



The International Travel & Hosting Fellowship



Message from ITHF President

Are you ready to take on a more active role in promoting the ITHF? There are openings for four new Area Vice Presidents!

Three of our current VPs have already communicated their intentions to retire, and we give very special thanks to Linda Krahn in Western Canada, Sandra Wicks in USA – Alaska, and Terry Hodskins in USA – North East Coastal (really New England) for their loyal service and active work in our convention booth and throughout their territories. They will be hard to replace. Bala Murthy is leaving his post in the USA – North Central area to prepare for becoming President of ITHF next year. VPs are encouraged to be in contact with members in their territories, and to be available to promote the Fellowship at club District events. The Fellowship has a Zoom account to facilitate virtual connections!

If you want to volunteer as an Area Vice President, for the above area, please send your name and the area you can serve along with a small biodata, to President PDG Aswini Kar aswini.kar@gmail.com.

ITHF also wants to appoint District Coordinators for different Rotary Districts to promote the Fellowship in the district assigned to them. They will work under the Area VP of their area. Members are encouraged to volunteer. If you are keen to serve as a District Coordinator, please send your name and district you can serve along with your short biodata to President PDG Aswini Kar aswini.kar@gmail.com.

President Aswini Kar



ITHF has lost a legend

It is with deep sadness that I learned that Terry Hodskins had passed away on June 9, 2020. Terry served ITHF as the VP for the North East Coastal Section from 2017-2020. She joined the fellowship after meeting Past President Sheila Hart at the Sister's Outdoor Quilt Show in Oregon.



Terry at the Calgary Stampede 2013

However, it was not ITHF that made Terry known world-wide. Nearly 20 years ago, she became distressed about seeing children wrapped in paper drapes during cleft lip and palate surgery done by Rotaplast teams. As a member of the Wells Maine Rotary Club, Terry took on the project of providing quilts for patients.

She quickly developed a following of quilters that made a quilt for each child having surgery. Wrap-A-Smile was born and that organization has continued to provide a quilt for every patient that undergoes surgery through Rotaplast. Rotaplast is a non-profit, humanitarian organization founded in 1992 as a World Community Service Project of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, Calif.



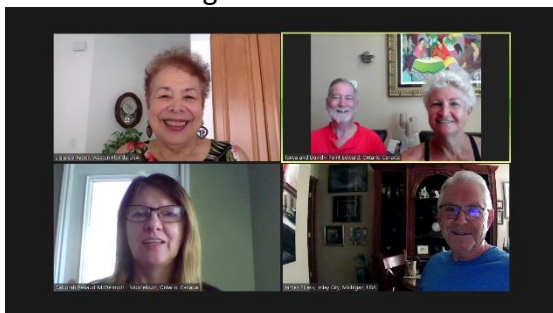
The current total to date of quilts supplied by Wrap-A-Smile surpasses 26,000 which have been donated on missions in 28 countries. Quilters from every US state as well as Canada, England, Germany and Australia have supported this initiative. In 2005 Hodskins received the Governor of Maine’s Service Award. Wrap-A-Smile has been featured in quilting magazines, Family Circle, and numerous other news publications. On May 3, 2013, Terry was honoured with Rotary International’s Service Above Self Award.

Rest in peace Terry. You have been an inspiration and a friend to many and have led us on journeys that we would never have imagined until we met you.

Sheila Hart, ITHF President 2017-2019

The Zoom ITHF

Five ITHF members travelled virtually to have coffee together on June 29, 2020. We have all been hosted by each other in the past two years. At our virtual visit, we reminisced about our past "real" visits and entertained plans for the future. We travelled through Ontario, Canada to Michigan and then to Florida, USA with our coffee and good wishes.



Participants included Deborah Renaud McDermott, Tanya Wolff and David Butler, James Sillers and Ligia Corredor.

We decided to INVITE our fellow ITHF members and friends to join us for **Happy Hour** on Sunday August 30 at 4:00pm (Toronto time):

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81815827932>

Meeting ID: 818 1582 7932

Password: Global

We all hope to see you soon!!!



Tanya F Wolff
Point Edward, Ontario Canada

Guest Speaking

I was invited to be Speaker at Tracey Wyatt’s Rotary club to speak on 8th July. I spoke on our E Club of Melbourne, District 9800, a brief introduction on our club’s history, club’s projects and on Rotary activities in India.



RC Goverdale/Waurn Pond Victoria Australia club members

I had previously been a Speaker on 27th May at Lesley Goode’s Club in Geelong – Rotary Grovedale/Waurn Ponds where I also spoke on our Rotary activities in India and on our E Club of Melbourne



RC Wynnum & Manly Queensland Australia club members

***Madhumita Bishnu
RC of E Club Melbourne Australia***

Guest Speaking – the other perspective

Last year Madu Bishnu emailed me requesting hospitality in March this year. Madu was then the President of the e-Club of Melbourne and she had planned to attend the District 9800 Conference in Bendigo, Victoria. Sadly, the conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown and Madu's visit to Geelong postponed indefinitely.

However, as my club – the RC of Grovedale/Waurn Ponds resorted to meeting via Zoom, I invited Madu to 'attend' one of our meetings as guest speaker. Conveniently my club meets just prior to her e-Club meeting so it was not too much of an imposition on her and the time zone differences not too great. Madu proved to be a delightful guest talking about her life in Calcutta and the operations of her e-Club.

At the end of our first meeting, Madu suggested that she could teach us how to make an Indian dessert - payesh. So, our next connection was planned. Madu sent me the recipe which I circulated to my

fellow Rotarians. Some members cooked along with her while others enjoyed watching. It was such a fun meeting that immediately the discussion was about – what can we cook next? We are currently planning a joint meeting with her e-Club to cook a chicken curry.



Like many Rotary Clubs COVID – 19 has certainly impacted the RC of Grovedale-Waurn Ponds and our inability to meet face-to-face or complete fund raising and service projects has made it difficult to maintain the motivation of members. Madu however is such an enthusiastic and passionate Rotarian and is proving to us that we can achieve connections remotely and have lots of fun doing so.

I certainly enjoyed my payesh and look forward to cooking and eating my chicken curry. Hopefully sometime in the not too distant future, I will be able to host Madu in person and show some of the beautiful highlights of Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, Australia.

***Lesley Goode
RC of Grovedale/Waurn Ponds***

New Zealand – WOW!

My wife and I recently joined ITHF after being in Rotary for 10 years and now question why we took so long to join. This



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past Fall (Springtime in New Zealand) we kicked off a five-week trip to explore this beautiful by meeting and staying with two awesome Rotary couples.

Our arrival into Auckland was delayed by one day due to aircraft issues (ahhh, the good old days!) so our visit with Peter and Colleen was shortened. They both rolled out the red carpet for us in their beautiful home in Red Beach (a little north of Auckland). Peter was in the travel business and gave us fantastic recommendations on what to do and see with our time in their beautiful country. They were so generous with their time showing us the many scenic locations in their area, Orewa Beach and Whangaparaoa Park to name two highlights. We are always impressed to meet with other Rotarians and to learn about the great work other clubs do. Peter shared a project his club took on to build a school on a remote Pacific Island. Hugely impressive! The tips on how to pronounce Maori words was greatly appreciated too.



Orewa Beach: Martin, Colleen, Priti and Peter

From Red Beach we took a wonderful scenic drive northward to meet our second Rotary hosts, Mike and Liz in Whangarei. Along the way we saw breathtaking ocean views, spectacular waterfalls and explored some caves. The weather in Whangarei was a little on the rainy side, but that did not stop our hosts

from showing us a great time exploring the lush, hilly terrain of this port town with its many parks and waterfalls.



Whangarei Falls: Martin, Liz, Mike and Priti

Mike and his Rotary club support a local Bird Recovery Centre and he took us there to see the facility and the adjacent museum. We experienced a once in a lifetime event when we were able to see and pet a resident Kiwi bird. Unlike most of the birds who are released after treatment, this fellow only had one leg, so he was a permanent resident. These are nocturnal birds and we did not see another one for our entire trip.



Martin Streich
Yakima Southwest Rotary Club

Great ITHF friendship develops over the last two years

During an international trip to Colombia, in Jan 2019, to attend a Rotary Project fair in Bucaramanga, Colombia, I had the opportunity to meet Rotarian James Sillers from Imlay City, Michigan USA. We also coincided on a friendship exchange in Medellin, Colombia as we were hosted by PDG Sonia Uribe while exploring the Department of Antioquia .

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Upon return home to Florida, shortly thereafter James friend, ITHF member PDG Tanya Wolf from Sarnia, Canada called me to seek hospitality for her and husband David Butler. Circumstances prevented us from meeting at the time in Florida. However, our telephone conversations revealed we were both attending the Rotary International convention in Hamburg and agreed to meet there. As luck will have it, Tanya, ITHF member Debbie McDermott and I were housed not only in the same hotel but in the same floor. We became instant friends and hung around the Rotary International convention together along with James.



Since then James, Ligia, Tanya and David have visited with each other several times and worked together in local Rotary projects both in Canada and USA.



Rotary Pancake Breakfast Sarnia, Canada. Santa's Breakfast and book distribution in Pembroke Pines Florida USA

Rotary



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This past January; James, Tanya and I travelled together for three weeks to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia to check out potential global grant projects. While in El Salvador and Guatemala we also met at the Uniendo Project fair ITHF members Rick and Mary Ellen Harden. We have teamed up as International partners in several projects and global grants and get to “travel” via Zoom on a weekly basis during our Happy hour with several of our international friends and ITHF fellow members.



Ligia I Corredor
RC of Miramar-Pines

ITHF Opens Opportunities for Taiwan



Exciting times are ahead! For those of us who will be attending the 2021 Rotary Convention in beautiful, welcoming Taiwan, we have secured rooms at the [Hilton Taipei Sinban Hotel!](#) We have blocked both twin queen and king rooms as noted:

Room rates: Single 7739NTD/night (\$263 US) Double 8316NTD (\$282US); exchanges rates subject to change. Rate includes breakfast and free WiFi. You can check out the hotel by using the Hilton Taipei Sinban Hotel link above.



In order to secure your room(s), please email kvc Carroll@ithf.org and include the following information:

- YOUR NAME
- DATE OF ARRIVAL



Covid19 prevented us to meet and travel together in person this Summer as we had planned. However, we are planning on trips for the future and look forward to seeing each other soon when our air permits us to fly again without fear. Our new friendship continues... in Sarnia, Canada, Imlay City, Michigan and Weston, Florida USA.





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- DATE OF DEPARTURE
- NUMBER OF ROOMS AND TYPE OF ROOM (SINGLE OR DOUBLE)

Accommodation is available as follows:

Thursday 10 th June	15 rooms
Friday 11 th June	30 rooms
Saturday 12 th June	30 rooms
Sunday 13 th June	30 rooms
Monday 14 th June	30 rooms
Tuesday 15 th June	30 rooms
Wednesday 16 th June	20 rooms

I would recommend booking early as we already have requests for a few of the rooms and they will go quickly; I have no guarantee that the number of rooms can be increased.

AN INVOICE FOR YOUR 2-NIGHT DEPOSIT WHICH YOU CAN PAY WITH PAYPAL WILL BE SENT TO YOU; ROOMS NOT SECURED WITH A DEPOSIT BY SEPTEMBER 25TH WILL BE RELEASED AND WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE ABILITY TO BOOK THOSE ROOMS FOR ITHF MEMBERS.

Please note that the Taiwan Pre-tour currently being arranged ends on June 11th; if you're not planning on coming what I'm sure will be an amazing trip around Taiwan, you can book the hotel using Rotary rates starting on the 10th....if you want to come on your own earlier or stay longer, you will need to make those accommodation arrangements separately.

Can't wait to see you in Taipei!

Kimberly Carrol

Request from Editor

Connections relies on you as members of ITHF to provide the articles. I realise that most of us are not going to be able to

travel whilst COVID-19 restrictions on movement apply throughout the world. Nonetheless, the restrictions will eventually end and many of us will wish to travel again and meet other members of ITHF and the wider Rotary family.

So as to encourage all of us to travel again when it is possible to do so, if you have travelled in the past year or so and not provided an article on that travel, now is a good time to share your experiences and encourage other members to travel and host when it becomes possible to do so. I hope to send out the next issue in late October 2020. If you are able to contribute an article, including photographs, please send it to me at ithf.trumble@gmail.com by 15 October 2020.

Thank you



Tony Trumble