



# Servas Monthly News



## September 2006

### Youth and Rights

This month's issue has quite a lot relating to Youth. On page 6 we find out about how active the Youth section is in Argentina. On page 9 Pablo keeps us on track with his article on Youth and Leadership for Servas Central America. On pages 10 and 11 we get the update and details of the Servas Youth and Family Event to be held in Britain next year. It is good to see that Youth Sections are functioning well. It is important that they do this to keep Servas on the move. If many Servas members think back they will realise that they were rather younger themselves when they joined Servas!!

In my job as a teacher I naturally have a lot of contact with young people (currently 9 to 13 years old). In class the other day we were looking at Rights. We were thinking about the meaning of the word Rights and then seeing how it applied to us. One boy came up with the idea that a Right was a privilege that one is allowed to have. I then looked round the room and told the class that I had the right to: 'interrupt while the teacher was talking', 'push someone as they came into the room', 'kick the next person's chair', 'fiddle noisily with my pen', ..... The first class were horrified, and I pointed out that I was just listing what they seemed to think were their Rights. To my surprise the second class seemed to think these 'Rights' were OK.

Today's youth, as we did many years ago, have much to learn about rights and how to apply them. But that applies to adults as well, especially those in power. In Servas, at all levels, from youth through to adult we should be reviewing our rights and those of others. Do we unintentionally abuse our rights? What about our rights as Servas members, what about our rights in our own communities and countries. Do we ever demand our rights to the detriment of others? As part of the learning process it is important to learn and accept that although we may have certain rights, there are times when they may conflict with the rights of others. The various options then need to be considered with the aim of the best for all rather than just the individual. So with rights come responsibilities. From what our Servas youth are doing they would seem to have a good comprehension of responsibilities. With this they should be good at considering the rights of others.

Well done to Servas Youth.

**Request** - Please could articles be kept fairly short. Ideally they should fit into one column. In this way I would not have to cut chunks out of them to make them fit. Thanks

### Email Subject lines

Just a comment from someone who receives a lot of Servas related emails.

Please could everybody, when contacting anyone in Servas, about Servas, please put Servas as part of the subject line. There is so much spam about that we become very cautious about opening unknown emails. If Servas is in the subject line then we are more likely to open it. eg: I will always start the subject line as Servas: and then put in the topic eg: Servas: travellers; Servas: hosts; Servas: newsletter; Servas: accounts.

I write this as I have just deleted a number of emails in my spam folder which had no subject. I did not bother to open them as that sort are usually spam. Then I checked the next no subject one, it turned out to be a query from someone asking about Servas.

### Contents: 2006

1. Editorial
2. Meetings
3. Languages - Slovak
4. Travel and host reports, India to Israel.
5. More travel reports
6. Countries - Argentina, youth
7. Comments
8. Peace, Exco Info
9. Youth info - Pablo
10. & 11 Youth - International meeting, UK 2007

### 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.

## 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.

### Southern Africa Area Meeting

This will be held in  
Livingstone, Zambia  
August 2007.

### Servas Monthly Meeting, Belgium

Last TUESDAY of the month in the pub Le Cirio  
in the centre of Brussels, next to the  
Bourse/Beurs, 6 to 8 pm.

Hosts, travellers, visitors, friends, everybody can  
join us and enjoy with us one of the 500 famous  
Belgian beers!

We invite all Servas members from all over the  
world to visit Belgium & Luxemburg, two small  
countries in the heart of Europe which had a lot  
to offer to all of you.

We want more travellers!

[www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)

[www.luxembourg.co.uk](http://www.luxembourg.co.uk)

[www.belgique-tourisme.net](http://www.belgique-tourisme.net)

See you,

*Rita Dessauvage*  
National secretary Servas Belgium &  
Luxemburg

### Costa Rica

08 to 13 January 2007

#### **"YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP IN SERVAS CENTRAL AMERICA"**

- for Servas leaders and young Servas members from Central America to celebrate specific workshops which focus on two topics:
  - Develop the youth in the area
  - Improve the Servas structure and outreach in the area

For more detail see article on p8, full detail next month.

Contact: [pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar)

### International Youth and Family Week 2007 Dalesbridge, Yorkshire, UK see p 9, 10

Provisional arrangements to be firmed up during the next few months.

Dates: Sun 29 July - Sat 04 Aug 2007

Place: Dalesbridge, nr Settle, Yorkshire, England

This will be an opportunity for Youth to meet up, do a range of activities together and explore a beautiful moorland area of Britain. Dalesbridge offers a range of accommodation including bunkhouses and camping.

We hope to see lots of you there.

Contact: [dasher1949@aol.com](mailto:dasher1949@aol.com)

## Languages - Slovak

Language is an important tool of communication. When we understand each other we are more likely to be peaceful. Think of the problems that have arisen just by the wrong interpretation of what someone is trying to say.

In this section, the aim is to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language will be English. Hence any non-English words and phrases must have the English translation of them.

In the long run it would be good to be able to publish a booklet of useful words and phrases in a range of languages for the Servas hosts and travellers.

Our **fourteenth** language is **Slovak**  
I apologise that I do not have all the accents required.

Thanks to Lenka who was doing work experience at my school.

Peace	<i>Mier</i>
Hello	<i>Ahoj</i>
How are you	<i>Ako sa Máš?</i>
Goodbye	<i>Dovidenia</i>
Be seeing you	<i>Maj sa</i>
Have a safe journey	<i>Šťastnú cestu</i>
Best wishes to your family.	<i>Všetko dobré Tvojej rodine</i>
Do come again	<i>Pod' d'alej</i>
Please	<i>Prosím</i>
Thank you	<i>D'akujem</i>
That's nothing	<i>To je vporiadku</i>
Where is the toilet?	<i>Kde je WC?</i>
Left	<i>Vľavo</i>
Right	<i>Vpravo</i>
Straight on	<i>Rouno</i>
Behind you	<i>Za tebou</i>
Where do I sleep	<i>Kde nocujem?</i>
I am vegetarian	<i>Som vegetarián</i>
Where is the nearest telephone?	<i>Kde je najbližší telefón?</i>

Zero  
One  
Two  
Three  
Four  
Five  
Six  
Seven  
Eight  
Nine  
Ten  
Twenty  
Thirty  
Forty  
Fifty  
Sixty  
Seventy  
Eighty  
Ninety  
Hundred  
Thousand

Do you eat meat?  
Where do you live?  
This is my sister  
This is my brother  
This is my mother  
This is my father  
This is my son  
This is my daughter

What music do you like?  
Have you visited the town?  
Where are the shops?  
Is there a market?  
Thank you for your help.

*Nula*  
*Jeden*  
*Dva*  
*Tri*  
*Štyn*  
*Pät'*  
*Šest'*  
*Sedem*  
*Osem*  
*Devät'*  
*Desat'*  
*Dvadsat'*  
*Tridsat'*  
*Štyridsat'*  
*Pät'desiat*  
*Šest'desiat*  
*Sedemdesiat*  
*Osemdesiat*  
*Devät'desiat*  
*Sto*  
*Tisíc*  
  
*Ješ mäso*  
*Kde by'vaš?*  
*Toto je moja sestra*  
*Toto je mo'j brat*  
*Toto je mo'j otec*  
*Toto je moa matka*  
*Toto je mo'j syn*  
*Toto je moja dára*  
  
*Ktorú hudbu más'ra'd?*  
*Navs'tivil si mesto?*  
*Kde sú obchodj?*  
*Je tam trh?*  
*D'akujem za tvoju pomoc.*

## Host and Travel Reports

### Israel and Turkey, part 1

#### **Date 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

We, constituting a group of 12 SERVAS Travellers reached by 1075 Turkey airline on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006, at Istanbul at 8.45 a.m. local time. We had to wait there for almost 6 hours for the flight to Tel Aviv and reached Tel Aviv at 4.20 p.m. National Secretary Ms. Claudia Sagi was present at the Airport and guided us to the special bus by which we went to a particular stop where hosts were waiting for us. Ms. Nurit was my host. She was staying alone and her daughter was at Jerusalem. We went on talking about her experiences in India and prepared Rice and Vegetables and Salad. She prepared the melons for us which were very sweet.

#### **30 May 2006,**

**Visit old Jaffa, drive via Rabin SQ to Caesarea-visit to old Roman Theatre and Roman city Crusade City and Aquaduct. Drive to Akko visit the old city -back to Haifa.**

Ms. Nurit left me at the same bus stop at 8.00 a.m. because she had to go for her yoga classes. The bus was to reach there at 8.30 a.m. but the bus came late and We started our bus tour at 9.30 a.m. Our bus guide Ms. Daliya began her commentary.

“Tel Aviv is the city which does not sleep. During day-time people are working and at night People come here for fun. It has a population of 350 000. It was built in 1909, before that it was all sand. The City of Jaffa is 5000 yrs old, the first natural port in the world The entire Israel is near the Mediterranean Sea. It is a salty sea. While looking at the sea shore, I remembered the Goa sea shore. Akko is a very old city. Haifa is in Mountains. Hi-tech technology diamond cutting and polishing is the flourishing business here.

We went to Jaffa Clock Tower which was built in 1906 to commemorate the Sultan's birthday. Jews, Christians and Muslims stay together here. Jaffa is known for port sports, fishing vessels and excursion boats.

When we came out, a wedding couple was giving poses for the photos. Dr. Ramesh Sharma said that they may be Jews or Christians but in any case not Muslims. While inquiring, we came to know that they were Muslims! With the change of religion, the customs of the country do not change.

My host Mr. Tsur came to receive me & Ms. Azone at Haifa, though he was late. He drove the jeep to his village. There were beautiful scenes on the way and we came to know that Nazareth was very nearby. So myself and Miss. Azone decided to go to Nazareth.

We had dinner of noodles and basmati rice and vegetables which was very good. Our host Oma Yaqubi had traveled to India long ago, before their marriage. They have four children now, two sons and two daughters. The children are also given responsibility of work at home whatever they like. The daughter 8 years of the age prepared a very good desert with jelly on the top for all of us.

#### **31 May 2006**

It was a free day in Haifa but myself and Miss. Azone were in a village, some 20 miles away from Nazareth. We decided to go to Nazareth. We were ready at 9.00 a.m. and Oma took us to Nazareth. She left us near the church. I have heard many a times 'Jesus of Nazareth' and therefore I desired to see it. It was in Nazareth of Galilee that the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce the birth of Jesus. Today, it is a city of 70,000 people- a focal point for a large segment of the population of the Galilee. Over two-thirds are Christians.

We went to St. Gabriel's Church and Anglican Church of Nazareth. There was complete silence except a few visitors. While coming down from the church, we visited the Monastery of the Sisters of Nazareth including the excavations in the basement of the building.

In the evening, we had SERVAS Meeting of hosts and Guests. Oma took us to the Meeting and the Father of the children Tsur looked after the food etc. and everything for children. In the meeting, everybody introduced oneself and one's work. Ms. Claudia explained the whole programme and we had informal discussion. We came back at 11.00 p.m., everybody was sleeping at home. With Four children, Oma does so much of Social work among the immigrants which we came to know while talking to her in the car.

*Dr. Geeta Mehta,  
Peace secretary, SERVAS India  
Director, K.J. Somaiya Centre for Studies in Jainism*

## More travel reports

### Visiting Central Asia

One of the nicest Servas visits my daughter Monica and I ever experienced happened at our recent trip to Uzbekistan. We had gone to Dushanbe in Tajikistan for the wedding of my friend Muborak's daughter in late August and spent a week in that city enjoying wedding celebrations as well as trying to find some people who might be able and willing to start Servas in that country.

It was difficult to contact people from Tajikistan but eventually we reached Anatoly, the Uzbek National Secretary, who assured us that a visit would be arranged when we got to Samarkand. After an 8-hour drive via the beautiful Fan Mountains with a very capable driver but on horrendous roads we were relieved to see Anatoly actually awaiting us at Registan Square in Samarkand. So as not to monopolize visitors, we were taken to another host who spoke little English but made up in a warm welcome at his home and family. The two children, 11 and 12 years old, were eager to practice their English with us.

That evening Anatoly invited us to his family where we enjoyed a sumptuous meal together with several other Servas members. Vladimir, one of the Servas hosts, volunteered to take us around the next day and we gratefully accepted his guidance. Most people in Samarkand speak Tajik and some Uzbek, but Vladimir speaks Russian, German and English fluently in addition to a smattering of several other languages. In fact we learned that the majority of people speak several languages of the region and start learning foreign languages in early grades.

Samarkand is one of the most fascinating cities we have ever visited. The splendor of the mosques, madressas, mausoleums and especially the Registan caravanserai is breathtaking. While most of the historical buildings "only" go back to the 1300s, the city itself appeared like a jewel even to Alexander the Great in 329 BC. One can barely imagine what it must have been like for the wary travelers of the Silk Road after weeks or months of travels to arrive at a place like that.

That evening the Servas community again organized a dinner for us, this time on a farm outside the city. Once more we were guests at an extended family with several Servas members present. As customary, many toasts were called for. Luckily, we were allowed to drink whatever we preferred, no hard liquor required. Since some people were fluent in English, translations went back and forth and we had a lively exchange of ideas and experiences.

Later our host of the evening, Holikberdi, proudly showed us his extensive gardens, his greenhouse construction, the poplars he grows as building material and presented us with some of his prized red roses. We felt very privileged to be welcomed so warmly and allowed to enjoy such generous hospitality.

Next morning we left for Bukhara and once more Anatoly and Rafiq helped us by negotiating the taxi fare for us. Several hours later we arrived in Bukhara where Rafiq had made reservations at a very nice B&B just a few minutes from the city center. He even called soon after our arrival to make sure we got there all right.

How fortunate we were to find such terrific Servas hosts half a world away, how grateful we are to them for such a splendid experience.

*Helga Smith, New York, USA*

#### *Addendum:*

Helga did not mention that she met Muborak when Helga was a volunteer New York City host for UN Presenter/participants providing short term housing for those working with the UN. One of the Helga guests was Muborak Sharipova, a sociologist, a social and NGO activist originally from Tajikistan. After the Soviet Union collapsed, Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries had a civil wars (1992 - 1997) which resulted in tremendous losses, economic crisis, deep poverty and other social problems. Muborak and her team of women have interviewed 1000 abused women and 5000 abused children in Central Asia. In keeping with the UN Millennium Goals for reducing crimes against women and children, Muborak has made at least 4 presentations to the UN, the last one being in 2005. During these visits to NYC to make presentations to the UN, Muborak and Helga became friends and Muborak joined Servas as a Traveler. Any one who has read the [Kite Runner](#) that is on the NY Times best seller list for over 100 weeks, will understand how women and children are abused in frustration and as a way to gain control/power in the times of change after the Soviet Union which supported equal rights for women withdrew from Central Asia.

*Mary Jane Mikuriya*

**Amir Levi visited Malawi** and sent some lovely pictures. Here is one of them showing some of the magnificent hills there.



## Country Reports

### OPENING MINDS AND NEW FRONTIERS IN SERVAS YOUTH ARGENTINA

#### Good news from Servas Youth in Argentina!

With a young Servas list of 75 members and the Patagonia '06 meeting in our background, it is time to go on for bigger and more varied projects.

Combining schedules can be quite complicated, we know that well, especially for “young” people who are dealing with one or two jobs, house keeping, pets, boy/girlfriends, sports, etc..... but in my experience, personal contact makes the biggest difference.

**Patagonia '06** was not the first, but certainly the biggest impulse to the creation of a hard working team. In April '06 the first National Meeting in **Río Ceballos, Córdoba**, with the organisation and coordination by another group of volunteers, set up the basis of what we believe Servas Argentina can do and be. Since that meeting, the National Board has new members, specially the election of regional coordinators. It is looking forward not only to interviewing new members, but principally to bringing a new dynamics to the Servas groups in a country with big distances like Argentina.

In the same meeting, I was elected National Youth Coordinator. With only 9 members for Servas La Plata, we had two meetings this year and agreed to create a phone network with the idea of letting the other members know of the Servas travellers we receive in our city, to organise meetings and share the experience.

The last weekend we received other members from Argentina and two American travellers visiting Buenos Aires and knew from their hosts that **the third “Socio-Cultural Meeting”** was going to be held in La Plata. These cultural meetings are being organised every two months by our National Secretary Cintia Amor and by Diego Rodríguez. Together with them, I coordinated the visit to the world famous Natural Sciences Museum from La Plata, a nice lunch in an old house and the ascension to the towers of the city's gothic Cathedral.

All this sounds only as recreational meetings, doesn't it? But personal contact makes the difference. You cannot work with other people if you do not know them, It is no mystery that food, dance and nice landscapes improve people's mood. Probably, joking and sharing are the first steps to getting to know people all over the world.

But let's talk about the hard work. As a result of Patagonia '06 experience, I was convinced that just as a pyramid or a temple, peace has to be built from the very base. We are usually very open with foreigners but often we hardly know the person who lives next door. Argentina is a huge country with its population mainly concentrated in Buenos Aires city. This situation makes enormous internal differences at every level: educational, social, economic and even religious. All the laws that come from the government are hard to apply within this varied landscape.

Argentina is probably, with Uruguay, one of the countries in South America with minimum percentage of aboriginal population. This does not mean that native cultures do not exist anymore. On the contrary, it is just that we do not know them. As a result, I asked myself why not trying to investigate a bit about our so called “original cultures” and organise something.... With open eyes and ears the possibilities just appeared and I started the links with Guaraní, Wichí and mainly, Kolla groups.

Soon, 5 other Servas members living not only in Buenos Aires, but also in the provinces of Jujuy, Santa Fe, Misiones and Tierra del Fuego (Northwest, Northeast and the very South, respectively) who live “door to door” with these communities, offered themselves as volunteers for this project. The more people we can include in the project, the more probability of success we will have, being each person a multiplication factor in this peace building. The so called “**Aboriginal project**” still does not have a formal name, as we wanted first to talk to the main actors, that is the native groups, letting them know of our deep interest in collaborating and creating a program based on mutual respect and comprehension.

A main contact has been established with the Kollas (truly Inka's heirs) in the NW of our country. I travelled to Jujuy and had the opportunity of talking to Mr Wanka Willka in Jujuy, a university Quechua teacher and the main promoter of the Kolla Culture. Three main projects emerged from this meeting:

1. Diffusion of their history and traditions in a cultural radio program in La Plata city
2. Contact and cooperation with a Servas member (who works in the film industry) for the production of short movies about discrimination and original communities' actual situation
3. Cultural meeting: workshops on all kinds of traditions, to be held probably in Buenos Aires, for 3 days and hosting the teachers who will be coming from Jujuy in our houses, just as normal Servas travellers. We intend to extend the invitation to the public in general and give special importance to the participation of young people also coming from Jujuy.

Another project we're working on is making **links with other ONGs** which have similar purposes. That is how I contacted those in charge of this project with a personal friend of mine, who is an active member of the Soka Gakkai International. This ONG has Buddhist bases, but works very actively in all kinds of activities that involve peace, culture and education.

Yes, Servas Argentina is very active and we're plenty of ideas. We're always looking forward to hearing from new volunteers for this projects.

*Paula Falaschi, National Youth Coordinator  
La Plata – Argentina, [paufulaschi@hotmail.com](mailto:paufulaschi@hotmail.com)*

## Comments

### *Good Karma*

A friend sent this to me attached to an email. I thought it embodied some of the Servas spirit and decided to share it with everybody. I am sure I have seen it before but feel it has many good points. The original had pleasant graphics which cannot be reproduced here due to space. Anyone who wants the original should contact me on [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) or [jgiffould@aol.com](mailto:jgiffould@aol.com)

#### *Instructions For Life*

1. *Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.*
2. *When you lose, don't lose the lesson.*
3. *Follow the three R's:*
  - a) *Respect for self,*
  - b) *Respect for others*
  - c) *Responsibility for all your actions.*
4. *Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.*
5. *Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.*
6. *Don't let a little dispute injure a great relationship.*
7. *When you realise you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.*
8. *Spend some time alone every day.*
9. *Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.*
10. *Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.*
11. *Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.*
12. *A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.*
13. *In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. don't bring up the past.*
14. *Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality.*
15. *Be gentle with the earth.*
16. *Once a year, go to some place you've never been before.*
17. *Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.*
18. *Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.*
19. *Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.*

### Working on nonviolence with people who killed

by Pat Patfoort

*(This is the next article by Pat Patfoort who moderated the GA so well. Her last article was in August 2007. Again only parts have been extracted as the article is quite long. The full article can be provided by contacting the editor.)*

Since 6 years we have been working on a regular basis in 7 different prisons in Belgium with groups of about 10 prisoners. We met with the groups one or two times a week, over 8-10 sessions of 1h1/2 (with 1/2h more of private conversations afterwards). Altogether we did 20 such series of sessions, so we worked with about 200 detainees, mostly men, but also a few women. Most of them were imprisoned for a long term, because of terrible facts like having killed.

#### 1) Content of the seminars

After the facilitator of the session had presented herself, her organisation and the seminar, the first session was one in which the detainees were asked, through a symbolic exercise, to **think about themselves and** were invited to **tell the group** afterwards some concrete facts in which **skills and feelings about themselves** showed up (like love, happiness, excitement, hope, irritation, anger, regret, hate). Most of the time they participated very actively in thinking about themselves and usually they all told something afterwards to the group. As we did at the end of every session, we evaluated this first session, and usually people said they liked learning to know one another, they liked the atmosphere of listening and respect for one another, and they wanted to continue to thinking about discovering themselves.

#### 2) What people learned

They learned about speaking with I-messages, how to deal with their own emotions (like frustrations, bottled-up anger, powerlessness, jealousy, being confronted with a lack of understanding or injustice, sorrow), accepting their own emotions, looking for their own motivations, empathy, giving people choices instead of putting them under pressure, being aware of different forms of communication (our intonation, our non-verbal communication). They became aware of how other people can see the reality in a different way from themselves, without being wrong. Other people can have other values.

They particularly liked to discuss with the group, especially in the way we did, which they were not used to at all: everyone could have his/her say, everyone was listened to and respected, people didn't try to convince the other ones. So they did appreciate very much that the facilitator from the beginning made them talk one by one and listen to one another, that they didn't talk at the same time or interrupted one another. This was new for most of them.

#### 3) What changes did these seminars bring

I think this list gives a good idea of what these seminars can bring to people who committed terrible criminal deeds. We can summarize this list by saying that this kind of seminar makes people think more about how they behave and enables them to start changing their attitudes in the direction of nonviolence.

## Tools for Peace - Continuation :

Peace could be achieved both spiritually and physically.

People are born with desires. An infant needs warmth, and care. The child does not know about the outside world but when he grows up little by little the external influences creep into his mind and, with the expectations of grabbing these desires and to own these, greed overpowers him. Anger, hatred and revenge will then follow. It is a pain that will be there forever. It is a pain indeed.

What are the things that you could do to relieve yourself of this pain?

Be happy with what you have (contentment) and develop patience. Clothing is needed to cover yourself from excess heat and cold. As far as your clothing protects you from external hazards why cry for more expensive ones. Shoes or footwear is worn to prevent you from damaging your feet. Your feet do not know whether you are wearing footwear made of genuine leather or synthetics or even from a piece of wood. What it matters is to safeguard your feet.

You live in a world of a variety of people, kind and environment. All that surrounds you do not meet things that you admire. Hence as you have the power to develop resistancy you should be able to develop patience and thus you will be free of all these ailments and there will be peace within you both physically as well as spiritually.

(Contd.....)

*Nandee  
Nandasena Amarasinghe  
Peace Secretary – Servas International*

## EXCO September update

EXCO is contacting Committees, such as the Audit Committee, Development Committee and major Project Leaders. We aim to be helpful, where help is needed, but not to interfere with the flow of Committee and Project work serving national groups and the General Assembly.

EXCO is also preparing for its first meeting, hoping for a handy, inexpensive location.

General purposes of our meeting:

- Building a leadership team
- Developing the Budget process and outlining the Budget
- Receiving and responding to the Audits (in preparation)
- Preparing the Distant Vote (more information to follow)
- Looking for ways to strengthen Servas and its mandate

We expect to have more details on our meeting agenda shortly. Any advice and inputs are welcome.

The General Assembly Official Minutes and handy digests of them are now on the Servas Website.

[http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Decision\\_of\\_the\\_eGA\\_2006](http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Decision_of_the_eGA_2006)

Several national secretaries have expressed interest in mounting a Democracy Study Group. More information to follow.

We started a process to review Areas, and Area Coordinator Elections as discussed at Latina, a project which has proceeded slowly.

We communicate mostly by "voice over the Internet", conference telephone, and webmail. Like many in Servas, all of us are busy with our private lives. Some of us have been set back by computer equipment breakdowns (Gary [who also had a flood at home], Nandee, and Pramod), and family matters, as well as forced business travel away from home.

The experimental Servas "business cards" are proving very useful. A design is available for local downloading and printing – or we can arrange to print and mail. Please let us know, if you are interested?

[exco@servas.org](mailto:exco@servas.org)

### Youth and leadership for Servas Central America.

Hello everybody. As you know SERVAS YOUTH (SY) is taking action at several levels. The last SY Report was sent through the key list to all the National Secretaries (NS) and Officers of Servas International (SI)

The Monthly News is circulating this report by parts, and now we need to talk about the next action:

#### “YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP IN SERVAS CENTRAL AMERICA”

- “Central America Regional Meeting, Youth and Leadership in Servas, January '07” is a project that the International Youth Coordinator is working on right now with the support of the Vice President, the DFC and other officers.
- This region, without an area coordinator and with plenty of needs could be supported by Servas Youth in several ways. During the GA Servas Youth organized a lunch with all the National Secretaries from the region who were present and with other members at the meeting. The Vice President (now in charge) joined us, to find the way to provide some support to this area. The most important outcome from that lunch is a personal bridge with these members. After the Latina meeting Servas Youth has maintained a strong mail correspondence with this area looking for volunteers to the Servas Youth Working Group, to try to find a city to host a SYLE the next year, offering help in several matters and reinforcing the link with these groups.
- At the last US-Mexican conference they made a document. One of the points was work to promote the Central American region by doing a regional meeting there every two years. Servas Youth is in contact with Servas Mexico and Servas US and we agreed to join forces on this matter.
- The proposal is a meeting in Costa Rica for Servas leaders and young Servas members from Central America to celebrate specific workshops which focus on two topics:
  - Develop the youth in the area
  - Improve the Servas structure and outreach in the area

#### • **Workshops** on:

- **Design a development plan for the area including Youth actions.** For this assistance in material, technical support, guide, and others will be discussed with the DFC.
- **Presentation of the Servas Youth Programs.** Looking for a strong presence of the national groups in the S.Y. Working Group; cities that will host a SYLE and the designation of a Youth Contact for each country.
- **Training for Servas Youth Leaders.** Look for new ways to develop the youth in the area. How the Servas structure works. Conflict resolution. Construction of networks with other members.
- **Link with other Youth NGOs.** Invitation to other NGOs working in the area to make a brief presentation and look for the way to work together.
- **Presentation of the results of the Servas Youth Working Group.** Next January we will have results from each sub-group to present and to re-discuss and to share.
- **Needs and options:** Presentation of the clear needs of this area and discussion to solve them in a creative and effective way.
- **Presentations from each national group:** Each country will have the space and the time to let us know the needs, proposals, ideas and projects to work at every level.

This article is not only information, it is a formal invitation to all the people interested in collaborating and working for Servas. We will need good wills and skills for this action. So if you have any of those, you are more than welcome. **Join us in Costa Rica from the 08 to the 13 of January 2007**, to be part of this.

This meeting at San Jose will provide the region with the skills and resources to become stronger and to improve the SERVAS spirit. To lead the change and to develop the human resource. The most important resource that we have in SERVAS.

*Pablo Chufeni, Servas Youth International Coordinator*  
[Pablochufeni@Yahoo.Com.Ar](mailto:Pablochufeni@Yahoo.Com.Ar)

#### **Youth in Malawi**

Here are some of the 'Youth' that Amir Levy found during his trip to Malawi. I wonder if any of them will eventually become part of Servas.



# Youth

## SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND '07 July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

**Servas Britain** and **Servas Youth** invite you to the next **International Youth and Family event** to be held in Yorkshire in the North of England. Following on from the Youth meeting in Patagonia in January 2006 we hope to make this an annual event.

- An opportunity for all young travellers and hosts (18-30) to get together and to share their Servas experiences
- Also open to other Servas members of any age.
- A special welcome to Servas families with children and teenagers worldwide.
- Under18's welcome if accompanied by an adult.

**Dalesbridge Centre** near Settle is the venue, set in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park.

There will be a *meeting-up point* in Manchester a few days before the meeting – a chance for the 18-30 group to have a taste of city life before travelling together to Dalesbridge.

### ACCOMMODATION

- *Group accommodation* in small bunkhouses.
- *Camping* – for those with their own equipment.
- *Limited Bed & Breakfast* type accommodation at extra cost (for those looking for a little more comfort).

### CATERING

- *Full board*
- Evening meals together. Other meals in small groups.
- Part self-catering option for campers.

### COSTS

- Not yet finalised – details to follow soon.
- We will aim to keep costs as low as possible.
- Reductions for all young people.
- Families –special rates for family groups.



Part of the campsite at Dalesbridge.

THE PROGRAMME SO FAR..... more to follow :

The focus of the event is for Servas young people and families from around the world to enjoy time together. All with an interest in Youth in Servas are welcome. Let us know if you have ideas or want to make a contribution to the programme.

### Activities

- Plenty of activities for all ages and interests nearby.
- Space at the centre for both small and large group activities whatever the weather.
- Parent-led programme for children.
- Specialist outdoor activities for teenagers available on site.

### Discussions

- Come and **debate** what Servas has to offer young people and families for the future.
- Meet with members of local **peace** organisations who are building links with Servas.
- Share ideas and concerns about **world issues** and look at what contribution Servas can make to a more peaceful world.

### ARRIVING AT DALESBRIDGE

**Dalesbridge** is situated on the A65 between Settle and Ingleton.

*Transport* will be provided from nearby *train stations* which are easily accessible from *Leeds* and *Manchester*. If arriving by *air* it is easier and often cheaper to fly direct to *Manchester* rather than to London. There may also be cheap European flights to other northern airports e.g. Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle.

By *ferry* there is a route from *Rotterdam* or *Zeebrugge* to *Hull*.

### BOOKING

We will be open to take bookings from the end of 2006. In the meantime if you would like to register an interest in coming to the event or have any queries or suggestions please contact:

**Ann Greenhough**  
**Servas International Youth Team**

Email : [dasher1949@aol.com](mailto:dasher1949@aol.com)

or Tel 00 44 1943 862965

See next page for 'Some other things to think about/'

## Youth - continued

### SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND '07 July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

#### SOME OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

##### Help needed

If you are a young person who would like to get involved in planning and running the event let us know:

Ann Greenhough or Pablo Chufeni  
[dasher1949@aol.com](mailto:dasher1949@aol.com) or [pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar)

##### Servas International Youth Travel Award

*This new Award* will be available next year to help one young person come to the Yorkshire '07 event. This will be someone who would otherwise not have the opportunity to travel to Britain.

*Applications* will be accepted from Servas members worldwide (between ages of 18 and 25 at time of travel).

*More information* will be available soon about how to apply and about the selection process.

Look on the *Servas Youth website* for details or contact Ann Greenhough (see above).

##### Young Travellers to Britain

If you are a Servas traveller wanting to meet with other young Servas travellers and hosts when you come to Britain make contact with Laura Asher who is part of the 18-30 network in Servas Britain.

[L.L.Asher@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:L.L.Asher@newcastle.ac.uk)

##### Links with a Servas Britain host family

Servas Britain host families are keen to meet young travellers both before and after the event in Yorkshire. If you are a young person perhaps coming to Britain for the first time let us know if you would like to be linked with a host family before you arrive. Some may be able to offer a longer stay and help you plan your time during your visit.

##### Bringing Servas families together

Let us know if you would like to meet a Servas Britain host family who has children or teenagers of a similar age to your own and we will try to match you together before your visit next year.

##### International Youth Camps in Britain

In the summer months there are many opportunities in Britain for young people (aged 18-25) to join a work camp where they live and work with an international group of young people.

These camps are usually for 2 to 3 weeks and are either on social or environmental projects. There is a small fee to take part otherwise food and accommodation are all provided. Contact us for more details or if you are interested in going on a camp with someone else who will also be coming to the event.



*The house at Dalesbridge - a typical old stonebuilt property, built in 1907*