



The International Travel & Hosting Fellowship



Past District Governor James Andrews Passed Away

With a heavy heart, I would like to inform the members that Past District Governor James Andrews (1992-1993) of District 6780 and former ITHF Administrator passed away on the night of Sunday 26th September. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Cookeville Breakfast. He was the founder and Administrator of ITHF for many years. A great motivator, down to earth, lovable, kind, generous person. I knew him since I joined ITHF. It is a great loss to ITHF. He was a strong pillar of our fellowship. We will greatly miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

He leaves behind his wife, Rosalie, and three children. No services are planned at this time. Please keep the Andrews family in your thoughts and prayers.

Aswini Kar
ITHF President

Our first adventure with the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship

(Experience of two new ITHF members)

While in Hamburg, we wandered into the International Hosting and Travel Fellowship (ITHF) booth and began speaking to a very friendly gentleman who told us he was from Louisville, Kentucky. Pete told him that we would be going to Louisville in 2020 to hear his daughter sing in the Sweet Adeline's International competition. He asked where we were staying and, of course, it being such a long time in the future, Pete told him that we didn't know. His response was, "Yes you do, you are staying at my place!" What an introduction to the ITHF!

Fast forward to last month. I received a message from Daniel Nanor in Ghana. His wife was hoping to study for a year at a university in Sudbury, Ontario, and he wanted to visit with her while she was there. We had never met but were both members of the ITHF, and had both attended the International Conferences in Toronto and Hamburg. He asked if I would consider writing a letter of invitation to help him obtain a visa. Not knowing anything about writing letters to help with visa applications and not knowing Daniel, we were a bit apprehensive. However, after some investigation, I wrote the letter. Through Whats App, Daniel and I exchanged some family pictures and information, and I wished him good luck and asked him to let me know if he was successful with his visa application.

A couple of months went by, and one morning there was a message on my phone informing me Daniel would be in Toronto the next week and he would be flying to Kingston to visit with us and attend our Rotary meeting. It turns out that his wife's study visa was denied. His visa was not, and he would come to visit us anyway. We were honoured. He flew from London, England, to spend four days in Canada, two of which were with us in Kingston.

What a great time we had with Daniel. We showed him around our city. We took him to our Rotary meeting and got to know him and learnt about his life in Ghana. We found out that Daniel grew up with 4 brothers and sisters in a one room house and that life was very difficult after his father passed away. Since his father had always maintained that education was the key to a successful life, Daniel continued on with schooling, eventually receiving a Master's Degree. He is now a very successful businessman, and his wife Gina and four children live prosperously in Ghana.



He presented us with numerous gifts, one of which was a Kente cloth which is a type of silk and cotton fabric made of interwoven cloth strips handmade and native to the Akan ethnic group of Ghana. Originally, the use of Kente was reserved for Asante royalty and limited to special social and sacred functions. Today, it continues to be associated with wealth, high social status, and cultural sophistication. What an honour. Now I have to decide how I am going to use this material to the fullest. At the moment, we are using it as a very colourful table runner in our dining room.

We also received a gift of chocolate and discovered that cocoa beans are a chief agricultural export of their country. He also presented us with two lovely wooden carvings



which are displayed on either side of a beautiful hand-made piece we purchased last year in South Africa while on a Rotary Friendship Exchange.



We were very lucky with the weather while Daniel was here. The autumn colours were at their peak and the bright blue sunny skies showed the leaves off to the fullest. We drove Daniel around Kingston and he was very impressed by how quiet and peaceful everything was. I guess it's the difference in populations between our two countries. Daniel was also intrigued by all the Limestone buildings in Kingston since one of his businesses in Ghana deals with limestone.



We hemmed and hawed about what to serve Daniel for dinner and settled on an early Thanksgiving dinner. At first, Daniel took a small amount of garlic mashed potatoes, baked squash with maple syrup, broiled brussels sprouts, corn on the cob, turkey and gravy. We were worried that he wouldn't like our choice of foods. However, he went back for two heaping platefuls, so our worries were for naught.

The exchanges we had over dinner and throughout the day were amazing. We learned so much about Ghana, and I think he learned about Canada and some of our customs. We heard about what he is doing with Rotary in Ghana, his family and some of his customs. What an experience and exchange of

ideas! Our visit was much too short. We hope to meet again in the future. Yes, Rotary does connect the world!



Pete Burrell and Carol Cartier – Kingston Rotary Club, Kingston, Ontario

Cruise the Hawaiian Islands

There is an opportunity for ITHF members who are attending the Convention in Hawaii to cruise the Hawaiian Islands on the Pride of America. Details including the application form can be found in the following hyperlink [ITHF Pre-convention Cruise](#)

We have been advised by our Travel Agent, Dustin Zirkle at Atlantis International Travel that Norwegian has revised the schedule for this cruise. Members who have already booked will receive compensation including but not limited to 2 nights in a hotel in Honolulu for Saturday May 30 and Sunday May 31.

The cruise will take place from June 1- June 6 with the following itinerary:

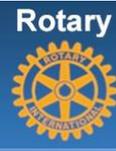
Mon June 1 – depart Honolulu at 7 pm
 Tues June 2 – Hilo, Hawaii 8 am – 6 pm
 Wed June 3 – Kona, Hawaii 7 am – 5:30 pm
 Thurs June 4 - Kahului (Maui) Hawaii 8 am – 5 pm
 Fri June 5 – Nawiliwili (Kauai) Hawaii 8 am – 5 pm
 Sat June 6 – Honolulu at 7 am

Correction August Connections

The article concerning Peter Opa from Benin incorrectly listed his email address. The correct email is ppeteropa@gmail.com. If you are interested in the Peter's amazing project, visit the website www.soulgrateful.org.



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New Editor

I am Tony Trumble and ITHF member for 3 years. My wife Katy Lees and I are members of the Rotary Club of Belconnen which is located in the north-west of Canberra, Australia's capital city. Canberra is located about 300 kilometres, about 190 miles inland from Sydney.

In September, Katy and I hosted next year's ITHF president Bala Murthy and wife Roma when they visited Canberra as part of their visit to Australia.

Bala is a very persuasive man and when he heard that Kimberly Carroll was stepping down as editor after 6 years, asked me to take on the role.

Thank you very much to Kimberly for her many years of editorship.

As you travel as ITHF members, please take some photographs and write an article that can be published. I hope to publish the next edition in late January 2020 and would appreciate your contributions by 15 January 2020,

I can be contacted ithf.trumble@gmail.com

Swedish Hospitality 2019

We had a wonderful post-convention trip to Stockholm during June 5-8, 2019 when we enjoyed ITHF Swedish hospitality of Rotarian Herman Essen and spouse Monica of RC Stockholm Ladugardslandet. The lovely couple took us around Stockholm and at their heavenly country home.

While Herman took us around the Royal Palace, Old town, Skansen open museum while witnessing Swedish National Day parade on June 6, we enjoyed the splendid dinner cruise together on the next day. Drive to their country home on the last day was most remarkable, as the country drive and the jet boat ride on the Baltic archipelago was most memorable for us coming from the Himalaya away from the sea!

We exchanged club flags and vowed to meet again on reciprocity.



Rotarian Maheswor Shrestha of RC Kopundol, Nepal and spouse Pramila with Swedish hosts Herman Essen and spouse Monica



Enjoying Swedish National Day parade in Stockholm on June 6 with Swedish host Herman Essen and Monica