



Marhaba

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Monthly Newsletter – March & April 2020

*RCBC MEETS TUESDAYS AT THE PHOENICIA HOTEL, AIN-MREISSEH, BEIRUT
BUSINESS MEETINGS AT 19:00*

Club Charter Date
June 22, 1995

Club Number
30893

District
*2452 Rotary
International*

RI President
*Mark Daniel Maloney,
Rotary Club of Decatur,
Alabama, USA*
District Governor
Shawkat Tadros

Assistant Governor
Samir Constantin

**RCBC Officers
2019 - 2020**

President
Adib Mounla

Incoming President
Habib Saba

Vice President
Joe Boulos

IPP
Mona Jarudi

Secretary
Sona Kourtian Donigian

Treasurer
Mohamad Baltaji

Directors
*Edouard Rassie
Mimi Hamam
Nadim Hissen*

“Letter from the Editor”

After two months of total lockdown due to an invisible enemy that invaded the whole world, reflection and introspection are in order. Since the great pandemic of 1918, the world did not witness a crisis with this magnitude and wing span. A microscopic organism brought the whole world to its knees, perplexing scientists and policy makers, economists and world health bodies prompting them to absorb an epidemic that clearly no one was prepared for despite early warnings. Our planet has been assaulted for decades now by its inhabitants, living in the moment, and not heeding the slow destruction of the ozone layer, the pollution of sea water and rivers, the desertification of once beautiful lush green areas. Environmentalists and climate change organizations with all their recommendations were given the deaf ear.

And suddenly, Covid19 emerged and gave everyone a wake-up call. We are not invincible and we should come out of this crisis, wiser and more determined to respect science and mother earth. Across the globe, while every household was getting reacquainted, books on shelves dusted, games played, children educated at home and reconnected with their busy parents, finding joy in the process, people were giving much thought as to what comes after Corona? Will the world be the same? Will we ever go back to being comfortable in our herding instincts? How can we reinvent ourselves to face the new future? Undoubtedly, these are big questions but the answers lie in how sincere we are in addressing the future selflessly and how determined we are to let nature keep on healing itself allowing peaceful coexistence.

RCBC Website

www.rcbcebanon.org
[www.facebook.com/
beirutcosmopolitan](https://www.facebook.com/beirutcosmopolitan)

MARHABA EDITOR

IPP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com

Rotary International always recognized the areas that need major attention whether addressing climate change or making sure that Polio is eradicated with a simple vaccine. It is therefore very natural for Rotary Clubs all over the world to have been very involved in helping communities deal with the Corona pandemic. As always, our club RCBC, was ready to identify needs in the community and provide support. While maintaining social distancing, the club meetings became online to ensure connectivity, donations of Personal Protective Equipment and masks to organizations were extended, addressing need and hunger among the less privileged by providing food boxes. With the RI motto in mind, Rotary Connects the world, RCBC reached out to its twin club in Italy to exchange notes and seek mutual avenues of support.

On the bright side of things, a new logo for our club was born. Two new members were welcomed and a new Interact Club was formed. Not too bad for a club in total lockdown!

Hope springs eternal... let's pray for a brighter and better future and a healthier world to leave behind!

IPP Mona Jarudi



RCBC Impact on the Community during the Covid 19 Crisis

Building on a long history of success that RCBC enjoyed over the years in responding to urgent needs of the community, the current Corona crisis provided another platform where RCBC stepped up to help the vulnerable communities in Lebanon.

- 1- Rotary Lebanon Mega Project: Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Lebanon will initiate a GG (\$ 100,000-\$ 120,000) to provide PPE and Ventilators manufactured locally and approved by MOPH.
- 2- District Grant (D 2452) project where RCBC is participating in providing Food Boxes for the needy.
- 3- Disaster Response Grant project for distribution of food boxes and PPE.
- 4- Donation of PPE (medical gloves and surgical gloves) with the Rotary Logo to Dar el Rahma NGO



Donations of wheelchairs for the needy and elderly:

- 1- Four wheel chairs donated to the NGO Darb el Sama
- 2- Five chairs donated to the NGO Inta Akhi
- 3- Two wheel chairs to be donated to Mohamad Khaled Institute
- 4- Four to Dar al Ajaza al Islamiyah.
- 5- Three to Amel Association
- 6- Four to Child and Mother Welfare Society.

CRISE Aides sociales du Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan

Dans un communiqué, le Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) a annoncé avoir récemment fourni des rations alimentaires aux nécessiteux et livré 30 chaises roulantes à différentes associations, mais sans en préciser les bénéficiaires.

Le RCBC a en outre indiqué avoir cofinancé avec l'ONG Heartbeat dix chirurgies cardiaques pédiatriques, ciblant particulièrement des communautés défavorisées, et a fourni du matériel médical à plusieurs hôpitaux et fournisseurs de soins de santé.

HANDOVER OF WHEELCHAIRS

Four wheel chairs donated to Dar Al Ajaza



Four wheel chairs donated to Darb El Sama



Five wheel chairs donated to the NGO Inta Akhi



Three wheel chairs donated to Amel Association



Four wheel chairs donated to Child and Mother Welfare Society



*Business meeting with Celine Merhej
Project Manager at Gherbal Initiative*

“TRANSPARENCY IN LEBANESE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS”

March 3,2020

After a year from the adoption of the Law No 28/2017 on the Right to Access Information, Gherbal Initiative (GI) was established to conduct a study on the implementation of the provisions of this law by the Lebanese Public Administrations. For this purpose, GI had to map out the administrations that fall under the provisions of this law and then send them a unified request for information. GI then documented all information into a visual report. The following year, GI continued to monitor the implementation of this law specifically for financial data. The results were documented in a report that was launched in September 2019. GI also honored the administrations which were committed in the implementation of the law.



Business meeting with Club Trainer: PP George Beyrouti

“ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM”

As part of club training series on all matters Rotary, RCBC Club Trainer George Beyrouti gave a presentation on Rotary Peace fellowships. Rotary International offers every year 120 scholarships for a two-year Master’s program and a three-month Professional Development certificate in Peace and Conflict Prevention and Resolution at eight Peace Centers worldwide.

Applicants must be proficient in English, have excellent leadership skills and demonstrate a commitment to peace and conflict resolution. In addition, they should have 3 to 5 years work experience.

The Rotary Peace Fellows will benefit from a diverse curriculum with core course work in peace and conflict resolution, connection with a cohort of peace fellows and a global network of Rotarians, and applied field experience. The total average funding for the Master’s Program is \$ 75,000 and for the Certificate \$ 11,000. Over 1100 alumni have graduated from the program since its inception in 2004, 95% report to current work in The Rotary Foundation, and 88% work in Peace and Conflict Resolution or in one of the other areas of focus in Rotary International.



Memorial Service for our departed PP Tony Asfour

March 10,2020

In a very somber and heart-warming meeting, PP Tony was remembered and honored by all who knew him and worked with him. The meeting was attended by his beloved wife Mary and his two sons Dory and Dani. Also present was Dr. Bahaa Nouredine, Chairperson of Ophthalmology Dept at AUB Medical Center, as a friend and a partner for several Global Grants that PP Tony led to help the needy and give them access to better eye health.



Members of the club took turns to read all the letters of condolences received. It was an outpouring of love for the memory of a great man who was a mentor, a philanthropist with a generous soul that touched everyone who knew him, locally and globally.



Online ZOOM meeting with PP DR. Riad Fouad Saade
Project Manager at Gherbal Initiative

“DIAGNOSIS OF THE LEBANESE AGRICULTURE IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL AND CORONA DOUBLE CRISIS- IMPACT ON 2019-2020 AGRICULTURE CAMPAIGN”

March 24,2020

The guest speaker inaugurated the first online meeting in our club. PP Saade Of Rotary Club de Beyrouth, was the Charter President of RCBC and is still a valued friend to all. His presentation was realistic, honest, detailed with facts and carried lots of disappointment in the ruling class yet left a small window of hope for the dreamers of a better future.

The recent Economic crisis in Lebanon, coupled with the Corona crisis has unveiled all the negative issues that are crippling all sectors in Lebanon, most important of which is the impact of these crises on the agricultural sector’s immediate future and on the Environmental and Food Security.

A brief glance at the agricultural sector shows the different stages that it went through. From a prosperous phase in 1962 till 1966 where the sector enjoyed 48% of GNAP, followed by a period of Stagnation due to dismantling of state Institutions from 1967-75. The war came and destroyed agricultural production and opened the doors to prohibited crops and since 1989 Agriculture in Lebanon has been ailing and staggering. Why this happened? Many reasons:

At the public sector level: starting in 1967 there was a shift from Civil Service to Self Service mentality. This was exacerbated by instituting bad governance reflected in wrong policies and open and legitimized robberies of public money. Public administration was replaced by local militias feeding the destruction of the sector to serve their interests.

At the International level: Lebanon was one of few countries that enjoyed the support of International organizations like FAO, UNDP, World Bank, European Union. It also enjoyed bilateral relations with USA and different European countries since 1992. All this did not lead to a positive outcome in the Ag Sector because Lebanon lacked Social and Economic vision, had no Agricultural Framework Law and no Agricultural Policy.

At the NGO level: NGOs failed in reaching visible substantial development despite all efforts and investments due to lack of well meaning and well-prepared National Authority. The solutions for an immediate emergency plan and short-term plan require Political Will and professional devoted leaders. Education and research are crucial missions to be implemented in Universities, Schools and Research Institutes. If we have PROPER social and economic options, BACKED by medium term plans for projects, FRAMED by an Agricultural Law, EXECUTED by an Agricultural Policy then Trust can be rebuilt and Lebanon will regain its success in this sector.

Dr. Saade ended his very interesting and sobering presentation by once again reminding us all that we Lebanese are very resilient and elastic in our ability to bounce back after adversity.



***Business meeting with H.E. Merete Juhl
Danish Ambassador to Lebanon***

MArch 31, 2020

The Business Meeting was cancelled due to corona virus

Online ZOOM Conversation with our Club Benevento in Italy

April 7,2020

The Covid19 pandemic has affected every corner in the world. Italy, unfortunately, witnessed the worst crisis in the number of cases and numbers of deaths in Europe initially. Club Benevento is our twin club and have been our partners in some Global Grants. Per RI motto this year, Rotary Connects the World, and with the rise of online meetings, a discussion took place between our two clubs to see how RC Benevento and our club are dealing with the Covid19 crisis and how can we establish mutual avenues of support. The meeting was attended by members of RCBC, President and four members of RC Benevento, PDG Michel Jazzar (D 2452), RC Cedars, RC Tripoli and RC Saida; also present were friends of our club and wine aficionados Mr. Sofoklis Peutropoulos from Greece and Mr. Markos Xambartas from Cyprus.

The response of RC Benevento to Covid 19 was through the Red Cross by donation of a tent for testing prior to hospital admission and PPE to the medical community, 1000 masks donated to hospitals and more for the community. Food Intervention was providing Food Boxes to needy families through donations from their members and other clubs. They also have a project to donate respirators and other supplies.



In April 7, 2020 Mr. Mohamad-Fadl Harake & Mr. Rony Eid joined Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan as members.

In April 27, 2020 Mr. Marc Torbey Helou joined as well the Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan as HONORARY MEMBER.

Pinning will be on the first business meeting after the lockdown is ended .



Mr. Mohamad-Fadl Harake



Mr. Rony Eid



Mr. Marc Torbey Helou

Online ZOOM Meeting with Mr. Haitham Kurdi, Rt. RCBC

“BENEFITS OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (PMG)”

April 14,2020

In line with classification talks by members, Rt. Haitham gave a comprehensive presentation about the company. PMG is a specialized Property Management company established in 2004 with a vision to increase the property value, employing a highly experienced team of professionals who are committed to provide a higher level of services in the areas of administration, legal, accounting, procurement, supervision and maintenance. The team routinely visits properties, inspects the premises to monitor the work while responding to clients’ needs first.

PMG stepped up to the plate during the Corona crisis. They ensured that every property they manage is provided with educational material about the virus, provided everyone with protective materials and disinfectants, and tightly controlled to limit the spread of the virus among the employees and the first line of defense in every building.



Online ZOOM Meeting with Christine and Elie Chehwane

“LA TOURBA, WEST BEKAA VALLEY”

April 21, 2020

La Tourba means soil in Arabic. It is the place where you live from earth and with earth as the owners Christine and Elie fondly referred to their family-owned business. An engineer by education, a former head of Saghbine Municipality, Elie Chahwane decided to put this behind him and start a sustainable project that will support the village of Saghbine and provide employment to the locals to stop their migration to the cities.

The Chehwane family had several motives when they started la Tourba: return to nature, artisanal and traditional production, educational farm and healthy bio products and creation of an oasis for relaxation and outdoor activities. The vineyard was established in 2005 and is undergoing multiple expansions. It has nineteen grape varieties, vinified and evaluated separately and every piece of land undergoes the same. Their concept “Single Vineyard, single variety”: each land and grape variety has its own story to tell. The varieties of Red, Rose, White and sparkling wines enjoy success in the local market and in international markets in Europe and North America.

In 2014, the Chehwanes started the second phase of their project which is The Farm where they raise goats, sheep, chicken, ducks and geese. They will soon produce delicacies like local cheeses and Foie Gras. Also, in progress is a bio plantation to produce vegetables. Eco tourism is high on the list. The area boasts of remains of century old civilizations that chose to settle at this cross road of wine trade that travelled from Haifa to Baalbeck.

Visiting La Tourba will be a total experience for the senses, where the beauty of nature will be enhanced by the culinary delights that La Tourba will offer.



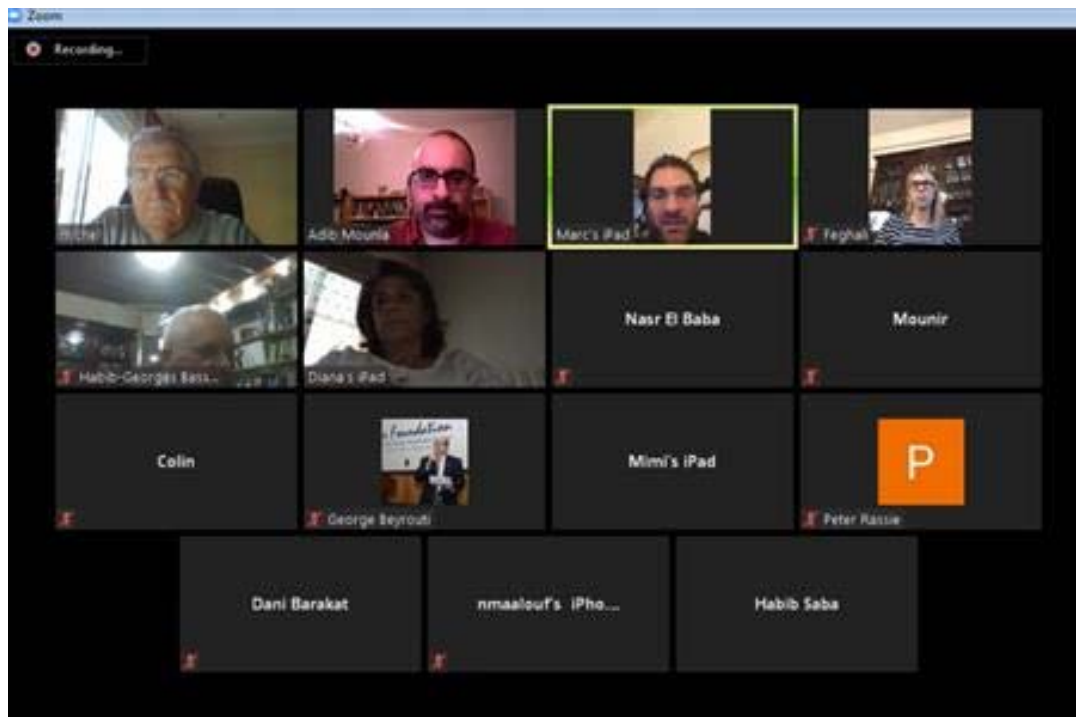
Online ZOOM Meeting with Marc Torbey Helou
“NGO OFFREJOIE COMMUNITY SUPPORT REPORT”

April 27,2020

Mr. Helou of the NGO Offrejoie was a guest speaker in our club in January. His life story, career and dedication to helping communities all over Lebanon left a great impression with our club. Consequently, the membership committee with RCBC President decided to have Marc as an Honorary member of our club. The decision was conveyed to Marc on April 27, with the hope of pinning him when the circumstances allow.

With a strong presence all over Lebanon, Offrejoie has been very instrumental in lending a hand during the Covid 19 crisis. The viral crisis coupled with the dire economic situation, Offrejoie decided to distribute food kits that meet the nutritional needs of a family of 5. From north to south, 870 kits were distributed by a team of volunteers who identify the needs and compile the lists of beneficiaries. This month Offrejoie focused its help on two areas in Tripoli, Baal Mehsin and Bab el Tebbaneh, two communities living below the poverty line and in conflict with each other. To date, 415 families have been helped, 1760 individuals mostly children and youth.

RCBC will be part of a District Grant for food boxes distribution and another Disaster Response Grant to supply food boxes and PPE. RCBC will partner with Offrejoie as a recognized NGO to help in the distribution of the food boxes and PPE.



Online ZOOM Meeting with Mr. Ziad Sankari

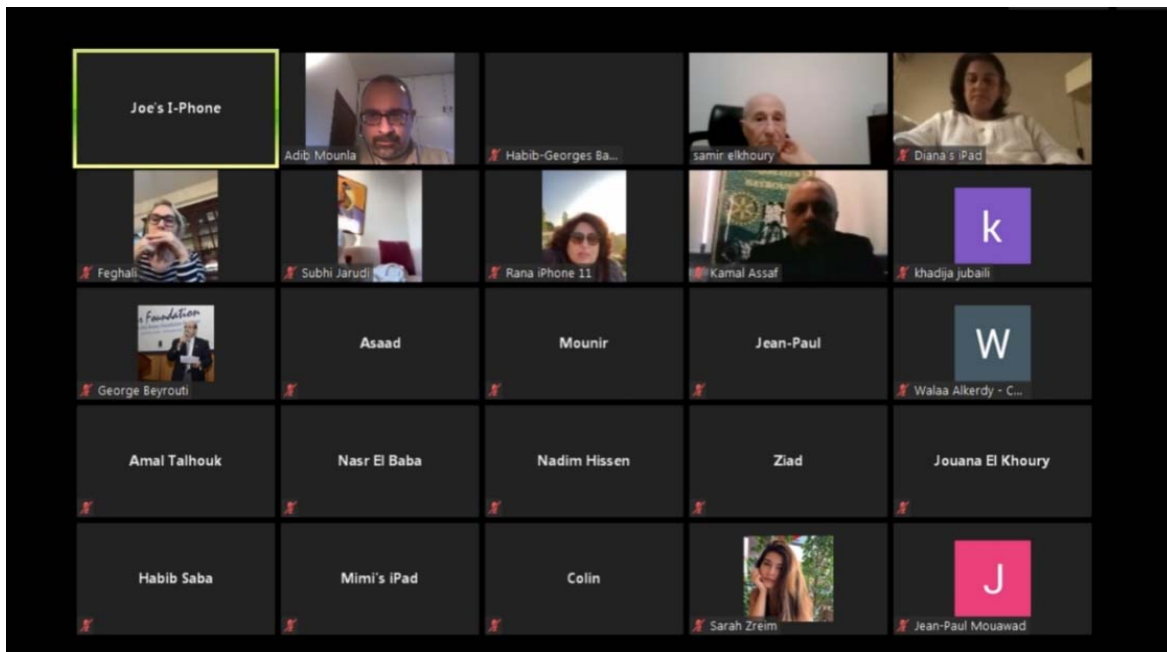
“BUILDING A GLOBAL HEART MONITORING TECHNOLOGY COMPANY FROM LEBANON WHILE ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

April 28,2020

On April 28 RCBC, in its continued series of online meetings, hosted Mr. Ziad Sankari, Founder and CEO of Cardio Diagnostics, a heart monitoring company incubated in Lebanon. The modus operandi thus far has been that cardiologists relied on holters, usually installed for 2-3 days to detect any heart abnormalities. Often Arrhythmia, to be detected, requires much longer monitoring time. Cardio Diagnostics developed a patch that would allow up to 30 days of monitoring utilizing cloud technology. The physician can also follow the patient real time. In other words, this technology can save lives.

As a young entrepreneur, Ziad discussed the challenges a startup faces anywhere in the world, especially in Lebanon. He has a team of around 15 bright young Lebanese who are working hard to keep Lebanon on the map of successful startups. Ziad is a live example that Lebanese Entrepreneurship is alive and well.

Currently, the company operates in the Middle East and North America and hopes to expand its operation to Europe soon.



Interact club of Beirut Cosmopolitan

The seed for the Interact Club was planted in May of RY 2018-2019. Said el Kadi from the American Community School was the brain behind it. A 15-year old teen bursting with energy and the need to do good in the community. With the guidance of Rt. Abbas Sibai, and many meetings later, the Interact Club was born with 15 brilliant young people eager to serve. Welcome ICRCBC to the greater Rotary family.



Certificate of Organization

This certificate recognizes that the

Interact Club of
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Lebanon


Club ID 221331 - Established on 25 February 2020

has been organized and has agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the constitution and bylaws of the Interact program of Rotary International.

Sponsored by the
Rotary Club of
Beirut Cosmopolitan, Lebanon



PRESIDENT, SPONSORING CLUB
23 March 2020
DATE



PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
18 March 2020
DATE

647-04-619

Fellowship Event

Tuesday March 17, 2020


Fellowship visit to Paul Guiragossian Museum was cancelled due to Corona and social distancing.




CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS / EVENTS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE,2020 HAWAII

Many Happy Birthday Returns



Rotary



Celebrating Paul P.Harris, the founder of Rotary International,
HAPPY 152nd BIRTHDAY
Born today on April 19, 1868 in Racine, Wisconsin.

“Perhaps dreaming is not so bad if
one dreams good dreams and makes
them come true.”

— **Paul Harris,**
My Road to Rotary

19th April 1868 to 27th January 1947

March

Mohamad Harake
Raouf Malak
Karin Saab
Rana Salhab
Lina Shair

April

Mohamad Baltaji
Joe Boulos
May Khoury
Abbas Sibai

THE END