



# CONNECTIONS

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## President's Corner

**Registration for Home Hospitality at the Toronto Convention.** This info came from one of my ITHF contacts, June Brown:

*Alex & June Brown are on the Home Hospitality committee for this year's convention in Toronto. Last night they got the news that over 26,000 Rotarians are coming to Toronto. They are very excited about showing off Toronto. June says, "please alert anyone in Western Canada that the Home Hospitality will soon be sold out." So, anyone who is registered for Toronto and might be interested in attending Home Hospitality should go to the convention website and register very soon.*

See you in Canada!!!

Sheila

### And speaking of the Toronto Convention...

It's time to reserve your place at our **Annual General Meeting Breakfast!** We will meet at 7:00 am on Tuesday, June 23, 2018, in the prestigious National Club just minutes from the Toronto Hilton. Advance reservations are required @ US \$35 per person. Email [r.harned@ithf.org](mailto:r.harned@ithf.org) if you are ready to join in!

And...we are still looking for a few volunteers to help in our "buth" in the House of Friendship! President Sheila can fill you in on what is needed – [sheilahart@shaw.ca](mailto:sheilahart@shaw.ca). Please email her if you have a few free hours during your stay in Toronto.

**How's your French?** We have a one-page, front-and-back flyer to give out in Toronto – but it's only in English! If you can help translate it into French – or German, or another European language for the Hamburg Convention in 2019 – please email [r.harned@ithf.org](mailto:r.harned@ithf.org) and we'll send you the text to inspect!

## Special for ITHF Tour Committee Members and Participants In the Canada Tours

PDG Betty Screpnek is arranging many special events around our 2018 Pre- and Post-Convention Tours in Canada! It looks like another great ITHF experience. Reservations for the tours are now closed, but everyone should see how ITHF makes tours unique.

Steve & Noko Yoshida

In addition to the itineraries (which you can see on the ITHF website):

1. Quebec City: Local Rotarians invite us to dinner on 18 June 2018 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 Boissonnmault, 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 unique 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: An 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, which includes the flight from Toronto to Vancouver with hotel transfers and an additional night at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver on 27 June 2018. 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 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.

**Heads Up! Tour Committee Chair Steve Yoshida is hard at work** on a possible tour of **Ecuador and the Galapagos** for this coming October. Part of the idea is to coincide with the Rotary Project Fair in Ecuador. Details are not yet available – watch for them in an upcoming UPDATE publication!

## ITHF CONNECTION – NORTH CAROLINA TO NEW ZEALAND Ian & Eleanor Holyoake

US members Matthew and Sonia Kane thought they had travelled on a rather long journey (perhaps a day and a half) from Raleigh in North Carolina to New Zealand early this year, but when they visited NZ Vice President, Ian Holyoake and Eleanor in Hawkes Bay, they saw how the first settlers came here, over a 1000 years ago and on a journey that took far longer. A visit to the old fishing port in Ahuriri, Napier, revealed not only a fleet of fishing boats and pleasure craft, but also a replica of a “double canoe” that is said to resemble those that travelled from Hawaii to New Zealand before the year 1000, and carrying those people now known as the original Maori race. Replicas of these craft have been re-built and now exist in some NZ ports and other Pacific areas, sometimes coming together to recreate the amazing journeys that they took over several months, all those hundreds of years ago, powered only by paddles and sail, and navigating by the stars!

This is not all they saw though as their travels took them to some very high lookouts, through the streets of Napier and Hastings cities (seeing the world renown Art Deco Architecture) around the Coast of Hawkes Bay for lunch at a quaint seaside café, visits to some wineries (with occasional tasting) and a special tasting of some of the local famous ice-cream. Matthew & Sonia left Napier to travel south to the capital city of Wellington and then on to the South Island– but hopefully with many happy memories of their stay and “*connection*” in Hawkes Bay.

### Teaching English in Taiwan Madhumita Bishnu

Another ITHF member has had an opportunity to share her story of teaching English in Taiwan; Linda Jenkins and her husband will be going in March, and your editor will be returning later this year...it is,



without hesitation, the most exciting, moving, and amazing experience you can have anywhere—Taiwanese Rotarians, teachers, students, host families are so amazing it’s hard to find the words to describe the experience! Here is Madju’s story:

I was invited by CP Uen Chao (Aircon) of Rotary Dadu to teach English in Dadu and Guangfu. In Dadu it was for 2 weeks teaching English to Grades V-VI through PPT on India, and communicative English. I had lot of fun with the students who were so smart and cute. I took part in their sports events and visited the Museum of Natural Science. I shared my culinary skills through rice pudding, ginger and lemon tea, chicken curry.



I taught Communicative English for 3 weeks in Guangfu in Hualian County to students of Grades X-XII. The students are mostly aboriginals and I visited a hot spring area walking for 4 hours. It was a 10-hour walk of 30 kms. I shared my culinary skills of rice pudding and in return learnt pineapple cake which is traditional Taiwanese food

I was hosted by ITHF Past Administrator CP Uen Chao (Aircon) for 8 days, ITHF member Tool and his family in Dadu for 5 days, ITHF member Scotch and his family in Dadu for 3 days, local site seeing by ITHF

members Dolly & Spring in Taipei, ITHF member Grace & her husband Anthony of Tamsui in Taipei, ITHF member Lively & Grace of Maokong in Taipei. I had such a memorable visit that I'm going to return to teach again in 2018.

**ITHF Friendship Renewed  
Joan & Douglas Heyland**

In July of 2008 we were fortunate to host Peter and Karen Rastrup from Aabenraa, Denmark at our home in Metcalfe, Ontario, Canada. We live in the rural part of Ottawa and had a lovely time touring our new friends around the city and our region and enjoying their company in our home. We have kept in touch from time to time over the years.

In May of 2017 we traveled to Copenhagen and enjoyed a Baltic Cruise. At the end of the cruise we travelled by train to the south of Jutland to stay with Karen and Peter for a delightful few days in Aabenraa. We enjoyed wonderful meals and great conversation in their home. As well we enjoyed touring to Ribe, the oldest town in Denmark, visiting the Wadden Sea Centre on the south-west coast dedicated to education about the huge migration of seabirds, shorebirds and geese in Spring and Fall up and down the North Sea Coast, to Christainsfeld, a Moravian village built in the 1700's and to Flensburg, a town in neighbouring Germany with both Danish and German heritage. The visit made us very thankful for the friendships made through ITHF.



**Come to Samoa  
Marco Kappenberger**

In answer to the call for newsletter contributions, I'm happy to report to our ITHF membership that my most extraordinary and beautiful trips included visits to the South Seas' peoples, and thus I respond by sharing just a few photos which speak by themselves and give you a vivid impression of the living culture, pristine environment and beauty of Polynesia which has become my home to where I look forward to give a Rotarian welcome our ITHF members who include independent Samoa in their travels.



Through this contribution to our Newsletter, I'm thus hereby letting our Rotary ITHF community learn about what Samoa offers. As an ITHF member, I had traveled to these tropical islands, loved them, settled, and I hereby now share with our Newsletter photos and their captions of a sample of what our Rotarian ITHF members can expect: a most heartfelt invitation to all ITHF members who travel towards the South Pacific!



Welcome to independent Samoa, the islands where the present unique Polynesian living culture developed and from which the hundreds of islands located within the huge triangle between Easter Island, New Zealand, and Hawaii were populated a millennium ago!!!

**A Honeymoon ITHF style  
Linda & Don Jenkins**

Just before we left for the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta I received an email from an ITHF member in Brazil. He said he was a new member and wasn't sure how ITHF worked but he would be picking up his 13- and 16-year-olds in Santa Barbara at a basketball camp & headed for San Francisco. Would we be able to host him, he wrote. Looking at my calendar, the dates he wanted to be hosted were the only 3 days free in that month so naturally I said sure. Right before heading off to Atlanta I got another email from Marcelo, the new ITHFer saying he probably should be letting me know this was also his honeymoon.

As any of you who visited the ITHF 'buth' in Atlanta we were BUSY!! What a wonderful group of new ITHF folks we have and how wonderful to be again with others we have known. I can't believe how much work Sheila, Rick, & Ellen did every day and for many days leading up to the convention. When one has experiences like we did with the 'Honeymooners' it becomes evident what a wonderful organization this is as well as how much one appreciates all the work that goes into it.

The teenagers who came with Marcelo and his bride Bruna were as delightful as their parents. We took them all sailing, had 'the best dessert ever' when we did 'smores,' but they also entertained themselves with a basketball and hoops on our court plus our ping pong table. Interestingly Marcelo was a Rotary exchange student to the US and now is a Rotarian. Bruna had worked in the US to learn English. Now their oldest son will be an exchange student in Fulsome, California for a year. We certainly enjoyed the Fetts [see story below].

**From Brazil to California  
Marcelo André Fett**

Hello. My name is Marcelo Andre Fett. I am a Rotary Fellow from District 4440 - Brazil. Last July-August, my family and I did an ITHF trip to California, USA. We were hosted by Dick and Dot for two nights in Santa Barbara, and still in Santa Barbara for 3 more nights with Katerina and Anthony. Katerina had a party at her home, so all fellows Rotarians could meet us and carry a great conversation.

We drove north and we were hosted by Linda and Don (Jenkins). We participated at a cocktail party with fellow Rotarians from Lafayette and our host fellow took us on a wonderful sail boat tour, through San Francisco day.



To finish our outstanding trip, we did a wine tasting tour at the Folsom area with more



Rotary fellows, which enchanted our trip, putting it at the highest level.

We want to thank all our hosts, ITHF for carrying this great idea and for Rotary Club International.

Now it is time for you fellows to come down here and visit us in Brazil.

**ITHF – Rotary’s Best Kept Secret  
Barb & Dave Douglas**

At least it was to me until this past year. A Rotarian for 35 years, if I heard about this amazing fellowship in the past, it didn’t register until this summer at the 5080 District Conference. Visiting the display booths my wife Barb and I were introduced to the ITHF Fellowship and decided to join. The timing was perfect as we had been invited by friends to spend 5 days with them in New York (the BIG APPLE) in October 2017. Committed to that arrangement we explored expanding our trip to include touring Civil War museums and sites, as well as other items on my bucket list, like Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall of Fame, Madison Square Gardens and so on. As new members to ITHF we had no idea what the responses to our requests might be, but proceeded to send out 5 requests to the areas we intended to visit. The response was amazing, we received 4 responses with invitations to stay. Even better was the reception we received when arriving at the Rotarian homes Our itinerary prior to New York City included stops in Newark, Cooperstown, Sarasota Springs and Albany. In New York - first time visit for us, we immersed ourselves in a large list of must dos, which included, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Times Square, Broadway (attending the Musical *Come from Away* – highly recommend), Ground Zero and the 911 Museum, several Cultural & Historical tours, walked the Brooklyn Bridge and the High Line and the list goes on & on—an amazing time.

After leaving New York we travelled by train to Washington DC where we rented a car and began our exploration of Civil war sites and museums, beginning in Fredrick MD, then on to Winchester then Lexington, VA where we were hosted by Rotarians, Chip & Mary Honsinger. Chip had a full itinerary for us and spent the better part of a day & a half guiding us through the city of Lexington and its highlights. Also, attending a meeting with the Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club. (photo: *Mary, Chip and my wife Barb in front of the Honsinger’s home in Lexington*)

Next stop was Glen Allen VA, a suburb of Richmond VA, with hosts Lee and Tracy Muckey. With their guidance and company we spent a day in Richmond VA, touring the Monument Drive (statues of Virginia Civil War participants, the Tredegar Foundry (now a Civil War Museum), walked across the James River on a foot bridge, toured the Black History Museum. (Photo: *Lee and Tracy Muckey*)

## **Why I Became an ITHF Member** **Milton Frary**

When a GSE Team Leader to Texas in 1997 I was introduced to ITHF by PDG Doyle Moore. When I joined I never made great use of the membership, however, my wife Elaine and I were very happy to welcome other members from around the world to or home. When made a District Governor with the need to travel to Anaheim 2003 for training rather than taking up the kind offers to make pre-training visits to New York State and Florida I opened the old book to see who was in Nevada as we had never visited that state. Frank and Chris Carrol kindly hosted us for a week and in the past, we have revisited as long-term friends. After a long gap I was requested to do a talk in Aberdeen and being on home soil just started to look for a hotel in the area which proved impossible as there was a bi-annual conference taking place and all hotels were booked out. It was Elaine who suggested why not look to see if there was a member in Aberdeen and with luck this brought us in touch with David and Liz Peters who not only solved the problem but were pleased to show us this beautiful part of the world. Being a regular visitor to the US I have often driven from Scottsdale to San Diego and never taken time off to visit Palm springs and Palm Desert so I contacted Nancy Westerholm and made arrangements to visit and due to a family issue we then were hosted by non-member's but member of Nancy's club Bill and Duffy. Being Foundation month, I then ended up as a speaker at the club and attending the district Foundation Annual Dinner.

More recently when attending the Atlanta Convention we had decided to have a few days holiday and to explore areas we had never been before. Having never been to Georgia State I contacted Doug and Karen Porter in Albany to see if they could oblige. Albany was basically off the route that I had planned for a drive to Florida but what a glorious surprise. Doug took time out to show us his town and the home of Jimmy Carter. Albany was also a bit of a hidden gem in what is a very low income area of the state. Getting off the tourist route is definitely worthwhile and a benefit member's should consider for the future.

## **Maine Fall Foliage** **Ellen Haggerty**

Traveling to ITHF Members gives me an opportunity to be inspired by Rotarians and their passion for Service and Enjoy the Fall Foliage and Lobster Season



ITHF Wells, Maine Rotarian, Terry Hodskins, with her love of quilting made one quilt for her Wrap-A-Smile Project to wrap a Rotoplast child or adult in a homemade quilt when they received a new smile after surgery to correct facial deformities. Wrap-A-Smile started in 2001 and over 23,000 quilts have been made and donated to Wrap-A-Smile, earning Terry her favorite award - the prestigious Service Above Self Award. Only 100 are given each year among the 1.2 million members. I was also inspired by the creativity of the beautiful quilts members of her Quilt Club made. Terry was also an excellent tour guide taking me to Kennebunkport to see George Walker Bush's

home, the local shore walks and taking me to the local lobster shack where I indulged in my one of many lobster dinners.

ITHF Member, Rick Manganello and his wife, Janet who live in Hudson, New Hampshire gave me a choice of touring Boston or the nearby seacoast. They drove me from Seabrook, New Hampshire part of their state's only 18 miles of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean up into southern Maine where we indulged in the local seaside specialty - lobster rolls. Rick is a Past District Governor and a knowledgeable Rotary Global Grants Committee Chair who was able to give me some valuable tips on future Global Grants for my passion, hearing loss Infant screening and treatment in low resource areas in the Rotary World like the one the Rotary Foundation recently approved for Guatemala.



I spent the rest of my travels at Airbnb, friends and relatives homes and Resort Hotels, but filled in between stops making new Rotary ITHF friends.