



CONNECTIONS

APRIL 2014

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Again this year ITHF members have a unique opportunity at the convention to really experience meeting and making new friends, rekindling old friendships, and just having a great time telling other Rotary members what it is like to live and travel the ITHF way. Every year ITHF has a Fellowship Booth in the House of Friendship that allows convention goers to see us, talk with us, and become members of our wonderful fellowship.

This year in Sydney, Australia we will have a booth which we know will be extremely busy. The 30,000+ Rotarians who are registered will give all the booth volunteers unlimited opportunities to meet and greet old friends and invite others to become an active part of our ITHF family. We have learned from years that we need at least three, and preferably four, ITHF members in and around the booth at all times because of the sheer numbers of people who stop by.

We all like to share our feelings and thoughts with these folks; it takes time to really let them know who we are and how we feel about our experiences, so we need many volunteers. I am asking all of you to become a part of this special event in Sydney by becoming a booth volunteer for an hour, 2 hours, half a day, or whatever you can spare out of your busy convention schedules, and enjoy yourselves while doing it.

The House of Friendship and our booth will be open the following days and hours:

Saturday, June 1	09:00 AM - 18:00 PM
Sunday, June 2	09:00 AM - 17:00 PM
Monday, June 3	09:00 AM - 17:00 PM
Tuesday, June 4	09:00 AM - 17:00 PM
Wednesday, June 5	09:00 AM - 16:00 PM

If you are interested in experiencing this new level of involvement with fellow ITHF members, please contact Phil Komornik through email, pkomornik@ithf.org, providing your name and date(s)/time you would like to volunteer, etc. He will get in touch with you by return email in follow-up, and coordinate a schedule with you. You can also sign-up at the booth during the Convention.

ITHF Store Items

Five years ago, we introduced our light weight, blue windbreaker jacket with a hood hidden in the collar. It was so much of a hit that we sold out of them very quickly. At the AGM breakfast meeting in Bangkok in May, we debuted ITHF's new dark blue jacket. After strong sales there we have added it to the ITHF store inventory.

Other items for sale in the ITHF store include a stylish golf shirt with ITHF logo, a sew-on/iron-on ITHF logo patch for use on your favorite casual wear shirt, blouse, cap or hat and self-adhering luggage stickers that can be placed on your luggage for easy identification at airports, hotels, bus, and train stations worldwide.

Prices (and shipping charges per item) in US dollars are as follows:

Jacket - \$34.00; Logo Patch - \$4.00; ITHF Golf Shirt - \$18.00; Luggage Sticker - \$1.00 P

Please contact Phil Komornik through email, pkomornik@ithf.org, to order your ITHF items.

Members attending the RI Convention in Sydney may pick up their items at the booth or after the AGM breakfast.

Supplies of each item sizes are limited.



The Aberdeen, Scotland and San Francisco Connection!

Liz and Dave Peters, ITHFers from Aberdeen Scotland, decided to take advantage of San Francisco's best weather (which is during the month of October) to come and have their third connection with Jean and Allen Cary who live just South of the SF Airport. This visit with the Carys was tacked onto a Rotary Friendship Exchange program that Liz and Dave participated in, which took them to the Dakotas, Colorado and Wyoming. Unfortunately when they were in Wyoming, they were subjected to the twin misfortunes of the US Government shutdown and a blizzard. They were able to make a whirlwind tour of Yellowstone, but one of Liz's lifetime dreams of seeing an American bison never came true. The first item on their bucket list when they hit California was to try to see a buffalo. To their surprise there's a herd of buffalo at Golden Gate Park, which Jean and Allen took them to see. Later that day they ticked off another one of the items on the bucket list by taking an overpriced ride on the cable car "ah-the price of romance!" After walking around Fisherman's wharf their hunger was sated with lunch at a dim sum restaurant and a chance to view some of the improvements to the Embarcadero. ! During their visit we exchanged recipes, cooked for each other and enjoyed good California wine in incredibly wonderful 70° temperatures and sunshine out on the Cary's new deck! The Carys have hosted over 30 people from different countries as part of ITHF, and they have visited the Peters twice in Scotland. The Carys were the first ITHF couple to host the Peters over 20 years ago. We both concluded that the absolute best part of it being able to travel is to spend time with friends in far-flung places to see parts of an area that you probably would not experience as an ordinary tourist.

A Smile



It has been 10 days that I'm home with my family after my visit to the Philippines from a medical mission to help the needy and poor people suffering with various diseases. I have been reminiscing the moment I spent there because of the warm hospitality and love I got there from the people there; I would like to start from the scratch.

In 2012 Mr. Frank Kihara a Rotarian from Rotary Club of Kahului was planning to visit Nepal. As we both were ITHF members I invited him to stay at my place. He came Nepal and he stayed with my family and in a very short span of time we became very good friends and he too got very close with my family. While his stay we visited different places of Nepal and he also attended a meeting in my Rotary club (Rotary Club of Newroad City). Frank is a dentist by profession and during his visit, he had told me about his medical mission team of doctors who were helping needy people by giving them medication and free surgery under the banner of Aloha Medical Mission. They would every year plan to go different country for medical mission and the target for 2013 was a remote placed called Dhankuta in Eastern Nepal.

Since I always wanted to help needy people I too wanted to be a part of the Aloha Medical Mission and the best part was it was happening in my own country, I didn't wanted to miss such a golden chance like that, so I asked if I had any chance of being a part of medical mission, I sent in my CV, and after that I was glad to know that I had been selected for the mission. It was my first time working in a medical field where my job was of an assistant for doctors who were performing minor surgeries. I got to learn many new things. Most of all the best part of the mission was seeing a simile on the people's faces after the surgery, who were suffering and living with pain for months and years. The blessings we got from them gave us positive energy to continue what we were doing.

After that Frank his wife Claire and I decided to visit Bangkok and Burma during the Christmas and New Year. It was a wonderful holiday. Frank is a father figure to me, since I had lost my parents when I was young and I felt the parents love from Frank and Clarie.

After that next destination for Aloha medical mission was the Philippines and was scheduled for February & March. I also wanted to take my daughter to this mission once because she plans enter the medical field in the future. By being a part of this mission, she could see for herself the job done by people in medical field; after the visit my daughter is very clear about her future. During the medical mission she practiced being an assistant for dentists, where as I was an assistant for other doctors.

The main idea of the story is that ITHF is a platform to connect people and It has been doing so since its foundation. It has been providing us chance and opportunities, all we need to do is grab the opportunity.

Sita Rupakheti
ITHF, Vice President Nepal



ITHF'ers Christine & PDG David A. Judge, MBE recently completed a 2-month tour of California and Florida with visits to Mexico, Columbia, Costa Rica and Panama, visiting Rotary Clubs in most of them. Their ITHF "*Star Hosts*" were Kathleen & David Roche-Tansey, both members of La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, near San Diego.

Kathleen and David proved to be wonderful hosts for us with local visits and an all day visit to the desert region of Borrego Springs through the remote hills and rugged countryside region of The Kumaya Indians. Plus, a stop at the town of Julian where we sampled the renowned apple pies and dumplings. They arranged a private tour of the museum aircraft carrier *USS Midway* with one of the last Captains.

We twice attended their Rotary Club, La Jolla Golden Triangle where David Judge spoke about the beginnings of ShelterBox, which he and Christine had facilitated. Also attending was RI President Ron Burton who endorsed ITHF.

The ITHF Connection was a great example of the family of Rotary friendship and fellowship through ITHF.

The Judges look forward to meeting up with Kathleen and David at RI Convention 2014 in Sydney and with many other ITHF'ers—see you all in Oz!

ITHF Annual Membership Breakfast Scheduled

Thanks to the efforts of ITHF member, Brian Lawrensen, we have been able to schedule and book our Annual Membership Meeting at The Sebel Surry Hills, 28 Albion Street, Sydney, Australia on Tuesday, June 3rd.

The meeting will start promptly at 07:15 with a full buffet breakfast. The cost for this breakfast meeting is \$35 USD or \$40 AUD.

The breakfast continues to be a popular place for all of us to catch up with each other, and to welcome new members to this wonderful fellowship. ITHF President, Peter Ibbotson, will give us a recap of his term and welcome ITHF President-elect, Medicare Hsu.

Although, you can register for the breakfast at the ITHF booth, which is Number 127 at the House of Friendship at the RI Convention, RSVP to Phil Komornik by email, pskomorn@yahoo.com



Europe with Paty Andrede

Last December my husband, our daughter, and I decided to travel through Europe on vacation. I wrote to some ITHF European members and it worked out fine with one of them, Tony, from London and we had a wonderful time staying with him. Our trip began December 2nd when we flew from Rio to New York. From there we went to Italy, Switzerland, France and we got to London on December 16th. Tony was waiting for us at St. Pancras International Train Station. We got to know part of his family while staying with him until December 20th and we loved it all. On the 17th his Rotary Club had the Christmas Party and we were invited to celebrate with them. It was an unforgettable event where we were able to meet other Rotarians and celebrate Christmas and the Rotary spirit. That event was very special too because my husband, Alex, was awarded with a Paul Harris Fellow Title that evening.

We built our first house now in 2013 and to celebrate this important achievement I gave Alex the Paul Harris Award. We were in London for 5 wonderful days with Tony and his family. Tony made everything very easy for us...we went out for dinner one night, he showed us around, taught us how to use the subway and buses, the best places to visit and so on. On the last day he even took us to Heathrow for our flight back to Brazil. This was our 3rd trip staying with ITHF members. The first was in 2001, our "*Honeymoon in Florida.*"

Then in 2011, we visited both NY and Washington DC. I'm very proud to be a Rotarian and to have the possibility to join ITHF. We're really a very special Rotary Group who not only like traveling and hosting but also enjoy sharing our own life and culture. We can only love those we know and WE DO give a chance to know each other and love, and with love comes PEACE, and a BETTER WORLD.



ITHF Member Reconnection at Cochin Kerala India

Medicare Hsu, RID3480, RC Taipei Tatung, ITHF VP Taiwan

Taking the opportunity as the RI President Ron Burton and first lady Jetta's Representative to RI District 3201 Conference on Feb 21-23, 2014, Linda and I had the opportunity to meet two ITHF members of South India.

We are so glad to meet PDG K.C. Philip, our VP for South India, and another member, Rtn. C.S. Kartha, from the same club, R.C. Cochin West. Rtn. K.C. Philip was the District Governor (2002-03), has been quite active in promoting ITHF membership in South India, covering Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Sri Lanka.

Rtn. C.S., a General Manager of Bengal Tiger Line Lidia, has been busy in his business development and is preparing to set up the other branch office. Though they haven't planned on attending the Sydney Convention, they are encouraged to promote the local ITHF members reunion and of course the recruit of new ITHF members in future.



A Wonderful ITHF Connection at Chicago

International Travel and Hosting Fellowship is a sure global citizenship passport to the world. My letter to members in Chicago was received with excitement. I had my itinerary well thought out and sent to Nancy Fleming and when she knew she will not be around, she arrange for a couple member to welcome me. Chuck and his wife picked me up at the O'Hare International Airport and it was as if I was with my blood relations.

The high point of my visit to these nice ITHF members was when I had to visit their clubs to present speech on Global Grant Projects that my club could collaborate on with their clubs. The Rotary Club of Hinsdale in Chicago received me with a reception that could be equated to that which is meant for a State Governor. The numbers of Rotarians motivated these ITHF members to support my proposed projects were so large and open handed to help out with all I discussed with them.

Essentially, I enjoyed the gift of a global Rotary fellowship that offers the assistance of networking and sourcing for support in the mission of service to humanity. I spent over three weeks with these lovely ITHF members moving from one person's residence to the other enjoying the mood and opportunity of membership and brotherhood.

A befitting dinner was organized for me during my departure and I felt like a king with all the goodwill showered on me by these jolly good fellows of our great ITHF fellowship. It worth it after all being a member of ITHF, I will always join ITHF if I happen to come to this world a million times...What a memorable and splendid experience! Attached are lovely photographs of the trip and connections.

Adeleye Olurotimi Samuel, Assistant Governor, Rotary International, District 9110, Nigeria