



Visit to Lebanon March 17-21, 2006

The GPC is a dynamic, highly personalized network of leading international philanthropists committed to eliminating poverty and increasing equity worldwide. Individuals and families join the Circle to exchange ideas and practices among peers, gain knowledge, skills, and experience to increase the effectiveness of their philanthropy, and to enhance their capacity to collaborate and partner not only with other philanthropists but with international development agencies, foundations, and philanthropic organizations.

Founded in 2001 by Peggy Dulany, Chair of the Synergos Institute, and her father, David Rockefeller, the Circle now includes over 50 families from 20 different countries.

Throughout the year, the Circle holds a variety of events and activities to bring members together, including annual country visits.

The Circle Visit to Lebanon

Youssef Dib, a French GPC member based in Paris, originally from Lebanon, is organizing a visit to Lebanon for interested GPC members, with the help of Iara Lee, a GPC member committed to help advance the social agenda in the region, presently based in Lebanon, and Helen Knapp from Synergos' New York office.

The purpose of the trip is threefold :

1. Discover this country of major contrasts, which has been a unique model of religious coexistence for centuries, and have a better understanding of local as well as regional issues and challenges.
2. Have the opportunity to connect with local leaders and philanthropists.
3. Explore collaborative ways to promote more prosperity and peaceful change, through investigating successful examples of cooperation and dialogue across economic, ethnic and religious divides.

Themes to be explored include education, health, microfinance and the use of the media to promote tolerance.

Friday, March 17 - Beirut

Arrival and Check-in

Vendome Intercontinental
PO Box 13, Ain Mreysseh
Beirut, 5518
www.levendomebeirut.com
Tel: 961-1-369-280
Fax: 961-1-360-169

As the official agenda begins on Friday evening, participants can choose to arrive early to have a chance to adjust to the time zone changes before our energetic schedule kicks-off. Optional site-seeing can be arranged.

- 7:00-8:30 pm **Welcome to Lebanon**
Vendome Intercontinental
GPC participants will gather at the Hotel to review the agenda and objectives for the trip.
- 9:00-10:30 **Welcome Dinner**
Vendome Intercontinental
Welcome dinner hosted by BNPParibas Lebanon with local business leaders.

Saturday, March 18 - Beirut

Theme: Overview, Local Community Initiatives, Microfinance

- 8:15 am **Leave Hotel**
- 8:30-9:15 **Breakfast**
We will enjoy a Lebanese sampler breakfast from the Souk el Tayeb. The Souk is a “farmers’ market” which brings together small farmers from all over Lebanon. The Souk helps secure a market for farmers from more remote parts of the country and stimulates high quality, organic production using traditional and sustainable methods
- 9:30-10:30 **Visit to the completely rebuilt Beirut Central District (BCD)**, with Mounir Douaidy, the General Manager of Solidere. Solidere is the privately held company which manages the reconstruction of the historic BCD and is the largest listed company in Lebanon.
- 10:30 **Depart for site visit**
- 11:00-12:00 pm **Site Visit at Burj Hammoud**

We will be visiting an impoverished neighbourhood in Beirut's Armenian suburb, Burj Hammoud, for a first-hand experience of innovative philanthropic and microcredit initiatives. The first part of our visit will be led by leaders of the Grameen-Jameel Initiative, one of the most important institutions working to expand microfinance in the Arab world: Zaher Al Munajjed, Advisor to Mohammed Jameel, Heather Henyon, responsible for Middle-East and Africa) and Youssef Fawaz from Al Majmoua.

- 12:00-1:00 pm **Continuation of visit of Burj Hammoud with Liban Message**
- 1:00 **Depart for Lunch**
- 1:15-2:30 **Lunch at St. Vincent de Paul**
We will have lunch at St Vincent de Paul, a major charitable organization in Lebanon, and learn about some of their innovative programs.
- 3:00 **Depart for Meeting with Liban Message**
- 3:30- 6:00 **Workshop organized by Liban Message: “Which Lebanon Unites Us - Asserting our Identity through our Diversity”**
Hotel Le Gabriel
Liban Message will bring together key leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities for bridging social and religious divides in Lebanon, and how this vision can act as a model for other communities.
- 6:00-8:00 pm **Return to Hotel**
Participants will have the opportunity to rest and reflect before the evening events.
- 8:15 pm **Depart Hotel**
- 8:30 pm **Dinner with local business leaders and philanthropists**
Villa Sursock
This dinner has been jointly organized and hosted by Liban Message and Youssef Dib.

Sunday, March 19 - Beirut

Theme: Interfaith Dialogue, Visit to Northern Lebanon

- 8:00 am **Depart Hotel**
Travel to Faqra in the mountains. Situated at an elevation of 1550m, Faqra is famous for its ancient roman temples, its beautiful

mountain scenery as well as its good skiing. As there will be snow, dress warmly!

- 9:15-11:00 **Breakfast with Raymond Audi, Chairman of Group Audi.**
Incorporated in 1938, Group Audi is currently one of the largest financial institutions in Lebanon. After breakfast, we will have a tour of the Faqra area.
- 11:00 **Depart from Faqra to Bkerké outside Beirut**
- 11:30-12:00 pm **Visit with the Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir**
The Maronite Patriarch is widely known as one of the wisest and most respected leaders today in Lebanon, with influence across religious divides.
- 12:00 **Depart for Byblos**
- 12:30-2:00 pm **Visit to Byblos**
Byblos is one of the most significant cultural treasures in Lebanon. Founded over 7,000 years ago, it is perhaps the oldest continuously inhabited Phoenician city, and is directly associated with the history and diffusion of the Phoenician alphabet.
- 2:00-3:45 **Lunch hosted by R. Eddé, owner of Eddé Sands**
We will enjoy lunch on the seaside, just an hour drive from the mountains where we started the day.
- 3:45 **Depart for Meeting**
- 4:00-6:00 **Roundtable Discussion on Lebanon**
Kesrouan
We will meet with leading social and economic experts to discuss the general background and specific challenges of Lebanon today.
- 7:00-9:00 **Informal Dinner with Michel Eddé**
Michel Eddé is a former minister, a major philanthropist, and President of Maronite League. We will be joined by Lebanese friends and philanthropists.
- 9:00 **Depart for Hotel**

Monday, March 20 - Beirut

Theme: Education, Community Revitalization

- 8:45 am **Depart Hotel for American University in Beirut**
- 9:00-9:15 **Campus tour led by AUB students**
Established in 1866 overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, the 73-acre AUB campus is Beirut's largest green space. A campus master plan was approved in 2002, and major new building and renovation works are currently underway.
- 9:15-9:45 **Welcome Coffee and AUB overview by Provost Peter Heath**
Professor Heath will present a brief overview of the University, concentrating on major efforts since the end of the civil war.
- 9:45-10:15 **Presentation of the The AUB Community Initiative**
Dr Cynthia Myntti, consultant to President John Waterbury, will describe his vision for the university-community partnership and the proposed two-year planning phase.
- 10:15 **Discussion of the "Healthy Basket" Project**
Professor Rami Zurayk of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences will introduce AUB's Community Supported Agriculture program and its support of organic farmers in Lebanon.
- 10:45-11:15 **Coffee Break**
- 11:15-12:15 pm **Political Roundtable Discussion**
President Waterbury has invited Paul Salem, a writer and political analyst and head of the Fares Foundation in Beirut; Rami Khouri, political commentator and editorial writer for the Middle East's leading English daily, The Daily Star; and Nawaf Salam, of AUB's Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, and who is a lawyer and specialist on Islam, and author of the acclaimed book Options for Lebanon.
- 12:30-2:00 **Lunch hosted by Provost Heath**
Joining us for a discussion on the role of philanthropy in Lebanon will be a number of prominent Lebanese philanthropists including Paul Salem of the Fares Foundation and others including the representatives of the Walid bin Talal Foundation, the Abdel-Hadi Debs Foundation, and Fondation Audi.
- 2:30 **Depart from AUB**

- 3:00-4:15 **Overview and Discussion of the Grameen Jameel Microfinance Initiative**
The Grameen-Jameel Initiative, a major effort end poverty in the Arab world through expanding microfinance to poor families, was launched in 2004 as a joint initiative of the Grameen Foundation USA and the Abdul Latif Jameel Group, a leading Saudi Arabian private company. Fady Jameel and Heather Henyon will give participants an overview of microfinance in the Middle East & North Africa and discuss their initiatives in Lebanon.
- 4:15 **Return to Hotel**
- 4:30-5:00 **Free Time**
- 5:00-6:30 **Meeting with US Ambassador Jeff Feltman, USAID Mission Director Raouf Youssef, and the US Embassy Public Affairs Director Juliet Wurr**
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- 6:30-8:30 **Free Time**
Participants will have a chance to rest and relax before the evening event.
- 8:30 **Depart Hotel**
- 9:00 **Dinner organized by Nayla Moawad**
Mrs. Moawad is the widow of a former Lebanese President, a minister in the current government, a leading opposition voice to Syrian-backed forces, and founder of the René Moawad Foundation.
- 10:30 **Return to Hotel**

Tuesday, March 21 - Beirut
Theme: Role of the Media, Hariri Foundation

- 8:15 am **Depart Hotel**
- 8:30-9:45 **Breakfast with French Ambassador Bernard Emie**
We will enjoy breakfast with the French Ambassador at the historic Residence des Pins, the Ambassador’s residence.
- 9:45 **Depart for Meeting**
- 10:00-12:00 pm **Meeting with Mostapha Zaatari., President of the Hariri Foundation**

The mission of the Hariri Foundation is to make education a means for the development of the young in Lebanon. It is a non-profit institution which responded to a dire national need that resulted from the events caused by the war in the country. We will also be joined by other Hariri family members to discuss the important role of the Foundation in Lebanese society.

12:15

Depart for Lunch

12:30-2:30

Lunch Discussion on the Media

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We will be joined by prominent members of the Lebanese media to discuss the role of the media in bridging social divides

3:00-5:00

Meetings to be Determined

5:00-6:00

Participants will check out from the Hotel and depart for the Airport.

For those participants who are staying on in Lebanon, additional meetings or site-seeing opportunities will be arranged.