



# Connections

A Publication of the International Travel & Hosting Fellowship

*Kimberly Carroll, Editor*



## The 2019 Rotary Convention is Almost Here—Are You Ready?

The Convention is just around the corner—June 1-5 in Hamburg. If you still haven't registered, please do so at this link:

<https://www.riconvention.org/en/hamburg>

And look for the ITHF "Buth" #3800 in the House of Friendship—we can't wait to see you!

The Friendship Dinner at the Kochschule is fully booked! If you've made a reservation, but haven't yet paid, please do so in order for the arrangements to be finalized.

### **ITHF News**

President Sheila has announced that ITHF member Ken Kohnhorst (who kindly designed our new masthead above) has agreed to take on the responsibilities of Director of Promotions, replacing Jennifer Cowan. You may reach Ken at:

kennethkohnhorst@gmail.com

Six new Regional VPs will begin their terms on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Please welcome Corinne Darvennes (USA South Central), Roberta Simonton (USA Southwest), Tess Navarro (Southeast Asia), Pam Gregory (Australia Queensland), Rajesh Pamnani

(Southern India); and Musah al-Hassan Biyira (Northern Africa). Photos and contact information will go on the website in July.

**A New Tour Committee is set to take office July 1** and is busily working on a variety of tours for 2019-2021 – including a Hawai'i Conference Cruise, an Amazon River Cruise, India, and more! Thank you and a tip of the hat to Marilyn Crow, Noko Yoshida, Barbara LaFleur, Irina Dogadina, Alonso Campoi, Gabor Karsal, Betty Screpnek, Kimberly Carroll, Marge Cole, Gorav Gupta, Sheena Spittles, Roberta Simonton, Aircon (Uen hua-Chao), Steve Yoshida, President Sheila Hart, President-Elect Aswini Kar, and Past President Medicare! If you have tour suggestions, please contact them!

**Do you like cruising?** Ever wonder if you might meet other ITHF'ers on the boat? You can improve the chances by joining the free "ITHF Cruisers" Group on our website!

Groups are a new addition to our members' profiles. We have long set up Regional groups to help our VPs connect with the members in their territories. But we're experimenting with new, "General" groups to allow members to connect over shared interests.

General groups aren't visible until you've been added to one; then you can join others or even create your own – and let other members know about it through our "Updates."

See the "An Introduction to Groups" on the home page of our website (<https://www.ithf.org>) to learn more about them – then, if you're planning a cruise and wouldn't mind other members knowing about it,

email [r.harned@ithf.org](mailto:r.harned@ithf.org) and ask to join the ITHF Cruisers group. You just might make new friends!

**Speaking of Cruising:** an ITHF cruise of the Hawai'ian Islands is planned for next year just in time for the 2020 Rotary Convention is Honolulu! We will sail on Norwegian's *Pride of America*. Flyers and additional information will be available in the "*Buth*" and will be posted on the ITHF.org website. It's not too early to start thinking about next year's Rotary and ITHF activities!

### **Candidates for President-Elect**

Two of our number have been selected by the Nominating Committee as candidates for President-Elect of our Fellowship, to serve during Rotary Years 201-2021, and then to succeed Aswini Kar, current President-Elect, who will become President on July 1, 2019, for a 2-year term.

The names of the Nominees are submitted to the membership 6 weeks before our Annual General Meeting, in accordance with our By-Laws. You are asked to review the nominee information previously sent to you and submit your vote by **Sunday, May 5, 2019**, to President Sheila Hart, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at [sheilahart@shaw.ca](mailto:sheilahart@shaw.ca).

The two nominees are:

Ranjan Dhingra, member of Delhi Central Rotary Club, District 3010, India

Bala Murthy, member of Washington DC Rotary Club, District 7620, United States

### **Rewarding Connection in Croatia Woody and Rebecca Fridae**

My wife, Rebecca and I travelled this past winter were travelling in Eastern Europe, satisfying my her career-long itch to see the many places that she had only taught about throughout her 38 years of teaching ancient history in middle school. We romped through Greece's vertical geography from Meteora to Delphi to Crete. After Greece, we set out to explore the Croatia's beautiful Dalmatian coast. We rented a car in Croatia's capital, Zagreb, where

we reached out to ITHF for a connection. That connection made all the difference!

We were invited to connect with the PDG Marijan Bulat who is now Zone 19 President. We met him and his talented wife, Tanja. Marijan picked us up from our Airbnb lodging and whisked us away to their apartment where they amazed us with culinary delights that obscured any other meal we had enjoyed throughout our European tour.



Photos: Rebecca and Woody with Tanja and Marijan, the Bulats with Rebecca and her sisters

Marijan and Tanja enlightened us on Rotary's changing landscape in Eastern Europe, dealing with different cultures, languages and religious perspectives. While maintaining their medical supply business, They spend many weeks travelling internationally for Rotary Zone 19 affairs, and often make it to the United States on Rotary or personal business. They gave us several ideas for our continued travels in Croatia. We took notes on places to see and how to make our travel plans in Croatia.

On their recommendation, we visited the national parks at Plitvice National Park and Krka. We knew what to look for in Dubrovnik and Split. We visited Tanja's hometown of Rijeka and the Istrian peninsula, all places we would not have known about if we had not met the Bulats.

Not only did we enjoy an amazing dinner with the Bulats, but they insisted that we return when my wife's sisters were to join us two weeks hence. It was a double treat to share not only Croatia's amazing sights with my wife's sisters, but to return to the Bulat's for an encore dinner and to wow them with amazing Croatian hospitality, cuisine and fellowship. ITHF was truly the capstone of our trip to Europe and our friendship tour.

**Linda Krahn**  
**VP ITHF Western Canada**

As we are moving into May and before heading out to Hamburg, I am thinking fondly back to the spin off visits that I had last year when the RI Convention was here in Canada.

I especially look back at the my new Rotarian ITHF friends who visited. Among them was Hans Kihl, the new in 2018 ITHF VP for Northern Europe who came to Canada to visit Alberta and British Columbia with his family. I readily agreed to host the Kihl family and then discovered that with 3 boys, young men, travelling with the family, they were too much for my small patio condo. A Rotary meeting was my first stop to let the word out that I was looking for a Club member who would assist me with hosting. Rotarian Debra Cunningham stepped forward to billet the Kihl's while I had the preferred task of accompanying them as we toured around Campbell River.



Highlights of our two days exploring included: visits to the Carving Shed of the Henderson Carvers where we found them working carving a huge Totem Pole

(photo shows a completed example of their carvings), a visit to the suspension bridge which was built as a project of the Rotary Club of Campbell River, and an Ocean side seafood supper courtesy of the Cunningham's Quay West restaurant.



The Kihl family's request was to walk in the Pacific Ocean which led to a visit to Miracle Beach south of Campbell River (they can be see in the photo with their feet in the ocean far

down the beach at low tide). As is always, when Rotarians come to call, it was a vacation at home for the Cunningham's and me.

**Colleen Fennell & Patrick Webb**  
**Rotary Club of Salmon Arm**

Patrick and I completed a seven-week holiday in beautiful New Zealand. Our hosts through ITHF were fantastic. To identify hosts we sent emails, which would aid in identifying our final routing through both islands. We were simply blown away with the many responses, far more than those we had sent out, as Rotarians heard about our trip and wanted to be a part of it. In short we had far more invitations than we could even arrange to visit!

The first thing you have to learn when driving in NZ is that it is not only "on the other side of the road" compared to Canada, but that the roads are very windy, narrow, and hilly. Patrick learned to use the turn signal lever rather than the windshield lever.

We made our way around the South Island, hooking up with Daryn Tregurtha, of the Rotary Club of Papanui, Christchurch. Daryn was so hospitable, informative, friendly and giving of her time to make our visit special. Her comments as she toured us about Christchurch gave us an understanding of what they went through in the 2011 earthquakes. With the recent tragedy in this city, we know Rotarians will continue to be a strong positive force.

Travels in the North Island, gradually took us to Katikati, where Roy and Barb Robinson spent their whole day showing us the sights including avocado and kiwi fruit orchards, a fruit processing plant, beaches, towns and winding up the day at a club meeting where we presented on Western Canada. We sincerely hope this presentation gave a few

Kiwis the idea of coming to Canada and then we can return the hosting favour.

Our final ITHF host, near the north end of the North Island, was Vicki Douglas of the Kerikeri Rotary club. She too was an excellent host, sharing her city as well as the surrounding area, highlighting our time with a visit to Tane Mahuta, a 2000-year-old Kauri tree. Our memories are not only of all New Zealand senses, but wonderful friendly people and we feel privileged to be part of ITHF.

Our door is open in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, just let us know.

### ***Linda & Don Jenkins Teaching in Taiwan***

March of 2018 we had a wonderful month in Taiwan, thanks to ITHF and the inspiration of 'Aircon' & Kimberly Carroll. I was assigned to the Jr High School, my husband to an elementary school where we were both challenged to teach English. We stayed with 4 different Rotarian families in the town of Dadu where we were teaching. Aircon opened his home to us in Taipei. His niece, also a RN from California, happened to be visiting so we were well hosted. We saw various areas of Taiwan through the gracious hosting of our Rotarian families & school activities such as a music competition, dance competition as well as an outing for teachers & some parents, some of which hosted us. I have said numerous times, I never have been in a more gracious culture.



In January we were honored to host 'Chani', one of the English teachers I had worked with in Dadu. What a delightful guest

she was. We tried to take her to various schools including a Jr High where she participated in a Mandarin class. She enhanced my book club with her presence. We picnicked along the windy California coast, augmenting our lunch we had purchased at the cheese factory we had just visited. The rain dampened our enthusiasm to walk across

the Golden Gate Bridge but seeing it as well as the Bay Bridge at night from a ferry seemed to make up for that. Pictured are Don & Chani with the Golden Gate in the background. Chani seemed to enjoy it all.



One of my pictures shows Kiwi & my husband Don. What an amazing family. With an 18 month old, 6 year old twin girls, a 12 year old boy, & 15 year old girl and they still took us in, gave me a birthday party & a lavish present to celebrate my BD. I do hope we get a chance to host them in our home.



The other picture was taken at a lovely banquet Aircon & Medicare hosted for family & the two of us in the Grand Hotel in Taipei.

### ***Madu Bishnu Connects in Melbourne***

I made connection with Past ITHF President John Steven between 14-15th March 2019. I had written to John to host me as I was coming to Melbourne to attend President-Elect training and John immediately said yes!

We had a lovely time together and John took me around St. Kilda Beach and I saw penguins for the first time and enjoyed an ice cream together. Audrey is an excellent cook and loved our meals together. Met John's daughter, son-in-law, and grandson and enjoyed my stay so much.

Thank you, John & Audrey!