



Servas Monthly News 18



December 2006

Late again

Yes, I know, I'm sorry ...

The aim is to get this newsletter out at the end of each month. In this way it is partly a record of what has been happening in the month of publication. Hence this issue being entitled December 2006 should be at least partly about what happened during December 2006. I am biased. I get annoyed when magazines, newsletters etc arrive bearing the date of the following month long before that month appears. Today is 8 January 2007. I have already received a magazine dated February 2007. Which means that what is meant to be the February news will have been written in December. For the Servas Monthly News, that labelled December means it was written in December.

As stated it should come out exactly at the end of the month. And as yet I do not think I have managed that. This time my excuse is that I have been working on SI News 2007 which has taken priority over everything. I could extend my excuses to attending conferences, going to see my parents, getting back to work etc. But in reality the excuse is really a cover up for not being sufficiently organised.

Consequently I apologised. Is the apology for real or is it actually to cover up the excuses. I wonder. I was taught that if one did something wrong then one should apologise and that the apology meant one would not commit that error again. Nowadays I hear the word 'sorry' so many times when people do not mean it. They say 'sorry' and commit the same error again and again. It would seem that by saying sorry they are then allowing themselves to do the wrong things again and again. The children who are talking out of place, who say 'sorry' and then continue talking. When corrected they answer back with 'but I said sorry' as if that means it is alright for them to continue doing things wrongly.

However I have apologised for this Servas Monthly News being late. It does not mean that the next one will be on time. It does mean that I will make the effort to be more organised such that I will try to get the next issue out on time. I will not promise anything. But I will try.

Please add my greeting to all in Servas and add I have great hopes for an awakening of a Gandhian spirit that goes beyond home visits.
Bob Lutweiler

SI News 2007

It is essential that I know how many SI News 2007 are required in each of the 3 languages English, French and Spanish. It is also important to know whether a CD is required and whether the countries will be doing their own printing. Without all this information it is very difficult to get the correct numbers printed to ensure that every Servas member has a printed copy. Thank you to the 48 countries that have replied and sent in their numbers. However out of 114 countries that means that there are still 66 countries that have not responded. Please get your information to me immediately on one of these addresses. jgiffould@aol.com or newsletter@servas.org or jgiffould@yahoo.com

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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. Otherwise if the email address is not recognised it may get deleted before being read.

The postal address is:
Jane Giffould, SI Monthly News Editor
20 Weavers Row, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JX, England.

News and Ideas from Bob Lutweiler

Dear friends near and far

This past year has been full of adventures though I have not left Bellingham.

The most inspiring one is ahead. STEADI, a non profit was started when I closed my potter's wheel manufacturing business. STEADI stands for the Social and Technical Environmentally Appropriate Development Institute. It was intended to become a nest egg that could foster Third World community developers, both indigenous and outsiders, who were encouraging struggling rural communities to awaken the best in their own heritage. Too few of the ordinary people understand the dangers of the chemical mechanical systems that are endangering our world until they get swallowed up by it. My search for such programs is a long story. Along the way I did find, however, many who are enlightened and dedicated community developers. (If you would like more details of the destructive effect or misguided community development I witnessed in East Africa let me know. It is no accident that Nairobi is one of the most dangerous cities in Africa. I will have a 5 page report I can email)

Then bone cancer hit me and some felt my life would be cut short. It is amazing how imminent catastrophes can shake one up and cause them to better focus their life. I woke up one morning too weak to stand up. After a day in emergency I was moved to this nursing home. I had heard so many horrendous stories about the poor care in such places I was very worried. Instead it has turned into one of the high spots of my later life. The help work hard without too much pay but they are the most caring people I have ever been among. The food is fairly good, though by no means a cancer healing diet. At any rate I am determined to curb my cancer. Some years ago I successfully dealt with my malignant melanoma without any harsh medical intrusions. In fact I had none.

So here I am four months later having regained all my weight and a good deal of my stamina. I was skin and bones when I arrived here weighing 135. Now I weigh what I should at 168. I went from wheel chair to walker to cane to free walking. My cane now gets in the way. I can almost run.

But that is not the exciting part of the story, though some feel the miraculous healing is. In the process of looking for ways to distribute the funds from my community development fund I have found a new vision. It is a program that will do many of the things I hoped my original fund would do and more.

Half the people on our fertile planet go to bed hungry and many die of starvation or diseases aggravated by mal nutrition. A good portion of these struggling folk are poor partly because they are cut off from modern society because they are illiterate.

The system I developed, Teach Yourself to Read (TYR) should help at least a million people a year to escape from the isolation of illiteracy. Because it is a system that can be very inexpensively printed in millions of copies it can be distributed free to those who need it most. Since anyone can learn from it without a school or teacher it can reach the most isolated corners of the world or into the deepest prisons and refugee camps.

The TYR program does not teach people to read. It gives them material that makes it easy for them to teach themselves. And it gives them much more than literacy – a new self image and self confidence. Anyone who has taught himself a challenging task without help acquires a strong self assurance that can affect all the rest of his or her life.

I had worked out this system about 20 years ago but it was not until I delved deeper into the psychology of education and better understood the manipulation of the student's minds in our school systems that I realized the potential power of this very simple system.

TYR will have explanations for about forty eight phonemes. As soon as our web page is up and running we will invite home schoolers around the country to do the illustrations--each to do drawings for one phoneme They will then be able to consult the web page for further information. As soon as the illustrations are done we will pull together the Teach Yourself to Read leaflets and refine them by means of a trial run in a few places such as in the West Indies. Finally we will make the courses available free to illiterate people all over the English speaking world. We should get grants and contributions to cover the cost. The cost of one country school equals the cost of thousands of TYR leaflets.

While the English version of TYR is being distributed we will start converting the system into Spanish, then French, then perhaps Swahili and minority languages. Organizing the course in each new language will be progressively easier because we can build on our experience and also draw on the increasing data bank of the accumulated cartoons.

Helping people to read, however, is only the first step. Next we'll distribute to all the new readers, and old readers who are open, leaflets of short vivacious stories in simple language--folk yarns that inspire all aspects of community development, improvement about village neighborly life, sanitation and healthful diets. Then stories of cooperative organization will follow, and yarns that begin to unravel for them, the complexities of the global economic system and the damage that is being wreaked on the planet by pesticides and chemical fertilizers. They will also get true stories about villages that were splintering and pulled themselves together. This is what we call the Folk Readers program.

My flat screen monitor is on a shelf. It rotates out over my bed and back out of the way when not wanted. The mouse is also on that shelf. The keyboard is on my lap. In this way I compose and email a good part of the day. I am also regularly on the phone or out to get a little fresh air.

On our web page you will find a much fuller explanation of how the teach-yourself –to-read program works and also some of the long range plans. So you see far from being on my last legs I am at the threshold of my next life. I have taken no chemotherapy or other fierce so called cancer fighters. This full and exciting life is surely part of the reason for my miraculous improvement.

Here's hoping your coming year is as exciting and blessed as mine but without any cancer scares. Please share with me your thoughts, what you have been doing and are planning.

Bob Lutweiler

email: bob@folkreaders.org <mailto:bob@folkreaders.org> .

My phone is 360 714 1043

Postal address: 2726 Alderwood Ave. Bellingham, WA 98225

Because my health is improving I may move from this nursing home to an assisted living place. Check the Folkreaders.org web page before using the above postal address. My phone number will follow me.

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Get together in London

The venue is **Pontefract Castle.**

This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.

The nearest Underground Station is Bond Street.

Date: First Monday in every month.

Time: 6.30 onwards.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

INVITATION from Servas Belgium & Luxemburg ANNUAL SERVAS DINNER in Brussels, Belgium

The annual dinner
of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg
will take place on
Tuesday the **30th of January 2007**
(replaces our monthly meeting in the Cirio)

You will enjoy your meal with many friends in the Restaurant "Café du Vaudeville", in former days a theatre, now an intimate and attractive restaurant.

The restaurant is situated right in the heart of the city centre, in the Saint Hubert Galleries, close to central station.

Address: Galerie de la Reine/Koninginnegalerij 11,
1000 Brussels

We invite all members, travellers and friends to join us, warm atmosphere guaranteed!

For more information or reservation please contact
Servas Belgium & Luxemburg belgium@servas.org
Olivier Zilli olivier@labarriere.be

Servas greetings from Belgium.

Rita Dessauvage, NS

Activities in Kazakhstan

December 17 2006 March 19 2007

Welcome meeting

All the hosts will meet together.

Round table talks

Members of Servas will talk about their work that was done during half a year. Discussions about prospective plans and events.

The meeting will be dedicated to national new year holiday - Nauryz.

Place: Kazakhstan, Karaganda (about specific place please ask NS)

EUROPE

A good reason for all Servas travellers to visit...

Luxembourg and the Greater Region: European Capital of Culture 2007

Get ready for plenty of enriching experiences, discover new horizons and find out more about the Servas hosts in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Greater Region (parts of Belgium, France and Germany)

Couldn't the two objectives of the Capital of Culture 2007 "Reaching beyond borders" and "Daring to take on the unexpected" be Servas objectives? Also the themes of the city match very well with Servas "Discovering Yourself - Discovering Others" and "Europe of the Future" at least when you replace it by "Servas of the Future" ... A good topic for a discussion!

The project reaches even Romania as there is a partnership with the Romanian city **Sibiu**, also European Capital of Culture 2007

More than 300 hosts of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg are expecting you in 2007!

With warm Servas regards,

Rita Dessauvage

NS Belgium & Luxemburg

belgium@servas.org luxembourg@servas.org

Visit <http://www.luxembourg2007.org>

<http://www.sibiu2007.ro>

Southern Africa Area Meeting

This will be held in
Livingstone, Zambia
August 2007.

Languages - Happy New Year

Rita Dessauvage of Belgium directed me to a website where I could find Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in a multitude of Languages. I hope I have

extracted the correct part for Happy New Year. Now see if you can match the greeting to the language. (Some are languages I have not heard of before!)

Greeting

Mwaka Manyen
 Tahun Baru
 Sang Nian Fai Lok
 Godt nytår
 Bonan Novjaron
 Onnellista uutta vuotta
 Saal Mubarak
 Barka da Sabuwar Shekara!
 Selamat Tahun Baru
 Kurisumasu Omedeto
 Na Mwaka Mweu Museo
 Schéint Néi Joer
 Blein vie noa
 Omude Mupe wa Punikwa
 Bona annada
 Szczesliwego Nowego Roku.
 Mosoi Watapi sumaj kausay kachun
 An Nou fericit!
 Heri Za Mwaka Mpya^o
 Hapi Nu Yia
 Shchastlyvoho Novoho Roku!
 Chuc Mung Tan Nien
 Blwyddyn Newydd Dda
 Omtsha Ozele Iintsikelelo Namathamsanqa
 Gut Nay Yor
 El ma ka kim na mireu

Language

Occitan
 Yiddish
 Kamba
 Finnish
 Tok Pisin
 Bahasa/Malaysia
 Hausa
 Welsh
 Zime
 Luxembourgeois
 Acholi
 Romanian
 Indonesian
 Esperanto
 Manx
 Gujarati
 Vietnamese
 Japanese
 Ndonga
 Polish
 Ukrainian
 Swahili
 Cantonese
 Xhosa
 Danish
 Quechua

Host and Travel Reports

Israel and Turkey - part 4

In the November issue the 12 travellers from India visited the Dead Sea finishing up in Jerusalem. They move on now to their next port of call.

As in every issue space precludes being able to include the whole of this descriptive report. Those wishing to read the full report should contact the editor - see email address on p1.

Sunday 4.6.06

Mount of Olives and the old and New city

After breakfast our host took us to meet the others. On the way our host showed us the buildings of Jerusalem which were built with stones except when many people came in from other countries, then Government allowed cement to be used for buildings for sometime, otherwise all the buildings are to be built with stones.

Our tour started at 8.30 a.m. We went to the Mount of Olives and had the view of Jerusalem from there. It was a beautiful sight. Jerusalem is many things to many people. It is like a good book which can lend itself to so many different interpretations. For me, it was the city of Christ, an incarnation of love and compassion.

The old city is what remains of ancient Jerusalem. Jerusalem has expanded out of its ancient walled city in all directions. Over the years, nearly every Christian denomination has ensured its name by building churches and adjacent settlements, such as the Russian compound and the Anglican compound in the Centre of "Modern Jerusalem", the Ethiopian Consulate nearby and nowadays chic German colony to the south.

We got down from the bus and walked for four hours in the hot sun to see the old city Jerusalem. It is a walled city divided into four quarters- the Muslim quarter, which is the largest, the Christian quarter, with its numerous centers that represent the various denominations that exist in the country, the Jewish quarter and the relaxed and beautiful Armenian Quarter.

Since Roman times and until the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, the Damascus gate with its adjacent Roman Square was the most important entrance to the city. The present ornamented gate was designed during the Ottoman period. Closed gates include the western gate, the Chain gate, and the gate of Forgiveness.

The most holy site for both Judaism and Islam in Jerusalem is a point of contention- the Western wall and the Temple Mount ("Haram al Shrif" in Arabic) that overlooks it. Further to the east lies the Mount of Olives Cemetery, which belief has it will be the scene of the resurrection of the dead. Disputes exist regarding who are actually buried in David's tombs of the kings and the tombs of the Prophets. The Tomb of Mary is located on the ruins of a church that was destroyed before the first Crusade, and the Ceneculum is traditionally the location of the last supper. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart (church of the Ascension) stands at the top of the Mount of Olives, nearby the Russian tower- a slim spire of a Russian monastery that sports a beautiful mosaic floor from the sixth century.

One of the holiest places in Islam and certainly one of its greatest monumental structures is the Dome of the Rock ("Qubbut As-Sakhrah" in Arabic)-in fact not a mosque for worship but rather a shrine for pilgrimages. Twenty meters high and ten meters in diameter, the dome's original gold covering was eventually removed and replaced by aluminum. In the 1990's, King Hussein of Jordan reportedly sold a palace to pay for the replating of the dome in gold. The building houses the Holy rock of Sakhrah, which until the crusader invasion of 1099 was the most important of Islamic sites, and below it lies the Well of Souls ("Bir el Arweh").

After the Dome of the rock, the Dome of Ascension Mosque- located on the Mt. of Olives- is the most renowned. Across from the Dome of the rock, the earliest and largest mosque built in Israel is El. Aqsa. Built in the 9th century, it replaced an earlier mosque that was destroyed in an earthquake, and most of its decoration date from medieval times.

Our Guide, Dalia showed us the Old churches and Synagogues in the old city. She showed us the old structures of the City. The "Herodian Quarter" is the largest and most important sight of the second Temple period in the Jewish Quarter. It is a unique experience which takes us 2000 years back to days of splendor and beauty where priests of the upper city of Jerusalem lived during the Second Temple period. She showed us the statue of Moses raising his rod on the Red Sea, which is divided into three paths with the Israelites behind him on horses carrying banners. The depiction alludes to the Jewish Midrash, which posits that they crossed the sea in twelve paths, a path for each tribe.

We saw the place of last supper where the picture of thirteen persons is drawn. Then Dalia led us to the path where Jesus had to climb for his crucifixion. Before coming out from the old city of Jerusalem, we went to the Wailing Wall, where the temple of Solomon was built and where people ask for the fulfillment of their wish. People write their wishes on the chit and leave between two stones of the wall.

We could see beautiful farms from the Bus. The dates, olives, corns, oranges, lemons were grown even in the desert. Today most of Israel's proud agricultural heritage is moving towards south into the desert, irrigated by salt and water, and invested with high-tech equipment and state- of the art techniques. At kingdom of the Denise, visitors can witness how fish are cultivated amidst the sand.

We had to go through a long process of passing through three doors to go to Israel. I was worried about the new host where to reach and how to reach? We went to Romat Khel and the host Amitai was there. He drove to his house. Miss. Azone and I met his wife Nurit. She prepared rice and Soya vegetables within half an hour and we had dinner. Azone and Amitai went to his music class. I enjoyed chitchatting with Nurit, his wife. It seems Nurit is very common name in Israel. It is a name of a flower.

To be continued next month

Dr Geeta Mehta, India

Country Reports

Pakistan, meeting

57th Anniversary of Servas International was held on 10-10-2006 at Chinar Public School, Parachinar FATA (Federal Administrative Tribal Area)

A few distinguished local personalities were invited to the anniversary celebration. Mr. Hameed Hassan a very experienced and renowned person in the education profession with a lot of services given voluntarily was present as a "Chief Guest". He delivered his speech on Awareness of Education Facilities in Tribal Areas. He highlighted the peaceful activities of Servas Pakistan in the tribal areas. He appreciated the efforts of Mr. Muhammad Naseem for his Servas volunteer work after the great disaster by the earthquake in northern Pakistan. Beside this Mr. Muhammad Naseem (National Secretary,) Mr. Muhammad Shoaib Khan (Finance Secretary) & Dr. Aspi Sohrab Jee were present.

All the invited guests added their feelings of consolation to the earthquake victims first, then proceeded with Servas oriented things. In the end Mr. Muhammad Naseem give vent to his feelings about the casualties and victims. He then threw light on the Servas Pakistan one year volunteer rescue project in the earthquake affected areas and gave thanks to all the Servas volunteers for giving full cooperation & devotion. Mr. Muhammad Naseem Khan appealed to all the Servas members that they ought to offer their volunteer services to the victims with full devotion.

Servas International News # 48 and other souvenirs were distributed among the members. At the end of the meeting shields & appreciation certificates were presented to the Chief Guest & all the Servas volunteers who took part with the Servas rescue team of earthquake project.

A 10 days Servas youth camp had been held for the forest cleaning and environment briefing. These were given in order to save the environment from pollution and impurity. So many volunteers joined and took an active part in this camp. They showed their interest in purifying the atmosphere which is the only solution to this most alarming problem of pollution. The need to increase the number of plants and trees was stressed.

*Muhammad Amjad, Secretary Information
Servas Pakistan.*



New National Secretary for Servas Korea

New Year's day and Warm Greetings from Servas Korea.

It is my honour and privilege to be National Secretary of Servas Korea. My tenure begins the 1st of January 2007 for 3 years, can be re-elected one more term by the Servas Korea Constitution.

During the time, I have been working as Peace Secretary with the former NS Mr. Eum, whose devotion to Servas Korea, I respect. It most urges me to do more work for Servas Korea.

I still keep the valuable Outreaching kits of Servas US, of the round pin printed 'Ask me about Servas' and the red pen printed United States Servas, 'Hosts and travellers building peace thru cross-cultural understanding' www.usservas.org and the business card. And other printed materials too.

I am retiree now from 37 years of Public high school teaching, which means I can travel more and I can spare more time for the peace building campaign. First of all, with the materials you gave me, I want to set up, Servas Interviewers Kit of Servas Korea.

If possible, I want to work with the Servas International staff some years later, may my work as NS of Servas Korea will attract that kind of job, of course with your kind help.

Mr Nishiyama and I have been working for the April FEA Meeting. He suggests that you might be coming to and how nice! We are really looking forward to seeing you in this country.

*In Peace and Servas.
Jong S. KIM , NS Sevas Korea*

+++++



Donations from Pakistan for the Earthquake relief.

Comments

Peace orientations

Who are we and what are we discovering in our World?

If you have recently looked through a Servas national directory, you may have noticed many in caring professions: nursing, teaching, personal assistance, home care, artists, artisans, scientists

Many Servas people are involved in shaping the world, and making it better for instance: organic gardening, architecture, city planning, public policy. We look like an international community of people who chose to be Good. Decent and Caring. Of real service to others.

We fit the broad profile of "Cultural Creatives", defined as about 50 million people in North America, and perhaps over 80 million in Europe – and, who knows how many elsewhere? You can check out more references to us and similar people at <http://www.culturalcreatives.org/>

Researchers on Cultural Creatives (like us Servas people) say that we are distinguished by our values, our creative and optimistic spirit and lifestyle.

But they also say that we do not realize we are a global community. We are not aware of each other.

Because we yield to distance and separation, we are therefore not aware of our creative potential, our potential vast gift to global understanding and culture.

Of course, many in Servas are exceptions. We do reach out, and we try to share, experience, understand, appreciate, respect.

What have you learned, in 2006 or earlier, through your work, study and travel?

What special people, places and lessons have you discovered?

Here's a checklist adapted from Cultural Creatives research which might help remind you about your valuable discoveries:

- Community actions
- Personal actions
- Learning living more lightly
- Talking and thinking with each other

Would you like to share your story of discovery? Please let us know.

Gary Sealey, President@servas.org

Funding delegates for SI conferences

Servas International (SI) does not interfere in internal matters of its chapters. In India Servas has existed as unregistered body for 55 years. Similarly many other chapters of Servas may not be registered. The National Secretaries (NS) are neither answerable to SI nor to anyone as they have no constitution or rules for their chapters functioning. The NSs appoint relations or close friends in subordinate positions and continue in office for decades or until their demise. The NSs nominate themselves as delegates to all the SI conferences with full funding from SI. Servas Australia does not fund any person more than once for SI conference, hence at each of the SI conferences they have a new delegate. It is desirable that every Servas Chapter has a new delegate at the SI conferences. No Servas chapter would like to copy Servas Australia on their own. It would thus be appropriate for SI to introduce One time funding rule for SI conference for delegates. Also relations or close friends of NSs should be forbidden from being nominated as delegates to the SI conferences. The NSs, it is hoped, will agree to allow for change of leadership with the introduction of One time funding rule for delegates

Gurdev Singh, Servas India

Human Rights Day

Hey, isn't that something to do with us?

Aren't we concerned about people?

Can you remember when it was?

What did you do about it?

Which Servas member was so concerned that he founded an impressive organisation which concentrates on human rights? (He did this before joining Servas)

Answers to these questions can be found by looking at: **Amnesty Enews** <amnesty_eneews@ems02.com>

First answer to Gary on who we are...

There are lots of caring people out there and they do not have to be Servas members. eg: I turn up at Megève altiport (airfield high up in the mountains), in France and ask to go flying (I have a private pilot licence). Initially the answer was 'Not possible' I shrug my shoulders, 'tant pis'. A short time later I am invited to join them but not to expect much because of the weather. Wow, my head was in the clouds. Literally as we flew round the clouds looking for Mt Blanc. There were caring people there who saw my disappointment and decided to cheer me up. But then wherever I have been I have found pilots like that.

So what experiences have you people had. Send to Gary and to Servas Monthly News.

Exco Info

Servas International Distant Interviewers

Servas welcomes Travelers, Students, Workers.

Servas International Distant Interviewers serve potential Servas travelers far from their local interviewers for instance in Africa, Nepal and elsewhere.

Servas International Distant Interviewers help people become qualified Servas Travelers, or Travelers who wish to renew their Letter of Introduction.

Who are the S I Distant Interviewers?

- 1) Africa: Rita Dessauvage, National Secretary , Belgium (rita.dessauvage@telenet.be >
- 2) Nepal: Sercan Duygan, National Secretary , Turkey) sercanduygan@gmail.com
- 3) Elsewhere: contact Mary Jane Mikuriya, Vice President Servas International mikuriya@aol.com who will arrange with Edith Sommers of the USA Distant Voting Team.

Note to Travelers: Before trying this process to renew your Letter of Introduction please ask your home country interviewer, who will provide a speedier service.

- Travelers using the Distant Interview process must accept procedures of the Distant Interviewer's home country. Once approved, your Servas Letter of Introduction will be issued from the Distant Interviewer's home Servas member group.
- Traveler pays the usual fees as required by the Distant Interviewer's Member Group, plus mailing costs for the Traveler Application packet of forms and information and the approved stamped Letter of Introduction and Host Lists.
- Traveler arranges the Interview at a time and date convenient to the Distant Interviewer, in enough time to receive the Letter of Introduction and Host Lists before the Traveler's travel departure date.
- Traveler completes and sends the Servas application documents and fees to the Distant Interviewer prior to the Distant Interview so that the documents can be consulted during the Interview.

This arrangement is based on a successful Distant Interview procedure already set within Servas USA: (where 3 Distant Interviewers serve 5 time zones.)

First-time interviews of new Servas travelers will take an hour or more. Renewal interviews are shorter. The Distant Interviewer signs the Letter of Introduction and arranges for an international stamp and also for the requested Host Lists to be sent to the newly approved traveler.

Thanks to Vice President Mary Jane Mikuriya who researched these arrangements: mikuriya@aol.com

How to improve Distant Interviewing? Please send any suggestions to former Servas International President, Geoff Maltby, who has agreed to watch and evaluate: geoffmaltby@optusnet.com.au

Interested in Interviewing?

Did you know that an Interviewer's Manual exists? Would you like information on setting up Interviewer's training? Please contact Mary Jane: mikuriya@aol.com
Gary Sealey, President, 26 December, 2006

Exco activities in December

EXCO appointed an external auditor for auditing Servas accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2004. The auditor is Vasudev Pai & Co. of Bangalore, India. The auditor's report is expected by 15th January, 2007.

EXCO is also preparing for the first ever Distant Voting of Servas International which will take place in 2007. General Secretary, Pramod Kumar has written to all National Secretaries asking them to provide the contact details of their Authorised Voter and their preference for the medium of Distant Voting, whether, e-mail, fax, postal mail and the preferred language for voting material. All National Secretaries are requested to e-mail this information to Pramod immediately at pramod.servas@gmail.com if they have not already done so. **This is urgent.**

President, Gary Sealey and Treasurer, Omer met some volunteers in Venice to discuss the Intelligent Road Map idea. They also discussed how to improve the Servas Web site.

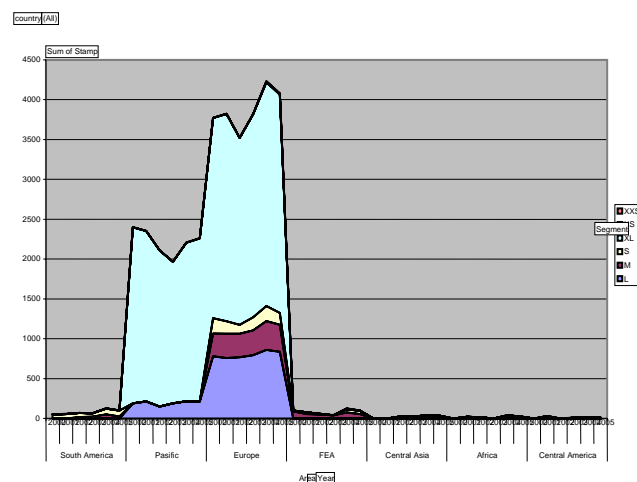
President, Gary Sealey met Chris Slader of Conflict Resolution Committee in London to discuss the Nepal situation.

Distant Interviewers have been appointed to serve travellers located far from qualified local interviewers.

Pramod Kumar, General Secretary

Some Stamps statistics from our Treasurer

(These are in .xls It may be possible to use the active sheet. However I have not tried it out on this format. Ed)



Youth and Family Event, Dalesbridge, 28 July - 4 Aug

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT

We are now able to take bookings for the event.

For a booking form please contact :

Ann Greenhough (dasher1949@aol.com)

See attached publicity which we have previously circulated about the event. - (Monthly News Oct/Nov)

Accommodation:

The cost per person for the event will be dependant on the type of accommodation.

We have 48 beds in dormitory style bunkhouses and a limited number of places in more comfortable Bed and Breakfast type accommodation. The least expensive option is camping if you have your own equipment. We will have our own camping area next to the main building which has space for up to 75 people if needed.

Catering:

Everyone will take the evening meal together. This will be provided by the Centre.

For those in the bunkhouses and the main house food will be provided daily to prepare breakfast together in small groups.

Campers will be self catering for breakfast and lunch although some may want full board at extra cost.

Reductions for Young People and Families with Teenagers and Children

We are able to provide a number of places for young people and families with children at 50% of the full cost. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient funds to provide places at no cost at all.

Please let us know if you are a young person who is keen to come but find the costs too high. We will have a small number of tents available for those without their own equipment.

Costs:

Bunkhouse accommodation (4 or 6 bed ensuite cabins with small kitchen area)

£150 per person – 7nights full board

Young person up to 30 - £75 per person full board

Limited Bed and Breakfast accommodation

Cost dependant on the room. Please ask.

Single, double and triple rooms available (some ensuite). In the region of £200 per person for 7nights full board.

Camping

£85 per person including 7 nights evening meals

Young person up to 30 – in the region of £50 including evening meals.

(Final cost dependant on numbers, Please ask.)

Pitches available for tent, campervan or caravan

Full use of main buildings and outdoor marquee.

Family camping groups:

£250 per family of 4 (2 under 10) with evening meals

£300 per family of 4 (2 over 10) with evening meals

For other combinations please ask.

Breakfast and Lunch can be provided for campers at extra cost.

Nearby accommodation

You may want to take part in the event but prefer to arrange your own accommodation. Bed and Breakfast and self catering cottages are available in the nearby village of Austwick which is in walking distance of the Dalesbridge Centre.

Costs will be higher than at the Centre – an average cost for Bed and Breakfast in the area is around £26 per person per night. Self –catering cottages are all available but can be quite expensive in high season.

This might be a suitable option for a larger party from one family or National group. Evening meals with the Servas group would be available at the Centre.

Please ask for details of contacts in the area. We would make a small daily charge per person for use of the group facilities available at the event.

Facilities and Activities at the Centre

We will have use of a number of rooms of all sizes throughout the week and our own outdoor space with small marquee next to the camping area and main house. There will be other campers on the site which has a reception area, internet access and a bar open most nights. Austwick is a small village a few minutes walk away with its own pub, Settle is the nearest town with shops and banks.

Any questions?

Please ask.

Full details:

For full details about the weekend see Servas Monthly News, September 2006, October 2006 and November 2006, in the Youth section.



Youth Travel Award

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL **YOUTH TRAVEL AWARD 2007** **INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL GROUPS**

Please circulate the following information within your National Group and encourage young people who fit the criteria to consider applying for the Award.

Using a host donation of \$1000 the Youth Travel Award will be offered for the first time in 2007 to enable a young person to attend the next international youth event in Britain in July.

This will be something of an experiment to test the viability of the Award as we work at developing a fair and open selection process. Unfortunately we only have sufficient funds to offer one Award on this occasion.

In time we hope to build up a fund from donations from both individual members and National Groups and so be able to offer the Award on an annual basis.

Management of the Award:

This is to be the responsibility of a Servas Youth working group in conjunction with the Development Fund Committee. Ann Greenhough, Vibeke Matorp, Dianne Peterson and Abhay Shaha developed the selection process whilst in Latina. We are looking for a further member to join the group to consider the applications and allocate the Award in 2007.

Focus of the Award:

The aim is to offer sufficient resources for a young person to participate in an international Servas event combined with a programme, ideally over a few weeks, in the country or region where the event is taking place. Although the emphasis will be on offering Servas hospitality to the young person some additional financial resources of their own will be needed for their stay.

In a small way we would hope that the Award will reflect something of the spirit of the early days in Servas where emphasis was on 'work study, travel'.

Through taking part in an international event the young person will have chance to meet with other young Servas travellers and contribute ideas about how Youth in Servas should develop in the future. We hope that Servas hosts will be able to open up a wealth of potential opportunities for a young person to experience and appreciate daily life within the families and communities they visit.

For 2007:

We hope the young person receiving the Award will be able to visit Britain for at least a month if commitments at home allow. This would include the Youth event between 28th July and 4th August and the few days get-together in Manchester beforehand.

Building on the Youth Language Exchange we will involve Servas hosts in providing opportunities for the young person to extend their English language skills.

If they have a particular work or study interest we will try to offer some suitable short-term unpaid work experience through a Servas host. There will also be an expectation that the young person will be open to getting involved in some sort of voluntary work, may be as part of a youth camp in a social or environmental project.

Last but not least we will be available to offer support and advice so they can enjoy exploring Britain as a Servas traveller.

For the future:

The Travel Award, alongside other initiatives such as the Servas Youth Language Exchange, will be part of demonstrating that Servas can offer 'added value' to young people, not so easily found in the increasing number of internet-based hosting networks. The philosophy on which Servas is based can be of real relevance to young people looking to make travelling an in-depth experience and keen to make a contribution to a more peaceful world. As a next step we would like to develop a system open to all young people whereby unpaid work experience opportunities offered by hosts can be matched with interested young travellers.

Timetable for the Award:

The closing date for applications will be February 28th 2007. We anticipate that applications will be made by email. The working group will then consider the applications and, dependant on numbers, may either immediately make a final decision or shortlist a small number of young people for a second stage. If that is the case those young people will be contacted about what happens next. It is intended to make a final decision as soon as possible to allow time to make travel arrangements and get visas if needed.

We ask the National Secretary or someone from the National Group provides a letter of support for a young person making an application including confirming their membership of Servas. It would be helpful if this could be provided by the closing date but applications will initially be accepted without it. More than one application from each country can be considered.

Eligibility for Youth Travel Award:

In order for a young person's application to be accepted they should:

1. Be a member of Servas as a traveller, as a host or as part of a host family.
2. Be aged 18-30 at time of travel.
3. Have been a member of Servas for at least one year at time of application.
4. Provide a letter of recommendation from their National Secretary or other member of the National Group.
5. Declare if related to any Servas officer in either their national group or SI. This will not exclude an applicant from being fully considered.
6. Provide full and accurate information in their application form.
7. Have a working knowledge of spoken and written English.
8. Be prepared to provide a written report of their travel experience if in receipt of the Award.

Please make sure that young people interested in the Award carefully consider these criteria before making an application.

Visas:

National groups and young people thinking of making an application should bear in mind that from some countries they will have great difficulty in making an application for a visa to enter Britain and may well be refused even with the active support of Servas Britain as a sponsor. It may be helpful to take advice in your own country before making an application.

Other funding:

If, as a National Group, you are interested in making a donation to the Youth Award Fund or perhaps able to sponsor a young person from your own country or elsewhere to attend the event in 2007 please tell us.

For further information and application forms:

Please contact: Ann Greenhough dasher1949@aol.com
on behalf of S I Youth Team and Servas Britain