



Marhaba



Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Publication Dec 2014 & Jan 2015 Page 1

Club Charter Date

June 22, 1995

Club Number

30893

District

2452 Rotary Int'l

RI President

Gary C.K. Huang

District Governor

Khalil Alsharif

Deputy Governor

May Chmaytelli

Assistant Governor

Samir Hammoud

RCBC Officers

2014—2015

President

Lina Shair

Immediate Past

President

Mounir Jabre

President Elect

& Secretary

Marie Therese Hamam

Vice President

Joe Boulos

Treasurer

Jean Paul Moubarak

Directors

Tony Asfour

George Beyrouti

Joe Boulos

Adib Mounla

Rana Salhab

RCBC Website

www.rcbclebanon.org

RCBC Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/
beirutcosmopolitan](http://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

Tuesday December 2, 2014 -- Business Meeting, Monroe Hotel

Moderator RT Rana Salhab, RCBC Membership Committee Chair

Topic: "Measuring RCBC Membership Satisfaction"

Rana (see photo RHS below) reaffirmed the commitment of the RCBC Board to engage all members in Club affairs. She promised to assess member satisfaction, and obtain member views on club activities and on the RCBC and District websites, using an on-line questionnaire.



Catch-up: Presentation by RT Christine Arzoumanian of RCBC on October 18, 2014 at the D 2452 Seminar on Membership

RT Christine Arzoumanian Ghazarian of RCBC (see photo RHS) was yet another speaker at the District Seminar on Membership in her capacity as District New Generation Chairperson 2013-14. She presented a summary of the District 2452 "Youth in Rotary Panel" discussions.

RotarAct and InterAct clubs are vital parts of the Rotary structure on which the future of the movement depends. They must be given strong support for it is there that the meaning and the prerequisites of community service are learned and adopted: That our commitments define who we are; that greatness is defined in terms of service rather than power, prestige, position, or possessions; and that action should be taken promptly when action is needed.

Indeed, how our Youth serve and behave should be an ever-present reminder to us as we gain experience and influence.



***RCBC meets Tuesdays at the Phoenicia Hotel, Ain-Mreisseh, Beirut
Business Meetings at 7:00 PM — Dinner Meetings at 8:30 PM***

Editor: Kamal Saad (e-mail: knsaadrcbc@gmail.com)

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Tuesday December 9, 2014 -- RCBC General Elections at the Phoenicia Hotel

The election results were as follows:

President-Elect 2015-16: Mimi HAMAM
 President-Nominee 2016-17: Joe BOULOS
 Club Secretary 2015-2016: Amal TALHOUK
 Immediate Past President 2014-15 Lina SHAIR

Directors 2015-2016:

Tony ASFOUR
 George BEYROUTI
 Nora HADDAD
 Adib MOUNLA
 Rabab SAFIEDDINE

Friday December 12, 2014 -- Xmas Party for Orphans at The Telepherique, Harissa

RCBC hosted over 160 orphans with their supervisors from the Armenian Birds' Nest Orphanage in Byblos (43); the Armenian Catholic Sisters Orphanage in Bzimar (12); the Deir Umallah Orphanage in Ajaltoun (27); the Saint Charbel Orphanage at Harissa-Dar'oun (32); and the Zahret El Ihsan Orthodox Orphanage at Achrafieh, Beirut (49). Warm thanks to PP Joe Boulos and his family for hosting the event at their Telepherique "Top of the World" and for arranging (together with the NGO Time4sharing) for Santa Claus to distribute presents to every child. The kids had a lot of fun and enjoyed a special Christmas meal.



December 21, 2014 -- RCBC President Lina Shair visited the Bourj El Barajneh Children's

Nursery, "Anamel Saghira", bearing Xmas gifts for the children (see photo RHS).

The children in turn presented her with a dance, "Yalla Dabkeh Ya Shabab", in which she joined them (see photo LHS).



Rotary Acronyms for Non-Rotarians

RI: Rotary International

TRF: The Rotary Foundation

RC: Rotary Club

RCBC: Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

RT: Rotarian

P: President - IP: Incoming President - VP: Vice President - PE: President Elect - PP: Past President

D: District - DG: District Governor - IDG: Incoming DG - DDG: Deputy DG - ADG: Assistant DG



Tuesday December 17, 2014 -- RCBC Christmas Dinner -- Saifi Suites Hotel

RCBC members and guests thoroughly enjoyed this fellowship evening. Shown L to R below: Guests Mr. Kamal Shair & Ms. Effat Mansour, with RCBC P Lina Shair; Mrs. Huguette & PP John Edde; RT Rabab Safieddine & guest Ms. Fatme Karim.



< RCBC PP Karim Naamani and Mrs. Tania Naamani; Mrs. Adela Bassoul, spouse of PP Habib Bassoul;

Mrs. Norma and RT Josef Akl; Mrs. Lolita El Khoury >



< Mrs. Rita and PP Edouard Rassie; PP Tony Asfour;

Past ADG Yara Younes and spouse Mr. Joe Massabki >



L to R: Mrs. Eva and RT Kamal Saad; Mr. Michel Hamam and IP Mimi Hamam; RT Walter Day and PP Amal Talhouk



Tuesday January 13, 2015 – Business Meeting, Phoenicia Hotel – Topic: “Rotary Foundation Panel Discussion” – Panel: PP George Beyrouti, ROT Rabab Safiedeen, Service Project Committee Chair, and PP Tony Asfour (see photo RHS below)

Drawing on TRF Grant Management Manual, PP Tony Asfour, RCBC Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, reviewed the new grant structure introduced by TRF on 2013 07 01 that consists of District Grants, Global Grants and Managed Grants.

The principal changes that relate to Global Grants consist in raising the minimum amount of TRF match to \$ 15,000 and restricting grants to one of six Areas of Focus, namely:

- Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution;
- Disease Prevention and Treatment;
- Water and Sanitation;
- Maternal and Child Health;
- Basic Education and Literacy; and
- Economic and Community Development.



PP George Beyrouti drew on his presentation to the 2014 D 2452 Rotary Foundation Seminar in Amman on RCBC Global Grant Success Stories, in which he cited the water filtration project for 17 schools in Lebanon (approximate value USD 44,000) and the computed radiography system for the CMWS (approximate value USD 45,000).

Visit of RT Araceli Suarez RC Granada, Spain

RT Araceli Segura Suarez of RC Granada, Spain, on a visit to Lebanon, attended our meeting and exchanged banners with RCBC P Lina Shair (see photo RHS). A benefactor and Paul Harris Fellow, she has been a Rotarian for 10 years. A retired civil servant, she has served Spain at home and abroad.



RCBC Member Sponsorship Pinning

RCBC P Lina Shair shown (photo RHS) with PP Tony Asfour following his receipt of a blue RF pin in recognition of his sponsoring RCBC new member Karin Saab.



Many Happy Birthday Returns to

Walter Day Dec 4 - Yervant Hakimian Dec 4 - Subhi Jarudi Dec 7 - Nazira Hariri Jan 10

Mona Jarudi Jan 5 - Kamal Saad Jan 29 - Habib Saba Jan 27 - Gladys Younes Jan 1



Tuesday January 20, 2015 -- Business Meeting, Vendome Hotel -- Guest Speaker Dr. Marwa Noueiri Samhoun, Board Member in charge of the Health Sector, Child and Mother Welfare Society (CMWS) -- Topic: Grant of Computed Radiography System



CMWS President Mrs. Aida Ghandour Choueiki (photo RHS) thanked lead-club RCBC and RC Beirut Cedars, Lebanon; RC Manama and RC Adlyiah, Bahrain; Rotary International District 2452; RC San Mateo and RC Santa Monica; Rotary International District 5150; and The Rotary Foundation for their generous and humane gift.

RCBC PP Mounir Jabre (photo LHS) introduced Dr. Marwa Noueiri Samhoun, CMWS Board Member

Responsible for the Health Sector (see photo lower RHS), who gave an overview of the activities of the institution. Established in 1944, the CMWS now has a staff of 110 (48 in the Health Sector). It is governed by a Board of 21 benevolent women, highly dedicated and fully involved, and comprises three sectors: Health, Social Welfare, and Education.

The Health Sector treats the sick regardless of religious affiliation, ethnic origins and financial means. An estimated 1,500 underprivileged patients receive treatment each month. It operates a hospital, a first aid center, a Radiology and Ultrasound department, a laboratory department, plus an outpatient department/primary health care center. The 21 - bed hospital was founded in 1972 and now has a work team of 70 specialist physicians, 30 nurses/midwives and five medical technicians. The hospital offers a wide range of medical and surgical services and operates a number of departments, notably First Aid; Laboratory; Radiology and Ultrasound -- the department that houses the computed radiography system donated by Rotary; and the Outpatient/Primary Healthcare Department which provides a wide range of medical services and runs free health education campaigns in order to improve child and mother care by raising awareness about diseases in the community.

The Social Welfare Sector of CMWS provides financial assistance, food, clothing, tuition and medical care costs to low-income families as well as a home for the elderly; it also operates a social events-organizing club and artisanal sewing center, both run by volunteers.

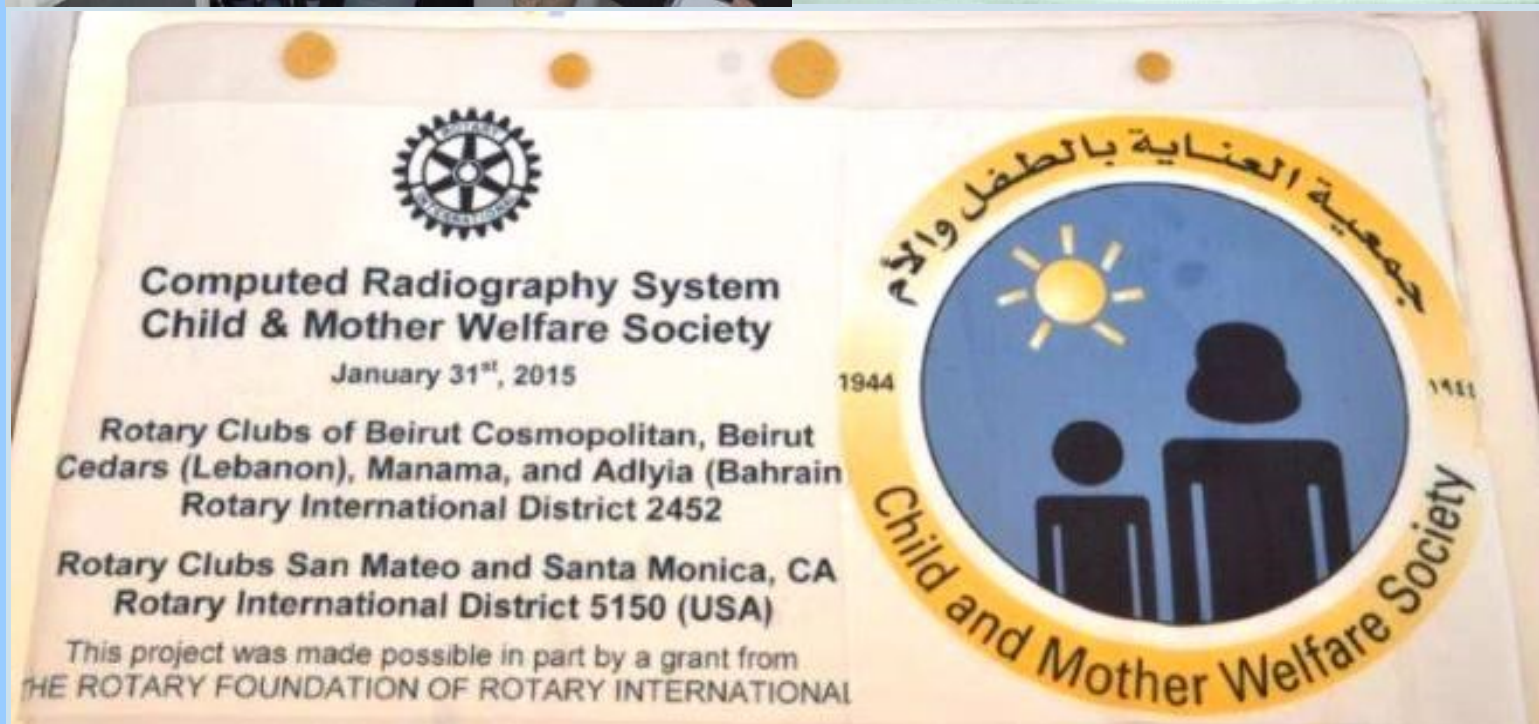
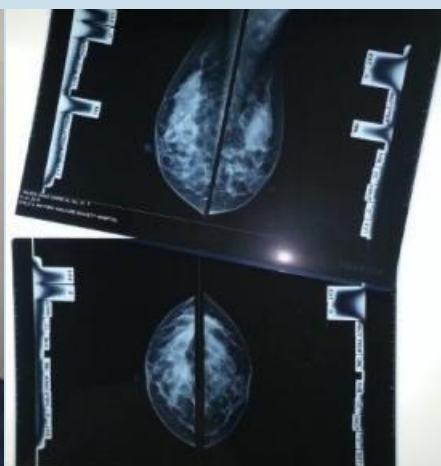
The Educational Sector includes a daycare center "Al Namouzajiyah" for children aged from 40 days to four years as well as nurse-aid and childcare education training centers.





January 31, 2015 -- Photos of Computed Radiography System Handover to CMWS

Top: System Components - Mid-row: Selected Handover Photos - Last: Commemorative Cake





Tuesday January 27, 2015 – Dinner Meeting at Phoenicia Hotel – Panel Discussion on Women's Rights in Lebanon – Panelists Mrs. Hayat Arslan and Ms. Nadine Moussa, moderated by RCBC RT Rana Salhab

In her welcome words, RCBC P Lina Shair pointed out that membership in Rotary, one of the first community service organizations in the USA, was exclusive to men until January 1989 when its constitution was amended to comply with the US Supreme Court ruling of 1987 that women could not be excluded on account of gender. She quoted Gary Huang (current President of Rotary International) to the effect that "more women ... make Rotary more appealing to prospective female and male members ... and make our clubs more productive". She was thus pleased to welcome new member Mrs. Sona Kortian into RCBC (see photo RHS).

RT Rana Salhab (see middle RHS photo, first from Left) emphasized the important role of women in public life and in the job market both because they contribute to socio-economic development and because of their importance in the fight against poverty. However, she also pointed out that while there were more women than men in Universities in the Middle East, only 25% to 28% of Middle East women are active participants in the economy, the lowest rate in the world.

Mrs. Hayat Arslan (see lower photos, LHS) commented on the role of Lebanese women in politics that she considers marginalized, partly because of social traditions and partly because of an unfavorable legal system and electoral laws that do not give women a balanced role. The political construct is designed to favor the interests of the political leaders instead of favoring the national interest. She deplored the fact that women are treated unjustly in the laws concerning personal statutes and denounced the enactment of the Law concerning physical abuse of women that she finds deformed and nonsensical.

Ms. Nadine Moussa (see lower photos, RHS) deplored the fact that Lebanon "is the second-worst country after Brunei as far as the participation of women in politics is concerned". She also criticized the new law relating to physical abuse of women as "truncated" since it omits the points that were considered primordial by women's Non Governmental Organizations.

The press gave the Panel coverage in Almustakbal, Alnahr, L'Orient le Jour, Daily Star.





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Club Service - Christmas Dinner

Member Maria El Hayek organized a Christmas dinner for the club in her home and prepared delicious food; and Rita Imad spoiled us with candy! The smiles on our faces reflect the fun night.



Professional Development Session

Debbas Gp General Manager Jean Jawal led us in a round table discussion, providing valuable insights on becoming successful professionals. He "was delighted to meet a group of talented young professionals, to feel their commitment, passion and drive for personal development ... and for learning".



Community Service – Helping Needy Children

We visited the Association du Foyer de l'Enfant Libanais (AFEL) to which we donated a computer and a printer to help educate and develop children skills.

We wanted to show the children support and to learn more from the managers of AFEL about its activities and the plight of the children.



Community Service – Clothes and Books Bank

We gathered a truck load of more than 5000 items packed in over 100 boxes: Clothes for children, women and men of all ages, books, and electronic devices. We distributed these items to multi-cultural Lebanese families on 14 January 2015.

A big thank you to VP Fouad Boulos and his family for providing us with warehousing, transport and other facilities without which this project would not have been possible.



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Rotaract Academy Participation

Five BCRAC members and guests attended the Rotaract Academy held on the premises of the Lebanese American University in Byblos – see photo LHS, from L to R : Giorgio Demian, Rita Imad, Moustapha Slim (Guest), Rita Moukarzel (Guest), and Peter Rassie.

Rotary Lebanon Environmental Committee Membership

Giorgio Demian is a member of this committee, which seeks to find alternatives to the current, environmentally harmful, solid waste disposal practices in Lebanon.



< Club service - Mexican Dinner

Our VP Fouad Boulos and his family hosted a long-anticipated Mexican dinner at their home. The feast left our mouths watering for more.

Happy Birthday Secretary Meghry >



Professional Development Sessions

With our yearly fundraiser approaching, BCRAC hosted speaker Nadim Abilamaa (see photo LHS below) to discuss ways in which to organize successful and effective fundraisers to help achieve this year's goal.

RCBC PP Habib Saba (image on the right) was an honorary guest at our weekly meeting during which we discussed the transition process from Rotaract to Rotary, and the differences



between the two in such aspects as events, meetings, and dinners are concerned; as well as in such matters as eligibility requirements for membership in the one tas opposed to the other.

