Are you going to Seoul in 2016? Hoping to see our Fellow ITHF members at next year’s gathering in the beautiful and enchanting capitol city of South Korea. Please check out all that’s happening at the following website and make sure you get registered: http://www.riconvention.org/

**From the Administrator**

*“Aircon”*

My dear fellow ITHF members: I’d like to take this opportunity to give you ITHF update; with 2016 RI Seoul Convention, we offer two amazing tours:

1. thanks to the joint efforts of ITHF PP Steve & Noko Yoshida, Rotary ITHF Tour of Japan and Korea is well organized and information has been uploaded to ITHF website; for details please visit: [http://www.ithf.org/index.php/20-english/english-current-tours/72-seoul-2016-tour-documents](http://www.ithf.org/index.php/20-english/english-current-tours/72-seoul-2016-tour-documents)

2. a 2016 Post-Convention Taiwan Tour is also available on ITHF website, Medicare has planned for 3-day home stay hosted by local Rotarians, which will offer visitors a good opportunity to observe Taiwanese life style/culture in depth, for details, please visit: [http://www.ithf.org/index.php/members-only/taiwan-2016-tour-documents](http://www.ithf.org/index.php/members-only/taiwan-2016-tour-documents)

For those members who are going to attend the Seoul Convention and are interested in joining these tours, please download tour documents & fill the application form as soon as possible.

We also organized the following events with Seoul Convention: an ITHF booth at house of friendship, which will display update information of ITHF & all events & activities in this year and the ITHF Annual General Meeting & ITHF breakfast on May 31 at 07:00 at Shilla Stay Hotel-
B1 Cafe, address: 163 Migeun Dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul, 120-020 South Korea, Phone: +82-2-6388-9000, exit the Seoul subway Seodaemun station., reservations for members will available on March 2016. The ITHF Board meeting will be held on May 30, 2016 12:30-14:00 at Kintex Exhibition Center Business Lounge 2B; all ITHF Board members & VPs/Officers, please plan to attend the meeting.

Travels with Brenton Abbot
President, Encounter Bay Rotary, South Australia

My wife and I visited the US between the 19th and 22nd of September and were hosted by fellow ITHF members during the trip.

Saturday, September 19, 2015
Meet and greet them along with two Washington, D.C. Club Presidents: Thomas Reed of Capitol Hill, Rebecca Pandolph of Federal City. Walking tour around US Supreme Court and US Capitol.

Botanic Garden Museum Tour

Then dinner at Union Station’s Thunder Grille Restaurant; night drive in D.C. before White House. Home with the Bailey’s Rockville MD
Sunday, September 20, 2015: Breakfast at Bailey’s, worship at Basilica of the National Shrine at Catholic University of America, in Washington DC, and a tour of the Air & Space Museum (while EB & CB toured the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden, and the African Art Museum).

Dinner with ITHF member Phil & Susan Komornik of Laurel MD at Chutney’s Indian Restaurant in Columbia MD; home with Bailey’s. Monday, breakfast at Bailey’s Rockville Central Auto Body collision repair shop with host, Richard Shriver. White House Visitors Center, then a US Capitol Tour, the Washington Monument, and the Holocaust Museum visit. Dinner at home of Rotarian family Ken & Bea Weiss. Tuesday, was a visit to the Gaithersburg Rotary Club, shopping at Lake Forest Mall, then packing for Wednesday’s mid-morning departure to Florida and dinner at Old Country Buffet Restaurant in Gaithersburg. Wednesday...off to Miami! Brenton Abbott wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Bringing Aloha to Wisconsin
Wendy Acosta, Rotary Club Valley Isle Sunset
Maui HI

On the spur of the moment, I decided to attend a wedding of a young lady I’d mentored since her teen years in Milwaukee WI. Spur of the moment travel is pretty easy – when you don’t have an ocean in between! Living in Maui is a blessing, travelling at the last minute is a challenge. Enter ITH—relatively new to the Fellowship, I reached out and connected with Jean and John Henderson in Elk Grove, Wisconsin. Little did I know that I was not only going to get the Red Carpet treatment, I was also going to see how high ITHF hosts can raise the bar!

John picked me up at the airport, and then gave me a mini tour of Milwaukee to show me where I’d have to go to find the wedding and the rehearsal dinner. Like most places, Milwaukee is under construction, and without his tips and pointers, I would have had quite a time finding the wedding. As it was, every trip to Milwaukee during my stay was easy. Not bad for a girl from a small island! Arriving at their home, I met this whirlwind of energy and ideas named Jean. Talk about making me feel right at home! After a home tour and a gift of house keys, we headed to their lake cabins. More keys and a car at my disposal and I had a little piece of paradise to enjoy. I may be from Maui, but I grew up in the Pacific Northwest. To spend time on a lake, watching the waves, listening to the wind dance thru the birch leaves as the maples leaves rustle in the background – pure heaven! Watching the squirrels and chipmunks race up the trees as the hummingbirds gathered around the feeder brought back many childhood memories.
Tours of the local communities, great food, Rotary meetings, and good conversations rounded out the trip. John is the Captain of their pontoon boat, and a good tour of the Lakes was in order. Jean is Commodore of the local yacht club, of which I’m now a card bearing member.

I follow their global adventures on Facebook, and am delighted to see their newest grandchild snuggled in Grandpa’s arms. I’m sure our paths will cross again, and in the meantime, a piece of my heart is in Elk Grove WI in the custody of two dynamic, loving people. Mahalo for sharing your hearts and home, and showing me the power of ITHF and our global Rotary family. Much Aloha!

Memories of Miami
Ian & Eleanor Holyoake
Napier, New Zealand

Since retiring properly for coming up 7 years, we have taken the opportunity to attend each Rotary World Convention and then plan associated travel around that event. Sao Paulo then, was our seventh such adventure. Our Rotary District (9930 in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand) had a planned tour of Chile, Brazil, and Argentina and 19 of us took part in this. Highlights were of course the convention itself and then a visit to the Iguassu Falls on the border of Brazil and Argentina.

Our tour group then went different ways and ours was to California to spend a week with Rotary friends and then an ocean cruise from Los Angeles to Miami. This of course included a day travelling through the Panama Canal – an experience in itself, and one never to be forgotten. Coming ashore after two and a half weeks was in one way sad but – we were in a new place and one we had never been to before. Figuring we would visit Rotary friends in central and northern Florida, in Miami we did not know a soul. How would we find our way around? Easy answer – go to the ITHF website! So, months earlier and when planning our eight weeks away, we did just that.

Names came up for Miami and I sent an email. A quick response was received from ITHF member Ligia Corridor, who not only gave us advice on locating a rental car, finding her house and providing accommodation but also advising that she would be at Sao Paulo Convention. Thus we were able to meet up while at convention and sharing shifts on the ITHF booth in the House of Friendship. We very quickly became friends and kept running into each other during convention.
Reaching Ligia’s house though was a new experience. She actually lived in a home backing onto a canal in Fort Lauderdale. Backing onto canals in Florida is not so unique for many hoses are so placed, there being a lot of water right throughout the state! With advice from our new friend we were able to travel the everglades on an air boat, sail through the Fort Lauderdale canals in a boat (guided by Ligia) and we also made an overnight visit down to Key West, the southern-most point in the US.

The city where we live in New Zealand claims to the “The Art Deco Capital of the World” and is so called because of the Art Deco Architecture that was predominant in the 1930s “rebuild” after an earthquake destroyed most of our city. Aware that Miami also had similar architecture we were keen to check that out – and we did. I felt a little more comfortable in our use of the “Art Deco” title we do back in Napier NZ.

Our travels in Florida continued with us moving north to visit Rotary friends from previous years, but having an ITHF connection in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area was a new experience and one we really enjoyed. Even finding a Rotary Club was easy for Ligia took us to her one and the speaker for the day was a local police chief. That was something special for me, being an “old” chief!

So – a new area has been “ticked off” our bucket list and made some much more enjoyable because of our connection with ITHF.

Overview of ITHF Brazilian Tour
May 24 to June 4, 2015
John Bradshaw

With the RI Convention taking place in Sao Paulo, Brazil this year, the ITHF planned a tour to take us to different parts of Brazil. We visited the well-known modern city of Rio de Janeiro, the remote city of Manaus on the Amazon River, the beautiful new capitol, Brasilia, a hot water springs spa resort, Rio Quente, near Caldas Novas, and ended our tour at the convention city of Sao Paulo. Our group was made up of 22 ITHF travelers from Taiwan, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Australia and Uganda. We were led by Medicare, our current ITHF president, who did the final planning of the tour and hosted us along our way with our two wonderful tour guides.
We began in Rio and visited the many sights there in this cosmopolitan city, including the beautiful beaches, the massive Corcovada Monument overlooking the city, a cable car ride to the top of Sugar Loaf, a spectacular night club performance and the cathedral of San Sebastian. After a 6-hour plane ride from Rio, we landed in Manaus on the mighty Amazon River and deep in the rain forest. Here we were treated to a river cruise on the Amazon, a visit to a native village and some dancing and musical entertainment by the villagers. We swam with and fed the fresh water pink dolphins and visited the magnificent opera house of this once wealthy city of the rubber-barons of the early 1900’s.

Another plane ride brought us into the heart of Brazil, where we visited the new and beautiful city and capitol, Brasilia, designed by the world renowned architect, Oscar Niemeyer. Its wide boulevards, gracefully sculptured buildings and monuments and numerous green spaces are a treat to the eye.

The spa, Pousada do Rio Quente, offered us all a relaxing two days enjoying the thermal spring pools, the colorful birds and gardens and the entertainment of the resort. We also visited Caldas Novas, the home of Cachaca liquor and toured the distillery. Fully refreshed, we disembarked for our final destination, Sao Paulo. Here we toured around the city and visited many government buildings, the Cathedral to Saint Sebastian, the municipal stadium and the very large and impressive city market place. Sadly our trip ended...we said our good-byes and looked forward to the 2015 RI Convention yet to come.

Note from the Editor: I want to thank you for your patience waiting for this issue of the ITHF Newsletter. Unfortunately, my family has been dealing with a very serious issue which has seen one of our members entering hospice care and my focus has been elsewhere. Thank you and happy travels to each of you.