



THE CHARM



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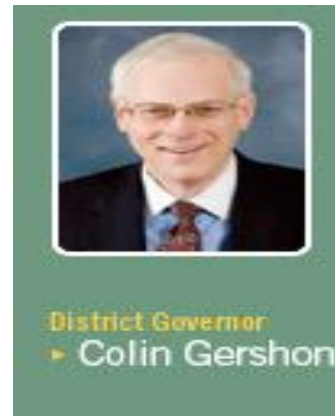
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News from El Salvador



In case you haven't been following his Blog (like we all go Blogging daily!), our Club's RI Cultural Scholar **Matt Kopac** reports that he is being totally immersed in the language and culture of El Salvador. His host club in country is the Cuscatlan Club of San Salvador which consists of thirty-some members, principally construction and small business owners. Matt is progressing rapidly with his Spanish and tells us he will soon be reaching out to 6 or 8 other Rotary Clubs in the area. On his Blog, he writes: "Last night (9/27) the Cuscatlan Club had a special club meeting where we heard from Brenda Small (Music for the Heart) and Bob Raylman (Exec. Dir.-Gift of Life), met visiting Rotary volunteers...and had a special visitor named Jordan. Jordan has been in need of heart surgery since birth, and he has been on the waiting list now for four years. Thanks to Brenda's daughter's dancing squad, Jordan's family will be able to afford the surgery." The next day "I was able to...visit some of the recipients of life-saving surgeries at San Salvador's Bloom Hospital....It was incredibly moving to visit these healthy vibrant girls who until just a few days ago were very vulnerable."



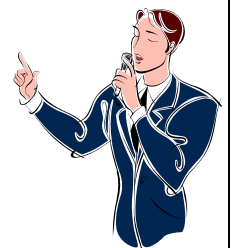
Hamden Rotarians will be sure to be at the Playwright tonight at 5:45 to welcome District 7980 Governor Colin Gershon.

Colin has been a member of the New Haven Rotary Club since 1982, in which year he was recognized as New Member of the Year. After serving as club treasurer, secretary and president, Colin received the Roy A. Michaels Award as the Club's Outstanding Rotarian. Hamden Rotary remembers Colin as an exceptional Assistant Governor.

Help us welcome Colin tonight at 5:45!

Upcoming Meetings And Events

- Sept. 21 Colin Gershon-District Governor's Visit
- Sept. 27 Amber Alert Session 1-3PM-North Haven
- Sept. 28 Natalie Forbes-Exec. Dir. New Haven Symphony
- Oct. 8 Hamden Chamber of Commerce Mayoral Debate-8AM-New Haven Country Club



Remember Me??



Getty Images

Chances are you've seen her before, but not as you see her here. Today Kim Phuc is a peace activist, UN Goodwill Ambassador and public speaker. But the 46-year old mother of two suffered nerve damage and third-degree burns that covered more than half her body from a napalm bomb just before AP photographer Nick Ut captured the picture below, thirty seven years ago. Ut then helped the then 9-year-old to a hospital in South Vietnam. While spending over a year in hospital, often near death, Kim Phuc became an international symbol of the agony suffered by both sides during the Vietnam war. And now she has publicly forgiven an American pilot who helped plan the bombing that scarred her as a child: "Napalm is very powerful, but faith, forgiveness and love are much more powerful."



Nick Ut, AP

***"The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace...
Item Number 4 from "The Object of Rotary"***

If Kim Phuc is not a Rotarian, she should be.

Be Sure to Look For.....

Honorary Rotarian Oscar Roos will be featured in the October edition of *The Rotarian*. Oscar, a member of Hamden Rotary since 1937, offers his reflections of the Great Depression along with other Rotarians of that era. It's a great read.

Quote of the Week

"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

Henry Ford

The Four Way Test

Of the things we say, think and do:



Service Above Self



Cultural Scholar Matt Kopac with Jennifer, a 7-year old who recently received the Gift of Life in San Salvador. Jennifer's parents are holding gift bags provided by GOL and the local Rotary Club

In El Salvador alone, more than 1,200 children are currently on the waiting list for life-saving heart surgery.