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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
Habib Saba

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Letter from The Editor

The editor



PP. Mona Jarudi

This time of year is special in every way. It is the time of giving, time for togetherness and time for forgiveness. This is the time that we build high expectations, and the time to imagine, hope and dream. It is the time to set our sights on better days ahead, and a time to reflect and change. There is a special kind of energy in these times that should be harnessed in every possible way, energy to grow and be the best we can be. These are times when challenges turn into possibilities and despair turns into hope.

As Rotarians, we are always faced with challenges, and as dedicated Rotarians with strong commitment to Service Above Self, we always rise up to the challenge. Challenge creates change and change is the current key word in Rotary's life. The world is in flux and is facing imminent threats that compel us as individuals to think out of the box and innovate. Our day to day is all about pivoting and adapting to change. And that is the power of Rotary: creating leaders who turn challenges into accomplishments. In the words of Albert Einstein "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change".

As this year is drawing to a close, on behalf of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, I extend my warm wishes for a very Happy 2023. May the winds of change bring you magic moments, better times and peace of mind.



Business Meeting

"World Polio Day"

October 25, 2022



Dr. Fady Sahhar

President of XtraGlobex
and CEO of
ProVantaCare in the US



Judith Diment

RI Chair Polio Advocacy
Task Force, UK National
Advocacy Advisor



Faisal Tajdar

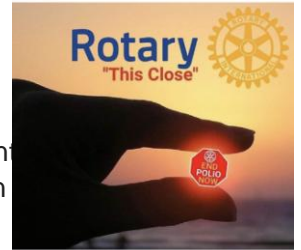
Senior Program Officer
at the Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation
Polio Team

On the occasion of World Polio Day, RCBC hosted three prominent guest speakers to share their expertise and provide an update on where the world stands now in the fight against Polio.

The meeting started with Mr. Fady Sahhar, a very successful business man who has been living with Polio since age 4. After many trials and tribulations, he did not allow this disease to take over his life, he went on to get an MBA in Marketing and a PhD in Global Leadership. He is currently the President of XtraGlobex, a business consulting firm working with clients who are at the inflection point in the growth in their organizations.

Our second prominent speaker was Mrs. Judith Diment, Past District Governor D1090, Dean of the Rotary Representatives to the UN and International Agencies. She is also Rotary Representative to the Commonwealth, Member of the International Polio Plus Committee and Coordinator of Rotary's Polio National Advocacy Advisors and UK National Advocacy Advisor. She is also a member of Rotary Club of London. In her very comprehensive remarks, Judith stressed Rotary's role in fundraising for Polio, advocacy, raising awareness and heighten volunteer engagement. Polio cases are reduced by 99.9% and only two countries remain endemic for wild Polio virus. She announced the very important news that on October 18, thanks to Ian Riseley, the Chairman of Rotary Foundation and his efforts in Berlin with global leaders, US \$ 2.6 Billion were pledged towards the Global Polio Eradication Initiative GPEI 2022-2026 Strategy to end Polio. We should be proud that Rotary pledged US\$ 150 million, the largest amount after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Remarkable feat!

The final speaker was Mr. Faisal Tajdar who is a Senior Program Officer in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Polio Team focused on Endemic countries. Faisal spends his time working with the Pakistan government and GPEI implementing partners, WHO and UNICEF, to improve Polio Campaign quality to reach every child and deliver polio vaccine.



District Governor Visit

DG George Azar

November 1, 2022

On Tuesday, November 1, RCBC received DG George Azar (D 2452) on his first official visit to clubs in Lebanon, together with AG Aida Daou and DDG Jawad MOUAWAD.

Club members assembled and welcomed warmly the District Governor and the distinguished Rotarians who are also valued friends of our club.

During the visit, P Farida gave her opening remarks and invited all club committees' chairs to present their plan for the current Rotary year. This included: PP Lina Shair (Membership), PP Mounir Jabre (Service Projects), Rt. Joelle Feghali (Fundraising), Rt. Diana Cotran (Program), Rt. Christine Arzouminian (Fellowship), Rt. Abbas Sibai (Public Image) and AG/ PP Habib Saba (TRF).

The newly formed DEI committee was represented by Rt. Rana Salhab (DEI District Chair) who presented her plan and vision for the district.

PE Amal Talhouk presented the new club initiative that will be a first in Lebanon and the district, a Rotary Club for people with a difference.

RCBC is proud to launch this new initiative and the inauguration will take place in January.

DG George gave his final remarks stressing the importance of membership and projects that will attract interested people to join Rotary. He also highlighted the importance of our District Conference in May, 2023 and invited everyone to join to represent rotary well.

**ROTARY CLUB BEIRUT COSMOPOLITAN**

**District Governor George Azar
visit to
RC Beirut Cosmopolitan**

Date: Tuesday, November 1st, 2022
Time: 6:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm
Venue: The Phoenicia Hotel, Carthage Conference Room



That evening, IPP Sona Kourtian honored PP Mona Jarudi and Rt. Rana Salhab with the distinguished Paul Harris pins in appreciation of their work in her RY 21-22.

Also, DG Azar and AG Aida pinned few members with the Imagine Rotary pins in recognition of their ongoing dedication to the mission of Rotary and Service.



Business Meeting

November 8, 2022

Climate change, industrial wastes, gas emissions to name a few have been wreaking havoc on the environment and our planet. Scientists around the world are racing to come with alternative solutions to reduce this negative impact. Our guest speaker, Mr. Mousallam gave a very scientific and comprehensive presentation on how to decarbonize the power sector.

The accelerated and strategic deployment of Renewables and Gas Power can change the near-term trajectory for climate change and deliver a path to substantive reductions in CO2 emissions quickly. He stated that General Electric is uniquely positioned through its scale, breadth and technological depth to play a key role in the energy transformation to address climate change. Using gas turbines will play a big role in decarbonizing our society.



Salim Mousallam
Executive Director
Decarbonization
Strategy &
Partnerships
GE Gas Power
EMEA

Business Meeting

The Smallville Hotel, Beirut
November 29, 2022



Laury Haytayan

Middle East &
North Africa
director at the
Natural Resource
Governance
Institute
(NRGI)

**" Maritime borders
between Lebanon &
Syria"**

Laury Haytayan is an oil and gas policy and geopolitics expert.

She is the Middle East and North Africa director at the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) - an independent, international non-profit organization that provides policy advice, research and works on advocating for better managed resources and energy transition in oil rich countries.

She played a leading role in establishing the MENA Oil & Gas Knowledge Hub in Lebanon in 2014. She has several publications and she is a regular commentator on issues related to oil and gas in Lebanon and the East Med.

She is the host of the Energy Espresso podcast- a solution oriented podcast that answers all your questions on the status and future of energy and energy transition in Lebanon- you can find it on YouTube and listen to it on Hakawati. She teaches a course on geopolitics of oil and gas in the East Mediterranean at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Club Assembly

PN & Board Elections 2023-2024

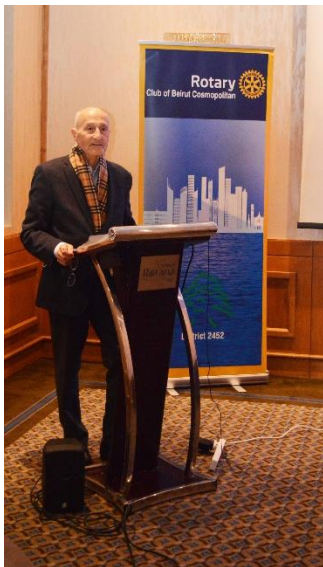
December 6, 2022

On Tuesday, December 6, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan had its general assembly to elect the new Board for RY 23-24. Following due process, the elections were held and supervised by the election committee: PP Raouf Malak, PP Mounir Jabre, PP John Edde assisted by RT. Jean Paul Mubarak.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors:

- PE Amal Talhouk
- PN Haytham Kurdi
- VP Subhi Jarudi
- CT Christine Arzoumanian
- CS Abbas Sibai
- Director Lina Shair
- Director Samir Khoury
- Director Joe Boulos

Wishing the new board and RCBC continued success!



Fundraising Events

1. Sunset Cocktail at Nasab Le Palais Tanoukh in Abey October 1, 2022

In the most beautiful setting of the Tannoukhi Palace in Abey, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan together with RC Beirut Center held a sunset cocktail fundraising event in the presence of many Rotarians and friends. It was a magical evening highlighted by authentic music and great cheer.

Many thanks go to our fundraising chair Joelle Feghali who organized this event with our dear Beirut Cedars P Riman Jabre.

Many thanks as well go to our gracious hosts the Kanaan Family whose hospitality and love was shining through.

Nasab Le Palais Tanoukh is classified as the oldest castle in Lebanon inhabited for almost 800 years. It was built by the Tanoukh Princes, the ancestors of Princess Nasab Tanoukh, the wife of Prince Kurkumaz, and the mother of Prince Fakhreddine Maan II The Great. Princess Nasab known as Sit Nasab was born and raised in this castle from which she ruled Lebanon while Prince Fakhreddine II was in Tuscany and later during his exile in Turkey. This castle, the only remain of the Tanoukh dynasty, was later taken over by the Maan Princes, who were succeeded by the Chehab Princes and later by Dr Jamil Kanaan's Family. This summer, this private residence and living museum opened its doors to host social and cultural events.










Rotary and Rotaract clubs of
Beirut Center and Beirut Cosmopolitan
cordially invite you to a

Sunset Cocktail

At Nasab le Palais Tanoukh in Abey



qnasab, esp@istanoukh

OCTOBER
|
1
|
AT 5:00PM

P.S: RSVP before the 23rd of September




35\$ per person

Lebanese live band, food and beverages

2. Fundraising TocToc Play at the Mono Theater November 12,2022

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan held its second fundraiser, a comedy at the Monot Theater.

Many members and friends attended and enjoyed this comedy, written by Laurent Baffey, and translated into several languages including Arabic.



MONNOT
المنوت

SYNOPSIS

Dr. Stern is a world-renowned specialist in obsessive-compulsive disorders or "OCD". He rarely consults in France. The six people who chat in his waiting room have had to wait many months for a consultation. But the eminent therapist is kept waiting, stuck in Frankfurt by the unpredictability of air travel. Waiting together, playing Monopoly to relieve their boredom, the patients will get to know each other and even try a group therapy... punctuated by the uncontrollable tocs of each.

Rémi Moussali et Marie-Thérèse Irani in collaboration with

MONNOT
المنوت

PRESENTS

TOC TOC

كتابة لوران بافي
إخراج أنطوان الأشقر
ترجمة ريمي موصلي
وماري- تيريز عيراني

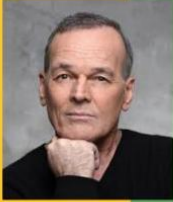
25 October - 13 November 2022
OFF ON MONDAYS



MONNOT
المنوت

About the Play

Toc Toc is a play written by Laurent Baffey, created in 2005 at the Palais Royal theater in Paris. Played for more than two and a half years, it was revived in Quebec and Belgium, then translated and performed in Spain by Julián Quintanilla, and in Catalonia by Jordi Galceran. And now it is translated into Arabic by Remi Moussali and Marie-Thérèse Irani to be performed in November at Le Monnot Theatre.



3. In Memory of Ralph George Beyrouti October 6,2022



In memory of the dearly departed Ralph Beyrouti, son of our dear PP George Beyrouti and Lola, few members of RCBC led by Fundraising Chair Joelle Feghali, donated a gift to the Children's Cancer Center to help a child suffering with this disease. It was a very emotional afternoon highlighted by faith and love and hope that Ralph is now residing in heaven with the choir of angels!



Handover Events

1. Handover - Conclave machine for Dar al Ajaza Islamia Hospital November 10,2022

On November 10, Service Projects committee Chair PP Mounir Jabre, together with P Farida Najjar and other RCBC members, handed over an Autoclave Sterilization machine for the ENT Unit at Dar Al Ajazah al Islamiah. PP Adib Mounla was remembered for being a major support for this Global Grant.



2. Handover – Medical Equipment November 23,2022

A new project came to fruition, one that started last RY with IPP Sona Kourtian, with the assistance of CT Haitham Kurdi, in a cooperation with RC Fostoria, Ohio in USA. A full container of medical items (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, elderly diapers, masks N95, medical gloves, gowns etc) were received and the distribution to needy hospitals and organizations started on November 23. A good portion was shared with RC Chouf and RC Aley who will be distributing in turn to Baakline Dispensary and Iman Hospital in Aley, respectively. Also, a donation of the same was given to Azounieh Hospital.

Thank you IPP Sona for the follow up and RCBC is proud that this cooperation between our club and RC Fostoria will carry on to 2023.



Annual Christmas Dinner

The Peninsula Restaurant & Gardens
December 12, 2022

RCBC held its annual Christmas dinner on December 12 at the Peninsula where club members and friends enjoyed a festive evening of fun and fellowship!

Merry Christmas and happy holidays 🎄 to all.



Orphans' Christmas Lunch

Teleferique, Jounieh
December 17, 2022

One of the brightest spots in our Rotary year is the event we plan around Christmas to share the joy of the season with children of lesser fortune.

This year, Rt. Joelle organized a lovely lunch with 50 children of different ages and backgrounds who hail from the Orphanage of St. Charbel in Baabdat run by Sister Rachida Maalouly.

The children were treated to a Teleferique Ride up the beautiful coast of Jounieh, enjoyed fun and games and lunch in a very festive and joyful atmosphere.

Many thanks go to PP Joe Boulos for facilitating this event in the beautiful venue and to all Rotarians whose generosity contributed to the success of this event.

Nothing compares to seeing innocent faces beaming with happiness and joy.





Banner Exchange



Banner Exchange
with
RC of Cork
Ireland
D1160

Banner Exchange
with
Paris Montmartre
France
D1660



Congratulations



**PP Joe Boulos
as chair of the
Intercountry Committees (ICC)
Mexico
2022-2023**

**Congratulations to
Rotarian Abbas Sibai
who was appointed by
DG George Azar
chair for the Alumni Committee - District for the
Rotary Year 2022-2023**





October

Diana Cotran - October 2nd
Asaad Salhab - October 18th
Mazen El Farra - October 28th
Jean Paul Moubarak - October 31st

November

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

December

Subhi Jarudi - December 7th

THE END