



Servas Monthly News 42



January 2009

Living Servas

I wonder how many Servas members can honestly say that they live and work the ethics of Servas.

How many members look on Servas as an enjoyable way to travel involving learning new cultures from the inside rather than by just having a tour? How many members accept travellers because they enjoy having visitors, making new friends and having something to talk about? How many members recruit more members because it is a fun thing to do?

There is nothing wrong with all the above motives, it is part of why we enjoy being in Servas. However we need to take it a step or two further. Servas is a Peace organisation which is involved in contacts between people. We need to help generate Peace in the way we live and work.

One example of this is Rolande Hodel who is working with a charity that is trying to free Africa from Aids. See page 2 for what she is doing and how the ethics of Servas are part of her work. See also how, if you are computer literate and have English as your first language, you can do your bit.

And what about everybody else? Do send in examples of how you and others use the Servas ethics as part of your life and work. Share them with us so that you can inspire others. Readers can then think what they can do and so the ripples on the pond will move outwards to contact so many other shores.

SI News 2009, CDs

As written in the next column, SI News is now at the printers. It is complete. The printer has sent me the copies that go with the CDs. Now I look for the time to get the CDs written, packed and posted. A reminder, there is only one CD per country. This is because, as part of the cost cutting, I do all the CDs myself and it takes quite a long time. I have 70 CDs to do. If it takes 5 minutes to process a CD that is a minimum of 350 minutes, that is just about 6 hours of my time. Then there is the packing, maybe another 4 minutes per CD as I find packing material, do the labels etc, so that is another 240 minutes, 4 hours. So it will take me at least 10 hours to get all the CDs ready to post. Next they must be taken to the post office, weighed, given the correct postage for each country, possibly another hour or more if I do more than one trip. So please do not think that running off a CD is so easy that another does not matter. When you have received a CD you are welcome to run off extra copies yourselves.

Countries who order late may just get a CD and have to do their own printing.

SI News 2009

Responsibilities

SI News 2009 is now at the printers. This requires all countries to have given their orders for the number of copies needed and in which languages. Unfortunately 38 countries had not responded to the emails sent. So an URGENT email was sent. A few countries replied to this. So I looked through the list and crossed out all those who had not ordered last year, even though they are on the key list. This brought the total to 16 who had ordered last year but had no response this year, and some are active countries. So I checked what the total would be for those countries on what they had ordered last year and got 522 English, 40 French and 70 Spanish.

Now is the dilemma. Do I order those and send them to the address of last year or do I say TOUGH. They cannot be bothered to order so they do not want any copies. However if I do that then it is the everyday Servas member who will suffer in that they do not get the copy which they have the right to have. Is this fair?

Should the ordinary members miss out because the leaders do not do their job? But then perhaps the leaders are tired. We need more ordinary members who are prepared to take responsibilities. Some committees have a number of co-opted members who just do one or two small jobs. This spreads the load and gets more people involved in their organisation.

Contents: 2008

1. Editorial
2. The Servas Spirit at work -R Hodel with AIDSfreeAFRICA
3. Meetings - India and Belgium/Luxembourg in detail
4. Meetings - round the world
5. Travellers tales - England, + meeting in France
6. Travellers tales - USA
7. Countries - Honduras, Congo Brazzaville, Mauritius
8. Servas at UN
9. On line applications + example of response, Britain
10. Peace Secretaries
11. Youth - Israeli-German Youth Exchange part 2
12. Youth - Israeli-German Youth Exchange part 2 contin.

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 or 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.

The Servas spirit at work

Progress in Drug Production in Africa Cameroon, 2008

When you travel to Cameroon meet Servas Coordinator Francis Etienne. I stayed with him in Yaounde the capital of Cameroon. His e-mail is: amour_pardon@yahoo.fr Tell him I said I am still dreaming of Mbongoo Tsobi..... You will have to try it yourself. I will tell you only that it is a tasty fish in black sauce.

AIDSfreeAFRICA's progress for 2008:

we are working with three start-up companies to advance each towards full scale drug production. One company already produces syrups, another produces sterile IV fluids and the third is still on the drawing board. We were also successful attracting partners such as adding Swiss Pharma giant Hoffmann La Roche in addition to Belgium's Tibotec.

Funding increased 150% over 2007 in part due to a generous \$10,000 cheque from Servas member Al and Carole Schwendtner. George Camp Rotary district 7230 New York pledged to make drug production a central point in his upcoming tenureship as District Governor. We added another board member and are looking for 2 more.



**Dr. Rolande and Cameroonian Baptist Convention
Pharmacy warehouse keeper.**

By now, Dr. Hodel hopes you're asking how you can fit in.

The answer: Every year, between the months of August and June, AIDSfreeAFRICA seeks volunteers to teach English and basic computer skills in the English speaking part of Cameroon. If you can send e-mails and surf the web, you have the required skills. Past volunteers have been from diverse backgrounds ranging in age from 20 to 64 and many plan to return one day. You'll be spending about \$3000 to \$4000 for a two to three-month stay to cover airfare, malaria medication, a lap top computer and other incidentals.



"... and we should never forget for whom we do what we do. Thanks again." Pictures and quote from Luc Schnitzler, Roche Technology Transfer Initiative, 2008 (Luc with kids)

View the website www.AIDSfreeAfrica.org and blog www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.blogspot.com contact Dr. Hodel at RRHodel@aol.com for more information. You'll promote peace, see Africa, and maybe even aspects of yourself, from a different angle.

Dr Rolande Hodel

Excerpts from an award letter

Rolande Hodel received a major award from Astellas for her AIDS/HIV work in Africa. Following are some excerpts from the award letter showing appreciation for her work.

Dear Dr. Hodel,

I was delighted to learn that you have been selected as the 2008 recipient of an Astellas USA Foundation Award, administered by the American Chemical Society (ACS).

The Astellas USA Foundation Awards were established to identify individuals or teams who exemplify the criterion of having significantly contributed to scientific research that improved public health through their contributions in the chemical and related sciences. Through its Awards Program, ACS encourages the advancement of chemistry in all its branches and the promotion of research in chemical sciences.

The American Chemical Society is proud to recognize you for your pioneering work to help establish facilities for the production of pharmaceuticals, in particular generic drugs for the African continent.

For a longer article with a lot more detail contact the editor at newsletter@servas.org.

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

INDIA

Wishing you all a very Happy 2009!

Sorry to inform you about date changes.

The response for attending the conference at Jalana in the month of January was insufficient being the New Year time. Therefore, many hosts and coordinators suggested to arrange the same event by March 09. I wrote to the Board and committee members to postpone the conference by mid March which they accepted. The Organizer/host Mr Vijay Bagadiya and State coordinator Mr Pradeep Joshi have also confirmed new dates as 20-21 March 2009.

Therefore conference will be held on 20-21 March 2009 at the same place Jalana in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra. Registration fees for this event will be Rs 300 per participant. Please confirm your participation positively by 20th February 2009 in order to have the arrangements. The registration will be done on the venue.

Since **AJANTA & ELLORA CAVES** are in very close proximity to the Conference Venue therefore arrangements can be made to visit the same at the participants own cost. (*They are well worth it. Editor*)

We are very sorry for any inconvenience caused due to last minute arrangements. Hope to see you at the conference.

With regards, Dr. Ramesh Sharma, National Secretary, SERVAS India, Bangalore, Web: www.indiaservas.org

South West Asia Meeting

Servas India is organizing SWA Meeting in Delhi in March.

Date: 6 & 7 March 2009

Place: Gandhi peace foundation , 221-223, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg ,New Delhi -1

Agenda

- 1 Presentation of National Reports from Individual Countries after self introduction
- 2 Discussion on Host and Servas Traveller qualities
- 3 Improvement of Host List printing and quality of information contained therein
- 4 Possibility of printing one consolidated host list covering the above countries in one single location and dispatch from the same location to cut down on costs.
- 5 Support and Buddy assistance to the needy Servas member countries of SWA.
- 6 Strengthen the Servas spirit and build up a good network in SWA with special focus on democratic process in committee formations and greater transparency and dedication and commitment.
- 7 Greater Involvement of Youth in National Servas activities
- 8 60th Anniversary Celebration and GA held in 2009
- 9 Election or selection of Area coordinator



SERVAS BELGIUM & LUXEMBURG

**Take off for 60th birthday of Servas:
1949-2009**

**Saturday February 7th 2009, diner in
Brussels, Belgium**

2009 will be world wide a year full of Servas festivities. Belgium/Luxemburg will organize during the year a series of events (diner, biking tour, walking tour, weekend, etc) such that everybody gets the opportunity to actively participate at least once, more is of course encouraged. The slogan of all the events is "Moving and passing the borders". More information about all these events will be announced via the monthly newsletters and specific invitations.

The kick-off event for BEL/LUX is the "**SERVAS 60**" birthday dinner in Brussels on Saturday 7th February 2009. For those who want to pass the weekend in Brussels, we also organize a guided walking tour on Sunday morning Feb 8th. During a long time it seemed that this event would be the first world wide.... however Sao Paulo, Brazil takes off earlier, already this weekend ☺.

**SERVAS 60 diner: Saturday February 7th 2009,
doors open at 4:30 pm**

Diner will take place in **Primerose**, Dikkelindelaan 41, Av du Gros Tilleul, 1020 Brussels, near the Heysel, at about 200 m of the Atomium, and which can be reached with the underground 'Heysel'. Doors open @ **4.30 pm** such that we can start the reception at 5 pm. The welcome drink is offered by Servas Belgium & Luxembourg. The dinner will be organized according to a buffet formula. There will be a cold buffet, warm soup and a warm buffet and finally the birthday cake. During and afterwards an adequate music atmosphere will be created.

Our hosts from Brussels open their doors on Saturday night to provide accommodation for those participants who prefer to stay overnight in Brussels.

Participation to the diner: 20 EUR per person, drinks NOT included.

**SERVAS 60 walk: Sunday February 8th 2009,
departure at 10:30 am.**

On Sunday morning starting from 10:30 am there will be guided walking tour under the guidance of Rose Vandepitte, host and hobby guide of Brussels). It will be a surprising tour showing strong contrasts of Brussels: **From the Sablon towards the Marolles**. Appointment at 10:30 am on the Grand Sablon Square, near the statue of Minerva
The walk will take about two hours and will be concluded with a drink in the café de Skieven Architek.

Participation to the walk: no fee

Contact: Johan Stiens, jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be

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 then please send it to newsletter@servas.org

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

To find more meetings both regular and occasional go to 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	france@servas.org
India	Goa	10 - 16 October	india@servas.org
Belgium & Lux.	Anniversary Dinner, Brussels	07 February	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
Korea	see page 2, Dec 08 for details	See page 2, Dec for details	korea@servas.org
Britain	Dalesbridge, Yorkshire	1 - 4 May	info@servasbritain.org
Switzerland	Wintertur, Biel-Bienne	4 July, 12 September	switzerland@servas.org
Italy	Val d'Ossola, for Sentierinsieme	10 - 17 July	uslenghi@fauser.it
Australia	Portland, South West Victoria	25 - 30 April	australia@servas.org
Argentina	Mare del Plata, for GA	5 - 12 September	siexco@googlegroups.com
Uganda	a Youth meeting	28 February	kigozimoses@yahoo.co.uk
Belgium & Lux	Leuven for All, 5 city meeting	03 May	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
Belgium & Lux	Transborder cycling, Péruwelz	June	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
Belgium & Lux	Ardennes, weekend	October	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be

If your country has a meeting that you would like to add to the list then send the details to newsletter@servas.org

Travellers Tales + a French meeting

Belgians travelling with children... no problem ...England 2008

The first time we had a Servas holiday was a few months before the birth of our daughter Yasmine now 5 years old, the destination was England, in the meantime she has a little brother Rayane!

From Calais, in France we took the boat to cross the Channel. It was a big experience for the children. We visited Canterbury, a lively town full of French tourists and schoolchildren. Worth visiting, especially the magnificent cathedral.

From Canterbury we drove to Brighton. We had dinner and breakfast with our host, it was an interesting experience and the hosts know their national history very well! Brighton itself is a main coastal city, lively, modern, hip, streets full of galleries, shops, cafes, a nice atmosphere ...flower power, punk, rockers There is also "the Royal Pavilion" an Indian palace with Chinese influences inside.

After 2 nights Brighton we left and went to Ann. She is living in a Caribbean neighbourhood, about an hour from the city centre of London by public transport. It is recommended to buy a traveller card that you can use unlimited in certain zones for bus and subway during a whole day from 9.30 a.m. Ann also offered us breakfast and dinner. She is a very nice woman and is still very active despite her age. She accompanied us to discover the neighbourhood and suggested us to visit a worthwhile museum for children, they had a lot of fun to experience a lot of toys and games and could stay easily half a day longer. A visit to the Tate Gallery was rather boring for the children. They preferred to eat an ice cream along the Thames while we enjoyed a nice view on London.

Furthermore we visited Buckingham Palace, Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square... It is interesting and instructive for the children to come into contact with other cultures, languages, habits and of course London is a good place to meet the whole world.

We were a little bit worried to travel with the kids, but there was no reason for.

The public transport, above all the London double deck bus, the underground, the escalators has been a real pleasure for them and with the hosts they felt really 'at home'.

Our last destination was Biddenden, a small village somewhere between London and the coast, a bit "in the middle of nowhere" with well-preserved ancient buildings from 1100. Another Servas family was waiting for us and the cooking on its own was worth visiting this host... Although the family received people from almost the whole world it was only the second time that visitors from Belgium had come over. This was a very hospitable family who were very concerned about the needs of the visitors. As many families in England the family also acted as volunteers for a church.

From Biddenden we made some trips and visited Rye, one of the oldest and most beautiful typical English villages. Hastings is a town on the coast just as Brighton but smaller and less lively.

Our vacation ended with bad weather, melting snow, rain, hail and wind and so we left a couple of hours earlier than planned

We have good memories of our holiday and will certainly return when the children are older.

*Bart, Sanaa, Yasmine and Rayane
Hosts in Mol, Belgium*



Rencontre Servas Île de France

La région Île de France a accueilli les Servas de France entre le 8 et le 11 novembre 2008.

60 personnes étaient là . La rencontre a démarré par un brunch à la Maison des Associations rue saint Dominique, notre nouveau lieu de rendez vous mensuel.

Avec pour thème "voyager a l'étranger à Paris" Nous avons visité le musée du quai Branly: une ballade dans les arts et civilisations du monde . La cité de l'histoire de l' Immigration à la porte dorée: 200 ans de l'histoire de l' immigration en France . .

Les Ballades dans les quartiers: asiatique, Maghreb, Afrique noire, russe suivi de restaurant.,

Les Servas franciliens ont répondu largement a l'accueil des participants .

Tous ces moments furent riches d'échange, et de nouvelles amitiés

Danièle do Vale, France

Travellers Tales - USA

Travellers from Belgium in USA 2008 From Sea to Shining Sea

We arrived in San Francisco (Ca) after a very long trip by air on August 31. It was the longest day we ever lived as it was about 30 hours long. We stayed in a hotel in Millbrae for the night and the next morning we got in touch with our first Servas lady, Susan. We'd e-mailed all the people we met later before coming to the States so that we knew what to do once we were there.

We invited her to have lunch with us before being taken to her place, a typical wooden house in a steep San Francisco street. We really enjoyed staying with her; she gave us very good tips and we felt at home from the very beginning. She took some of her time to take us around and talk a lot with us.

The next Servas member, Glenn, fetched us from Susan's place and also showed us around the outside area of San Francisco. He cooked us very nice dinners and shared his French wine with us. He had to leave early in the morning as he was working and this allowed us to do things at our own pace.

Our last host in SF was Sally. She was at work when we arrived but she'd told us where we could find the key so that we got into her house without having to wait and were able to go on visiting the city on our own after getting rid of our luggage. She also welcomed us in a very hearty way and made our stay as pleasant as possible.

When she learned that I was interested in numismatics, she showed me a big pot with American coins and told me to pick up those I wanted. I exchanged them for more usual coins. Last but not least, she let me choose among some coins she'd brought back from her former trips.

We then took a bus, which took us to Petaluma, about 60 km north of SF. Vern met us at the bus station and we rode about 20 minutes before reaching his home and work place. He's a professional photographer and is making business with the whole world. There are six huge clocks hanging side by side in his main room and at least 7 or 8 computers in the house. Besides hosting us, he showed us some of the picture books he'd had published.

His house was far from Petaluma and though we'd intended to cross the American continent from west to east by using trains and buses, we soon realized that this would be a very difficult way to travel and that moreover, as we didn't plan a straight line trip we wouldn't be able to visit what we wanted to. After thinking over this unexpected problem, we made up our minds and rented a car in San Rafael. Vern took us to the rental garage and made sure that we'd be okay.

We then began our big trip crossing a part of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. We were not as lucky as we'd been before since the 20 Servas members we got in touch with on our way east weren't able to meet us. But the trip was certainly worth while.

In Pittsburgh we took a plane to Long Island and from there we travelled first by train and then used the subway to reach the house of our next Servas members, who lived in east Manhattan.

Bethene and Jon also gave us a lot of interesting and useful tips and we were able to make good use of them.

A visit to the United Nations building and the Rockefeller Center, Central Park, Fifth Avenue, Broadway, among other sites, is a must if one wishes to feel New York's pulse. Travelling in NYC is very easy and safe. It's good to buy a weekly unlimited ticket, which can be bought at most big subway stations; it's not very expensive and gives one good opportunities to see a lot of the city and move quickly through it.

On the evening before our departure we went to a Japanese restaurant together, enjoyed a good meal and had fun.

Ruth, who lives in the Bronx, was our next host. As she was at work during the day, we left our luggage at Jon's and went on visiting NY. We collected it in the evening and then went to Ruth's, first by using the subway and then a bus. The next day we visited the botanical garden with her. We enjoyed the view from her apartment and liked the neighbourhood too. Contrarily to what most people imagine, the Bronx doesn't only consist of old houses. There's a deep contrast with Manhattan but we certainly don't regret having been there. The three of us walked to a Thai restaurant on the eve of our departure and had a good time there too.

Helga's place was at the very top of Manhattan and her apartment looked down on the Hudson River. She wouldn't be at home when we arrived because she was spending the day with some friends but she'd left the key to the custodian. For the second time on this trip we got acquainted with the place before meeting its owner. This was something we appreciated very much as it allowed us to have a lot of freedom and not to have to care for the luggage. We visited the Metropolitan Museum, which is obviously a place one must see if one has some interest in art and history. We met Helga after having had dinner in a nearby restaurant and we spent a very pleasant evening with her too. We spent the next day in Manhattan again; there's so much to see and discover there that one week isn't enough. We took a walk to Greenwich Village, Little Italy, China Town and took the free ferry to Staten Island before coming back for dinner with Helga.

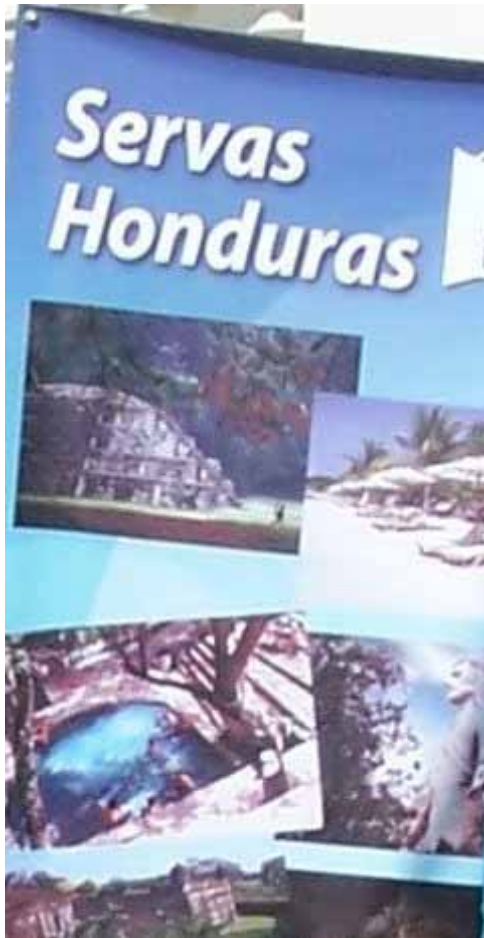
Using the commuters' ferry doesn't cost a penny and gives one a very good view on the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island as well as on the Manhattan skyline.

Our stay was nearing its end but we still had to stay with Bob, who lives in Staten Island. He wasn't able to meet us in Manhattan as he'd have liked to but he offered us to fetch our luggage at Helga's during the day, giving us another opportunity to feel as free as possible. We made an appointment for the evening and he fetched us from the ferry station in Staten Island around 6 pm. He cooked us a delicious meal and told us that the next day we'd have his car as he didn't need it to go to work and thought this would be the most convenient way for us to move in Staten Island. He also "gave" us a computer from the very moment we set foot in the room where we'd be sleeping. Really a nice and most friendly guy. We invited him to go out for dinner with us on the day before departing and he took us to an Italian restaurant, where we spent our last happy hours in company on American soil.

This trip was a very instructive one and the people we met were very friendly and helpful. We're still in touch with some of them and hope we'll have an opportunity to host them some day.

*Jean-Marie Aerts & Anne-Marie Delneuvillie
Hosts in Liège, Belgium*

Country Reports - Honduras, Congo Brazzaville, Mauritius



Servas Honduras had a successful meeting. See also their query about Peace Secretary on the Peace page.

Left is part of their poster shown in the group photo on the right.

To the right is the group both for a formal picture and whilst enjoying their meal.



Congo Brazzaville website

Hello dear friends,
I'm happy to inform you that Servas Congo Brazzaville has a web site. You can visit it on:

www.servascongo Brazzaville.asso.st

Please let us know your comments.

In peace

*Ondon Titan Serge, N.S Servas Congo
Brazzaville*

... with some congratulations ...

Congratulations for the site that Servas Congo Brazzaville has created. Very interesting and a good example for other Servas countries !

In a very short time Congo Brazza has been organized very well and is going forwards with big steps.

Congratulations to Hervé who realised the website and my best regards to all the members.

Rita Dessauvage,

Servas visitors in Mauritius - some pix

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/TulleAndRichardRosenkjaer#> **Tulle and Richard Rosenkjaer**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/JanaJiriAndMichael> **Jana, Jiri and Michael**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/RoseVandepitte> **Rose Vandepitte**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/HLNeEtGilbert> **Hélène et Gilbert**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/CARLAIOLLEtUGO> **CARLA, IOLE et UGO**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/IngridPedersen> **Ingrid Pedersen**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/LesPERRAULTs> **Les PERRAULTs**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/SusanitaAndKennethKay> **Susanita and Kenneth Kay**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/Myriam> **Myriam Michel**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/JocelynVignal> **Jocelyn Vignal**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ServasVisitors/AlanShaw> **Alan Shaw**

<http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/Michael.htm> **Megan and Michael**

Click on the pictures above for the complete album...

Servas at the UN

From our representative in New York

Dear Servas,
HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I am elected as a Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on the Human Settlements. I'll send you more information about this Committee's activity later.

It's pretty impressive (weekly DPI NGO briefings, Member of the Planning Committee for the 57,58,59,60,61 DPI/NGO conferences, ECOSOC conferences, etc.).

We are in a very good face in the UN.
Today is the last day of 2008.
More information in the 2009.
In Peace

Noema Chaplin

And from Vienna:

We have several NGO Committees here in Vienna – I am involved in some of them (not in all, of course).

o) I am a member of the NGO Committee of Peace: I am Board member. I was Secretary for 4 years, now I am Vice-Secretary (find the report of the NGO Committee on Peace for the year 2007-2008 in the attachment)

One quite new member of the NGO Committee on Peace is a Servas member in Lower Austria since some time. His professional work is in the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The NGO Committee on Peace is organising a panel discussion on the topic of peace education once a year.

o) I am a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women as I am interested on women's situation. I am Board member since January 2008. Here I do the job as the Secretary of the NGO Committee. You can also find all minutes of the meetings and events in 2008 on CONGO Homepage (www.ngocongo.org -à committees à Vienna à Status of Women).

We had one special event on 14th of October 2008. One of the panellists is a long-time Servas member here in Austria and is director of the HIV-AIDS-House in Vienna

o) I am a visiting (member) of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. At the beginning of this Committee I was involved a little bit on setting up this Committee. For the moment not very much is going on. One of the members is the UN-special rapporteur on torture and is very active. (I am also engaged in Attac-Austria, I do radio, you can hear some what I am doing – e.g. www.radioattac.at, see No. 281, 30.6.2008: [281. radio%attac-Sendung als mp3-Stream](#) or [281. radio%attac-Sendung als download](#). Unfortunately most of it is in German; if the original is in English we have to translate it.)

o) I did visit the very new NGO Committee on Outer Space. The work seems to be interesting. But I will not continue because most of the members are doing it as part of their professional jobs and it is highly technical – it is not a level where non-technical engineers can understand what they are talking of. But this is ok it might be too much work anyway.

A Short Bio Of Noema Chaplin

Noema Chaplin represents United States Servas, Inc. at the UN. Our activity is promoting Peace and Justice through cross cultural understanding. We serve as a liaison between Members and United Nations agencies; Member of the Planning Committee for 57,58,59,60,61 DPI/NGO's conferences. Reports are published on the "US Servas" and "Servas International" websites in 136 countries.

Scientific research "Violence against Women as Universal Phenomenon" published in more than 120 countries: United States, England, Sweden, Norway, Germany, European Union, Canada etc. (Campaign under the Secretary General "End Violence against women").

As a Board Member CCC/UN, UNA/USA, Business Council UNA/USA, Member CSVGC, NGO Committee of Human Settlements providing high quality Networking, Research, Marketing, Public Relations, Coordination, Communications, Advertising, Consulting; "60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Today and Future". Establishing a unique photo gallery about our activity as a professional Designer. Managements skills related and interfaces easily at the top Executive level.

Participated in more than 150 High Level Events: Forums, Summits, Dialogs, Briefings, Workshops, Conferences etc.

As a President "International Federation Collaboration" with practical international experience created a Pioneer project: association of well known NGO's (Science, Business, Environment, Health, Art, Culture) to establish partnership and effective communication. Worked close with Chambers of Commerce (United States, Germany, Sweden, Finland, UK, France);

10 years experience as an Executive Administrator in the best Armory Medical Academy (Department of Space Research).

Education: NYU (Management and Marketing), SUNY (Political Science and Economics), UNIVERSITY of TELECOMMUNICATION (Master Degree, Designer Engineer), TRUMP University, Enlightened Wealth Institute, PACE University (Real Estate brokers course)

In Peace

Noema Chaplin

Board Member CCC/UN (Coordination Communication Committee)

Board Member UNA/USA (Member since 1997)

Representative Servas to the UN (Member since 1998)

Member of the Planning Committee for the

57,58,59,60,61 DPI/NGO's conferences

Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Human Settlements

Member of CSVGC

Political and Economic Scientist

E-mail: noemachaplin@yahoo.com

On-line Applications + example from Britain

On-line Application

To keep up with the times it is now possible to apply for membership of Servas on-line. This does not by-pass the normal interviewing but gives potential members a more obvious way to apply and saves them searching through lists to find the contact for their country. It should speed up the process once all countries have been put into the automatic mode of being connected to the application system. That is the system recognises the country on the form and automatically forwards it to the relevant keyperson.

Following is the email that has been sent to all National Secretaries about this development:

Dear National Secretary,

Following several suggestions, we are experimenting with an on-line application form on the popular website, www.servas.org. The form uses the Dolphin programme.

Over a hundred thousand people have already visited the site; and on weekends one person per each hour is applying, particularly in USA, and some in UK and in Germany and elsewhere.

Because of the volume of applications, the form will be automatically routed to the country of residence of the applicant, if there is an active Servas Group there. If not, the form will go to SI List Coordinator for re-sending to a Distant Interviewer.

A Servas Welcome Team has been started. The convenor is SI Host List Coordinator, Anna Flammeni and the helpers are Wolfgang, Jean, Roberto and Xandee (Nancy Mitchell). One of the national secretaries will be invited to sponsor an item on the Welcome activity, for the Agenda of the GA.

Anna, working with the Welcome Team, will be doing spot checks before the GA.

None of this is to avoid or reduce the importance of face-to-face interviews.

An application form is being updated, to alert applicants to interview procedures and fees. It will also include a stronger statement on data protection. Also, a letter of greeting has been developed by Servas Britain, and can be adapted for your own use.

Not every Servas member country may yet be doing a top-quality job of interviews.

In these cases, where Servas interviewing seems weak, we are considering increasing the reach of Distant Interviewers.

You might take a look at the on-line form on the website. Comments to improve it are welcome. Please reply to: welcometeam@servas.org

Gary Seale y

... and what Britain has been doing

Britain has been dealing with applications that have come through the international website and helpdesk for a number of years. They have developed a standard letter which is sent out to all applicants and also copied to the Servas Britain regional co-ordinator who will be the point of contact along with the co-ordinator of co-ordinators and the host and travel secretaries as appropriate. This means that there is adequate means for follow up of the applicants. As back up the keyperson involved has a spreadsheet with full details of the applicants and has been doing this since 2006.

Following is the Servas Britain letter, which although not necessarily completely relevant to every country has been suggested as a good starting point.

Hi

Thanks for your email about joining Servas and for giving some detail about what you want to do. That is very useful. I have your address as: and your phone number as:

I am pleased that you are interested in becoming a Servas member. Your nearest co-ordinator is:

phone:
email:

The procedure is as follows.

1. You are given the contact of your local co-ordinator. (see above)
2. You contact the co-ordinator to discuss membership and interview.

Note the interview is more a discussion where you learn more about each other.

3. You decide if you want to be a host, a traveller or both.
4. You have your interview.

As a traveller you will need to fill in a Letter of Introduction which will get stamped and be valid for a year. With this you get a host list for the country you wish to visit. You need to pay a deposit on the host list which is returnable once the host list is returned. If you are visiting more than one country then you must pay a token amount for subsequent host lists to cover costs of printing etc. To go with the Letter of Introduction you will need 2 passport size photos and 2 references showing that you are suitable as a person to visit other unknown people.

As a host you will fill in a host application form.

Costs for a single person under 25 years old are:

Letter of introduction and first host list: £15
Deposit for host lists: £5

Costs for a single person over 25 years old:

Letter of introduction and first host list: £25
Deposit for host lists: £10

Costs for a couple/family over 25 years old are:

Letter of introduction and first host list: £35
Deposit for host lists: £10

Subsequent host lists, prices range between £1 and £3 dependent on the size.

Host subscription: £10.

I look forward to your joining Servas. If you have trouble contacting then please get back to me.

*Servas greetings, Jane Giffould
Servas Britain treasurer*

Peace Secretaries - National and International

Honduras was due to elect its first ever Peace Secretary and was asking for guidance as to the role of a Peace Secretary. This brought up some email discussion, part of which now follows:

From Area Co-ordinator for South America:

NS of Servas Honduras informs that they intend to elect a peace secretary for the first time, and then he asks if there is a job description (in Spanish) for the peace secretary of a national group.

What would your answer be?

From AC for SA with his comments:

Tu pregunta es muy oportuna y de interés de todos los grupos nacionales. De esta forma copio a los otros grupos nacionales latinoamericanos (+ España y Portugal), para que puedan agregar sus comentarios a mi respuesta.

No creo que haya una lista oficial de funciones para los secretarios de paz de los grupos nacionales. El Manual de Servas (Servas Handbook) no apunta ninguna lista de funciones, solamente indica la función como una función de ayuda a la secretaria nacional.

Yo diría que cada grupo nacional tiene la autonomía de definir las funciones de su secretario de paz para adecuarse a su realidad. Lo que si hay formal y muy claramente en los estatutos de Servas Internacional, es la definición de las atribuciones del Secretario de Paz de Servas Internacional (SI Peace Secretary), como miembro del comité ejecutivo. Me parece natural que los grupos atenten utilizar esta lista de atribuciones como base para definir las funciones de su secretario de paz, adaptándola a su realidad y manera de funcionar.

De acuerdo con los estatutos de Servas Internacional, las funciones del Secretario de Paz de Servas Internacional son:

- a) Promote the peace aspects of Servas Internacional in national groups and internationally
- b) Coordinate the work of national peace secretaries
- c) Represent the interests of UN delegates and national peace secretaries in the Executive Committee
- d) encourage liaison with other peace organizations, and arrange representation in such organizations when appropriate

- a) Promover los aspectos de paz de Servas Internacional, en los grupos nacionales e internacionalmente
- b) Coordinar el trabajo de los secretarios de paz de los grupos nacionales
- c) Representar los intereses de los delegados en Naciones Unidas y secretarios de paz de los grupos nacionales en el Comité Ejecutivo
- d) favorecer el enlace con otras organizaciones de paz, organizar la representación en dichas organizaciones, cuando proceda

Seria interesante teñiremos un feedback de cada grupo nacional, comentando algo sobre cuales son las atribuciones de sus secretarios de paz. Eso podría ser útil a los secretarios de paz de los grupos nacionales latinoamericanos, que pueden incluso pensar en proyectos comunes, de interés de todos los grupos nacionales.

En este ultimo fin de semana hubo en Brasil un encuentro de miembros en la casa de un anfitrión en la ciudad de Pindamonhangaba (a 160 km de la ciudad de San Pablo). En este encuentro (que fue' también celebrativo de los 60 anos de Servas) hablamos de temas variados relativos a Servas Brasil. Dentro los participantes estaba Maria Fernanda Vomero, secretaria de paz de Servas Brasil, que definió' algunos proyectos básicos como meta de trabajo. Maria Fernanda esta' siendo copiada en este mensaje, y podrá' comentar algo sobre sus planes para 2009 como Secretaria de Paz de Servas Brasil

From Rita Dessauvage, NS for Belgium/Luxembourg

I think it's a general problem what is the role of the national Peace Secretary.

Our Peace Secretary Julie Pesesse resigned last year and looking for a new one it was very difficult to give the interested candidates (there are vey few...) a job description.

Finally our board decided that we don't really need a Peace Secretary and we don't look for someone anymore.

Why? As Servas is a Peace organization we all have a role as Peace ambassador and having a peace secretary listed with this position only on 'paper' isn't very valuable.

Also on the last two General Assemblies the role of the International Peace Secretary has been discussed and a lot of countries aren't in favour of a PS as member of EXCO. It's difficult to realize something on International level just as it is on national level.

For your convenience I have selected in Key Dolphin all the countries that have a Peace Secretary, there are 27.

From Jane Giffould, Treasurer for Britain

Much as I agree with Rita that we are all Peace Ambassadors, I disagree with not having a Peace Secretary. My opinion is that having a Peace Secretary helps focus our aims and emphasises that we are not just a travel club. In any active committee the members are all busy with their own specialities such as minute secretary, treasurer, hence although they are Peace ambassadors they do not concentrate on that topic. The Peace Secretary can then concentrate on the topic.

The job could include:

- o defining what we mean by Peace;
- o discussion of the meaning of Peace locally, nationally and internationally;
- o investigating Peace activities in their own country;
- o learning about Peace activities around the world;
- o finding out where Peace museums are and so alerting both the membership of their country and also internationally;
- o initiating discussion locally, nationally and internationally on how Peace can be brought about in warring zones;
- o reviewing Peace websites on the internet and giving comments on them in meetings and in newsletters so that people are aware of what exists;
- o inputting into local, national and international meetings about the above items;
- o contacting local, national and international youth including the Servas Youth meetings with the aim of promoting Peace and the ways to achieve it;
- o joining up with Peace Secretaries from other countries to make a concerted effort;
- o consider Servas itself and what problems are disturbing the Peace of the organisation with an aim to resolve such problems;
- o and

Thank you for bringing this point up. I would be delighted if people would like to respond to these points to try and generate discussion.

Over to the world - what is YOUR point of view for Servas?

Israeli-German Youth Exchange Germans to Israel, part 2

Apologies to our readers. The wrong picture was put at the end of this article part 1 in Servas Monthly News for December 2008. This is the picture of the Trenches at the Golan Heights.



The story now continues:

We spent the following days with our host families, so we could have more insight into the Israeli way of life. Of course we saw as many different ways of life as we had families. So, on Friday evening, the Shabbat dinner at the families turned out to have many variations: going into a restaurant, eating sushi in front of the TV set or having a traditional Shabbat dinner with the whole family being together, welcoming the Shabbat – everything was possible.

The next destination was the desert – going south to Be'er Sheva where Abraham, the Jewish-Christian-Muslim forefather, according to the Bible, started his spiritual journey. The first prime minister of Israel David Ben Gurion used to live in a kibbutz in the Negev desert during the last years of his long and interesting life full of challenges. He wanted the Israelis to „conquer“ the desert as he saw the future of Israel in the desert. His tomb is placed at a place where he and all his visitors have a splendid view into the desert.



At Ben Gurion's burial place“

We spent the night in a youth hostel in Arad, dancing and singing with Israeli soldiers who were wearing their guns (they always have to have the guns next to them so they can not be stolen).

The following morning we hiked uphill to Masada. More than 2000 years ago when the Romans conquered Palestine, less than 1000 Jewish men, women and children lived on top of this table mountain close to the Dead Sea. The story goes that they held off 15,000 Roman soldiers through a five months siege. Eventually the Romans built an enormous ramp up the side of the cliff and were able to conquer the plateau. But the Jews had killed themselves the night before not to become slaves. Nowadays members of the Israel Defense Force swear every year „Masada shall not fall again“.

After this hike up- and downhill that was quite exhausting we went – well, swimming or better floating in the Dead Sea (that, by the way, is called „Salty Sea“ in Hebrew).



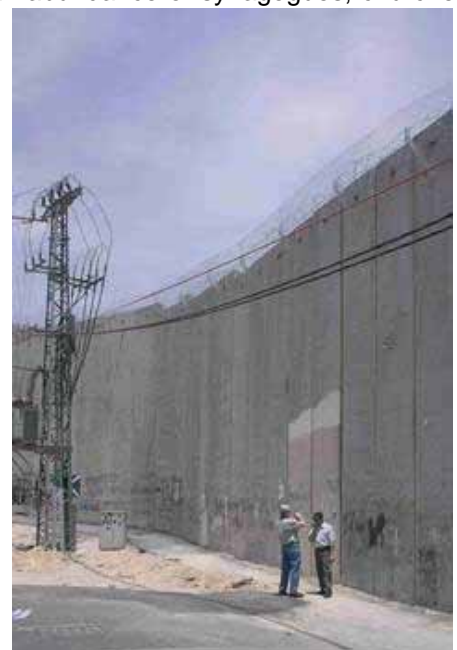
Floating in Jam haMelach

And then: Yerushalayim, we are coming!!!

This city is holy to the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims. It has an abundance of synagogues, churches

and mosques, walls like the kotel (or „Western wall“) that is thousands of years old, and the new wall that is dividing the Palestinian territory from Jewish Israel. It was a challenge for all of us.

*The „fence“
between Israel
and Palestine*



Youth

Yerushalayim



The Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mountain

Was it dangerous in Yerushalayim (or, how the Arabs call it, Al Quds, „the Holy“)? We had long discussions with our guide as to whether it was safe to go on our own – or to stay in groups; to go to the Arab areas at night – or to stay at home. Nothing happened to us, but only two weeks later an Arab driver drove his truck into a group of Israeli soldiers.

Well, we stuck together in groups of at least three, and walked and walked and walked – through the Old Town with its wonderful bazaar (where one Arab man wanted to marry one of our girls, and another one wanted to buy the jeans of some other girl), into the tunnels of Jerusalem surrounded by walls that are thousands of years old, to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where Jesus was supposed to have been buried.

Most impressive for all of us was the day long visit in Yad Va-Shem (meaning „a memorial and a name“), Israel's largest Shoa museum. The whole area and all the very special buildings are memorializing the traumatic and unbelievable fact that six million Jews (1.5 million of them children) all over Europe have been murdered by the German Nazis and their helpers. We were shown Nazi records, testimony of survivors, documentation of resistance, and the Avenue of Righteous Gentiles that honors non-Jewish Europeans who risked their lives to aid Jews.

Although all of us already knew many details of the Shoa we felt shocked and ashamed when being shown the full story – not only as Germans, but as human beings, about the fact that anything like this is possible.

In the evening we met Judy Shotten and Gal Shiri, the Youth Coordinator of Servas Israel for a discussion – about life in Israel, the situation of women in Israel, about the system of education and the army. We were asked how we felt to be in Israel, being Germans. We could tell them that – to our surprise – we were welcomed everywhere. But some Israelis who lost many of their family members in the Shoa told us that they still do not really dare to visit Germany, the country of the perpetrators.

The last two days we met our host families again, exchanged what had occurred to us and relaxed at the Mediterranean Sea.



„Beach“

The final evening – or rather night – we spent in a park in Holon, chatting, playing and dancing till two o'clock in the morning when we had to go to the airport to leave Israel at six o'clock in the morning.



„Final Night“

For all of us it was an unforgettable journey: back to the roots of our culture and religion, back to the history of 2000 years and 70 years ago - thanks to Shmulik and our host families in Holon; to the members of Servas Israel Claudia Sagi and Giora Cohen and their families, as well as to Rami Rafaeli and Amir Levy who hosted Harald and me, and to Chaim Murik, Judy Shotten and Gal Shiri who gave us information about their country.

Inken Resa-Thomas, Servas Germany