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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 **Samir El Khoury**
IPP **Sona Kourtian Doniguan**
President Elect **Amal Talhouk**
Vice President **Mona Jarudi**
Secretary **Christine Arzoumanian**
Treasurer **Haytham Kurdi**
Directors
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President
Samir El Khoury

Letter from

The President Samir El Khoury

On the last day of my presidency, I reflect on the past few months with a sense of fulfilment and a certain sense of satisfaction. With the support of my board and all the club members, the club celebrated some important occasions:

In line with the Club's commitment to DEI, our club Beirut Cosmopolitan was the first club in Lebanon and District 2452 to become an inclusive club. It was launched in January as the club that welcomes people with disabilities, in line with our commitment to the Rotary principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with full support from our members and D2452 Governor George Azar.

On the Global Grants front, we inaugurated in January the most important GG in our 28 years. Installation of medical equipment in the maternity and neonatal pediatric ward in the Beirut Governmental Hospital – Karantina that was totally destroyed after the Beirut Port explosion on August 4, 2020. This great accomplishment could not have happened without the support of over 140 Rotary clubs around the world. This is also a testament to the power of the Rotary Foundation and its support in every corner in the world.

During my Presidency, the club bylaws were revised and both the Rotary Code of Conduct and the DEI Code of Conduct were included. The Rotaract Bylaws were also endorsed stressing the Commitment of Rotaract to DEI.

The club fundraising events were successful, thanks to the dedication of the Fundraising Chair & Committee and their relentless efforts. The club hosted many guest speakers, in person and on zoom, all distinguished in their own rights. The year culminated with the club hosting the Ambassador of Japan as the guest speaker.

Generous donations by members, enabled the Club to host a group of under privileged children for Christmas and Ramadan celebrations. Those two annual events are considered among the most rewarding.

Club members participated in the District Conference in May, that took place in Lebanon and was a very successful conference with a host of brilliant speakers on all current topics in Rotary coupled with events that reflected the Rotary fellowship spirit at its best.

As outgoing President, I will pass on the baton to Incoming President Amal Talhouk, and wish her, the board and club members continued success.

I would also like to thank wholeheartedly all the members and board for their support through some challenging times and for the belief in our club and its mission. Let us all unite in service and work for the good of our community.

Samir El Khoury
President
Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan
December 20, 2022-2023

Fundraising Event

The Bayview Hotel – Beirut
May 30, 2023

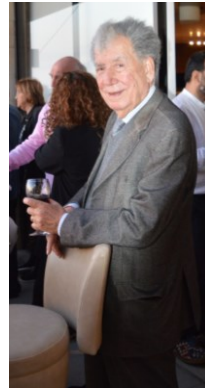
On Tuesday May 30, the fundraising committee of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan held a very elegant Sunset dinner at The Bayview Hotel. This lovely event was attended by AG Aida Daou, club members and their guests, and members of other clubs in Lebanon.

Many thanks go to: Rotary Club Saïda, Rotary Club Chouf, Rotary Club Metn, Rotary Club Koura, Rotary Club Aley West, Rotary Club Ad Astra, Rotary Club Zahle Capitol for their gracious presence and support.

The beauty of the view, the sunset, the sumptuous food and good music all contributed to a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

Many thanks go to the fundraising committee for their great work and dedication throughout the year!







Business Meeting

June 6, 2023
Zoom Meeting



AMAL TALHOUK

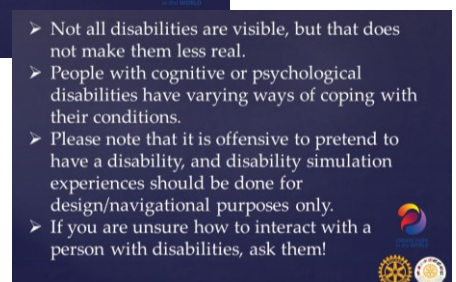
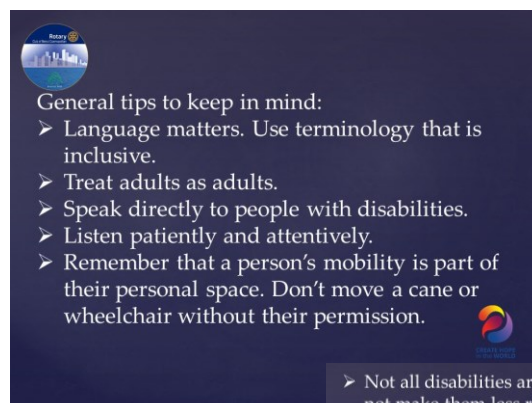
Incoming President
Rotary Club
Beirut Cosmopolitan
District 2452

"INCLUSION A key To Growth"

After the launch of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan as an inclusive club, Incoming President Amal Talhouk conducted an online session to train the members on the protocol adopted in clubs that will admit people with disabilities.

The training presentation was well researched and delivered with clarity.

It was very comprehensive, the slides attached are a brief summary of the guidelines.--



Business Meeting

June 22, 2023
Zoom Meeting



**His Excellency
Masayuki Magoshi**

Ambassador of
Japan to Lebanon

**"Lebanon - Japan:
Seeking to Further
Strengthen Friendly
and Cooperative
Relations"**



For the final meeting of RY 22-23, RCBC hosted the Japanese Ambassador to Lebanon, HE Masayuki Magoshi, to be our guest speaker. His excellency was accompanied by Ms Chie Nakamura, the Economic Cooperation Attaché at the Japanese Embassy. The event took place at the Phoenicia Hotel in the presence of other ambassadors, AG Aida Daou and members of the club. This meeting was also attended by a special guest from Egypt Senator and Cadre Salwa el Haddad on a mission from Rotary International.

HE Magoshi started his presentation with a heartfelt message about his love for Lebanon and how disappointing it is to see the decline in the overall status of the country. He could not stress enough how important it is for the Lebanese to unite and take charge of their fate by capitalizing on the enormous human talent and resources the country so richly has. He went on to outline the rich history of cooperation between Japan and Lebanon since 1954, and noted that in 2024, the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations will be celebrated.

Before the civil war, there were more than 3000 Japanese nationals and 100 offices of Japanese private companies. Sadly now, there are only 100 nationals and no offices for companies!!

He went on to talk about strengthening and enhancing bilateral relations through diplomatic activities in politics, economic cooperation, consular affairs, PR and culture and support for the stability of Lebanon. Moreover, the Japanese embassy collaborates with related organizations and is very strong in the economic cooperation and assistance to Lebanon:

- Providing solar power system for 122 public schools
- In-Kind food distribution to vulnerable Lebanese people
- Provision of medical equipment for Ghubeiri municipality
- Rehabilitation of residential heritage in Beirut
- Installation of 15 hand wash stations in schools

In addition to the above there is a strong academic and sports support and exchange, not forgetting the love of the Lebanese for Japanese cuisine and culture.

HE Magoshi firmly believes that the beauty of Lebanon, its climate, the collective will and unity of the Lebanese, will play a major role in the rebirth of the country! Food for thought!





In the Spotlight

Introducing Abbas Sibai: A Humble Paul Harris Fellow, Devoted Rotarian, and Policy Advocacy Specialist



We are delighted to shine a well-deserved spotlight on Abbas Sibai, a young Rotarian whose unwavering commitment to Rotary has profoundly impacted our community.

Abbas's contributions to the Rotaract community have left an enduring mark. He displayed remarkable dedication and inspiring leadership in notable roles such as Club President for Rotaract Club de Beyrouth in 2010-2011 and District Rotaract Secretary for Rotaract District 2450 in 2009-2010. As the Club Adviser for Rotaract Club de Beyrouth in 2013-2014, Abbas was pivotal in guiding and mentoring young Rotaractors, nurturing their growth into capable leaders.

In addition to his involvement in Rotaract, Abbas has actively engaged in various roles within Rotary. His exceptional leadership skills and unwavering commitment were evident during his tenure, showcasing his dedication to furthering the club's noble mission. Abbas also served as the Alumni Chairperson for Rotary District 2452 in 2022-2023, further exemplifying his commitment to Rotary's values.

Abbas's dedication to service extends far beyond his roles in Rotaract and Rotary. He has been actively involved in numerous impactful projects, such as the "Ain't No Smoking Campaign," where he passionately advocated for tobacco control laws in Lebanon. Additionally, Abbas organized the enlightening "Public Transportation, Public Concern" conference, shedding light on the potential for improved public transportation in Lebanon. Furthermore, he initiated the inspiring "The Cube Box for Lebanese Future Young Scientists" project, distributing Lego boxes to public pre-schools in Beirut, Saida, Tyer, and Chouf areas. Abbas's unwavering dedication to community projects showcases his desire to effect positive societal change.

In recognition of his expertise and unwavering dedication, Abbas has acquired key certifications and expertise in conflict transformation, project management, financial management, digital marketing, and proposal writing. These invaluable skills enhance his ability to contribute effectively to the projects and committees he is involved in, firmly establishing his role as a valuable asset within our organization.

Abbas's professional experience spans notable organizations such as Live Love Lebanon (co-founder), Aie Serve (co-founder), World Vision Lebanon, Search for Common Ground, the Ministry of Public Health, and several NGOs. Through these roles, he has consistently worked towards fostering social stability, peacebuilding, and community development, embodying his deep commitment to creating a more compassionate society.

Abbas's volunteer experience is truly remarkable. He has been bestowed prestigious awards, including being an International Fellow at Willson Center and a U.S. State Alumni MEPI Fellow. His contributions have been recognized and honored as an associate member of Catalyst2030, an Alumni Global Shaper at the World Economic Forum, and an ambassador for Peace at the Universal Peace Federation.

Abbas Sibai's unwavering dedication to Rotary and his community serves as a true inspiration to us all. His extensive Rotaract and Rotary experience and diverse professional background make him an added value to our organization.



Farewell Colin



Being the only English speaking club in Lebanon, RCBC had the privilege of hosting many members of the expatriate community over 28 years who remain good friends and supporters of our club. They contributed a lot to the diversity of cultures and enriched our club with different perspectives. Unfortunately, expatriate life is a revolving door, by the time one settles it will be time to go.

One of our most beloved members and friend who left Lebanon recently is Rt. Colin Gibson who decided to move permanently to Portugal. During the transition time, Colin was attending all our zoom meetings and being very supportive.

He started attending meetings at Rotary Club Cascais and Estoril (RCCE) in District 1960 where he was warmly welcomed as the ONLY English speaker in the club.

In his words" I have greatly enjoyed my time as a member of RCBC and must express my thanks for the warmth of fellowship that I consider a hallmark of the Club. I have also been greatly impressed by, and benefited from, the high level of professionalism in all the club activities. It will serve me well in my future time with RCCE I am sure".

Dear Colin, we will all miss you here but we will definitely see you every meeting we hold on zoom and who knows, maybe you and Audrey might come back for a visit to a place you called home once, Lebanon!



Alumni News

A very dear member and PP of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan, Adib Mounla, left Lebanon for Cyprus to pursue his banking career.

He joined a club there and we proudly announce that he was voted Incoming President of Rotary Club Nicosia Lefkothea following two years of service by P Yannis Tomasides.

Congratulations dear Adib.. you will always be a great friend to your parent club! Success always!



Reaching Out



Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan has always maintained strong ties with clubs all over the world.

Rt. Jean Paul represents our club aptly when he visits clubs in France.

Most recently he met with Francois Xavier Mbouyom, President of RC Neuilly les Sablons and ADG of District 1660.

They explored ways of collaboration between our two clubs in the near future.

Banner Exchange

Upon his return from Mauritius, PP John Edde presented Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan President Samir El Khoury with the banner of RC Mauritius Sudh. D. Ramjutun, given to him by President of Rotary Club Quatre Borneo, Mauritius.

The club supported the Lebanese victims of the recent earthquake in February 2023.--





June

John Edde (14)
Kevin Saliba (27)
Ghaleb Mahmassani (28)

THE END