



CONNECTIONS

OCTOBER 2014

KIMBERLY CARROLL, EDITOR (KVCARROLL@YAHOO.COM)



Putting the “TRAVEL” in ITHF, President Medicare has arranged a tour of his beautiful country of Taiwan, March 12-23, 2015. Many of the accommodations will be provided by host families, giving everyone an opportunity to have a true Rotarian experience:

- ✚ price in US Dollars: \$1,200 per person twin share with single supplement of \$350
- ✚ reservations are first-come, first-served and limited to 30 people (with a 20 person minimum)
- ✚ the booking form can be downloaded here: <https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=24he7j1kt8ldc> and returned to Ms. Abby Wu, email: rotary.care@msa.hinet.net
- ✚ reservation deadline: Nov. 30, 2014

The tour will include such sites as the Yehliu Geopark, National Palace Museum, LongSun Temple, Taiwan History Museum, a tea farm experience & DIY tea making, Salt Mountain, Buddhism Memorial Museum, Sky Lantern Show, and Chi Shing Beach. Luxury hotels have also been booked for those times when host families are not available.

You may also contact John Steven (johnsteven@bigpond.com) if you would like further information.

The **Rotary International Convention 2015** will soon be here (6-9 June 2015) and it's time to register:

<http://www.riconvention.org/en/2015/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

As is our custom, ITHF will be touring the host country and John Steven has been hard at work organizing the trip to Rio de Janeiro, Manaus, Brasília, Pousada do Rio Quente, and Sao Paulo, details of which can be found here:

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launchrand=24he7j1kt8ldc> and

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=24he7j1kt8ldc> or by contacting John Steven

at (johnsteven@bigpond.com)



On the Road with Leslie Goode

I have recently completed a 7 week trip to the USA and Canada. The main purpose of my trip was to explore places seen by my father 70 years ago when he was deployed to Lethbridge and Brandon, Alberta Canada to complete his air force training with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). I had planned a combination of tours, independent travel and stays and interspersed these with the wonderful hospitality of ITHF members in 5 cities. First stop in retracing my Father's steps, was San Francisco where I was hosted by Jean and Allen Cary. They took me to see the Golden Gate Bridge and ensured that I was able to travel to and from Alcatraz by train. I was pleased to attend a meeting of the Woodland/Portola Valley Rotary Club where Allen gave a presentation on "How to Build a Guitar". In Vancouver, I was hosted by Sonia Baron and Diana & Leo Nimsick. Sonia was my tour guide, while Diana and Leo provided accommodation and lovely meals. As I had been to Vancouver before, Sonia took me to some wonderful gems – the Museum of Anthropology, Queen Elizabeth Park, Horse Shoe bay and Stevetson, to name a few. I attended the Ladner RC with Sonia, Leo and Diana. My Calgary hosts were Bonnie and Surinder Khanna. Surinder was just commencing his rehab following a knee replacement, so Bonnie was my 'taxi' driver. She enabled me to visit the War Museums, where I spent all my time in the air force section gathering further information about the BCATP. My time in Calgary coincided with a Danish Friendship Exchange, so I was not only able to attend the meeting of the Calgary Heritage Park RC but also a lovely BBQ for their Danish Rotarians. My next hosts were Ed and Kathy Hollaman in Winnipeg. Ed and Kathy took me to see the BCATP monument, and to visit some Winnipeg gems - the Leo Mol sculpture garden and the polar bear enclosure at the Winnipeg Zoo. Unfortunately my visit did not coincide with Ed's Rotary meeting. My last stop in Nth America was Los Angeles where I was hosted by Pat Lawrence. She was kind enough to take me to Disneyland for 10 hours! Hollywood and the Getty Museum. We were able to attend the Laguna Beach RC. I am indebted to my ITHF hosts, who were all so generous with their hospitality. All provided wonderful accommodation, took me to interesting sites and introduced me to their cities and neighbourhoods in a way that cannot be done on tour. I thank them all immensely and look forward to reciprocating by hosting either them or other ITHF members who venture down to Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Two Connections in June 2014 from Rotarians PDG Graeme Dodsworth and Chris

As a result of the World Convention being in Sydney this year, it was our pleasure to catch up with lovely new friends whom we had met on the ITHF bus trip around Portugal in 2013.

Pat and Willis Sutliff travelled to South Australia before the Sydney convention from their home in South Dakota, USA, and we able to show them around our very pretty city of Adelaide and close Hills area, including some animal experiences at Cleland Wildlife Park. We originally bonded over our common interest in the School of St Jude in Tanzania. Thank you to them to making the effort to "come south."

Pat and Willis meeting a Koala with Chris and Graeme. The other couple were Australians Ken and Nola Tyson invited us to visit them at their beautiful property in the northern part of NSW at Dorrigo. Here we were persuaded to stay an extra day to be able to tour their area and meet some of their friends on the adjoining properties, even watching the latest technology in milking 500 cows.

It was great to hear of the travel and adventures that all these Rotary friends had experienced since our tour around Portugal together. Now it is time to plan our next connections with them.

Chris, Nola, Ken and Graeme in Dorrigo NSW. A Sydney highlight had to be the "reunions" ITHF breakfast and the chat at the booth at the "Billabong." Thank you Peter and Rosemary for your leadership this past 2 years.

ITHF Connection in Seattle, Kirk Greiner



This connection started at the ITHF breakfast at the RI Convention in Sydney where David Connell met Kirk and Jackie Greiner of Seattle. David mentioned a planned trip to Seattle in late September 2014 prior to departing on a 25 day cruise back to Sydney.

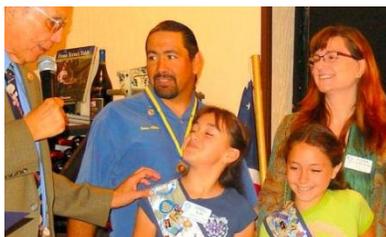
A program was put together by Kirk and Jackie via Emil with David and his wife Margaret. They were met at the train station Saturday night and taken to an excellent motel the Greiners had recommended. Sunday morning, they all went to brunch at a waterside restaurant in Edmonds, WA. Afterwards, the Greiners took them on a tour of the area, first visiting the ship locks between Puget Sound and Lake Union where they watched salmon climbing the fish ladder from the Sound.



They then went to the Chihuly Glass Museum at the base of the Space Needle followed by a ride on the Monorail to downtown shopping at Macy's and other stores. They arrived at Pike Street Market just as they were closing and then visited an icon of Seattle, Starbuck's Coffee.

We then returned to the Greiners' condominium for a dinner of King Salmon, wine, and enjoyable friendship. Kirk then drove the visitors (Margaret and David Connell, Cecily McPeake, and Jennifer McLean) back to their motel.

The next morning after some free time to shop, Kirk drove the visitors to the sea terminal where they boarded the cruise ship Oosterdam. As can be seen by the accompanying photos, we all had a wonderful time.



The Albas are Coming to a Country Near You!

Have you every just wanted to travel the world for a year without anything to do but help people in need? Have you every just wanted to sell your cars, rent out the house, and take an eastbound flight visiting new and exotic cultures and enjoying the fellowship of service for a year? Well, one of the ITHF member families has decided to undertake this very thing. Ivan Alba, his wife Elena, and daughters Isabel and Lily (who will be 9 and 11 during the trip) are planning their journey from August 2015 to July 2016 which they are calling their Rotary Year of Service.

Ten years ago, Ivan and Elena were not Rotarians, but their love of travel inspired them to plan the journey of a lifetime when their newborn, Isabel, would be about 11 years old (Lily soon followed and became part of the plan). Elena had been on a GSE in 2000 and encouraged Ivan to join Rotary in 2010. She later joined and so did their two girls. Currently, Isabel and Lily go to every club meeting, run their own projects, have earned their own Paul Harris Awards, and are official "Rotar-Kidz" in the Rotary Club of La Mesa Sunrise in San Diego, California. Ivan is the immediate past president of that club.

Together, the family plans to travel to Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil. Then, the family will fly to Europe, and then to mid Africa. The plans are to then travel to Jordan and the Middle East before going to India and

China. The trip will end in Japan, then Hawaii before returning to San Diego to restart their lives. This year is the “year of details” when their duty is to set the itinerary and identify their hands-on projects throughout the countries where they will live.

Ivan is an educational consultant in leadership and mathematics who trains teachers nationally and internationally on “best practices” to help students make sense of math. Elena trains teachers in helping students learn English as a new language. Isabel and Lily are wonderful with other children and embody the test “Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendship?” wherever they travel.

The Alba family is looking for projects in all areas of service that they can engage in while in your countries. They are happy to go to schools in your countries and train teachers and administrators *pro bono* if there is no project currently available. And finally, they are excited to meet as many of ITHF’s loving family of Rotarians as they travel. They plan to spend about a month in each country they visit, stay in apartments and with Rotary families when possible, and are willing to “rough” it if necessary. Please contact them to wish them luck, to suggest a project you are involved in, to offer a ride from the airport/bus station, or just to tell them a story of your own trips. Email: mathispower1@yahoo.com

Rotarian Andrew & Pronica Janikowski made an ITHF 'Connection' in September 2014



Rotarian Andrew & Pronica Janikowski had hosted me in their wonderful home in Picton, Ontario, Canada in 2010 after Montreal Convention and we had been friends since then. We are in touch with each other and when Andrew emailed to say he is visiting me in September 2014, I was very excited and happy. Andrew and Pronica came to visit me between September 23-26, 2014 and stayed in my house. We exchanged our club banners and I took them around to some local site seeings of Calcutta, though they missed out on visiting Mother Teresa's Home, Marble Palace and Birla temple and Ran Mandir due to Thursday closure which became a good humour between us. Andrew jokingly mentioned he shall tell others to visit Calcutta but skip Thursdays as everything is closed. Andrew and Pronica enjoyed the local Indian cuisines both in the restaurants and my home cooked food and didn't mind food being “hot.” I was very happy to host Andrew and Pronica.”

In another connection, ITHF member Rajesh Pamnani from Hyderabad came down to Calcutta with his family in the 3rd week of August and we met at Tollygunge Club over a cup of coffee and had a lovely

evening on 24th August 2014. Rtn Rajesh Pamnani and his lovely wife Tanvi had hosted me in their lovely home in Hyderabad last year in May when I had gone to attend a Rotary programme in Hyderabad. We could not take a photo but we had a lovely evening

Madu Bishnu
VP- Eastern India & Bangladesh – ITHF

An ITHF Connection for Jon & Martha Greene from Sparks NV



In July we spent 4 nights with ITHF members David and Nan Greenwood at their home in Millbrook, New York. We have known David and Nan for many years having first met at the Youth Exchange Officers meeting before an international convention. I do not remember which one. And each year we have enjoyed reconnecting at international conventions. This summer we were in New York State and decided to visit them. During our visit with David and Nan we had great food, great tour guides, and of course great conversation. (Photo, left to right: Martha, Jon, Nan, David)

Here is a bit of a story about our Australia adventures chose from Linda Bauer, Richland WA Rotary



If you headed to Australia for the International Convention, and didn't take advantage of your ITHF connections, you surely missed out! Jim and I planned a month's travel around the convention, and made some incredible new friends. Our first stop was in Meckering, a wheat farm area outside of Perth. We planned this visit to shake off jet lag, thinking the pace would be nice and slow. Trevor Canning was waiting on us, and not only wined and dined us (his wife had to be in Perth, but had left behind many Tupperware containers of scrumptious cooking, and Trevor cooked up a mean English breakfast each morning we were there). We were treated to a tour of Trevor's wheat farm. Cunderdin and Meckering are both small farm towns but each has something of interest, and we saw it

all. We did indeed shake off jet lag with a couple long nights' sleep in Trevor's comfy guest room. A train ride on the Indian Pacific gave us a couple of relaxing days to enjoy this wonderful train--the scenery was pretty much the same from start to finish and included lots of FLAT! We departed the train in Adelaide right into the hands of Ashleigh and Carolyn Lorraine. Ashleigh took us on a great guided walking tour of Adelaide, which apparently he had wanted to do for some time. The tour guide got most things right he said. A wildlife park in the middle of the week is not very crowded, and we petted Koala bears and roamed through a field of wallaby and kangaroo and saw every animal and varmint Australia has to offer. Another train ride to Geelong brought us to Peter and Helen Downes. How exciting when they introduced us to geocaching--we found little boxes of treasures along the southern coast. (We came home and got our own handheld GPS and are geocaching everywhere we go. Thanks for the new hobby, Peter and Helen.) We had two stays on Tasmania, with John and Beryl Osborne and Reg and Annette Emmett. There were so many delightful sights to see and our hosts did a wonderful job as hosts and tour guides. One of our favorite stops was Goaty Hill Winery. We live on a hill, and have goats, so we came home and named our property in SE Washington Goaty Hill. I do believe Hobart Rotary is the friendliest Club in the world--we got a nice welcome at all the clubs we visited but those Hobart folks stood out. ITHF has enriched our travel adventures in so many ways, and we never head off on a trip without first checking whether there are Rotary hosts at our destination or along the way. We never say no to Rotary visitors, unless we are off somewhere. Please come check out SE Washington. Wineries, golf, the massive Columbia River, and rocking and sipping on the deck await you. We are off the beaten path, and worth the detour. (Photo: Ashleigh & Friend)



Judge's Journey around the World

ITHF'ers Christine & David A Judge MBE recently completed a 36,000 mile Round the World Tour through 10 countries in 10 weeks and stayed with many Rotary and Scouting friends including several ITHF'ers.

In Bangkok with Rtn Khanitha Sundrapakshin. While we were there the Military Coup and Takeover took place, and although Khanitha took us into the "Yellow Barricaded Compound" (The People) we do not think we started the military coup. It did not affect our programme and we attended a Rotary meeting during the coup. Although challenging, life in Thailand is now more peaceful.

Next on to Perth Australia where we enjoyed an ITHF Homestay with Trevor & Patricia Canning at their Perth home and their farm in Cunderdin, which is Trevor's hobby. Congratulations to Patricia on being elected DGN while we were with them.

While at RI Sydney Convention, which of the 27 we have attended we thought was one of the best; we caught up with ITHF longtime friends and made some new ones. We had a meal with Phil & Susie Komornik who both work so hard for ITHF - Thank You to you both. We also enjoyed reminiscing with them about our exciting trip together to Myanmar (Burma) on the earlier ITHF Thailand Tour before RI Bangkok Convention.

Then on to Rotary Homestays in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

In New Zealand we toured Christchurch, devastated 3 years ago by an earthquake and with 1,800 buildings still to demolish before major rebuilding can begin. How wonderful it would be if an RI Convention could be held in Christchurch sometime in the future?

In New Zealand we also had a reunion with four of the six 1999-2000 District Governors, who, like us, were in Carlo Ravizza's Crew 2000.

After our third visit to Fiji we had the long flight to LA USA and the wonderful Amtrak train journey alongside the Pacific to San Diego for 4th July Independence Day Celebrations as guests of ITHF friends Kathleen & David Roche-Tansey.

Kathleen & David were once again the perfect hosts and arranged (through their friends Bob & Mary Griffin) front row seats at Coronado Independence Parade, a Celebration Party at La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club where they are both members and a million dollar firework display. The next evening in twilight and then under the stars beside the Pacific a Dinner and a Concert in the Park by San Diego Symphony Orchestra. Thanks Kathleen & David, we look forward to being with you on ITHF President Medicare's Taiwan Tour in March 2015.

Our next ITHF Connection was in Salinas, California with long time friend Past ITHF President Gloria Clinton who had just formed the new Salinas Santa Lucia Rotary Club with over 50 members. Well Done Gloria, DAJ was their first speaker.

On to Alamo, California, where while staying with long time Rotary & Scouting friends PDG Brian & Rtn Carolyn Thiessen we all enjoyed two meals with long-time friend and Rotary Elder Statesman & Past RI President Cliff Dochterman who was in good form despite the loss last year of his dear wife Mary Elana. You are in our thoughts and prayers Cliff.

Two more Rotary homestays in Florida then home to Colchester UK at end of July 2014.

This was our most successful, happy and rewarding World Tour, much of it made so by wonderful ITHF'ers around the world. THANK YOU to all of you



***Wonderful Hosts in Wisconsin, by Rick and Mary Ellen Harned,
Louisville KY, USA***

During the ITHF pre-convention tour around Portugal in 2013, we made some wonderful new friends, including Jean and John Henderson of Elkhorn, Wisconsin. We've had a few email exchanges over the past year and they repeated their invitation for us to visit whenever we might travel in their direction. We accepted and, in August 2014, experienced our first visit to ITHFers within our own country.

When we told Jean and John that we would spend time in Chicago en route, they encouraged us to come directly to their home, leave our car there and go by train into Chicago. Happily they joined us to spend two days exploring the Windy City. Activities we enjoyed together included walking around Millennium Park, an Architectural River Cruise, a Second City improv show and the Field Museum before returning to Wisconsin. We stayed at their lake cottage where we enjoyed cruising in John's pontoon boat, kayaking, wonderful food, and beautiful sunsets as well as meeting some of their family members.

Since we were there over a Wednesday, we could attend the regular meeting of the Elkhorn Rotary Club where John is an active charter member. Besides a tour of the town where John grew up, we toured nearby Lake Geneva by boat and visited Old World Wisconsin to get a taste of a bygone era in the Mid West. After Mary Ellen told John how much she loved "being on or near the water," he made sure we had some water-related activity every day of our stay.

Their experience of hosting Rotary Youth Exchange students over many years was evident in their warm welcome and enthusiasm for showing us around their community and region. Jean and John were marvelous hosts and have "set the bar high," since we want to reciprocate their hospitality when they visit our home in Louisville, Kentucky, next spring.

Warm Welcome in the Far East, by Rick and Mary Ellen Harned, Louisville KY, USA

Our trip to Japan in April 2014 was a combination of nostalgia and reunion with long-term friends as well as new sights and cultural experiences. Mary Ellen would see friends from when she lived in Japan during her college years and Rick would set foot in Japan for the first time. Although we had a busy schedule, we hoped also to meet local Rotarians through our ITHF community.



Knowing we would have an overnight stay in the city of Nagoya, Rick wrote to ITHF member Sumiko Ito. Despite the demands of her business career, she took time from her busy schedule and graciously invited us to lunch at a lovely local restaurant that we would never have discovered on our own. We were her first ITHF visitors! She and Rick found out they were both chairs of the International Service committees of their respective clubs so they had much to share. Sumiko travels to the U.S. from time to time, but usually to see friends on the East Coast since she spent a year of college near Boston. We hope we can persuade her to explore the central U.S. and visit us in Louisville.

Since we knew we had a free evening during our stay in Kyoto, Rick had emailed ITHF member Hidehiro Kawahira who lives in nearby Osaka. After we settled on the day and time, Hidehiro sent us explicit directions on which express train to take, time of departure and name of the station. Then he instructed us to exit from the rear car – and when the doors opened, there he and his lovely wife, Masako, stood on the platform to greet us!

Living in a busy metropolis where many foreign visitors come, they are experienced hosts. They gave us a walking tour of the Namba district, full of nightlife, and along the canal with many old bridges and neon lights. Then we moved to a very modern development which included the Osaka Tower, now the tallest building in Japan. Hidehiro was disappointed that, due to the late hour, we could not go to the top, but we had tea on the 16th floor and had a wonderful view of the city by night. We went on to a local restaurant/sushi bar where our hosts ordered so many dishes because they want us to try a wide variety of local foods. Behind us the chef held up the head of a big fish that he was cutting to show us just how fresh our sushi was! Our new friends escorted us to the train station, making sure we were on the right platform for our return to Kyoto. A truly delightful evening! We hope to return their kind hospitality when they travel to the U.S.

We had some grand experiences throughout Japan, with friends old and new. But we give special thanks to Sumiko and to Hidehiro and Masako for enriching our journey by extending such a warm welcome to us!

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Our profile photo is the first thing another member sees of us when they search our ITHF.org website. It is the first opportunity to set a connection. If your profile picture is out of date or missing there is no better time than the present to update it. Additional photos you feel are representative should be added too.

It's also a good time to edit your member profile and put in as much information as you can so other members can find you in their searches. Along with your address, make sure you fill in the Rotary Information, Additional Information, etc. Nearby Cities in Towns are important, since a member from say, London, would likely not know where Loveland, Colorado, USA is. Attractions are also important. The more info you share, the more comfortable a fellow member will feel contacting you.

If you have forgotten your password or username, go to our site www.ITHF.org Look on the left side and click on the tab **-I FORGOT MY LOGIN-** From there you can have your username or password emailed almost immediately to you. Should you not remember the email address you used for ITHF connect our Administrator, Phil Komornik pskomorn@yahoo.com

While we're talking about pictures, the editor often receives photos which cannot be copied and pasted into the Newsletter, losing an important part of the submission. Please submit your articles directly to Kimberly at kvc Carroll@yahoo.com and ensure that your photos (only one or two, please) can be downloaded for inclusion...thank you.

Please "LIKE" us on Facebook and see what is going on with your fellow ITHF'ers. You can find us in the Search Box at the top of your Facebook page by typing "International Travel & Hosting Fellowship," or you might try this URL: https://www.facebook.com/pages/ITHF-International-Travel-Hosting-Fellowship/230255290323263?ref=br_tf