President Sheila has issued a Call for Expression of Interest for an ITHFer who is willing to volunteer to serve as a Social Media Director. If someone is interested, they can send a brief bio to her at sheilahart@shaw.ca as soon as possible. The position description is attached at the end of the newsletter.

ITHF pre- and post-RI Convention tours to Eastern Canada and the Canadian Rockies

It’s not just a tour, it’s an ITHF experience
Deadline for guaranteed space 21 October for the Rockies and 8 November for Eastern Canada

Just look at the fellowship that PDG Betty Screpnek is facilitating for us! Besides the tour itinerary (see https://www.ITHF.org for full details):

1. Quebec City: Local Rotarians invite us to dinner on 18 June at a unique French restaurant in Old Town and may join us for parts of the tour to share Rotary stories in Quebec

2. Montreal: Betty says Rotarian Jacinthe Paille wants her club to join the group in an exciting restaurant in Old Town Montreal. More discussion is happening on this option.

3. Ottawa: 19 June, we may have an opportunity to meet Randy Boissonnault, a Member of Parliament and introduce the group to his fellow MP's, depending if Parliament is sitting. If time permits, Rotarian and Ambassadorial Scholar, Meghan Casey, will give us a tour of the parliament. Meghan will also offer uniques places for lunch and dinner, as we will be on our own for these meals on 19 June. Ottawa is an interesting city with amazing dining opportunities, statues and walking paths.

4. Vancouver: A orientation dinner on our own on 27 June, one day before the official start of the Rockies train tour for those who fly in early or book the Collette optional tour to include the flight from Toronto to Vancouver with hotel transfers and an additional night at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver on 27 June.

We have invited local Rotarians to join us on June 28. Betty is working on what that will look like.

5. Jasper: Local Rotarians will arrange a dinner for us at a Rotary owned restaurant on 30 June and join us at our tour arranged dinner on the 1 July. Betty tells us the hospitality in Jasper will be outstanding. July 1 is Canada day and this mountain village has the most active hospitable Rotary Club that will leave you with lasting memories as you celebrate our young countries 151 years of Confederation.

6. Calgary: We arrive one day before the start of the world famous Calgary Stampede on 6 July. Betty is waiting for confirmation on joining local Rotarians to dine in a private dining room at the Stampede grounds and then preview a live “Sneak a Peek”, sampling of events (chuck wagon, calf roping, bull riding, etc.) For those who wish to extend their stay for one day, the local Rotarians are also
planning to have the group join them for their club’s Stampede Breakfast and reserve spaces to view the opening stampede parade on 7 July. Betty indicated she will have a confirmation within 2 weeks.

Spaces on the Rockies and Eastern Canada tours are filling fast and the deadline for guaranteed space (after 8 November, space is on a first come, first served basis) are nearing so please fill out the application forms and pay the deposits by 8 November 2017 to avoid disappointment.

In ITHF fellowship, PDG Steve and Noko Yoshida, your Canada tour coordinators

Rick’s Ramblings

Do you know of members who have been affected by this year’s natural disasters? The hurricanes in the Caribbean, Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas, floods in India and Nepal, the wildfires in the western USA and Canada, earthquakes in Mexico, and other events have been devastating. Our hearts go out to any members, family members, or friends who have been affected. If you can, send your story in to the newsletter – you, too, can earn an extra year of membership!

Are we Friends on Facebook? The ITHF has had a Facebook page – “ITHF – International Travel and Hosting Fellowship” – for several years, but it has not been actively used. Plans are to enhance its utility as a communication channel for important announcements and for member sharing. Membership promotion may also be a possibility. If you are on Facebook, give us a “Like” and share your best recent travel pictures!
Rao and I befriended each other on the ITHF tour to Bhutan.

Rao has a long-time friend living in Seattle, Ram Pillarisetty. Their friendship goes back to when they were in medical school together. Rao mentioned that Ram was interested in connecting with a local Rotary club in Seattle. I made a contact for Ram and he now has joined the Rotary Club of South Lake Union. Rao and I are certain Ram will soon be a member of ITHF.

Ram & Rao
We are members of ITHF living in Homer, Alaska. We have not had the privilege of hosting ITHFers in Homer. We moved here 7-1/2 years ago having lived in Wasilla - almost 300 miles north of Homer. We had many ITHFers in Wasilla who we hosted, and have traveled extensively internationally staying with ITHF hosts. However, during the last few days we had our first ITHF guests in Homer!

Pam Pine, and her husband Rick, visited us from Colorado. They were in Homer to pick up crutches and walkers for a "Crutches for Africa" project for which Pam is helping. Pam’s Rotary club is in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. In Homer, the Hospice organization had dozens of stored crutches that were not needed. The Director of the Hospice of Homer researched places that would accept donations of the crutches and connected with the Crutches for Africa project. (see: http://www.crutches4africa.org)

Because Pam and Rick were traveling in Alaska, they were willing give their time, and space in their camper/truck, to transport the crutches to Tacoma, Washington, where they will be included in the container shipment that will go to Africa when it is full. Yesterday, July 31, 2017, Rotarians from the Homer-Kachemak Bay Club helped sort, wrap and load the crutches into Pam and Rick’s truck. I attach a photo showing Rotarians at work!
On Saturday, July 29, many local Rotarians and Pam and Rick, took a boat trip to Halibut Cove, across Kachemak Bay from Homer, and attended a welcoming dinner for Rotary International Vice President, Dean Rohrs, who visited Homer with two of her cousins from South Africa.

I attach a photo of Rick, Pam, Vivian and Clyde on the boat that took us to the dinner event.

ITHF contributes to very interesting and wonderful experiences and projects!

Sheena Spittles, President, Tauranga Rotary, New Zealand
A Kiwi in Kentucky

When I heard that the ITHF Tour before the Atlanta Convention was cancelled, by heart sank! New Zealand to Atlanta is such a long was to travel for just a few days at a Convention, should I try to find another tour, or cancel the Convention?? Luckily I had already made contact with another ITHF member Ligia, with whom I was supposed to have shared a room – thank goodness I had! Ligia was at the time on a Project Fair in Colombia and Rick Harned happened to be there too. In no time I was advised to “come on over” and accommodation would be arranged in Kentucky.

My first host family, Susan and Fred Zepeda (in the photo with me) met me at the airport, and took me to their lovely home in Louisville. What a beautiful place – as collectors of folk art, their home was a virtual museum of artworks with an unexpected treasure around every corner! We travelled to Morehead for an overnight stop and visited a fascinating Folk Art Fair. What an amazing collection of talented artisans and some very quirky artworks! It was great travelling through the countryside and seeing some lovely parts of Kentucky on the way. On our return, we had dinner with some of Susan’s fellow Rotarians and I finally got to meet (and thank!) Rick and his wife.

My next host family Marilyn and Tom Crow, happened to be in Louisville when it was time for me to move on, so collected me from Susan’s house. We drove through more lush green countryside as we travelled to their home in Scottsville (about an hour north of Nashville). Their beautiful home is set on 35 acres of land, nestled among tall trees, with its own deer ranging free. Our first stop was to see the ‘Glasgow Highland Games’ much to my amazement (I was born near Glasgow, Scotland so was intrigued to find another Glasgow in ‘deepest darkest Kentucky!’) I was even more surprise to find the Chieftain of The Games hailed from Auckland, New


Zealand! Following that, we visited Mammoth Caves (the longest cave system in the world), while staying on the family’s houseboat on Lake Barren. This is such a beautiful tranquil spot where we ate out on the top deck each evening, in the glow of some spectacular sunsets. We also spent a day in the hustle and bustle of Nashville – (what a contrast) and visited, among other things, the Ryman Auditorium (Grand Ole Osprey). It was good to get back to the peace and quiet of Scottsville, where the Mennonite families farm, and drive their horse wagons along the main roads in safety, and where I was introduced to a ‘genuine, red-neck sheriff’ — his words not mine!

This was my first experience of being hosted with ITHF and what a wonderful introduction to ‘Home Hosting’ it turned out to be … special thanks to Rick and Ligia, Susan and Fred, and Marilyn and Tom for making my visit so memorable. I look forward to being able to ‘pay it forward’ for anyone planning to travel to NZ in the future.

Richard (Dick) Salogga
Santa Barbara CA

Santa Barbara, California was visited by newlyweds Marcelo Fett and Bruna Medeiros. They were married shortly before their trip to the USA. Marcelo and Bruna live in Cuiaba’, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Marcelo’s two sons were attending a basketball camp at Westmont College. For two nights, Marcelo and Bruna were hosted by Dick and Dot Salogga, and for three nights they were hosted by Katerina Zamyatina. Dick and Katerina are members of the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara. Katerina graciously hosted an all-club evening social event so other club members could meet Marcelo and Bruna. Dick used the opportunity to promote ITHF to other club members.

Susan Carew
Rotary Peace Fellow

Photos can be found here: http://www.worldpeacefull.com/ travelling-the-world-for- peace-albums/

Susan Carew, Worldpeacefull.com
Ellen Haggerty

Traveling 1500 miles from Sarasota, Florida to Pleasant Valley, New York connecting with 5 ITHF Hosts

Traveling 1500 Miles from Sarasota, Florida to Pleasant Valley Hosted By 5 ITHF Members

I learned that 165 new Rotarians joined ITHF at the 2017 Atlanta Rotary International Convention. I have been hosted by ITHF Rotarians in Italy, Brazil, Taiwan, Austalia, México and Canada over the past 7 years. I wanted to share my experiences with especially new American ITHF Members to encourage them to actively pursue making their own memorable ITHF experiences. My first stop from Sarasota, Florida was a 4 hour drive to Jacksonville, Florida. I stayed with ITHF Member, Ron Roberts hoping to retire from his management job in a year and his retired teacher wife, Pam. They invited me to come for dinner and their "bed and breakfast " and a guided tour of Jacksonville downtown and beachfront. They are native Floridians showing real Southern hospitality. Another Jacksonville, Florida ITHF Member, Bruce Duggar and his wife, Lillian invited another Jacksonville, Florida ITHF Member and his wife to join us for dinner at a popular Atlantic oceanfront restaurant to share ITHF and Rotary experiences. After a guided tour of Jacksonville, we went to their suburban empty nest home where they raised 4 children. Lillian, with severe hearing loss for many years, was delighted to hear how as Chair of Rotarians for Hearing RAG, I could teach her new coping techniques using local hearing loops, assisted listening devices such as captioned glasses at their local Regal Movie Theater and introduce her to her local chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America where she could learn more.

My next stop was a 6 hour drive to Murrells Inlet, South Carolina where I stayed with Frank, ITHF Vicki Greenberg's partner who was the leader of a Brazilian Rotary Friendship Exchange in 4 cities in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. After treating Frank to dinner at one of his favorite restaurants, we went on the popular Marshwalk enjoying the wildlife and sunset. I stayed 2 nights and Frank took me to see the world class sculpture gardens of Brookgreen where he and Vicki are members. Henderson State Park also has a wonderful marsh walk with signs to guide you about the marsh ecology. My next stop was ITHF Lee Muckey's and his wife, Tracy's home. They welcomed me to stay in their home. They were in California, but their 23 year old son, Alex gave me a warm welcome . Alex and I hit it off because we are both adventurous World Travelers having been involved with Youth Exchange and other Exchange Programs. Alex gave me a first class quick tour of Richmond, Virginia and his alma mater. We are now Facebook friends so we can share future adventures.

After visiting my daughter, son-in-law and teenage grandchildren in Annapolis, Maryland, I stayed with ITHF Cindy Hornaman and
her award winning photographer and Engineer Without Borders husband, Chris in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Chris has created several Group Rotary Friendship Exchanges in her district, currently working on one to Sweden. Chris is also District Governor Elect as well as having her own retirement job in manufacturing stained glass ornaments hiring stay at home American mothers who work on consignment wrapping glass with copper foil to compete with Chinese and Mexican stained glass products selling wholesale to stores. They also do Rotary work in Africa. Fascinating people I will connect with again. Instead of being a long, tedious 1500 mile drive through the Eastern USA, ITHF made the trip adventurous and full of reminders of how wonderful our Rotary family is in my own home country - the USA!

Rotary-Volunteer English Teaching Program
You buy the way, We buy the stay

Here is an opportunity for Rotarians and their family members to live out your dreams and contribute to the well beings of students in Taiwan. Taiwanese Rotarians are working on a visiting teaching program which would allow volunteers to enjoy a working vacation and experience Taiwanese culture. Rotarian Ms. Catharine Goheen, from Rotary Club of Ogopogo Kelowna, District 5060 Canada, visited Taiwan on her vacation and learned Mandarin. By chance she met Aircon and was promoted by Aircon to be a volunteer teacher at Kuangfu Commercial & Industrial Vocational Senior High School for 3 weeks. She further associated with Aircon to promote a volunteer teaching program to encourage English speaking Rotarians/young students (on vacation) to do volunteer teaching on campus in Taiwan.

The second volunteer English Teacher to Taiwan was Tegan McDonald from Calgary Canada, who was encouraged by Cathy. Tegan
came to Taiwan on Apr 28, 2017 after graduating from college. She taught at Dadu Elementary School and Chui Fen Elementary School. She had a good time in Dadu and promised she would come back and teach in Taiwan again.

We have more volunteer English teachers, Kimberly Carroll (ITHF member from Florida), who came to Taiwan in September and Madhumita Bishnu (ITHF member from India), who will come in November. There will be also a group of Rotarians from D-6440 coming to visit Dadu Elementary School in the beginning of November.

Cost: volunteers pay for their travel from their home countries to Taiwan, and the local Rotary Clubs & selected schools/students/parents will provide accommodation (housing/food/local transportation/tour on weekends) during their stays. They will also lead the volunteers to enjoy scenery points in the region they live (central Taiwan). Local Rotarians can also assist volunteers to travel around the Taiwan on the visitor's own expense.

Length of Stay: 1 to 3 months is preferable, to follow the school semesters. September to December and March to June are the best time to teach in the local schools.

Teaching materials: Following the school curriculum, volunteers can help the school teachers in the classroom (all elementary and junior high schools in Taiwan have English classes). Volunteer teachers may prepare some of their local reading materials to share students their culture/life/country facts.

Locations to teach in Taiwan:

1. Dadu District, Taichung City in Central Taiwan
2. Kuanfu township, Hualien County in Eastern Taiwan

(From these 2 sites, it's quite convenient to access & visit many beautiful scenery spots in central or eastern Taiwan on weekends with students or teachers)

If there's any Rotarian who are interested in visiting Taiwan as a volunteer English teacher, please contact CP Aircon (Chao, Uen Hua-Charter President of Rotary Club of Dadu. District 3461, Taiwan) for details; email: uenhuachao@gmail.com
Cathy is planning curriculum with teachers.

Cathy in Class

Cathy’s teaching English at Shan Yang Elementary School
The school Principal teaches Tegan Calligraphy
Editor’s Note: I’ve just returned from 5 amazing weeks teaching in the elementary and junior high schools in Dadu, Taiwan. The children were so adorable, the host families were most welcoming, and the entire experience was one which will stay in my heart forever...believe me when I tell you I received much, much more from the experience than I could have ever possibly given and I can’t wait to return next year. One of the most moving experiences was when Kevin and Wanda, my first host family, asked me to give an English name to their 9-month-old daughter. I named her “Kathy” after my late sister, which brought tears and smiles to everyone and which has given my family such joy to know that another strong, smart, amazing woman will be living in Taiwan. The time just flew by and I can’t believe that the experience has come to an end...for the moment. One of the things I’d like to do is arrange for the English teachers in Taiwan to have an experience in an English-speaking country to help them perfect their conversational skills...if anyone would like to host a teacher for 2-3 weeks over the summer, please contact me or Aircon (our ITHF member in Taiwan who has graciously arranged these exchanges)...his email is uhchao@e-enertech.com.tw

I’d like to exercise my editorial privileges and post all of the hundreds of photos I took of my experience: the children, the host families, the sites in Taiwan....all of it, but you’ll just have to sign up and experience it yourselves!

Xièxiè, Taiwan! Wŏ ài nǐ!
Social Media Director for ITHF

The Director of Social Media will voluntarily administer the Fellowship’s social media marketing and advertising.

**Duties of the Director of Social Media**

- Annually develop a plan, including key performance indicators and a budget for social media campaigns to attract and retain ITHF members and promote ITHF activities
- Manage social media marketing campaigns and day-to-day activities including:
  - Develop relevant content topics to reach the Fellowship’s target supporters.
  - In conjunction with the Director of Promotions, create, curate, and manage all published content (images, video and written).
  - Monitor, listen and respond to users in a “Social” way while cultivating leads for membership recruitment, sales of ITHF tours and activities.
  - Conduct online advocacy and open a stream for cross-promotions.
  - Develop and expand community and/or influencer outreach efforts.
  - Oversee design (i.e., Facebook Timeline cover, profile pic, thumbnails, ads, landing pages, Twitter profile, Blog, etc.).
  - Design, create and manage promotions and Social ad campaigns.
  - Manage efforts in building online reviews and reputation. Monitor online reviews and respond to each review.
  - Analyze key metrics and tweak strategy as needed.
  - Compile reports showing results.
- Become an advocate for the Fellowship in social media spaces, engaging in dialogues and answering questions where appropriate.
- Monitor trends in social media tools, applications, channels, design and strategy.
- Analyze campaigns and translate anecdotal or qualitative data into recommendations and plans for revising social media, content marketing, SEO and social advertising campaigns.

**Qualifications for Director of Social Media**
• Possesses knowledge and experience in marketing.
• Demonstrates creativity and documented immersion in social media.
• Experience sourcing and managing content development and publishing.
• Displays in-depth knowledge and understanding of social media platforms, their respective participants (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest etc.) and how each platform can be deployed in different scenarios.
• Maintains excellent writing and language skills.
• Enjoys a working knowledge of the blogging ecosystem relevant to the Fellowship’s field.
• Displays ability to effectively communicate information and ideas in written and video format.
• Is a team player with the confidence to take the lead and guide other members when necessary.
• Makes evident good technical understanding and can pick up new tools quickly.
• Maintains a working knowledge of principles of SEO (Search Engine Optimization), including keyword research and Google Analytics. Highly knowledgeable in the principles of “Search and Social.”
• Possesses great ability to identify potential negative or crisis situation and apply conflict resolution principles to mitigate issues.