



# Servas Monthly News 43



## February 2009

### Does past = present = future?

I met a traveller from an antique land  
 Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
 Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,  
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown  
 And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command  
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
 The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.  
 And on the pedestal these words appear:  
 'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;  
 Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!  
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,  
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley*

The actual quote on the statue is:  
 "King of Kings am I, Ozymandias. If anyone would know  
 how great I am and where I lie, let him surpass one of my  
 works."

As I read the news and review the current economies the above passage has been running through my head, especially the highlighted section. The passage is looking back in history. I wonder if anything has changed over the millennia.

Then I look around me. People may have stayed the same but the environment and facilities have changed enormously. Changes continue rapidly. 20 years ago it would not have been possible to produce SI News and Servas Monthly News the way I do now. Internet was in existence but in infancy. Now it is a major form of communication. It is up to us to make good of these changes and not abuse them. Let us not end up feeling like Ozymandias

GA2009 is approaching. Make sure that you use the internet facilities to keep up to date with what is going on. Especially look at the motions that will be presented, see p2 for the url. There is no excuse for not being fully conversant with the discussions before GA2009 takes place. This will enable deeper discussion at the GA..

### Contact

We welcome articles coming to SI Monthly News. We do not guarantee the article, or any part of it will be published. This depends on the theme for the month along with the number of other articles also available for publication.

Preferred method of contact is email at:  
[newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) or [jgiffould@aol.com](mailto:jgiffould@aol.com)

Please make sure that Servas Monthly News is part of the subject heading. If the email address is not recognised it may get deleted before being read.

### Host lists

Now is the time of year when host lists tend to be renewed or update. Every country needs to make sure that their host list is current and that every host in the list is available. It is accepted that over the year changes will occur as new members join and other members may have to move due to unforeseen circumstances. However looking through the key list I have noted that a number of countries have not updated their lists for many years. I will not name and shame here but suffice to say that a country with an out of date host list by the agreed rules should not be a voting member of Servas. This is being clarified by the emails sent out by our General Secretary Pramod Kumar to all the National Secretaries.

Out of date host lists also put people off travelling in your country and make Servas seem badly organised and not worth being a member of.

### Key lists

As with the host lists it is essential that the key list is up to date. This should be changed as soon as the key people for a country change. It is a list on the internet and so very easily changeable. eg: In May of this year I will have completed my term of office as treasurer for Servas Britain. I will no longer be on the committee for Servas Britain and no longer one of the key members. I will notify Exco and have my name removed and replaced by the new Key person. That change will be done within a few days of change of office. Similarly in September I will have finished my term of office as Editor for SI News and will then be removed and replaced by the new Editor - whoever that may be. A plea to all countries - please make sure that your key list people are up to date. This will then save a lot of people a lot of work when trying to contact your country.

### SI News Editor

I am waiting for all those people who want to find out about this very interesting and informative post. My editorial skills have increase a plenty over the last 5 years.

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# GA2009 and 60th Anniversary

## GA 2009 update

A lot of work is going on with the team in Argentina and Exco for the preparation for the GA. Teleconferencing and emails are abounding around the globe. As part of this Agenda items and motions are being sent in. Note the website url below and make sure that YOU look at what is going on. With modern technology every participant/delegate with access to the internet can familiarise themselves with the items beforehand. They have the chance to discuss it with their countries and come to GA2009 as well informed delegates who are also aware of the requirements and requests of their own country. There is no excuse to arrive uninformed.

This is a recent update from Exco.

At the Servas Executive Committee meeting by teleconference, we decided to **update** you again, on input to the Agenda for the General Assembly in September. The GA agenda is based mainly on the inputs of national secretaries and on the decisions set by Statutes.

So far, we have got 23 suggestions answering our call for **Agenda Items**.

Renee listed these in the middle of the Servas Helpers page at:

[http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/General\\_Assembly\\_2009#Call\\_for\\_Agenda\\_Items](http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/General_Assembly_2009#Call_for_Agenda_Items)

We will fix the information on who submitted which item, etc., and plan to invite you to join Thematic Working Groups and also an Agenda Working Group.

The **deadline** for input is March 6.

Many times in the past, decisions on old GA items have slipped away; we hope you can recommend ways and means to accelerate progress for the 125 mostly unfunded items decided at Latina, and let us add your recommendation to the list.

To make sure we see your item in time, please reply to me by March 6, at [President@servas.org](mailto:President@servas.org) and cc [siexco@googlegroups.com](mailto:siexco@googlegroups.com)

### Other

We are also making the Servas International **deposit** to the GA 2009 conference site this week. Pablo, and his team are preparing a Conference Registration form, and we are all hoping that you are making your plans to attend.

Some larger countries have already offered to support their **Buddies**, including active, smaller Servas groups. Would you please consider this very useful and friendly reach within the Servas community.

Gary Sealey

## 60th planning by India

You all know that SERVAS 60<sup>th</sup> YEAR Anniversary International Celebrations are going to be held in GOA, India this year.. This is the great opportunity for all of us to organize the event with goof planning and make it a memorial function.

I have ideas but need your views, more ideas, lots of enthusiasm, commitment for this celebration from all of you. I have jotted down a rough draft to start with the following activities:

1. **Servas 60 celebration LOGO:** This LOGO should represent GLOBAL PEACE, NO WAR, UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY and HUMAN VALUES. Possibly this LOGO could be the same as our SERVAS LOGO with some addition to represent 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. People who are good at drawing or sketching can now work and **submit it March 15<sup>th</sup>**. It should be authentic LOGO (not copied from some other place) and the person's name will be recognized (will be published in Servas 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration book). LOGO will be selected by Servas 60<sup>th</sup> celebration committee.
2. **Increase the membership in your state.** Motivate the existing members. Servas should represent highest number of members in India during 60<sup>th</sup> Year as it is a Gandhian organization. Each member should try to make one new active member at least.

### Different responsibilities:

We also will have to distribute several responsibilities among ourselves. I am proposing few names of the people whom I know can perform given responsibilities efficiently: You are free to nominate either yourself or any other Servas member you think is the best suitable person for a particular task and does it efficiently. Please reply not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.

- International 60th Celebration Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- This one is open for all the Servas Countries, EXCO and all committee members.
- Reception committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Finance Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Media Publicity committee \_\_\_\_\_
- E Communication Committee Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_
- Transportation committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Lodging & boarding Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Conference Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Cultural Program Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Pre & Post Conference hospitality Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Travel & Tour Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Volunteer Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Committees Coordinator (myself) **Ramesh Sharma**

### Publication Material Committee:

The following subject publications come to my mind for our Conference:

- 60 years Journey of Servas, Founder of Servas
- Servas in UNO Servas hand book
- 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration Folder Peace building
- Servas India Activities Servas Hosts Guidelines
- Travellers Guidelines Interviewer's Guidelines
- Servas in Asia Servas in Europe
- Servas in Africa Servas in America
- Servas in Middle East Servas in Pacific

**Have I missed out something? Please feel free to advice for making 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration a great success and unforgettable event. This time India should rock.**

**Lots of planning is involved for this celebration, therefore we have to work very fast. I suggest by 21<sup>st</sup> March the delegation of the duties should be over and finalized in the Jalna conference.**

## Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

### Regular meetings

Around the world there are regular, often monthly meetings of Servas people. Here are some of them. If you want your meeting on the list them please send it to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) alternately to have it on the main site contact Renée at [reneegendron@hotmail.com](mailto:reneegendron@hotmail.com)

Country	Place	Day/time	Contact
Australia	Mawson Club, Canberra	Third Thursday, alternate months	<a href="mailto:australia@servas.org">australia@servas.org</a>
Australia	The Carringbush, Melbourne	First Weds, alternate months	<a href="mailto:australia@servas.org">australia@servas.org</a>
Belgium	Piazza Italia, Brussels	Last Tues of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:belgium@servas.org">belgium@servas.org</a>
Britain	Pontefract Castle, London	First Monday of Month, 18.30	<a href="mailto:info@servasbritain.org">info@servasbritain.org</a>
Costa Rica	Gran Via Café, San Jose	Alternate months	<a href="mailto:costarica@servas.org">costarica@servas.org</a>
France	Grand Café de la Soierie, Lyon	First Thurs of month, 20.00	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
France	Le Vieux Chatelet, Paris	Second Tues of month, 19:00	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
Germany	variable Hamburg	Third Tuesday of month, quarterly	<a href="mailto:treffen-hamburg@servas.de">treffen-hamburg@servas.de</a>
Germany	variable Mainz	First Monday of month, variable	<a href="mailto:treffen-mainz@servas.de">treffen-mainz@servas.de</a>
Mexico	Sahuaro's Coffee Mexico City	First Monday of month, 19:00	<a href="mailto:mexico@servas.org">mexico@servas.org</a>
Portugal	Café d'Alma Lounge, Lisbon	Last Weds of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:portugal@servas.org">portugal@servas.org</a>
Scotland	Elephant House, Edinburgh	Last Thurs of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:britain@servas.org">britain@servas.org</a>
Spain	A la Gorra, Madrid	First Friday of month, 20:00	<a href="mailto:bbc17926@gmail.com">bbc17926@gmail.com</a>
Spain	Barcelona	Last Friday of month, 20:000	<a href="mailto:cpisabel@gmail.com">cpisabel@gmail.com</a>
USA	variable San Francisco	variable	<a href="mailto:sfservas@yahoo.com">sfservas@yahoo.com</a>

To find more meetings both regular and occasional go to [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) and follow the events links.

### 60th Anniversary events 2009

More and more events are appearing for the 60th Anniversary celebrations. Some are here. As for the regular meetings, look on the website to see what is happening and for fuller details.

Country	Place and detail	Day/time	Contact
France	all host homes to be visited	all year	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
India	Goa	10 - 16 October	<a href="mailto:india@servas.org">india@servas.org</a>
Korea	see page 2, Dec 08 for details	See p 2, Dec for details	<a href="mailto:korea@servas.org">korea@servas.org</a>
Britain	Dalesbridge, Yorkshire	1 - 4 May	<a href="mailto:info@servasbritain.org">info@servasbritain.org</a>
Switzerland	Wintertur, Biel-Bienne	4 July, 12 September	<a href="mailto:switzerland@servas.org">switzerland@servas.org</a>
Italy	Val d'Ossola, for Sentierinsieme	10 - 17 July	<a href="mailto:uslenghi@fauser.it">uslenghi@fauser.it</a>
Australia	Portland, South West Victoria	25 - 30 April	<a href="mailto:australia@servas.org">australia@servas.org</a>
Argentina	Mare del Plata, for GA	5 - 12 September	<a href="mailto:siexco@googlegroups.com">siexco@googlegroups.com</a>
Belgium & Lux	Leuven for All, 5 city meeting	30 April - 03 May	<a href="mailto:josee.heuts@skynet.be">josee.heuts@skynet.be</a>
Belgium & Lux	Transborder cycling, Péruwelz	28 June	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>
Belgium & Lux	Walk, Kalmthout	August or September	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>
Belgium & Lux	Ardennes, weekend	09 - 11 October	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>

If your country has a meeting that you would like to add to the list then send the details to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

## Travellers Tales - Rome and Peru

### Combining work and Servas. Belgian member visiting Rome , February 2009

I have been in Rome this last week. First, at a WHO workshop on positive synergies between Global Health Initiatives (GHIs) & Health Systems Strengthening (HSS). Then, I took a few days to visit the city, while staying with a SERVAS host.

The visit to Rome and the SERVAS experience were really wonderful. Alessandra, the SERVAS host, and Luigi, her "roommate", introduced me to the Italian way of life, and to the city, and prepared me some delicious food. They both enjoyed my Belgian chocolates.

I had a full day at the Vatican museums. The museums officially open at 9 am, but Alessandra strongly recommended me to be there at 8 am, to avoid the long waits. They allowed us in as early as 8.15 am, and I could admire the Sistine Chapel before the crowds appeared. It is really marvellous, although I thought that on the ceiling some of the lesser Saints are proportionally too huge, as compared to the main scenes... The guards were really behaving like school trip attendants... I also much admired the Pinacoteca; especially the Orthodox Icons... and I thought that the missionary art gives an interesting introduction in Chinese and Japanese culture.

Saint Peter's basilica is much less interesting, although the ascent to the cupola gave me the opportunity to see the whole of Rome at a sunny day.

Today I went jogging around town, while listening to my iPOD, and stopping at all interesting places, and there are many of these. I visited the Galeria Borghese, with many Bernini sculptures and beautiful paintings. I visited too many churches to name them all. In Santa Maria in Trastevere, I recognised the typical Sant'Egidio image of Christ. Out of curiosity, I came back to attend the 8 pm mass, and in contrast with all the other masses ongoing all over town, the Sant'Egidio mass attracted a full house, including many young people. After the mass I started to chat with some young Africans, and surprise-surprise, they were seminarists from N'Zérékoré and Macenta in Guinea-Conakry!!!! They say there are lively Sant'Egidio communities now in these cities; which definitely was not the case when we lived there. They are now studying in Rome, in Italian.

Tomorrow morning, I will visit the via Appia Antigua and the catacombs in the morning, and fly back to Belgium in the afternoon.

*Wim Van Damme, host in Antwerp, Belgium*

### La belleza de un lugar se mide por su gente. Viaje a Perú

Cómo desaprovechar la oportunidad para viajar a la ciudad sagrada del Cuzco, al solsticio de invierno y reunirme con la gran comunidad de quienes bailamos danzas circulares, para generar con nuestra energía Paz para el mundo. Además, increíble invité a mi hija Coral de 26 años y a hijo Pablo de 23 años y Pablo arregló todo y pudo viajar conmigo.

Mi primera tarea, fue ubicar a la gran familia Servas Perú y hacer los contactos vía internet para llegar a Lima con alguien conocido. Felizmente me responde Mery y Enrique Bustamante quienes nos reciben del 13 de junio 2008 hasta nuestra partida al Cuzco, fueron cuatro días en Lima. Hada García Cadillo, también de Servas, nos facilitó taxi seguro desde que llegamos al aeropuerto para llegar con nuestros anfitriones. Con Mery y Enrique fue como estar en familia; conversadores, compartiendo su hermosa casa y a su familia, completamente dadiivosos. Siempre nos

sentimos cuidados y seguros ya que como pareja con una gran experiencia de la vida, todo lo que platicábamos nos era muy enriquecedor.

Las conversaciones de Pablo con Enrique eran como de dos genios intercambiando ideas para utilizar la energía solar o resolver problemas ecológicos, claro siempre con un te de coca al lado, como es la costumbre en esa región. Nos contactaron con Mares, su hija que vive en Cuzco, con su pequeña y entablamos una hermosa amistad, además que su energía de Paz y armonía nos invitaba a seguir su ejemplo. También conocimos a su hijo Kiko, a su nena y a su esposa con quienes cenamos. Con Kiko aprendimos mucho de la medicina naturista y de la importancia de comer sano, dejando lácteos, carnes, azúcar y leguminosas, al menos mientras desintoxicamos nuestro cuerpo. Él se curó de sus articulaciones; ahora es un hombre delgado y muy creativo. Nos llevaron a su club y a ver la vista del mar, de un mar plumizo y lleno de neblina por estar ya en el invierno sudamericano. Disfrutamos mucho de un parque en donde las fuentes danzaban, un espectáculo alucinante de luz, movimiento y color.

El domingo Teresa Li Palacios y Esther Flores Payano, unas mujeres maravillosas quienes después de trabajar muchos años y sacar adelante a sus hij@s ahora disfrutan la vida para ellas y comparten su país con quienes llegamos de fuera. Con su conocimiento y su amoroso trato descubrimos muchos lugares. Fuimos a un centro artesanal y disfrutamos principalmente de los tapetes de alpaca, al Campo Marte en donde había una gran cantidad de comida típica muy sabrosa y también muy distinta para nosotros. En el Centro de Lima conocimos "La Muralla" un lugar histórico, paseamos por las galerías y conocimos la Plaza de Armas en donde había un festejo por el día del Padre. Para probar los platos típicos muy amables nos llevaron al distrito de Santiago de Surco y comimos anticucho, picarones, mazamorra morada y arroz con leche. Los anticuchos por ser de corazón de vaca como que no me agradaron mucho. Para la próxima vez ya me prometieron el arroz con pato que se había terminado. Realmente la gastronomía peruana es deliciosa, muy variada y con un toque muy exótico. Al finalizar nuestra cena amablemente nos "embarcaron" en un taxi seguro para regresar a casa de Mery y Enrique. Uso las palabras de estas mujeres "nos quedamos con la miel en los labios para hacerlos conocer más sitios, pero bueno así es la vida, nos veremos pronto".

Finalmente, de regreso de Cuzco en donde estuvimos con un grupo previamente organizado para conocer los lugares sagrados de esa zona tan especial de nuestro planeta y danzar y danzar para comunicarnos con el universo y armonizarnos junto con él, regresamos por la tarde a Lima, el 22 de junio, con Carmen de Villa García, su marido y familia con quienes compartimos una cena extraordinaria. Realmente un cheff se hubiera quedado perplejo del condimento y lo sabroso de cada platillo que nos prepararon. Llegó su hijo con su esposa y sus dos pequeños a la cena y el convivio fue maravilloso porque tuvimos la oportunidad de platicarles de nuestro país y ellos de cómo se vive en Lima, ciudad llena de costa, aunque Perú cuenta con mares, montañas, selva, ríos y hasta desiertos.

Nuestro eterno agradecimiento a quienes hicieron posible que este viaje nos fuera inolvidable porque en todo momento pusieron su corazón y su sensibilidad para compartir con nosotros.

Mery y Enrique Bustamante y familia  
Teresa Li Palacios y Esther Flores Payano  
Carmen de Villa García y familia.

Y a todos aquellos hermosos seres humanos que a través de internet nos ayudaron a estructurar este viaje y que por distintas razones gracias a las nuevas tecnologías sólo nos escribimos sin podernos ver personalmente pero sí desde nuestros sentir.

Un abrazo de paz y nuestro cariño Coral y Pablo

*Por Coral López de la Cerda y Pablo Quintero.*

# United Nations - comments, updates

## Human Rights

My comments: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"

*"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they can't be seen on any map of the World. ...Unless these rights have meaning there they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger World"* Eleanor Roosevelt.

In the "Age of INFORMATIZATION and COMMUNICATION" we can apply our knowledge, skills and experience to prevent Global crises (Financial, Environment, etc).

In a New Millennium everyone is connected. We can provide link to the "60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and Millennium Development Goals (especially number 8: "Develop International Cooperation for Development). There are a few options on how to handle financial situations.

*Noema Chaplin*

*Representative Servas to the UN (Member since 1998)*

## NGO on Human Settlements

Here is the information about NGO Committee on Human Settlements: [www.ngochs.org](http://www.ngochs.org)

## Servas and Human Rights Education

At the GA in Barcelona, the Workshop on Peace prioritized "Education" as a chief way of advancing all the Millennium Development Goals.

Servas Observer UN team at Geneva is recommending that Servas sign on to the joint text produced by a working group made up of non-government organizations.

Seeing no conflict with Servas goals, and as the paper is non-partisan, non-religious, and in the nature of advice consistent with our role as UN Observer, I will recommend to the Servas UN Observers to add the name of Servas to the joint paper.

The joint paper is directed at the level of principles. It is specifically directed to Human Rights education, not the totality of all education; but within that direction its grasp is broad and includes continuing education, education for the judiciary and others in responsible positions.

Servas could usefully reflect on how it might contribute to continuing education in Human Rights; and I know your own work with disabled and poor and homeless serves similar themes. Similarly we can review the course we are developing for the Servas anniversary, on Peace, to make sure it is sensitive to these principles of Human Rights Education.

I will reply separately to the Observer Group, asking them to add the name of Servas. *Gary Sealey, SI Pres.*

## 62nd Annual DPI / NGO conference

Dear Servas,

The 62nd Annual DPI/NGO conference will be in Mexico.

The Town hall meeting (Lessons and Proposals) will start from this Thursday January 05, 2009. It is the same procedure as it has been for many years because it is a Master Plan of the UN Renovation. The 61st Annual DPI/NGO conference was in Paris. I was on the Planning Committee.

UN representatives are encouraged to participate during NGO's briefings, events, workshops etc.

*In Peace  
Noema Chaplin*

## UN Sessions in New York

1. 2-13 March 2009: 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York

[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm)

2. This is an interesting event: 18-19 April 2009: Unite for Sight – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health and Development Conference, Yale University, New Haven  
[www.uniteforsight.org/conference](http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference)

3. 4-15 May 2009: 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York  
[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/registration.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/registration.htm)

4. This is interesting: 7-9 and 9-10 July 2009: InterAction Forum 2009 – 2009 International Aid+Trade, Arlington, VA, and Washington, D.C.  
[www.aidandtrade.org/view.overview](http://www.aidandtrade.org/view.overview)

5. 10-13 July 2009: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Academic Globalization: AG 2009, Orlando  
[www.iis2009.org/wmsci/website/default.asp?vc=22](http://www.iis2009.org/wmsci/website/default.asp?vc=22)  
*In Peace*

*Noema Chaplin*

For those enquiring about UN representation:

Dear NGO Colleagues,

Please be reminded that all NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information must submit a new accreditation form each year.

The deadline for the submission of the 2009 form is 28 February.

The completed form should be sent to the Resource Centre at fax:212-963-2819 or e-mail [hu2@un.org](mailto:hu2@un.org). Kindly ensure that it includes the signature of the President or Chief Executive Officer of our organization. We can not accept forms signed by the main or alternate representative.

## Country Report

### Belgium "SERVAS 60 " ANNIVERSARY DINNER, very successful event!

On Saturday 7th of February we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Servas!

115 adults and a lot of children enjoyed being together in the restaurant of the Primerose, a well known tennis club in Brussels. Next to participants of their own country and the GD of Luxembourg members of The Netherlands, France, Italy and Australia joined us.

The welcome drink was offered by Servas Belgium & Luxembourg. After the sangria we could enjoy the excellent food of the buffet, cold and warm dishes and a variety of fresh vegetables and fruit without forgetting the birthday cake, an excellent "bavarois".



Participants were recommended to sit on a table with people they had not met before to make new friends and to share Servas experiences. Hosts of Brussels opened their doors and hosted the members who wanted to stay overnight.

On Sunday we had a guided walk in a less known part of the capital! Very interesting even for people who are living all their life in Brussels.

Organizing an event takes time but it's worth doing it! Thanks to Johan, Luise, Rose, Claudine and to all who contributed to make this weekend very successful. As National secretary I can only be happy and hope to meet you in the next events.

You can read a selection of the many feedback we received and have a look at some pictures <http://www.zilli.be/servas60>

*Rita Dessauvage, NS Belgium & Luxembourg*

« The dinner has been a fantastic moment ! Once more I've appreciated the open Servas spirit that unites people from all ages and from all completely different conditions.

Thanks to Servas I always meet warm people that I maybe don't meet in my daily and professional life"  
*Cécile*

"Thanks a lot for this fantastic 60 year birthday dinner!!!"

*Frank*



"We thoroughly enjoyed the 60th celebration and were happy to have met many Servas members here in Belgium."

*Claudia & Gustave, Italy*

"It was perfect ! Very nice organisation... Thanks again and see you soon for the other activities!"

*Olivier*

"Je te remercie bien pour tout. You both you did an excellent job and managed to organize a fantastic weekend which we would keep in our memory pretty long time. I appreciate it a lot and want you to know that I had really wonderful time there. It was such a good opportunity to meet nice people."

*Sona, Luxembourg/Slovakia*

"Nous vous remercions vivement pour votre accueil à Bruxelles, les mails qui ont suivi et l'hospitalité de Johan. »

*Famille Marx, France*

" Thank you very much for the warm welcome in Brussels and congratulations for the organization and the big success. Our stay with new the new Servas hosts Myriam and Werner has been excellent"

*Inneke, The Netherlands*

"BRAVOOOHHH et MERCI BEAUCOUP for all the efforts you have done for us. It has been a lovely weekend »

*ROSI, GD of Luxembourg*



## Comments - Zero Carbon Caravan

*This page has been included as it could be of interest to a number of Servas members. Note the request for hosting. Obviously this would be as an individual rather than as Servas unless those needing hosts are already members. However, you might convince them that they would like to join Servas as well.*

### Zero Carbon Caravan to focus in onto Copenhagen, December 2009

Join the Zero Carbon Caravan  
[www.zerocarboncaravan.net](http://www.zerocarboncaravan.net)

Come with us on a journey to save the planet. A Zero Carbon journey to show that we can live differently, travelling from all over the world to arrive in Copenhagen for the UN climate talks in December 2009. You don't have to come all the way to Copenhagen, just come for a few days if you like.

We will travel mainly by cycling and sailing, but any methods of travel are allowed, so long as they use no fossil fuels. We will hold conferences on the way, explaining the need to reduce our carbon emissions to zero, then discussing ways of doing just that, and Zero Carbon Concerts, using bicycle-generated electricity and audience participation – people power not fossil fuel power.

We will demand a zero carbon world as fast as we can. The whole journey will have a high profile on internet media, so the politicians negotiating for a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol are aware of the pressure from public opinion.

Cyclists, sailors, musicians, climate scientists, renewable energy experts, organisers, media officers, we'd love you to join us! This may be our last hope.

For more information or to receive our email newsletter (once every few weeks) please contact Chris Keene  
[chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net](mailto:chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net)  
+44(0)1603 614535

#### Would any one like to host the caravan?

We are going from Wales, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany to Denmark, and there may be caravans coming from Scotland and Ireland too. The exact route hasn't been decided yet because it depends where we find support. If you are interested in possibly hosting the caravan then contact

[chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net](mailto:chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net)"

### Up date, 27 February 2009

I am writing this to everyone who has just joined the Zero Carbon Caravan mailing list. We had a fantastic response to the email we sent out recruiting more supporters.

We will be sending the next newsletter in March. But meanwhile there have already been significant developments since the January newsletter went out, and I thought I would share these with you now.

The purpose of the Zero Carbon Caravan is to show how a zero carbon lifestyle is not only achievable, but also fun. The caravan itself showcases zero carbon travel, but we want to organise events to show how play and work can also be zero carbon.

First of all - play. We want to start off the Zero Carbon Caravan at the Centre for Alternative Technology in August, earlier than planned, with a zero carbon concert (which requires just a little renewable electricity and lots of audience participation) with Seize the Day < [www.seizetheday.org](http://www.seizetheday.org) >. We want to make this a Zero Carbon World Concert for a Zero Carbon World by linking up with other concerts around the world via internet radio. It will be a challenge to organise a world concert in such a short time, but even if we don't manage it for August, we are hoping to run such a concert at the end of the journey in Copenhagen in December. The date isn't fixed yet, but we want to make this a major event, so if you can help in planning or publicising it, recruiting musicians, or in international networking, please get in touch with me ([chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net](mailto:chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net) or +44(0)1603 614535).

Secondly - work; one of the worst things about work can be the long daily commute in cars or public transport to get there. So why don't we gain some free time by avoiding the commute and working from home or living so close you can walk or cycle? We aim to show how to do that with a Zero Carbon World Conference for a Zero Carbon World at the University of East Anglia in Norwich on the Caravan's journey to Copenhagen. It will be 'zero carbon' because all participants should arrive on foot or by bike, or take part via video-links. And it will be world' because we will have some of the world's top climate scientists there, either in person or via video. The date hasn't been fixed yet, but is likely to be early October, so if you can help with this please contact Chris Keene as above.

Finally, we had such a good response to the recruitment email we are thinking of organising zero carbon caravans from Scotland and Ireland too, with the one from Ireland visiting Kinsale, the original Transition Town, before crossing the sea in sailing boats sailing up the English Channel, visiting Transition Towns such as Totnes, Brighton and Lewes on the way and picking up cyclists from all over southern England. This is, of course dependent on getting sail transport from Ireland. If you are interested in either please get in touch.

*Chris Keene, Coordinator*

## Info

### Websites for World March - page 9

[www.worldmarch.info](http://www.worldmarch.info)  
[www.worldmarchforpeace.org](http://www.worldmarchforpeace.org)  
[www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org)  
[www.marchamundial.org](http://www.marchamundial.org)

**You can take part in this World March even in a virtual way ... check the websites by that time**

**Send please your initiatives for this World March via this digital form:**

<http://www.worldmarch.info/en/iniciativas/send-your-initiative>

**Send please your participation in the World March via this digital form:**

as an individual:

<http://www.worldmarch.info/en/participation-participation-forms/join-as-an-inividual>

as a group of an organization:

<http://www.worldmarch.info/en/participation-participation-forms/join-as-an-organization>

as a school/university:

<http://www.worldmarch.info/en/participation-participation-forms/adhesion-universidades-eng>

**Download the folder/brochure of the World March: in English:**

<http://www.worldmarch.info/images/docs/wmofficialbrochure20081217.pdf>

**in French:**

<http://www.marchemondiale.fr/pages/Mat%E9riel/PLAKET%20MMDEC08.pdf>

**in German:**

<http://static.twoday.net/weltweitermarsch/files/pdf-Flugblatt.pdf>

**in Hungarian:**

[http://www.vilagbekemenet.hu/portal/images/downloads/www\\_info\\_hun.pdf](http://www.vilagbekemenet.hu/portal/images/downloads/www_info_hun.pdf)

**in Italian:**

[http://www.marciamondiale.org/fileadmin/assets/brochure/MM\\_brochure\\_ITA\\_20081029.pdf](http://www.marciamondiale.org/fileadmin/assets/brochure/MM_brochure_ITA_20081029.pdf)

**in Portuguese:**

[http://www.marciamondiale.org/fileadmin/assets/brochure/MM\\_brochure\\_ITA\\_20081029.pdf](http://www.marciamondiale.org/fileadmin/assets/brochure/MM_brochure_ITA_20081029.pdf)

**in Spanish:**

<http://marchamundialvalencia.com/images/stories/documentos/folleto.pdf.zip>

**in Turkish:**

<http://static.twoday.net/weltweitermarsch/files/Flugblatt-auf-Tuerkisch.pdf>

### A los grupos nacionales latinoamericanos,

Confirmando que el Encuentro Latinoamericano Servas 2009 ocurrirá en Villa de Leyva, Colombia, del 5 al 12 de abril de 2009.

El encuentro será organizado y realizado en español, y la inscripción será abierta a todos los miembros Servas. Esperamos que cada grupo nacional haga una buena divulgación del encuentro junto a sus miembros, y que tengamos la presencia de miembros de una parcela significativa de los grupos nacionales latinoamericanos.

Cuestiones envolviendo mi trabajo muy probablemente no me permitirán estar presente en el encuentro, de forma que Jaime Romero (SN de Servas Colombia) y Pablo Colangelo (SN de Servas Argentina) estarán coordinando la elaboración de la agenda y todos los detalles referentes a este encuentro. Ellos estarán muy pronto enviándoles los detalles del encuentro, el borrador de la agenda, direcciones, informaciones sobre precios, etc.

Creo que este encuentro irá contribuir para una aproximación cada vez mayor entre los grupos nacionales latinoamericanos e entre sus miembros. El suceso y crecimiento de Servas en Latinoamérica depende del suceso y crecimiento de Servas en cada grupo nacional latinoamericano.

Cordiales saludos a todos,

*Roberto Borenstein  
Coordinador de Area - Sudamerica  
Secretario Nacional - Servas Brasil*

### A suggestion from Honduras

Me llegó este interesante correo. Quiero compartirlo con mis amigos **SERVAS** en su **60 ANIVERSARIO DE FUNDACION**.

*David Espinoza  
Secretario Nacional Servas Honduras*

El Mundo Judío versus el Mundo Musulmán

**Interesante información para reflexionar sobre la PAZ DEL MUNDO.** Mientras el hombre se aparte de Dios, sea quien sea, nunca habrá PAZ. Oremos por la PAZ para que no haya tanto sacrificio de personas inocentes, mientras los líderes están a buen recaudo. Saludos.

*Domingo Bracho.*

**Note:** this is a power point presentation. Contact the editor if you wish to have a copy.

## Peace - World March for Peace & Nonviolence

World March for Peace & Nonviolence  
2 October 2009 - 2 January 2010

Dear Servas Representative,

Servas has started as a Peace Movement and the hospitality network for example that is established within Servas has shown already to be a good initiative to create and keep peace. We can do more ...

*World without Wars / Mundo sin Guerras* is inviting us to take part in the First World March that will start on 2 October 2009 and will last three months until 2 January 2010. Maybe the World March will pass your country.

Could you and your fellow members please participate in the World March or set up peace movement activities around this World March in your own area? In most of the countries the World March has a coordinator who likes to collect all the information regarding initiatives.

Go for that to one of the below mentioned websites and click on "Contact" -> "Coordinators by Country". If your country is not mentioned please send your information regarding initiatives to Rafael de la Rubia, the International Coordinator of the World March:  
[rafael@marchamundial.org](mailto:rafael@marchamundial.org)

Millions of people are going to participate in this World March, so please inform your national coordinator of the World March organization in time.

At least you can participate in the World March virtually by that time, so follow the **websites** shown on page 8

Could you please forward this e-mail to all your fellow members, friends and relatives? With all the Servas members we should make a difference!

*Ineke Takken, Servas-host in The Netherlands*

Servas is an international, non-governmental, multicultural peace association run by volunteers in over 100 countries. Founded in 1949 as a peace movement, Servas International is a non-profit organization working to build understanding, tolerance and world peace. Servas International has consultative status as a non-governmental organisation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, with representation at many of the UN's hubs of activity.



Marche Mondiale pour la Paix et NonViolence  
le 2 octobre 2009 - le 2 janvier 2010

*Marcha Mundial por la Paz y la NoViolencia  
el 2 de octubre 2009 - el 2 de enero 2010*

### **When and where:**

The World March will begin in New Zealand on 2 October 09, the anniversary of Gandhi's birthday, declared "International Day of Non-Violence" by the United Nations. It will conclude in the Andes Mountains, Punta de Vacas, Aconcagua, Argentina on 2 January 2010. The March will last 90 days, three long months of travel. It will pass through all climates and seasons, from the hot summer of the tropics and deserts, to the winter of Siberia. The American and Asian stages will be the longest, both almost a month. A permanent base of a hundred people of different nationalities will complete the journey

### **Who is participating:**

The March was initiated by "World Without Wars," an international organization from the humanistic movement that has been working for 15 years in pacifism and non-violence. The World March will be created and shaped by everyone.

**Open** to any person, organization, collective, group, political party, business, etc. that shares the same aspirations and sensibility; this project is not something closed. Instead, it is a journey that will be progressively enriched as different initiatives set their contributions in motion. That is why this is an invitation to anyone and everyone to participate freely. So wherever the March goes, the local people can contribute their creativity in a great convergence of multiple activities.

There is space for everything the imagination is capable of conceiving. The **possible channels of participation** are multiple and diverse, including virtual participation in the March through Internet. This is a march by and for the people, with hopes of reaching most of the world's population. For this reason we are asking all media to spread the word about this journey around the world for Peace and Non-violence.

### **What is going to happen:**

In every city the World March visits, local individuals and groups will organize forums, meetings, festivals, conferences and events (sports, cultural, social, musical, artistic, educational, etc., depending on their own creative initiative). At this time hundreds of projects have already been set in motion by different individuals and organizations.

### **What are the goals and objectives of the World March:**

**To denounce** the dangerous world situation that is leading us closer and closer to nuclear war, which would be the greatest catastrophe in human history – a dead end.

**To give a voice** to the majority of world citizens who want peace. Although the majority of the human race opposes the arms race, we are not sending out a unified signal. Instead we are letting ourselves be manipulated by a powerful minority and suffering the consequences. The time has come to stand together and show our opposition. Join a multitude of others in sending a clear signal, and your voice will have to be heard!

**To achieve the eradication** of nuclear weapons; the progressive and proportional reduction of non-nuclear arms; the signing of non-aggression treaties among nations; and the renunciation by governments of war as a way to resolve conflicts.

**To expose** the many other forms of violence (economic, racial, sexual, religious ...) that are currently hidden or disguised by their perpetrators; and to provide a way for all who suffer such violence to be heard.

**To create** global awareness - as has already happened with environmental issues - of the urgent need to condemn of all forms of violence and bring about real Peace.

## Youth

### 1949-2009 – 60 YEARS SERVAS

SERVAS GERMANY and SERVAS POLAND  
celebrate together  
KAYAKING IN TARNOWO, POLAND

Servas Poland and Servas Germany celebrate together the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Servas organization with a joint youth project. The kayaking holiday will take place 13 - 19 July (Monday to Sunday) in Tarnowo, about 90 km north of Poznan.



We have several choices of **accommodation**:  
We can stay either in **tents** (showers with hot water and toilets)  
or in a **boarding house** 1 km away from the main camp site.

We are planning **3 kayaking trips**, all on nearby rivers. The trips are suitable for amateurs.  
Additionally we would also like to organize a trip or two to some places of interest nearby.

**Ewa Dzierzawska** is going to be the main contact so anybody interested, please write to her [ewa@bia.pl].

*Warmest Regards  
Ewa Dzierzawska*

### Servas Brazil's experience with SYLE and with SLE:

Servas Brazil has already a significant experience in receiving and in sending young members through the SYLE program, having continuously participated in the program since its pilot experience in 2005. Four Brazilian young members have already left for a cultural and linguistic immersion, having participated in the program in 2005 in Argentina (Nayara), in 2007 in Mexico (Maria Fernanda) and in 2007 in Italy (Debora) and in Guatemala (Celso). And the Servas community in Sao Paulo has already hosted and taught Portuguese to 3 young members from Spanish speaking countries, from Argentina in 2006 (Eliana), from Mexico in 2007 (Francisco) and from Colombia in 2008 (Maria Clara). Recently, also in 2008, the Servas community in Sao Paulo hosted Cintia Amor, former national secretary of Servas Argentina, for a pilot programme similar to SYLE, but open to young in spirit people of any age. I was the coordinator of the SLE program for Cintia.

Actually, Servas Brazil makes no distinction regarding the age of the person to be hosted through the SYLE or to the SLE programs, as the experience has been showing that the program in Sao Paulo always has the participation of local volunteers of all ages, most of them over 30 years old.

After these 8 experiences with the program, one could ask oneself...was each one of these experiences worthwhile? What was the benefit for the person who traveled through the program? And in what aspects this person contributed to Servas and to the community which hosted him? Was it worthwhile for the hosting Servas communities having organized and run a one month volunteer program like this, to host one person? Were the expectations fulfilled?

I think that the best experiences happened when the visitor truly threw himself into the experience, integrating himself with the local hosts, making an effort to learn the language and the local culture and also finding a way to contribute something to the community that was hosting him. In the majority of the times, the result was very positive. The only experience that did not come out as planned was with one who, having personal problems, frustrated the hosts in Sao Paulo when she chose to abandon the program after one week, in order to travel and to rest in more isolated and quieter places. She was not ready to come through a program like this, that requires a continuous effort and interest by the visitor.

Programs like SYLE and SLE, besides being a very rich experience to the visitor, are an excellent exercise to the hosting Servas community from a town or region. The program causes an important wave of activities and gatherings involving the hosting members. In Cintia Amor's program we had about 20 people getting involved, either by teaching Portuguese, hosting, socializing, participating in the gatherings, learning to dance the tango, learning about the Argentinean culture and about what is going on at Servas Argentina, etc. For the visitor, it is expected that he keeps being an active member in his country, committed to Servas Organization, helping in the organization of a SYLE or SLE program and/or volunteering to work for his national group.

*Roberto Borenstein, National Secretary - Servas Brazil  
Area Coordinator - South America*