



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

RCBC Marhaba

Issue No. 3
2022-2023

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan



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Marhaba Editor
PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

Letter from President Samir El Khoury



President
Samir El Khoury

As President of the Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, I look forward to a new year full of hope and service. Together, we will work in the true spirit of Rotary, the spirit of mutual respect, strong fellowship, and above all, Service above Self within our Rotary family and beyond with projects to support our community.

Our new pioneering initiative for People with Disabilities (PwD) was embraced and welcomed by Board and members of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan alike, bearing evidence to our Club's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), now incorporated in our amended club by-laws. We are looking forward to the launching of the PwD event on February 7 at the Phoenicia Hotel with two prominent guest speakers on DEI. This initiative will hopefully be a model to adopt in our district and will put us in the forefront in adopting a Rotary International directive in trying to adopt DEI in all clubs locally and globally.

In our attempt to acknowledge zoom meetings fatigue, we are trying to bring conviviality back to our Club Meetings. We will make an effort this year to have more in person meetings, and at least a couple of dinners, with our return to the Phoenicia Hotel.

Our young members in the RC Beirut Cosmopolitan are one of the Club's major assets for the present and future. They are being empowered to hold leadership positions so they will build upon the long history of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan as being a leading club in Service and Global Grants. Our club is rich with its old, experienced talent and its young Rotarians, Rotaract and Interact Clubs who will continue the race towards serving our community.



#3 – January 25, 2023

1' to discover an aspect of Rotary

This text was generated by the artificial intelligence Chat GPT, without any intervention of the editor.

Why become a Rotarian in 2023?

By becoming a Rotarian in 2023, you can enjoy many benefits.

Rotarians are community leaders who meet regularly to exchange ideas, establish professional connections, and plan service projects in their community and around the world.

Joining a Rotary club allows you to work with people in your community to improve the lives of others and make a positive impact in the world.

Additionally, Rotary members have access to a wide network of professional contacts and can benefit from personal and leadership development opportunities.

Rotary is a great way to give back to the community and make a difference.

Joining Rotary also allows you to connect with like-minded people, create new relationships and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Rotary also provides its members with a platform to share their knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive impact on the society.



The Rotary Minute is a creation of District 2080. Please, please send any comments or suggestions to rotaryminute@rotary.org



The Objective of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity to service;

Second

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian personal, business, and community life;

Fourth

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

SV

Handover

Inauguration Ceremony

Beirut Governmental Hospital –Karantina

27 January 2023

On January 27, 2023, two and a half years after the Beirut Port explosion, the long awaited for and star project of RC Beirut Cosmopolitan, the Karantina Government Hospital project was finally handed over.

This event was held in the presence of District Governor George Azar (D 2452), AG Aida Daou, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan President Samir el Khoury, Rotarians and guests. Also present were Dr. Robert Sacy, President of Assameh, Mr. Abboud Chami, Vice President and Treasurer and Mr. Marc Sacy, Operations Manager. Also, this event was attended by PP Louise McCance-Price who came especially from London to attend this huge event.

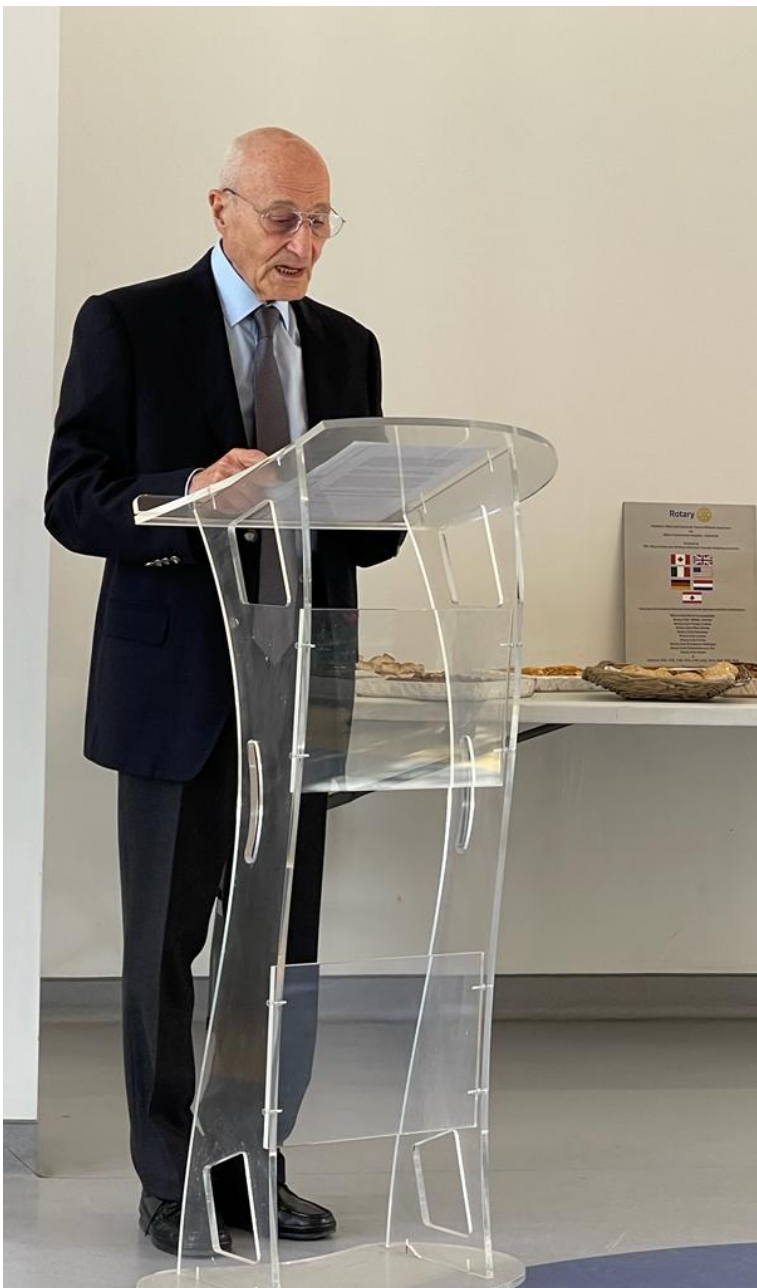
This Global Grant Project was led by PP Habib Saba, supported by PP Joe Boulos and Rt. Dr. Michel Mansour. This grant was instrumental in equipping the maternal and pediatric wards in the newly refurbished hospital by providing the pediatric ward with several beds and tables, the neonatal ward was provided with few incubators for premature infants. The maternal and delivery ward was equipped with operating tables and maternity beds.

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan was the lead club in this huge undertaking with international partners of Rotary Clubs and Districts in Canada, Australia, England, Germany and the Netherlands. All this would not be possible without the support of the Rotary Foundation in the US. We owe them all a debt of gratitude!

Words of appreciation were given after the tour of the wings in the hospital by RC Beirut Cosmopolitan President Samir El Khoury, DG George Azar, Project Leader PP Habib Saba and Mr. Abboud Chami. In recognition of her relentless support for this project, PP Louise McCance-Price (RC Putney, London) was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by DG George Azar. Very well deserved!

This project is the embodiment of the spirit of Rotary, and a testimony to the power of Rotarians as People of Action who make a difference in their communities.







Business Meeting

January 10, 2023



Rotarian
Iman Aziz

Electrical Engineer
RC Beirut
Cosmopolitan
Member

**"Electrical
Literacy: From
your household to
the country"**

January in Rotary is the month of Vocational Service. In line with this theme, the speaker for the business meeting on January 10 was our own Rotarian, Iman Aziz, who presented a very interesting topic that falls in her line of work and expertise. Rt. Iman is an Electrical Engineer who holds an MBA and DESS from ESCP Europe. She currently works as a Contract Manager for Execution of Operations and Maintenance Contracts and is also an Instructor at the Lebanese American University, School of Engineering. Iman is also a very proud RC Beirut Cosmopolitan member.

Electricity Literacy: From Your Household to the Country. With this interesting and timely topic, considering Lebanon's battle with the lack of electricity, Iman took us through a thorough presentation, dispelling myths and highlighting facts. Quoting Albert Einstein "If you can't explain it simply, then you don't understand it well enough", Iman proved that she understood it well and delivered her talk clearly and precisely.

She started by defining electricity as the sum of motion plus magnetism, listed the different sources of electricity and how it reaches us from the generation point to the distribution end point. Ms. Aziz outlined the actual problems, the transmission losses and Distribution losses, how are we billed. She shared few common misconceptions one of which is exposure to electrical currents might cause cancer which she said that there is no scientific evidence to back this. The big question was: what is the solution for the electricity problem in Lebanon? Purely political and when politics take a back seat, the solutions are at our fingertips.

THE PASSION

If you can't explain it simply, you
don't understand it well enough.
— Albert Einstein



WHAT IS ELECTRICITY?

$$\text{MOTION} + \text{MAGNETISM} = \text{ELECTRICITY}$$

⊗ U ⚡

SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY



Coal



Wind Energy



Uranium



Petroleum



Hydropower



Solar Energy



Geothermal



Hydrogen



Electricity



Natural Gas



Biomass

HOW DOES ELECTRICITY REACH US?

Generation
At Power Plant Level

Transmission
Through Transmission Lines

Distribution
Into our homes



© EnergySage

Business Meeting

January 17, 2023

Professor Geoffrey Lipman, President SUN X Malta and Envoy for Sustainable Tourism Global Center was our guest speaker on January 17 on the current important topic of climate change and what can be done. The presentation of Dr. Lipman "A Moonshot for Clean Aviation-and the Planet We Need" was an eye opener and a warning that immediate action has to be taken to avert future disasters.

The world is witnessing severe climate changes: Floods as in the case of California after years of drought, hurricanes in the Caribbean that have a recurring pattern, some countries have experienced intense heat, cold countries are not getting snow, some species are dying and an alarming increase in refugees are all signs that it can only get worse and nothing will improve short term. If we fail, our grandkids will either "freeze or fry" depending on where they live.....a very ugly scenario to contemplate.

According to Professor Lipman, we are in a poly crisis (multiple systemic threats that coalesce), the top 3 are climate related:

- No decrease in CO2 emissions
- Failure to adapt to climate change
- Failure to respond to extreme weather effectively.

Dr. Lipman goes on to highlight the role that aviation plays in climate change. Aviation is important for modern society, for business and tourism travel, but its growing negative impact has to be fixed now. Flights should be less polluting, CO2 emissions should peak in 2025 and there should be sustainable aviation fuel with no carbon. Planes that still pollute after 2049 should be pulled out, but the greed of companies will certainly prevent that.

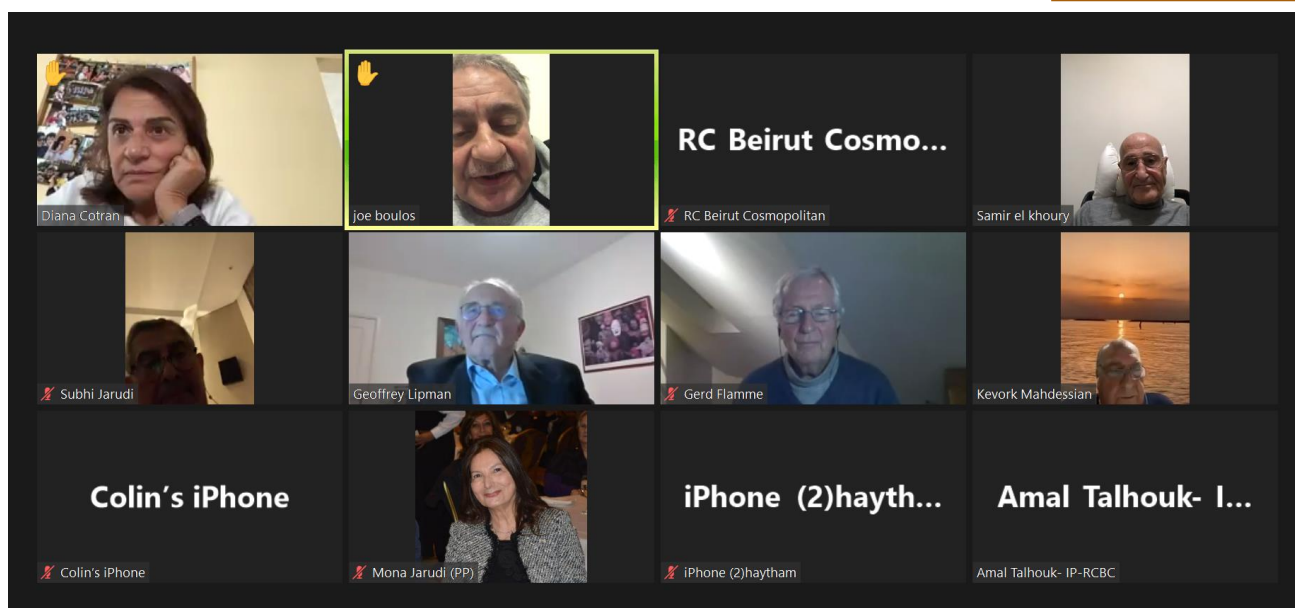
In March, 2023, a big conference will take place in Doha to launch KISS for Climate Program (Keep It Simple Stupid), an embrace from developed to less developed countries (LDC) to come up with a plan to Act Now and enforce strong regulatory interventions. When there is a will, there will definitely be ways of making sure the future generations will have a healthy planet to live on.



**Professor
Geoffrey Lipman**

President SUN X
Malta
Envoy for
Sustainable Tourism
Global Center and
Lead for TPCC
Tourism Panel on
Climate Change

**"A Moonshot for
Clean Aviation - and
the Planet We Need"**



Business Meeting

January 24, 2023



Dr. Mona Fawaz

Professor in Urban Studies and Planning at the American University of Beirut

A research director and co-founder of the Beirut Urban Lab

A regional research center based at the American University of Beirut

"A pilot public space project in Mar Mikhael"

Dr. Mona Fawaz, Professor in Urban Planning at the American University of Beirut, research director and co-founder of the Beirut Urban Lab, a regional research center based at AUB and invested in working towards more inclusive, just and viable cities.

Dr. Fawaz presentation was about the project of Beirut Urban Lab, Al Masar al Akhdar (The Green Path). Post Beirut Explosion in August 2020, BUL responded to this by creating the Beirut Urban Observatory with 15 researchers, 8 research tracks and 20 partnerships. Its objectives were to study the impact of the explosion on urban sectors such as housing, infrastructure, heritage, public spaces etc, monitor the recovery process, collect data and provide information to relevant actors and the general public to increase awareness.

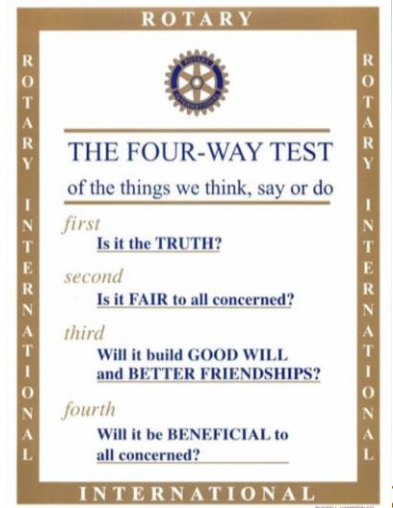
Beirut is losing its green public spaces so one important project she is working on now is the green path in the mar Mikhael area in Beirut, to develop the sense of community and retrieve the neighborhood feel to the area. The project is almost complete with its funding, most of which came from international organizations, and Dr. Fawaz presented to RC Beirut Cosmopolitan with the hope that Rotary can help bridge the gap. Once done, this project will add lots of charm and functionality to the area. The challenge will be the upkeep and maintenance of the area, a feat that requires dedicated civic duty.



Rotary Corner

January in Rotary is Vocational Service month. How did this evolve through the years?

- When Paul Harris started Rotary, it was for the promotion of business interests of its members in a friendly environment. In 1910, the majority of clubs moved from clubs boosting their businesses to improving communities. Lots of mottos were debated for this new concept, culminating in Service above Self, a motto adopted to this day.
- At the Rotary International Convention in 1925, the Object of Rotary was adopted to include "high ethical standards in business and professions". In the same year, the Vocational Service committee was established to promote Rotary's ideals at work. In 1927, the word Vocational Service was adopted to replace business, profession, occupation etc.
- What is the Object of Vocational Service adopted in 1940? "to encourage and foster: high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society."



International Relations

India-Lebanon

Due to Rotary relations established by PP John Edde last year with RC Bangalore India, much needed medications were sent by them to AUBMC for the treatment of Sickle Cell Disease in children in Lebanon.

We are happy to announce that another shipment of medications was recently sent by our Indian partners and received by AUBMC Dr. Miguel Abboud. Special recognition goes to Mr. Fouad Bawarshi who arranged the shipment of medications from India free of charge.

Another testimony how Rotary Connects the World and how Rotarians spring to action to support communities in need.

Heartfelt gratitude to Rt. Ashwani Kinger who helped immensely in helping to save sick children in Lebanon.

Well done PP John for your continued efforts.



Reaching Out

One very important way of maintaining connections among Rotarians is the Inter Club activities and events that bring Rotarians together. RC Beirut Cosmopolitan prides itself on maintaining such relations. PP Mounir Jabre was especially proactive the past couple of months and represented RC Beirut Cosmopolitan in few interclub functions and Rotary Seminars such as Scaling Your Impact seminar and TRF seminar together with TRF Chair Joe Boulos, IP Amal Talhouk and RT. Abbas Sibai.

PP Mounir attended lunch with our parent club, RC de Beyrouth and dinner with Lebanon Leaders hosted by DG George Azar in December. He also represented our club at the Silver Jubilee of RC Aley and at RC Saida meeting hosting PP Samir Hammoud as their guest speaker in January!



Reaching Out

Haigazian University Support for Education



In memory of PP Tony Asfour, RC Beirut Cosmopolitan established a scholarship last year to support the education of a couple of students in Haigazian University. In keeping with that, a visit was paid to Reverend President Paul Haidostian on January 17 to present him with a private donation spearheaded by RT. Nora Haddad (a member of the club residing in California), P Samir Khoury, PP Mona Jarudi and RT. Christine Arzoumanian.

The visit was very heartwarming, remembering late PP Tony, and President Paul sharing with us the hardships that universities are passing through to keep operations afloat.

Thanks go to the benevolence of donors, local and international, who keep the scholarship fund viable enough to help needy students.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Members in Rotary are the backbone of every club and the engine that drives projects and service. Rotary went through stages to arrive at the concept of Vocational Service, where a Rotarian uses their profession to do good in their communities. In this issue, I would like to shed the light on one of our young members who is making a difference in the community.

Rt. And CS Christine Arzoumanian, started her Rotary life as a Rotaractor and was very involved at country and district level as District Rotaract Representative. She joined RC Beirut Cosmopolitan as a Rotarian around 10 years ago, studied for her PhD, became a wife and mother and is a Professor at Haigazian University with the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics.

Christine has always been active in giving lectures and trainings, and even a Tedx talk. Lately, she was delivering trainings in digital marketing and Ecommerce to women-led businesses in Beirut whose businesses were affected by the Beirut Port blast. As a member and trainer with the Lebanese League for Women in Business, and through both their QEWA and Qadirat programs she was able to train women entrepreneurs from Beirut, North Lebanon and Beqaa region.

This February, she is invited by World Learning and the US Department of State to participate in the "Leaders Lead On Demand" Quality Controls and Accreditation in Business and Entrepreneurship Academic program for two weeks in Philadelphia, Florida and Washington DC. She will represent Lebanon in the US and she is among the 15 participants from the MENA region.

Following this trip, Christine is also invited by UNITAR Hiroshima and the Japanese Government to visit Tokyo and Hiroshima in Japan for another two weeks. She is an awardee to participate in the final phase of Great Ideas Space 2022: Entrepreneurship for Public Health and Covid-19 Recovery, after her successful completion of phases 1 and 2 as the founder of Wellness at Work organization. It is noteworthy to mention that Christine was also an EMRO awardee by the World Health Organization back in 2010 for her outstanding contribution to Public Health in Lebanon.

In her words "I do all this to empower my country, community and students so I may provide them with the necessary skills to make a difference in this world and for them to pay it forward."

RC Beirut Cosmopolitan is very proud of its young, dedicated members making a change!





January

Mona Jarudi – January 5th
Colin Gibson – January 11th
Nada Maalouf – January 14th

THE END