards in all the categories and received RI President Citation Award, an honor to be proud of. Throughout, P Sona was guided by her love for Service and love for the club. She thanked her board and all club members for their support and dedication to the club's mission statement.

With a beautiful spirit, P Sona passed on the helm of the Presidency to Incoming President Farida Najjar and wished her the best of luck in her new year.

The evening culminated with a lovely dinner in a nature setting and with the utmost spirit of friendship and fellowship.

Handover Ceremony

Between



P. Sona Kourtian
Doniguian

and



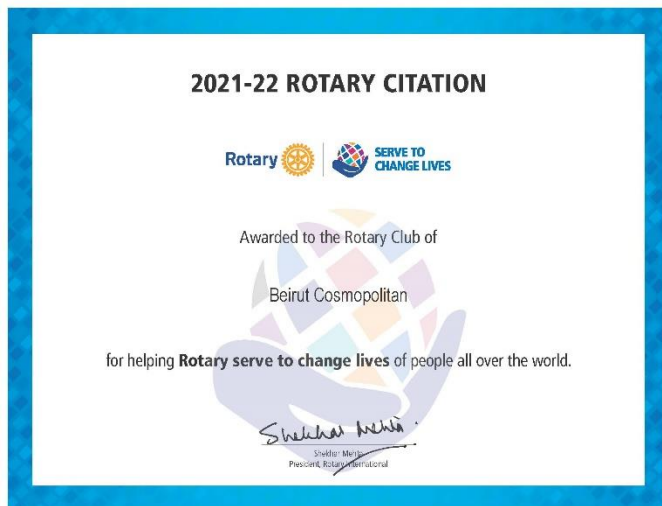
PE Farida Najjar

July 13, 2022

L'Olivier, Deir El
Kalaa Country Club

Beit Meri





Club Assembly

The Smallville Hotel, Beirut

July 19, 2022



On Tuesday July 19, RCB Cosmopolitan held its first club assembly.

President Farida Najjar outlined her action plan for RY2022-23, introduced the club Board, and Committee Chairs. All committees presented their vision and plan for the year.

President Farida announced her theme for the year: **Renewable Energy**.

This focus is in line with RI areas of focus that addresses Environment and climate change. This theme will be particularly useful in Lebanon as it is suffering from the worst electricity sector breakdown for many years.

Business Meeting

July 26, 2022



Chadi Fadel

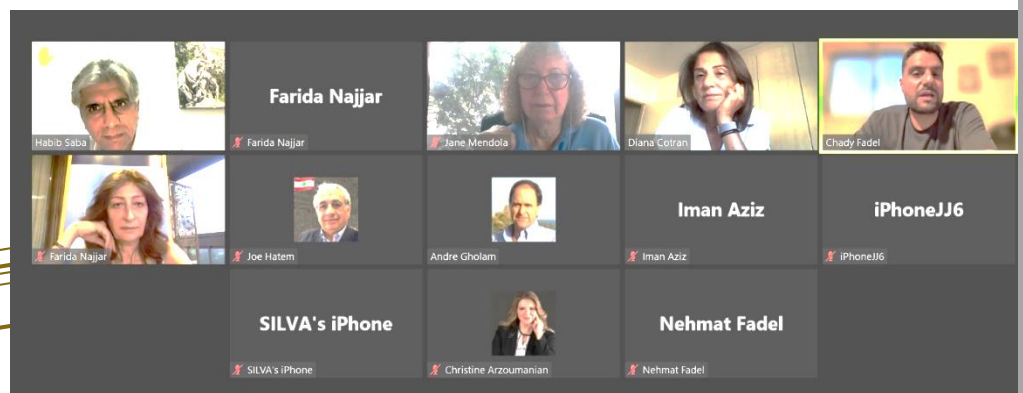
BIAT / USAID
Lebanon Enterprise Development
Business Advisor

**"The Emerging NFT
Market"**

Graduated from Wayne State University - USA with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Worked mostly in oil & gas and renewable energy industries.

Since 2018, worked as Business Advisor on USAID funded programs to help Lebanese startups and SME to launch and accelerate. Many of the enterprises were in the Tech sector.

Been in the blockchain and crypto since 2017, started as a curious learner and recently was part of the founding team of Art of Mob, an NFT project built on Solana blockchain. Art of Mob reached the #1 in sales volume and #1 on twitter worldwide.



Membership Development Month

DEI – District Chair Presentation

August 16, 2022

August in Rotary is Membership Development Month. In line with Rotary International focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), RC Beirut Cosmopolitan RT. Rana Salhab (District Chair for DEI, was invited to present her thoughts and plan for DEI in D2452. This online webinar was under the patronage of District Governor George Azar and was very well attended by Rotarians from the district.

In this comprehensive presentation, Rt. Rana touched upon DEI definitions, the DEI principles to be ingrained in Rotary's culture: fellowship, integrity, diversity, service and leadership. She then went on to elaborate how to incorporate DEI in D2452 strategy.

Why focus on D2452 DEI strategy? Our Rotary district is 90 years old. We are already diverse in multiple countries, cultures and languages. We are 9 countries in 3 continents: Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan, Sudan, Bahrain, UAE, Georgia, Armenia and Palestine. Our district always embraced diversity but there is more to be done to reflect wider diversity. Our district has good membership retention but need to improve our attraction and retention rates, while addressing increasing more women participation and better representation of younger generations.



Featuring RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Youth

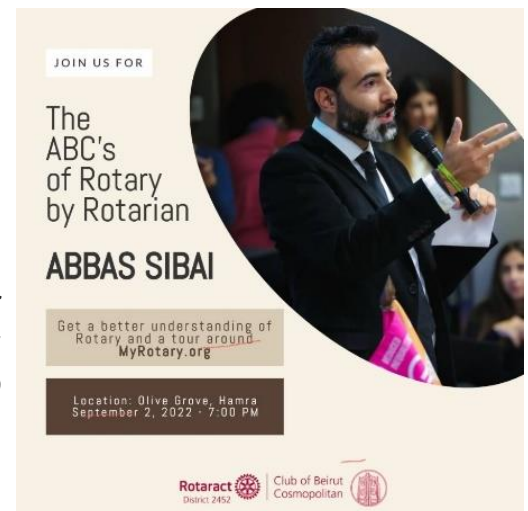
August 19, 2022

Connecting with Rotaract as a partner in Service is a must. Thus, what could be better than instilling the ABC of Rotary as basis for a solid and meaningful relationship? It is essential to have our compass guided by our founding Rotarian, Herbert J. Taylor, who created in 1923 our business ethics; and we as Rotarians, adopted the Four-Way-Test in 1943.

These simple yet mindful 4 questions:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all?

On August 19, 2022, Rotarian Abbas Sibai, facilitated a session for Rotaract Club Beirut Cosmopolitan about the ABC of Rotary and introduced MY Rotary Platform, encouraging Rotaractors to join and utilize tools for a strong club foundation and professional growth.



On September 21, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Rt. Abbas Sibai was invited to be a guest speaker in a conference addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This conference shed light on Rotary's work in achieving SDGs and the importance of youth and peace in reaching the levels of development that the agenda 2030 addresses.



Business Meeting

The Smallville Hotel, Beirut
September 6, 2022

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan member Dr. Christine Arzoumanian was the guest speaker in an in person meeting on September 6. This meeting also hosted our Rotaract Club BCRAC who presented their plan of action for RY2022-2023.

In line with September theme of the month: Basic Education and Literacy, Dr. Christine explored in her presentation, how Rotary can support Entrepreneurship, Business Education and its impact on youth. In an interactive environment Dr. Christine touched upon the following points:

- All Rotarians are social entrepreneurs because they identify problems in the community and try to solve them in creative and sustainable way.
- Rotarians can add value through their companies to create competitions and programs for business students to apply and compete.
- Rotarians can be guest speakers in academic courses, conferences and panels to inspire the youth with innovative ideas and mind set.
- Rotarians can support youth with internship opportunities. RC Beirut Cosmopolitan started a Work-Study Program to help students offset their tuition fees with paid internships.
- Rotary can invest in Scholarship programs for students in need and with good academic standing. RC Beirut Cosmopolitan started such a program last year with Haigazian University honoring the memory of PP Tony Asfour.

Christine went on to invite BCRAC President to give her thoughts and plan.

Dr. Christine Arzoumanian

Entrepreneur
Business Professor
RC Beirut Cosmopolitan
Member

"How Rotary Can Support Entrepreneurship, Business Education & its impact on the Youth"



Elissa Tabet

Rotaract – President 22-23
RC Beirut Cosmopolitan
"Meet & Greet"

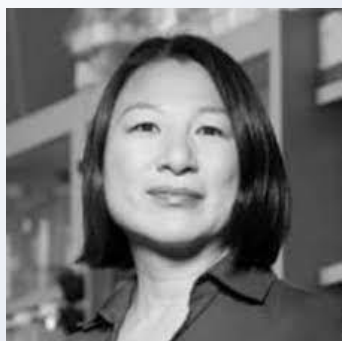
The Rotaract Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan started RY 2022-2023 by rebranding the club's logo and colors. This year, the club welcomed 13 new interested members in addition to its 8 pinned members.

BCRAC is dedicated this year to gain more members, expand its local and international impact through sustainable projects, empower the youth, and have a better understanding of Elevate Rotaract & the Rotary Foundation.

So far, the members of BCRAC started working on fellowship activities with other rotaract clubs, in addition to planning out their Professional Development sessions of the year. At the moment, each committee director is planning projects to lead in the upcoming months.

Business Meeting

September 27, 2022



Anna Wang

Vice President
Corporate Affairs
at Canary Global, New
York

"How Covid has spurred a new interest in testing, and how testing can be critical to health, beyond Covid"

On Tuesday September 27, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Dr. Anna Wang as a guest speaker on the important topic: Future of Testing, Lessons and Opportunities from the COVID Epidemic.

After two years of the world grappling with the Corona virus, its variants, the vaccines, the testing, Dr. Wang stated that till now the tests are not optimized to prevent viral transmission. As a preventive measure for all diseases, testing is the most important. Testing can lead to better detection and diagnosis, but it has its own challenges at the industry level: inaccuracies, quality control, invasiveness, result time and cost to name a few. The recommendation is to move testing to the Point of Care (PoC): ability to test anywhere(pharmacies, clinics, airports), more rapid, cost effective, ability to make treatment decisions faster.

Anna went on to identify disease frontiers for Point-Of -Care Diagnostics. The targeted diseases are: infectious diseases, oncology, antimicrobial drug resistance and inflammatory diseases. She states that 2/3 of cancers are curable when caught early. Trillion of dollars can be saved if diagnostic tools are in place to avert Dementia and Alzheimer diseases.

Dr. Wang summed up her presentation by saying that it all starts with testing.

- Testing can help contain an epidemic
- Testing can save lives
- Better tests are needed
- Innovative tests should be developed in a short time
- Cost and accessibility drive uptake
- Testing process needs innovation
- Tele-medicine is the future
- Testing is not everything but it's the START.

Lessons learned from the COVID epidemic... hope we learn for the future!

Fellowships Events

Fellowship and friendship are building blocks of strengthening ties among clubs. Participation in handovers, fundraising events and other activities is one way to show solidarity and support as Rotarians. The past two months witnessed many such events where RC Beirut Cosmopolitan was represented by P Farida Najjar and past presidents and members.

1. Visit to RC Tyre Europa

On July 23, RC Tyre Europa in collaboration with the NGO Woujoud, inaugurated the cultural route through the city and archeological sites of Tyr. This is a project that brings closer together the inhabitants of Tyre and its artists which shows the city and its heritage from an unprecedented angle through contemporary art.

It was heartwarming to see children and young adults fully immersed in the history of their city, recreating ancient art and mosaics and even learning the Phoenician alphabet. A lot to be proud of!



2. RC Aley



2. RC Chouf



3. RC Cadmos Handover



4. RC de Beyrouth Handovder



5. RC Zahle Bekaa Handovder



6. RC Tripoli



7. Gift of Life



PP Lina Chehayeb, District Chair of Maternal and Child Health. A presentation was made about the awareness centers to be started all over Lebanon to create health awareness for 22000 children and their families. This is a project that will be sponsored by Gift of Life Lebanon.

8. Participation with Tyre Europa in their environment project



A clean up of the Beirut River at the section of Rouaset al Ballout in the presence of DG George Azar and Minister of the Environment.

9. Participation with RC Cadmos for their project Arztrak Hawytak(your cedar is your identity). 10452 cedar trees will be planted in the north of Lebanon , sponsored by BEMO Bank.



RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Fellowship Events

Emir Faisal Arslan Museum, Aley

On Saturday September 17, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan held their first fellowship of this rotary year. Club members together with Rotarian friends from other clubs, visited the museum of Emir Faysal Arslan in Aley, Lebanon. The group was graciously received by Princess Hayat Arslan, who is well known for her activism, enabling women economically and politically, running educational organizations and a clinic to address women's health.

The day started with a presentation by Princess Hayat highlighting important periods in the history of Lebanon and the involvement of the Arslan family, most notably Mir Majid Toufic Arslan who was one of the Lebanese patriots who signed the first Lebanese flag after Lebanon gained its independence in 1943. She also presented the beautiful work done by her women association and the public Library that is a work in progress in memory of the late Diala Arslan, it is at the bottom of the article before Renowned children book author, well loved and cherished by the community.

A tour of the museum followed after which the group enjoyed a sumptuous Lebanese brunch in the beautiful mountain setting.



Banner Exchange

Rotarians are ambassadors of their clubs to the world.

It is encouraged that the bonds of rotary and fellowship be extended beyond the borders of one's club to strengthen the ties of friendship and explore possible areas of collaboration between clubs.





On Sept 21, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotarian Jean Paul Moubarak visited the club of RC Paris Montmartre where he was well received by President Christophe Combo.



Joelle Feghali - Jul 29

Joseph Akl - Aug 5

Amal Talhouk - Aug 7

Haytham Kurdi - Aug 19

Rabab Safieddine - Sept 1

Sylva Guiragossian - Sept 9

Karim Naamani - Sept 15

Christine Arzoumanian - Sept 21

The End