



CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2014

KIMBERLY CARROLL, EDITOR (KVCARROLL@YAHOO.COM)

Dear ITHF members

Over the last 6 months we have been developing a new web site for the ITHF. We are writing to let you know that it will be going live by the end of 2013, and so over the next few days you may notice some changes. The new site is similar to the existing one and your current login and password should work as usual to access the members' area. However, if there are any problems during the transition we hope you will be patient.

The new site is responsive to screen size and so works better on tablets and smart phones. It has been created with 'off the shelf' packages that will make it easier to maintain and have allowed us to add new features such as using your Facebook or Twitter account to log in to our site.

There is a more flexible approach to the idea of 'Groups.' Most members are allocated to the VP who looks after their local area. However, members making travel arrangements may be more interested in the group that covers their destination. The new site lets you join as many local groups as you want (and leave when you want). Each group is managed by a VP and has its own 'profile' with a 'wall' for messages, a photo gallery, and a tab showing the current members of the group.

Another new feature is the activity stream that can be browsed from the members' menu. When you upload photos or use the profile blog to record your travels, the activity stream will include a link to encourage other ITHF members to visit your profile and see what's new.

We hope you will find the new ITHF web site helps you to get the most out of your membership of the fellowship. It has been developed by one of our own members, Roger Siddle, who will be pleased to help out with any problems you may encounter.

Yours in Rotary Fellowship

Phil Komornik, ITHF Administrator

I would like to take this opportunity to extend the thanks of the entire ITHF Community to Pat Graf who served faithfully and with distinction over the last years preparing this newsletter and working with ITHF to make it the outstanding Rotary Fellowship that it is—we would not be what we are today without you, Pat—THANK YOU!!!!!!

From Dean Osterling, Rotary Club of Hanford CA, District 5230



It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of an ITHF member who embodied everything Rotary stands for. Commodore Mafizur Rahman, who had just this year become District Governor of District 3282, Bangladesh, succumbed to leukemia in early December.

Since 2008, my wife Barbara and I have had three life-altering connections with Cmdr. Rahman and his wife Dr. Anjum. In 2008, prior to the International Conference in Los Angeles, Commodore (as he preferred to be called) contacted us to inquire about our possibly hosting them. We invited them to visit us for a week -- and what a wonderful week that was! We kept in contact, and Commodore frequently reminded us that his home was open anytime we wanted to visit. In 2010, we did just that, and had a 2-week experience that exceeded all expectations. Orchestrated by Commodore, we visited about 2/3 of Bangladesh, traveled with and visited various friends and relatives of Commodore and Anjum, and saw up close the various projects that Commodore and his Rotary Club, the Agrabad Rotary Club of Chittagong, were supporting. We visited a Rotary-supported school, a school for handicapped children where we participated in a wheelchair donation ceremony, and a cleft-plate clinic, where we witnessed actual surgery being performed pro-bono. The Agrabad Rotarians truly live the Four-Way Test, and they are committed every day to improving conditions in their very young country.

More recently, this past January Commodore and Anjum were in San Diego attending a conference for incoming District Governors. They arranged to come to the Central Valley to visit us for a few days, and as an added bonus, their son Dipu, a long-time resident of the Twin Cities, happened to be in San Francisco and joined us. We had a joyous gathering of local Rotarians in our home, and also managed a winter Yosemite visit with brunch at the Ahwanee Hotel.

We've lost a good friend, but Rotary, also, has lost a person who really lived everything Rotary stands for.



RI President Ron D. Burton is extending the early registration deadline. Rotarians now have until 15 January to complete discounted early registration for the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia, saving \$100 off the onsite registration fee. The 15 January deadline will remain firm, so act soon to take advantage of the discount.

<http://www.riconvention.org/en/2014/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

You can also apply online for a visa (for certain countries listed on the website) by using this link:

https://www.travelvisaaustralia.com/en/e_visitor visa/



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Noko and Steve Yoshida (ITHF Past President) traveled to Thailand on their annual visit to teach photography and Japanese cooking to disadvantaged hill tribe students. They were pleasantly surprised when PDG Anurak Napawan invited them to the inauguration of a mobile health bus in Chiang Mai.

It turns out that during the ITHF Thailand tour, Anurak's district had hosted several meals and events leaving a tour surplus. The group decided to donate the surplus to a D3360 project. ITHF will now be permanently displayed throughout Northern Thailand as the bus travels to remote areas delivering health care.



Thank you, ITHF!

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 arranged for a couple member to welcome me. Chucks 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, District 9110, Nigeria

PRE-CONVENTION ITHF TOUR MEMBERS REUNITE IN WISCONSIN

Before the Lisbon RI convention, my husband, Bruce Phelps, and I, who are members of Anchorage East Rotary, took the wonderful ITHF tour of Portugal and met John and Jean Henderson who live near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. In October, on my way to my uncle's 100th birthday party in Milwaukee I was able to reconnect with the Hendersons who went out of their way to show me around their part of Wisconsin.



John and Jean picked me up at the Amtrak station in Milwaukee and, after a delicious lunch at a famous German restaurant (what was in the food that shrunk me? – see picture), we went to the Milwaukee Art Museum (see picture of John and Jean in front of the iconic Santiago Calatrava addition to the museum).

After taking me to their lake cabin, I spent the night at John and Jean's house. The next day we went on a boat tour on Lake Geneva and then Jean drove me back to Milwaukee for the aforementioned birthday party for my uncle. It was a quick, but very fun, chance to re-connect with ITHF members we had shared the tour with months earlier. This is just a small example of why I think ITHF is such a valuable organization.

Thanks, again, John and Jean. Please come to Alaska to visit us.

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP!

By Rotarian Garry Guan, Past President of Rotary Club of North Atlanta, District 6900, State of Georgia, United States



Driving with my 11-year-old son William, we heard a story on NPR about how people in India use the Right to Information Act to expose government corruption all over the largest democracy in the world. One of the protagonists of the story was a Rotarian on a crusade to bring corruption he has discovered to the media and the public.

I commented to my son in the passenger seat, "You see, William, Rotarians are doing good all over the world!" He replied spontaneously, "Yah, that's what I want to be when I grow up!" I could not tell whether the source of the warm glow I felt was pride in my son or in Rotary.

My son William is indeed a Rotary child. I met my wife, Paulina Maychun, on a GSE visit in 2001, when I was the GSE team leader from Rotary District 6900 from the State of Georgia visiting Rotary District 3480 in Taipei, Taiwan. She was a former GSE team member who had

gone to Switzerland the year before. We got married in the fall of the same year and had our son the next year. As soon as William was born, we made a contribution to the Rotary Foundation to make him a Paul Harris Fellow. As he was only 45 days old, IR past President Frank Develyn presented the Paul Harry Fellow Award to my son on stage at our District Convention. William has been involved in Rotary activities since he began to walk. I am very pleased to know that the Rotary spirit will be carried on by the next generation and those to come.

ITHF CONNECTIONS 2013

For 2 weeks in late September and early October this year my wife Liz and I enjoyed a Rotary Friendship Exchange between our District 1010 North of Scotland and District 5440 Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

This was the return visit following a visit to Scotland earlier this year in June. We had a wonderful time with five different Rotarian Hosts and the experience reminded us of ITHF but between Districts rather than on a one to one basis. During the two week tour we took the opportunity to extol the virtues and similarities with ITHF about which very few of our hosts had heard (indeed Rotary's best kept secret) with some degree of success with at least three of them signing up to ITHF.



Following the tour Liz and I flew to Fresno with the intention of 'doing' Yosemite but the vagaries of the US Government meant that we could only "drive through without stopping and looking." We continued on to Lake Tahoe and then to our first ITHF contact in Folsom Lake.

Our initial contact was to be with Frank and Carolyn Woods but a couple of days before we were to join them we received an e-mail to the effect that Frank had fallen off his bike and broken a couple of bones and was in hospital. Not to worry he continued, in the best traditions of Rotary and ITHF he had arranged for a fellow Rotarian and ITHFers John & Bev Messner (left) to look after us. We spent a couple of days with John and Bev touring the winelands of the Eldorado Hills and became members of their exclusive 'club' 'The Wandering Winos'—a rare privilege. I am glad to say that following a visit to see Frank in hospital he is in good hands and on the road to recovery.



We ended our time in the States with a 're-connection' with ITHFers Allen and Jean Cary in Belmont CA.(right) Jean and Allen were the first contact we made in ITHF 11 years ago and we have kept in touch since

then. This was our third time we had stayed with them. With their help we relived some of our experiences of that first trip to San Francisco and enjoyed catching up with old friends. Thanks ITHF!



Regards,

Dave & Liz Peters
Aberdeen, Scotland

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & HOSTING FELLOWSHIP MAY 2014 - CAIRNS & LONGREACH TOUR

The tour starts in Cairns on Wednesday 21st May, and terminates at the hotel you have booked in Sydney, on Thursday 29th May. Gives you Friday & Saturday to settle in and/or attend pre-convention meetings. *If you haven't booked yet, please do so soon.*

For details, please contact John Steven at: johnsteven@bigpond.com

TOUR COST: \$3,442 per person twin share \$580 per person single supplement deposit required: \$600 per person

INCLUSIONS:

- 4 nights accommodation in Cairns
- transfers between hotel and Rotary meetings
- economy airfares Cairns to Longreach & Longreach to Sydney
- all meals as per itinerary
- 4 nights accommodation in Longreach
- all sightseeing & entrance fees as per itinerary
- coach transfers to accommodation in Sydney
- bottle of water daily on board coach



ITHF 2014 Flyer 3.pdf

CHANGES IN OUR ITHF WEBSITE

As many of you who have logged into www.ITHF.org had noticed, our new website is now live and active. With the building of the new site many enhancements have been added to aid our members and the administration.

To help secure everyone's personal information, no-one except each member can access their username and password. This includes the administrator. This brings up one of those enhancements to help those of us who misplace our login information is the "**I Forgot my login**" tab on our HOME PAGE. It was there on our old site, too and it was in red, but members kept missing it. You can find it by scrolling down on the left column of the page. Simple click on it, fill in the requested information and you username and/or password.

Additionally, because of the logic used through the site to process membership renewals, if a membership goes beyond the membership due/expiry date, the member will not be able to renew at the reduced renewal rate. This was not at our choosing, but the way the processing program works. We truly hope that everyone understands.



NEW ZEALAND ITHF MEMBERS INVITE YOU TO VISIT US AFTER THE SYDNEY CONVENTION

Hi readers, I am David Garland, ITHF Vice President for New Zealand.

New Zealand is seldom on the list of places to visit because we are perceived to be a long way from many places. For those ITHF members who are attending the RI Convention in Sydney, New Zealand is only a short flight away. We invite you to consider extending your visit to the South Pacific by visiting New Zealand.

We have a tentative plan to host ITHF members for a three week tour of the North Island of our country where you will see the beauty of our country, learn and experience our Maori culture and participate in Rotary Fellowship. For those who would like to visit the South Island, lakes and ski fields I will assist you with those plans. Because the tour is in seven segments you could opt for a shorter stay.

The plan is that the participants in the tour will arrive in Auckland around the same time a couple of days after the end of the convention to be hosted with members in Auckland, Whangarei, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Napier, and Wellington flying back to Auckland for their return to their home.

Accommodation will be a combination of home hosting with ITHF members and interested Rotarians and motel accommodation. Transport between centres will be by public main line buses that will enable the visitors to see the country side.

Because space may be limited for membership of the tour the date of the receipt of your expression of interest will determine those who will receive further details and a confirmed invitation to participate.

I anticipate that confirmed invitations and costing will be forwarded to applicants by mid-February calling for funds deposits to be made before the end of February at which time visitors will be able to confirm their air travel bookings.

Our NZ members and I are looking forward to welcoming you to our country and providing the great ITHF hospitality that many of us have received from you.

Click on or enter to following link to see the collage of our beautiful country.

https://picasaweb.google.com/108574973380085995911/ITHFInviteToVisitNewZealand?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCLSW9vLx1_urUQ&feat=directlink

Planning and costs are still very tentative and will be dependent on the interest from ITHF members. At this stage I invite everyone who may be interested to participate in the tour to immediately email me on david.beverley@paradise.net.nz before 30 January 2014. Please email NOW if you are interested to participate.

David Garland, VP New Zealand

(Editor's note: I spent a month in Nelson, New Zealand this past Summer and can vouch that you will have the most amazing time if you visit this beautiful country...it's well worth the trip!)

TAIWAN ITHF MEMBER REUNION & MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION PARTY



As invited by Medicare Hsu, VP for Taiwan, more than 40 ITHF members and potential members, Rotarians and spouses attended the Member Reunion Dinner Party at Taipei Caesar Park Hotel, January 4th, 2014.

Besides the general information of ITHF by Medicare to those interested Rotarians, our member, CP Andy of Taipei Midtown E-Club also presented the new ITHF website to the audience. With follow-up discussion of how to improve the connection among ITHF members, Taiwan members are encouraged to actively travel abroad to visit ITHF members.

To attract ITHF members from the world, we decided to organize a hosting committee and will prepare a "Discovering Taiwan Culture Tour" to be offered to those interested members to visit Taiwan since July 2014. A ten days tour with home stay at ITHF members' home in Taipei plus additional journey out of Taipei such as Sun Moon Lake at Central Taiwan, Kenting National Park in the South, Torogo Gorge in the East coast... Details will be presented in the next Newsletter "the Connections" April 2014.

Taking the opportunity, we also welcomed the 6 new members joined in 2013 and encourage them to take active participation in exchange. It is amazing, our New Year Reunion does help our ITHF membership extension in Taiwan.

Through the fellowship and strong promotion, we have 10 more Rotarians signed-up to be our ITHF members.