



International Travel and
Hosting Fellowship

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MAGGIE'S WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE WITH THE POST-CONVENTION TAIWAN TOUR!

At the urging of Sheila Hart, a longtime ITHF member, I joined the fellowship shortly after the Calgary convention. I've always enjoyed travel to new places and her stories about the trips she had taken with the group inspired me to investigate further. And am I glad I did! My sister Debbie (also a Rotarian) and I try to attend as many International Conventions as we can — Taiwan was our 6th together. Spending some extra time in the area is a tradition of ours. When Sheila told me about the Taiwan trip I was fascinated about the opportunity to visit a part of the world I'd never been to.

This trip didn't disappoint. As we were checking in we found that a couple we had Convention was also in the group — what a well organized even though trying to get more than 70 people going in the same direction is a bit like herding cats. Our itinerary was given to us in advance so we were able to do some study before the trip to better understand the areas we were going to visit. Our guides were fun and informative. Whenever someone had a question, someone was always there to help us out.



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met at the Calgary happy surprise! It was very



The accommodations were first class. The meals were very generous — at times as many as 12 different dishes to sample during the served lunches, often unique to the area we were visiting. Breakfast and dinner were usually buffet style with many items to choose from.

For many meals we were seated with the same people — a great way to build friendships. At other times it was open seating. The itinerary took us to museums, national parks, historic areas, tea plantations and many other places — something for everyone. I couldn't believe how much we packed into just 4 days.

We had a marvelous time and are looking forward to joining another ITHF trip soon.

Special thanks to the organizing team, guides and Taiwanese hosts for their generosity and warmth throughout the tour

Contacts: *Maggie Crawford* email: RIVERSONG200@msn.com

ROTARY ROOTS RUN DEEP AT THE UNITED NATIONS



ITHF Member/PDG Doug Vincent, D7080, ON Canada

Back in the 1930's a Rotarian from Nashville TN, USA, had the idea of developing "International Institutes of Understanding" to advance one of Rotary's causes: To promote International Understanding and World Peace. The concept grew to other cities in the USA and quickly spread across the globe. It was a great success which was embraced by many Senior World Leaders, putting Rotary on the map.

Very early, Rotary was at the grass roots of input and discussions to develop the United Nations concept. Prior to the 1945 San Francisco charter event, there were other exploratory meetings, which included Rotarians. During that time, Rotary distributed the "Dumbarton Oaks" meeting notes, to share and solicit input from clubs and members around the world. This provided input for the 1945 charter discussions.

At the 1940 RI Convention in Havana, Cuba the "Respect for Human Rights" was discussed, which led to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Rotary also planted seeds for the creation of UNESCO, through discussions at our 1942 RI Convention in London, UK. When US President Roosevelt and UK's Winston Churchill had the idea of convening meetings to establish the UN, they wanted Rotary involved. They recognized that through the successful International Institutes and other Rotary events, we were already doing much of what the intended UN purpose might be.

There were 11 official Rotary International delegates who rotated into the 3 chairs, allocated to Rotary at the sessions. In addition, several other Rotarians acted as delegates from their respective countries. Overall, a total of 49 Rotarians participated in 1945 at the San Francisco UN Charter meetings where the organization was officially formed. Some say it was actually 50 Rotarians, but apparently one country had not passed the necessary legislation in time to have their delegate be considered official.

In addition, it was a Rotarian from South Africa who wrote the first draft of the UN Charter. There is a statue erected in a city park there, in his honour. Filipinos are proud that Rotarian PRIVP Carlos P Romulo, was the second President of the United Nations General Assembly. For these reasons, the UN Charter and our Rotary Goals & Objectives are very similar in meaning. Three Rotarians in New York even played a key role in locating and negotiating the land deal to establish the UN headquarters there.

After the 1945 meetings, Rotary International shared another document, titled "From Here On" which contained UN Charter content as well as annotations and questions. The purpose was to encourage people to use this resource as a roadmap and pathway to Rotary service and peace. Contact the author at: DougV@DougVincent.com for a copy of the document.

This article is not the complete story, but it is a summary as I know it. It explains why Rotary and the United Nations share a strong, deep-rooted partnership, working together to promote international understanding, global health, peace and harmony. Thus, in over 75th years of the United Nations formation, Rotary International has been a part of many celebration events. We can continue to focus with pride, on the future of the United Nations and our founding contribution. Rotary's work will continue through our seven areas of focus and TRF programs, closely aligned to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Contact: PDG Douglas Vincent, D7080, Ontario, Canada DougV@DougVincent.com





Upcoming Tours and Events

- **Discover the Magic of Mexico City,**
September 20-27, 2026
More info at
<https://www.ithf.org/events/mexico-city-sept-tour>
- **Uganda Safari Tour,**
RESCHEDULED February 24 – March 6, 2027
Will include gorilla tracking and chimpanzee tracking!
Contact: Andy Ullman at andyuco@gmail.com for more info.
More info also at
<https://www.ithf.org/events/tour-the-pearl-of-africa-uganda>.
- **An Amazing Journey to South America- Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Easter Island,**
February 26-March 12, 2027

HELP NEEDED-ITHF CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

We are seeking help from the ITHF members on these two items:

1. **ITHF travel experiences:** Please send us stories and photos from your most memorable ITHF hosting/travel experiences. We would like to publish at least one story per month to encourage ITHF members to engage with other members in hosting experiences.
2. **ITHF members “Ready to Host”:** If you are interested in hosting other ITHF members, please send a brief description and photos of a unique attraction or experience available in your area/region. We hope to post at least one “Ready to Host” listing for each newsletter issue.

As before, any ITHF member who submits material which is published in one of these categories will receive an additional year of ITHF membership as thanks for their assistance.

Please send your submissions to Andy Ullman, ITHF Membership Chair at andyuco@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your contribution to the ITHF Connections newsletter!

Your ITHF Connections Newsletter Team:

Andy Ullman, Chicago, USA

Michael Chen, Taipei, Taiwan

Olurotimi (Sam) Adeleye, Lagos, Nigeria

Fredi Bochnick, Bonn, Germany

Rosette Nabuuma, Vancouver, Canada

Gizem Bastas, Ankara, Turkey

Nma Onuigbo, Abuja, Nigeria

ITHF VIRTUAL TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Become an active volunteer member of this Virtual Travel Committee and help us bring the pleasure of visiting and learning about other countries from the comfort of your home, as well as informing our ITHF members about the opportunities for in-person travel that ITHF provides.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TOUR PRESENTATIONS

- **September 25–26:** New ITHF Member Orientation
- **October 30–31:** Turkey
- **December 4–5:** Coffee and Connections

Contact: **Simmy Ahluwalia**, – simmyithf@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS – AUGUST 2026

- **Barbara Middleton**

Potters Bar, England, United Kingdom

- **Isabelle Collard**

Ittre, Wallonia, Belgium

- **Martha Marak**

Shreveport, Louisiana, United States

- **Randy Helbach**

Campbellsport, Wisconsin, United States

- **Tricia Quidley**

Alpharetta, Georgia, United States

- **Nancy Riella**

Colchester, Connecticut, United States

- **Binu Kuruvilla**

Kottayam, Kerala, India

- **Thomas Barth**

Eimsbüttel, Hamburg, Germany

- **Carolann Biederman**

Kaneohe, Hawaii, United States

- **Fanny Chan**

Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan

- **Marlyn Kenney**

Vero Beach, Florida, United States

- **Iris Stone**

Ashland, Oregon, United States

- **Rob Howard**

Hudson, Wisconsin, United States

- **Peter Ross**

Auckland, Auckland Region, New Zealand

- **Aur Beck**

Carbondale, Illinois, United States

- **Leenette Wilke**

Humble, Texas, United States