



CONNECTIONS

July 2015

Kimberly Carroll, Editor (kvcarroll@yahoo.com)

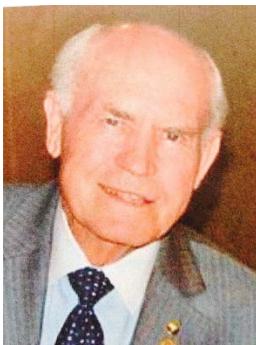


ITHF Thanks Phil Komornik

For your dedication to Rotary and ITHF and for your years of selfless service to your fellow Rotarians, travelers and “hosters” ...there truly aren’t enough words to thank you for all you have done...but we will try....THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! You represent the true meaning of Rotary: **Service above Self**. We truly would not be who we are as a Fellowship without you!

See you in Seoul! Be well, and safe travels to you and Susie!

Passing of ITHF Co-founder Ed Jared



We are saddened to learn of the passing of Ed Jared of Cookeville, Tennessee USA on June 2, 2015. Ed was in the midst of being treated for lung cancer. Ed was at home with his wife, Wanda, who was soon surrounded by her two sons and their families and numerous other friends and family in Cookeville.

Ed was one of the two originators of the ITHF in 1990. He served as ITHF's first president in 1991-1992 and as treasurer of the board for all his remaining years of active ITHF membership. Ed and Wanda led numerous tours for members through Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, North America, including even one short venture into Africa. Wanda served as newsletter editor for ITHF for many years starting in 1991.

Neither Ed nor Wanda ever met a stranger. Their friends throughout Rotary and ITHF are beyond counting. Friends can share their remembrances and wishes to Wanda through wjared@tntech.edu or 1221 Woodlake Trace, Cookeville, TN 38501 USA.

ADVENTURES IN AUSTRALIA

Jan & Bob Cope

After 6 months of planning and waiting, we finally embarked on a 6-week trip through Australia. It was a trip of a lifetime! The first 2 weeks we took a tour and learned about the history, Aboriginal Art, animals, Great Barrier Reef, Rain Forest, Outback in Alice Springs and Uluru. Then we took off on our own. Prior to leaving the US, we had made contact with 6 Rotarians listed on the ITHF registry. All six very graciously invited us to stay with them and show us around their area.

Our first stop was Canberra and our hosts were DG Rowley and Denise Tompsett. Denise invited members from the local Roteract Club to dinner and we had a wonderful evening visiting over a fantastic dinner prepared by Denise. The next day, they took us to see the sights, the Burley River, Parliament, both old and new, and the High Court. Bob is a retired Circuit Judge from Missouri, so we always enjoy learning about the Judicial System in other countries. We went with them to the Yass Rotary Club and met wonderful Rotarians there. We looked for kangaroos on the way home that night, but to no avail!

Our next stop took us to Hobart, Tasmania where Reg and Annette Emmett were our hosts. They showed us Hobart from a hilltop and then we toured around town. The bay and all the old buildings that have been restored were fun to walk through. Bob and I took a ferry to the Museum of the Old and New (MONA). We loved the architecture of the building inside and out! That evening we had the pleasure of joining Reg's Rotary Club for the showing of "The Second Best Marigold Hotel". There were over 200 Rotarians there and half the proceeds went to Polio Plus. Pizza dinner afterwards with the Rotary Club was a perfect end to the evening! The next day, Reg was leaving for a PETS program and we took off to explore the East coast of Tasmania and Launceston on our own.

Another plane ride and we arrived in Adelaide, picked up our rental car and drove to the town of Strathalbyn. The drive was at night, on the left side of the road, 2 hours later than expected because of rain, on new windy roads. When we arrived at 10:00 pm, Mike and Mary Galea greeted us with a glass of wine and a delicious dinner. What a wonderful beginning of a new friendship! Tuesday, March 2nd was our 47th Anniversary and Mary and Mike fixed a fantastic dinner along with a Pavlova for dessert. Rotarians Craig and Fran Maidment came over to enjoy the celebration also. Highlights of our time there included a boat ride in their boat to Goolwa for lunch and back to Clayton Bay, visits to local wineries and an outstanding Rotary Meeting at the Strathalbyn Club. We even won a prize – a lobster! We took some time to tour Adelaide before we boarded the Indian Pacific Train for our ride to Perth and Western Australia. The scenery doesn't change much across the Nullabor Plain, but the train ride was relaxing and they had delicious food and wine!

IN Perth, our first hosts were Trevor and Patricia Canning (Incoming DG) and after just returning from a Caribbean cruise, they took time to give us a wonderful tour of Perth and the many beaches along the gorgeous Indian Ocean. The water is so many shades of blue! It was on a Sunday afternoon and the beaches were packed! We thoroughly enjoyed our time with Trevor and Patricia. We enjoyed learning about the many Rotary projects that keep Australian Clubs busy.

Our next stop was Winthrop, a suburb of Perth, where we were hosted by John (PDG) and Melodie (Incoming DG) Kevan. They took us on a tour of Fremantle and the prison – which is an amazing, scary place! We enjoyed a delicious home cooked dinner and had fun comparing Rotary notes. Bob was a DG in 1979-80 and learned about changes from Melanie. We went to the breakfast Applecross Rotary Club with them and thoroughly enjoyed meeting. A visit to King’s Park and then off to Mandurah where they showed us the beautiful canals and homes before Melodie had to leave for Bunberry for a Rotary meeting. John arranged dinner with some Rotarians and they happen to be lawyers, just like Bob. John has written and published a book “The Cockatoo Conspiracy” based in WWII – I just finished reading it and found it to be a wonderful read. I highly recommend it!

Next we drove to Leschenault near Bunberry to stay with our hosts, Keith (PDG) and Libby Hopkins. Libby was preparing to take a Vocational Study Group to Turkey 2 weeks later, so although she was busy, they took time to show us Bunberry, both by land and by boat. We took a boat trip in the estuary near their home and out into the Indian Ocean to watch the dolphins play. We mentioned that we hadn’t seen any kangaroos in the wild and Libby took us behind their house and we saw lots of kangaroos! We also toured Gnomeville, Wellington Dam and the National Park on our way to the Collie Rotary Club Meeting.

Another plane trip and we arrived in Brisbane where we were met by Alan and Judith Loxton. We met Alan in 1981 when he came to Missouri on a Group Study Exchange and stayed with us for 5 days. In 1994, Judith came to stay with us for a few days. We kept in touch at Christmas and we finally made the trip to see them. It was like we were together just yesterday. They took us on a tour of Brisbane, including a ride on the City Water Cat, a walk on the River Promenade and a visit to City Hall, the Brisbane Museum and the Shingle Inn for lunch. Next was a trip to the Gold Coast, the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and then a trip to their second home named Beauly, near Mt. Alford. It is in the mountains and has a beautiful view of the valley – a great place to relax and enjoy. Sight-seeing in that area included Cunningham’s Gap, Warwick, Queen Mary Falls and then Carr’s Lookout. As always, Judith had a gourmet lunch, tea, and dinner and we came away very satisfied. She is a great cook! We finally had to say good-bye to good friends and good bye to Australia. We came home knowing that our trip was truly enriched by the many people we met and we truly appreciated each and every one we met! We would encourage others to make contact with Rotarians through ITHF!



Jan & Bob Cope with Denise & Rowley (Canberra) at the High Court



Annette & Reg Emmett (Hobart) with Bob Cope



Dinner with Mike Galea, Fran & Craig Maidment, Mary Galea (Strathalbyn) & Jan Cope

The Manganellos & Grabeaus Visit Sicily



ITHF member PDG Rick Manganello and his wife Janet and PRID Ken Grabeau and his wife Ruth visited Catania, Sicily during a stop on a recent Mediterranean cruise. There they met up with ITHF member Giovanni Ianora and his wife Piera who gave them a wonderful tour of the island which included a drive up Mt. Etna and a tour of Taormina. Here they are shown exchanging banners at a winery owned by a Sicilian Rotarian.

Meeting our ITHF Australian Friends Jennifer and Barry Philps in St. Martin in the Caribbean *John and Marti Bradshaw*

We eagerly awoke on January 10, 2015 to a sunny, beautiful day at our winter getaway condo on the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean. It was a day we had been looking forward to for several weeks because our good friends, and fellow ITHF'ers, Barry and Jennifer Philps, were arriving on a cruise ship and we were to pick them up at the pier and host them around St. Martin for the day. We went to the exit gate of the Philipsburg pier, met them there at about 9:30 in the morning and set off for our island adventure! St. Martin is a small island of about 30 square miles but is distinct as it is inhabited by 2 populations – there is a French part of the island and a Dutch part, each with their own government, money and infrastructure. But it is known as “The Friendly Isle” and that is a good descriptor as there is no need to carry passports and islanders speak much English throughout and dollars, euros and Dutch guilders are accepted nearly everywhere. We drove first across the island to Merigot, the French Capitol of the island for their weekly Saturday morning open market along the waterfront in the town square. Becoming hot after a short while out in the sun, we purchased fresh chilled coconuts to refresh us.

And next, off to Layla's, a beach bar under the palms and overlooking the bay, for a leisurely lunch. Our guests ordered steamed mussels and were amazed and delighted by the size of the order when they arrived. We lost count after 60! The baked Camembert with sliced apples and pieces of fresh French baguette to soak up the melted cheese was also delicious.

After lunch we took a leisurely drive around the island and returned to our condo for tea and cake and a few hours to relax and reminisce our past times together. We had stayed with the Philps after the Sydney convention and had a lovely time seeing some sights of Australia while with them.

Thoroughly refreshed, we departed again by car for the northern end of the island to the town of Grand Case where we had dinner reservations at La Villa.



Our casual dinner and wine were again delicious and we left to return our guests back to the Dutch port in Phillipsburg to rejoin with their ship. It was a great day and a great reunion with our Australian ITHF friends, Barry and Jennifer Philips.

Well-Deserved Award



Sincere and heartfelt thanks for the PHF presented to me by DG Roger Mason on behalf of the ITHF at the 90th Charter Celebrations of the Rotary Club of Kendal on 22nd April 2015. It came as a great surprise when Phil Komornik contacted me to make arrangements.

In a very full evening there wasn't time for much of a response but I said that I was honoured and delighted to receive it from the 1250 active Rotarians in 73 countries and 364 districts that made up the ITHF. It was clear from comments afterwards that the size and scope of our fellowship came as a surprise to many.

See www.kendalrotaryclub.org and www.facebook.com/kendalrotaryclub for details of the event.

My Fellowship visit to USA (March through May, 2015) Tilak Thapa Magar

My name is Tilak, a Rotarian from district 3292 Nepal - Bhutan. I'm the Secretary for my club "Rotary Club of Kathmandu North East" for the year 2015 -16. ! I joined the rotary club in 2012 and soon became an ITHF member (International Travel Hosting Fellowship). By classification I'm a tourism entrepreneur in Nepal; offer cultural packages, ad- venture trekking tours and any tailor made holiday packages in Nepal. ! In the course of my tourism business promotion, I have traveled to Europe and Asia extensively and already 3 times to United States; but had never got an opportunity to manage my time for a Rotary Fellowship visit through ITHF. ! This year I made a plan to travel the USA as a Rotary Fellowship visit. I contacted to ITHF members by email. With my big surprised many of them replied me overwhelmingly with welcoming mails for visiting them. They wanted to host me during my visit! What a great deal. I began my travel from Philadelphia as I also had a schedule of participating a 2 day adventure travel show for Nepal promotion (May 21-22) there. When I landed Philadelphia on March 19 in My Fellowship visit to USA (March through

May, 2015): in the morning, I went to Whippany, New Jersey to join the Multi District President Elect Training Seminar (PETS), where I was invited by Rtn. Nick Constantino, DG for 2015-16 (District 7210). Then I started up my fellowship visit from Buffalo, NY, after my few days visit with Nepalese family in New York City. Before I reach to Buffalo, I booked a 2 day bus trip to Niagara Falls, which was absolutely an impressive visit! ! The following day on March 25 in the evening, my host Rtn. Bob Artis came to my hotel to pick me up. It's about a 30 minute drive to reach his home. Before we get home, Bob took me to a nice restaurant; cheered with a glass of wine to celebrate our first visit. As we reached home, Bob introduced his wife Corinne. She handed over me a welcome card in an envelope. The couple treated me in well manner as if I was there as "God Gifted Guest". This was my first Rotary Fellowship impression I have ever had before, other than my good experiences with my non Rotarian friends in Europe. Bob showed me all tourist attractions of Buffalo and he took me to many Rotary clubs in their weekly meetings. Visiting international rotary clubs were also my first experience. Some Fellow Rotarians asked me "Tilak what you bring here?" I replied "I would like to visit as many rotary clubs as possible, get some rotary ideas; and bring back home to Nepal and share with my friends; and implement the ideas in my club". In fact the main purpose of my visit was to meet the fellow Rotarians; gain the rotary ideas; and find some international partners who are interested for humanitarian service projects in Nepal. After a 4-day wonderful fellowship visit, I went back to New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore and stayed with a Nepalese family. During my staying in Philadelphia, I also got an opportunity to meet Rtn. Marilyn Axler (RGHF Membership Chair) who hosted me a dinner. On April 08, I went to Washington DC for another fellowship visit till April 13, where I was invited by Rtn. Bala Murphy, a very nice guy, supportive, friendly Indian origin. Bala gave me some guidelines and highlighted of "Must Visit" places in Washington DC. During my stay, I visited many museum including Holocaust Museum, Air Space Museum, American Natural History Museum and as well as enjoyed the Cherry Blossom Road Festival in Washington DC. Bala also took me on his family gathering; it was very nice. Now I am remembering the family; especially the retired Professor Kamal Verma, PHD; my greetings to him and the entire family. Before I joined another fellowship visit to Chicago, Bala dropped me to Derwood, Maryland, where I was invited by Rtn. Ken & Beatrice Weiss. It was a 2-day memorable visit, Ken took me some clubs' meeting including the Rotary club "Gaithersburg." Thank you President Linda, John Cabrera, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Mitra.

On 15 April 15, I flew to Chicago early morning and landed at O'Hare Airport, where my host Rtn. Bob Smallwood was waiting for me. Bob had made a prearrangement of a tour to visit the Rotary Headquarter in 1560 Sherman Avenue. Rtn. John M. Hannes, the senior Coordinator gave me about a 45 minute tour which was one of the highlight of my visit. ! During my staying with hosts Bob and Nancy; they took me several clubs including number 1 Rotary Club (Chicago Rotary One). It was so impressive for me and felt honored and privileged to join the first club among the 34,000 clubs in the world. Besides visiting the clubs, Bob took me to the Willis Tower, joined the Architectural Cruise tour and many more. In overall it was my worth visiting to Chicago. Another highlight of the trip was to Bloomington, usually a 2-hour train ride from Chicago. I was invited by hosts Rtn. Ray and Carol Ropp. When I reached their door step; I found the National flag from Nepal with an American flag fluttering in a pillar just in front of their house. This was just done in my honor! What a great way to welcoming a guest at their home! ! The Ropp family is a well-known farmer on dairy business who represents the 6th generation farmers (www.roppcheese.com). Carol and Ray took me some rotary clubs including Normal Rotary Club, the only one normal club in the world. We also joined a 2 day district conference of District 6490. I also got an opportunity to join a dinner party as a guest which was specially organized to honor past district governors of district 6490. I'm now remembering the DG Leslie J. Mitkos, the guy having a humorous personality, Rtn. Surinder Sethi (DG for 2015-16) and his spouse, Narinder. The last but not least, I visited Springfield, the beautiful hometown of Abraham Lincoln. I was invited there by Rtn. Dr. Eli Goodman, Rtn. Harry Mitchell and his spouse Ginny. As

usual practice, I joined many clubs there; and presented our district 3292 and our club humanitarian service activities and some tourism highlights of Nepal. Eli and Harry gave me a tour to many places including Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Lincoln Tomb, New Salem and many more. I'm now remembering all fellow Rotarians at Springfield, the host family including Rtn. Neal E. Miller, Bonnie W. Styles, PHD, the Museum Director of Illinois State Museum who offered me an hour guided tour to the museum, Rtn. PDG Rod Buffington, a very big supporter of TRF who invited me to join a luncheon at his home. The other Rotarian who hosted me for dinner is Rtn. Bruce Finne and his wife Karen. I'm thankful to all fellow Rotarians and the host families. It has been my lifetime unforgettable Rotary Fellowship Experience! America has become a home away from my home country Nepal. My host families have become my second family. I met so many wonderful and inspiring people. They are so courteous, polite and always helpful. They deserve the better than the best. Meanwhile, I would like to state that there were other many places in my travel list that I was supposed to visit through rotary fellowship. Unfortunately, I had to shorten my trip due to the Earthquake devastation in Nepal on April 25. Fortunately, my family is safe. On May 7th, I hurriedly returned to Nepal to meet my family and support the needy people who were desperately affected by the devastation. For contact: Tilak Thapa Magar (PHF) Secretary for 2015 -16 (Rotary Club of Kathmandu North East), Facebook: www.facebook.com/tilak.thapa.magar, Website: www.rckne.org Email: tilakthapa@me.com

Rotarian Action in Brazil Ellen Haggerty



My passion is to help children and adults with hearing loss reach their potential by creating hearing accessibility projects. On the way to setting up the Rotarians for Hearing Rotarian Action Group Booth at the House of Friendship at the 2015 São Paulo Rotary International Convention, I was hosted by 4 ITHF Members -Dr. Nelson Melo and his wife, Darlenia in Piumhi, MG; Dr. Juan and his wife, Nancy Tombe-Noe in Ponte Nova, MG, Silvio and Vera Santononi in Brasilia, DF and Luiz and Denise Begosso in Cândido Mota, Brazil.

Juan took me to the local hospital and clinics to talk about creating hearing accessibility for children in Ponte Nova.

Luiz proudly points to the 2012 RI Matching Grant for 164 solar powered hearing aids we worked on together.

ITHF can help you implement your service passion as it continues to help me with my passion to help children and adults with hearing loss reach their potential.

Ellen Haggerty, Chair, Rotarians for Hearing RAG
Pleasant Valley (New York) Rotary Club

Connections-Strobl-Weiz-March-2015
Kevin and Mary O’Flaherty

Harald and Gitti Strobl were waiting for us at Graz as our train from Vienna through the Austrian Alps pulled in – what a way to travel! And how delightful to be met by friendly smiling faces as we stepped off the train.

Then we were off to the Austrian Open Air Museum at Stübing for a lovely afternoon exploring Austrian heritage houses and buildings, customs and food. Mary tried their famous bread cooked on the spot in an age old wood fired oven. Kevin joined Harald to investigate traditional bee hives made from rope – so different from his Australian colonies’ hives.

Best of all we were part of a family get together with them and also when we sat around their family table in Weiz discussing all aspects of Austrian and family life. Harald and Gitti took us for a lovely drive above the snowline in the nearby Alps and hosted us in a wonderful walking tour around Graz and up to the historic Castle.

People often confuse Austria and Australia – but we don’t mind after such wonderful ITHF hospitality.

We hope to welcome them at Kirra Beach in the near future.

Annual Meeting Held in Sao Paulo, Brazil
Phil Komornik

The 2nd floor banquet room of the Century Paulista Hotel in Sao Paulo was the site of the 2015 ITHF Annual General Membership Breakfast Meeting with 50 ITHF members and their partners, including many “first timers.” As RI’s convention was quite low in attendance this year in Sao Paulo, attendance at our meeting seems to have been similarly affected, which was a shame in that, as many, as many of those in attendance remarked, “*it was the best breakfasts*” they could remember at one of our breakfasts.

President, Medicare, chaired the meeting informing the membership of the good health of the organization with over 1200 members on the rolls and encouraging all the members to continue to make “Connections” throughout the membership and talk of the benefits of membership in ITHF whenever they find opportunity with fellow Rotarians and Rotatactors.

It was announced that due to personal and business responsibilities, Phil Komornik, had to resign from the position as Administrator for ITHF. Taking his place is Uen Hua (AirCon) Chao from Taiwan. His email address is uenhuachao@gmail.com

ITHF Booth in Sao Paulo, Brazil Phil Komornik

Our booth in the House of Friendship at the RI Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was successful, presenting the rewards and benefits of ITHF membership to Rotarians and Rotaractors from all over the Rotary world.

We thank ITHF President, Medicare Hsu, Gilbert and Linda Brown, Ed and Ruth Broeders, Rick and Mary Ellen Harned, Ian and Anne Doyle, Ian and Eleanor Holyoake, Melvina Lube, Bruce Duggar and our new Administrator, (AirCon) Uen Hua Chao and many, many other members who volunteered hours to staff our ITHF booth, meeting, greeting and speaking with Rotarians and Rotaractors about the benefits of membership. They all stepped right up to give of their time. It is another testament to the truth of Rotary's slogan, "Service above Self."



Photo: President Medicare at the booth with new Member Massamiti Niwa

ITHF on Facebook Phil Komornik

Our page on Facebook now has grown to over 500 people who have "**LIKED**" our page and are participating by posting photos and articles, requests and comments about their activities with each other. Please "**LIKE**" us and see what is going on with your fellow ITHF'ers. You can search for us in the Search Box at the top of your Facebook page by typing in our full name, "International Travel & Hosting Fellowship," or you might try this URL: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ITHF>

Keep in mind that though Facebook is a good place for us to get the word out about ITHF member activities and member's being able to post photos and activities, *it is open to everyone who is on Facebook*. Many of those who have "**Liked**" our page are not members of ITHF nor are we certain they are Rotarian. Before you engage with anyone who says they are with ITHF, look for their profile on our website: ITHF.org

I Forgot!!! Phil Komornik

We all from time-to-time encounter the frustration of forgetting our Username and Passwords—not to worry with our website. Simply go to our ITHF.org website's HOME page. Look along the left side for the highlighted—*I forgot my login*—and click on it to recover them. Or you can always email our Administrator, AirCon, uenhuachao@gmail.com for help with any issue relating to our Fellowship.

Message from Aircon (ITHF Administrator)

Hi, I'm Aircon (Uenhua Chao), Past President of Rotary club of Taipei Twins Taiwan, it's my great pleasure to be assigned by ITHF Board meeting as the Administrator from July 2015. I hope under the good guidance & instruction from PE Phil, I may play a good role to better serve our members. I'm a mechanical engineer, 40 years in business, established a company to focus on design & construction of central air-condition system & Clean Room for high technology industrial facilities, ever done many landmark projects in Taiwan, like: Taipei Arena, Kaohsiung Arena, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House, SARS isolation hospitals & many IC Fabs./solar panel Fabs/LED chips Fabs/LCD panel Fabs, are some of our typical projects.

I retired 4 years, now part-time as government energy conservation consultant; 19 years as a Rotarian, I even served in District 3480 as RFE Chair/GSE Chair/GSE team leader/Int'l Service Chair/AG/District Vice General Secretary. Sponsored Matching Grants in Taiwan/Thailand/Alaska/Hawaii/Brazil, Special Initiative Grant in Myanmar.

Joined many RFE programs to host & visit Rotarians in Mexico D-4190 & 4130, Thailand D-3360, Russia D-2220/2225, Hawaii D-5000, Alaska D-5010, Brazil D-4480, Sweden D-2350 & D-2390, India-3030, hosted inbound GSE team members & lead outbound GSE team to visited D-6440-home district of Rotary International.



ITHF Members visit Taitung Rotary Village for Typhoon Morakot Victims

This March, I hosted ITHF members from India D-3170 & escorted the group go around Taiwan for "Explore Taiwan Tour," the end of May, and joined the ITHF Pre-Convention Tour to Brazil.