



Conflict Resolution

As I write this there are conflicts going on all over the world. One is naturally more aware of conflicts nearer home. Hence the furore over the cartoons done in the Danish newspaper last year, which has recently enlarged disproportionately has concerned me. It reminds me of children in a school playground taunting and teasing each other, gradually getting worse when the teacher is not there to supervise them and resolve the problem. More children join in but the majority are not happy with the situation. Some just walk away ignoring the situation. Others try to resolve it. Some think they can resolve it by shouting louder and being more rude. Quieter children see that this only makes it worse and, whilst a couple go to find the teacher, there are others who try more reasoning methods. They make an effort to listen to both sides to help them sort out where the problem started. So in the adult world, as Servas members, which groups of children are we most like?

We have our EGA coming up in April. Part of that is going to be using Conflict Resolution as a way forward. How can we help ourselves and the rest of the world? The August 2005 issue of Servas Monthly News reported on the meeting at Askov where Conflict Resolution was found to work. Now let us put it into practice.

On a flying forum a group of pilots, from all walks of life, were discussing the current situation, especially concerning 'Free Speech'. Their comments seemed pertinent:

There's no such thing as 'free' speech. Each and everyone of us must be responsible for the consequences of what we say (and do) and to me that confers a certain weight of responsibility. This is especially true when we seek a public platform for our views.

It is a real shame that the idea of free speech is twisted by certain people and organisations to somehow absolve them of this responsibility.

And from an ex-policeman:

Voltaire best expressed my view:- "I don't agree with what you say, but I'll fight to the death for your right to say it." With the caveat about direct incitement to violence, that still holds true today. People who seek to restrict freedom of speech should be careful what they wish for; one day they may hold views which are not considered "fashionable" or "acceptable".

"A stranger is a friend you don't know"

But how valid is that these days? It is up to us in Servas to help this work.

A Large amount on the EGA

The eGA is coming up in a few months. In preparation for this vast amounts of details have been travelling round the world on the internet as they go to the National Secretaries and other key people. For those who are not key people some of the details have been included in pages 9 - 11. this is to give people a general understanding of what is going on. They can be readily accessed on www.siexco.org .

Contents: January 2006

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Contact

We welcome articles coming to SI Monthly News. We do not guarantee that 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 well 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 Help needed

Olin, E. Jean (nee Parrish) - Obituary

I am writing to advise you that Jean Olin, a long time Servas Host in Victoria passed away on new years Day, 2006.

Jean loved Servas, adored her guests and greatly valued her long standing membership in the organisation.

Jean's daughter-in-law, Joyce Chorny, Canada

"On New Years Day, 2006 we lost our Mother, Grandmother and dear friend Eleanor 'Jean' Olin.

Jean was active as a volunteer for the Commonwealth Games and the Museum of British Columbia. She was passionate about travel, and as a result of her interest in others became active as a host in the peace organisation Servas.

Jean's huge heart embraced friends all around the world. She is greatly loved and will be sadly missed."

"SERVAS NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEER WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Many South American countries would benefit a lot if they could count on more hours of volunteer work. There are several projects that could be activated in South America, that would strengthen Servas in that continent.

Roberto Borenstein, Area Coordinator for South America, has thought on several work possibilities and he is looking for volunteers to work with him, even if living in a different continent.

If you feel motivated to help in the development of Servas in South America, please write to southamerica@Servas.org

This invitation is open to any individual or National Group interested in contributing to a faster development of Servas in South America."

WANTED

Page Editors

To help broaden the scope of Servas Monthly News I am looking for page editors to produce sufficient articles to fill an A4 page on a certain topic each month. As this is based on the internet we do not have quite the size restriction of a paper copy. So the number of pages can expand or contract depending on the variety of articles available, I am looking at an average of 10 pages per issue. This has been happening since the starting month of June 2005. The articles can contain pictures or different forms of graphics, the only problem being that, as yet, I do not have broadband and so non-text takes longer for me to download and then re-transmit as part of the whole issue.

The sort of pages I am looking for are:

General News
Country Reports eg: meetings, articles about the country
Area Reports eg: meetings
Travel Reports
Host Reports
Servas members activities
Helping others eg: Pakistan and Kashmir
UN Activities
Peace Activities
Get Togethers eg: London
Discussion items relating to Servas
Comment relating to Servas
General Discussion -looking at the world
Youth, to help Pablo and his excellent efforts
..... more ideas.

The Servas Monthly News comes out at the end of each month, looking at the month that has gone and looking into the future. I would be looking for complete pages to be forwarded to me by 25th of the month at the latest. I can then do a final edit on them, if needed, to have the issue published on 30th of the month.

If you wish to join the editorial team please email me on either: newsletter@Servas.org or ijiffould@aol.com stating what your topic preference is. This is needed so as to spread the topics without too much overlap.

Do not worry if English is not your first language, I will do a grammar spelling check on the work for you. However articles should in general be positive and should not demean a person in anyway.

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Get together in London

Please note the change of venue.

The new 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.

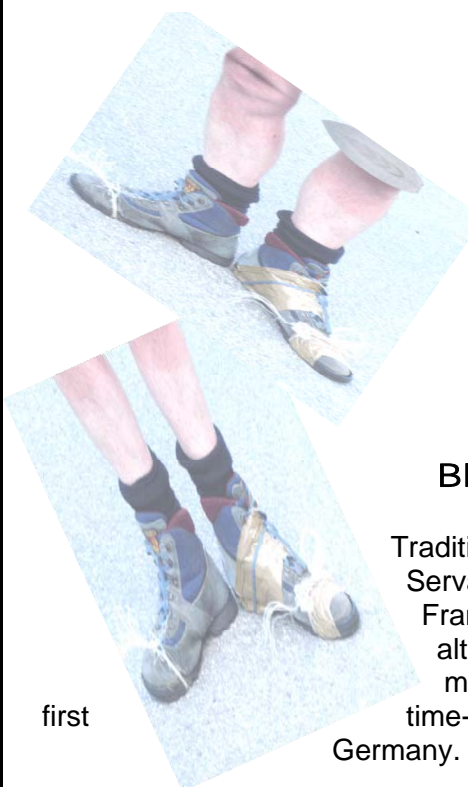
Camping weekend - Netherlands

Advance Notice
Full details later

Servas-Netherlands is planning
an international **Servas-camp-weekend**
from September 15 until September 17,
2006.

The maximum number of guests is 200.
From the **Netherlands** 100 members of
Servas are invited.
From neighbouring countries **Belgium**,
Luxemburg, **Germany** and **England** also
100 members of Servas are invited.

Put this in your diary and get the booking
details in the Feb or March issue.



first

Pathways
Together –
Sentier
Insieme –
Route d’
Amitié –
Miteinander
unterwegs
28 - 30 July
2006 in the
Black Forest

Traditionally organized by
Servas friends in Italy,
France or Switzerland
alternatively, the next
meeting will – for the
time- be organized in
Germany.

The meeting will take place in the southern part of the
Black Forest (Schwarzwald) near the Feldberg, the
highest peak of that mountain range (1498 m). This is not
an alpine region, but on clear days you enjoy beautiful
views of the Alps, the Rhine Valley and the Vosges
Mountains from the mountain tops. The Black Forest is
well-known for its extended network of hiking trails.

Date: Friday 28 to Sunday 30 July 2006, plus option
of 3 day- trekking afterwards

Venue for the weekend is the „**Leistungszentrum
Herzogenhorn**“, (**Feldberg**)

Accommodation: 25 double rooms with en suite or
communal showers.

Prices: €26 to €34 per person per day for halfboard in a
double (reduced rates for children possible)

Leitungszentrum Herzogenhorn is located in the
Nature Park “Südschwarzwald”, approx. 30 km east of
Freiburg, 60 km northeast of Basel, it is accessible by
car on a small road, off road No B317 between Todtnau
and Titisee-Neustadt

As the number of places is limited to 50, we would
advise you to register soon.

Deadline for registration is 1 March, 2006

For registration contact:

Gudrun.baumgartner@web.de

See you in the Black Forest!

Gudrun Baumgartner & Margret Klaeser

Languages

<p>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.</p> <p>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 is English, hence any non-English words and phrases must be accompanied by the English translation of them.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Our seventh language is Swedish.</p>		<p>Zero</p> <p>One</p> <p>Two</p> <p>Three</p> <p>Four</p> <p>Five</p> <p>Six</p> <p>Seven</p> <p>Eight</p> <p>Nine</p> <p>Ten</p> <p>Twenty</p> <p>Thirty</p> <p>Forty</p> <p>Fifty</p> <p>Sixty</p> <p>Seventy</p> <p>Eighty</p> <p>Ninety</p> <p>Hundred</p> <p>Thousand</p>	<p>Noll</p> <p>Ett (En)</p> <p>Två</p> <p>Tre</p> <p>Fyra</p> <p>Fem</p> <p>Sex</p> <p>Sju</p> <p>Åtta</p> <p>Nio</p> <p>Tio</p> <p>Tjogo</p> <p>Trettio</p> <p>Fyrtio</p> <p>Femtio</p> <p>Sextio</p> <p>Sjuttio</p> <p>Åttio</p> <p>Nittio</p> <p>Hundra</p> <p>Tusend</p>
<p>Peace</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>How are you</p> <p>Goodbye</p> <p>Be seeing you</p> <p>Have a safe journey</p> <p>Best wishes to your family.</p> <p>Do come again</p>	<p>Fred</p> <p>Hej/ god dag (formal)</p> <p>Hur mår du</p> <p>Hej då / adjö</p> <p>Vi ses ingen</p> <p>Frerlig resa</p> <p>Hälsa familjen</p> <p>Välkommen tillbakaen</p>	<p>Do you eat meat?</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>This is my sister</p> <p>This is my brother</p> <p>This is my mother</p> <p>This is my father</p> <p>This is my son</p> <p>This is my daughter</p>	<p>Äter du kötte?</p> <p>Var bor du?</p> <p>Det är min syster</p> <p>Det är min bror</p> <p>Det är min mamma</p> <p>Det är min pappa</p> <p>Det är min son</p> <p>Det är min dotter</p>
<p>Please</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>That's nothing</p> <p>Where is the toilet?</p> <p>Left</p> <p>Right</p> <p>Straight on</p> <p>Behind you</p> <p>Where do I sleep</p> <p>I am vegetarian</p> <p>Where is the nearest telephone?</p>	<p>Varså god / Snälla</p> <p>Tack</p> <p>Ingen orsak</p> <p>Var finns toaletten?</p> <p>Vänster</p> <p>Högen</p> <p>Raht fram</p> <p>Efter dig</p> <p>Var kan jag sova?</p> <p>Jag är vegetarian</p> <p>Var finns närmaste telefon?</p>	<p>What music do you like?</p> <p>Have you visited the town?</p> <p>Where are the shops?</p> <p>Is there a market?</p> <p>Thank you for your help.</p>	<p>Wilken musik tycker du om?</p> <p>Har du besökt stan?</p> <p>Var ligger affärerne?</p> <p>Finns där en marknad?</p> <p>Tack för hjälpen</p>

Host and Travel Reports

Travel tips for Africa

(from Servasnet)

Dear Servas community,

I recently sent a picture showing me with John from Uganda and John from Kenya, allow me to send you the link. This time you can see many more pictures and links to Servas and other organizations. I hope you enjoy the pictures.

Also, some have asked for travel tips, especially how to find Servas people in Africa. It is all on the web site.

<http://Chem.QC.CUNY.edu/~aidsfree>

Rolande, New York, US

Canada from South Korea

We are now back to our daily routine in Pusan(Busan) Korea with the beautiful memories of you and your country. It was an honor and a privilege for us having such a lovely time, but I missed you during the conference.

In Alaska, we saw the grand and untouched nature. It was so grand that even the brave last frontiers couldn't get a slight touch on her. And we also saw the little city Anchorage of man made, compared to those of gigantic nature.

On the cruise ship of Statendam of Holland America line, we embarked Seward and sailing down to the South. We approached, 0.2 miles of the face of Hubbard Glacier in Yakutat Bay. We took private shore excursion tours of Sitka, Haines, and at Skagway on the White Pass Scenic Railway to Yukon and got a small bag of pure gold with our own panning at the Klondike gold-rushed village. Then, Juneau, Ketchikan, sailing through Seymour Narrows at slack tide of the inside passage to Vancouver. I had the honor of talking with captain Peter Bos in person. His detailed explanation of the cruise was impressive. I got the book, 'The Alaska Cruise Handbook.' with his autograph. The time was about to cross the Seymour Narrows, where the currents are so rapid and strong that even the whales are waiting for the timing to cross.

On Servas meeting, our attending the joint Servas Canada - US Servas conference held August 5 to 7 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver was surprisingly good experience to us. First of all, I want to express my deepest appreciation of Penny Pattison of Servas Canada, Dan Rubin of Servas US and other Servas key persons those who are involved in organizing the conference for all of their hard work.

The conference was well organised, very informative and ran friendly feeling as if it is held in my own country. Even I missed some part of it due to the language barriers, I came to learn much about Servas with different approach by different culture. I enjoyed it very much. Everybody seems to be satisfied with the conference. One thing we regret is we failed to attend the walking tours of Downtown Eastside Orientation and Tour. We applied but we couldn't make it on time. In the evening Mr Gunther drove us couple, Roslyn and Phill Greene from the US to the beach to see the firework. The fire show was great. When driving back to UBC accommodation we got flat tire. Time was approaching the midnight. In the darkness by the road side when we were trying to fix it, one gentlemen stopped his car and came to help us. He's gone with our thanks. I felt the Canadian's love to others.

We introduced Mark to Christian, they discussed and he and his wife decided to join the Servas. When we heard of this, everybody was pleased. At the day of cruise, he showed up with new van for driving us to Seward. We tried to buy the tickets for the scenic railroad travel from Anchorage to Seward the tickets were all already sold out. It was so popular during the summer time, we were at a loss when we know this. Our disappointment turned out to be blessings. With Mark's driving we could see more and visited the cities and scenic areas we passed by.

At the first night in Vancouver, I and my wife were hosted by P and the other two couples with E. They came to the airport to pick up us. On the way home, the P asked if we go to the States for the dinner barbecue. We admitted it as a joke, but actually they have a summer cottage in Washington States. Crossing the border is unimaginable in Korea. Korean peninsula is surrounded by the sea and the only land bridge to the continent is blocked by the North Korea. We have been living totally isolated geographically and psychologically. That might be the reason that Koreans like to go abroad. We have 500 Servas families and 300 more standing in line to get the interview. The house was in the wood by the sea, we had wonderful time there. The barbecue was delicious and the wine was best with the talks. That late evening we came back to the Richmond, Vancouver crossing the Canadian - US border. When leaving for Korea, they came to the airport with my materials for my writing collected during our travel. I would especially appreciate them.

Mrs E's hospitality just moved the other couples.

When we arrived at her home, she prepared the maps of BC and Alberta for our travel. She tried to show them everything possible in the city. All the way on our RVing, they talked about her. They regretted they couldn't convey their gratefulness to her. They regretted they couldn't make phone calls to her. They described her life as a 'nice old life' in Korean.

In Victoria, R and S prepared big barbecue dinner inviting us 6 people and their sons, daughters, grandsons and grand daughters. So many people were gathered together and everybody enjoyed the evening gathering. We just became one of their family members feeling the strong family bond and traditions. The son in law, provided us a lot of info about the Vancouver Island. Janie, the oldest daughter was a poet and we liked her way of talking and the stories she told us. I and my wife stayed at there that evening, and others left for the RV in the West Bay RV Camp Ground.

Mr. Robert McInnes came to dayhost us the next day. First he drove us to his home and we could meet his lovely wife Betty. We enjoyed talks over a cup of coffee and some homemade bread. He said that he was sorry not to host us for his apartment is too small, but it was large to our standard. In the living room window, we could see a white crane walk in the river and flocks of birds on the grass down the front yard. They lead a lovely life. He drove us to the tourist attractions through the sea side routes and visited his son's house, who is working as a reporter for the Vancouver Sun. We visited the beautiful campus of the University of Victoria.

In Edmonton, A and S made us special guests with preparation of a lot of food and programs. Her collection of native artifact of so many countries she travelled were impressive. The house was a small museum. Before the dinner we all went to a garage sale and we bought several things. The other couples seem enjoyed that kind of sales for we do not have that kind of system in Korea. The evening feast was great. L a Servas neighbor came to attend with delicious fruit pizza of her own make for the dessert.

I could meet the Canadian and the US Servas key persons and got some valuable information and materials for Servas Korea. The US Servas NS generously allowed me to talk with. Most of all, he proposed joint-operation of Serva Korea and the US, which I took as a positive homework assignment. We need some time to talk with Korean key persons in October meeting. He also gave me applicable info about running the organization and the skills. I would also personally

appreciate all those who shared their time with me in that tight schedule. It was most exciting time that Penny invited me to give a speech at general session on the 'Servas Korea.' The panel session organizer included me in one of the panelists on the title of 'Cultural Difference and Home Visit.' After the session, my wife pointed it out that I made one wrong answer. I wished her to be one instead of me. Anyway I was not sure I did my job good or not, but everybody seemed interested.

We were welcomed to the conference by Shatseeakum, an Elder of the Musqueum Nation, whose people inhabited the land the University was built on, and by a Vancouver City Councillor, a long-time peace and social justice activist.

Our RV(Motor Home) drove us 5366km. From Vancouver- victoria and Ucluelet- Tofino- Nanaimo- Whistler- Clearwater- Jasper- cefield parkway- Columbus Glacier- Edmonton- Drumheller- Calgary- Banff- Athabasca Glacier- Lake Louise- Lake Peyto- Miette Hotspring- Revelstoke- Peachland- (crossed border)- Washington State of the US-Seattle- Bellingham-(crossed border again)- Vancouver as port of call.

On Servas hosting, we would thank all those who hosted us and helped us hosting. We'll never forget their hospitality. Hosting 6 people at a home is not easy thing at all, we all knew it. But the Canadian hosts were gladly offered us the unique experience of 3 couple hosting. I and my wife had experienced it in other countries more than several times, but other two couples are totally new kids on the block. They are eager to experience foreign Servas host. They hosted foreigners at home Korea, but due to commanding very limited English, they couldn't dare to go out of country. They called me help them to go abroad to experience Servas host, I accepted the proposal and we made this itinerary together.

At Anchorage, Ms Christian Anderson hosted us beginning with the great seafood dinner and gave us a ride of her very old, but looks new classic sport car. One big female moose and her baby showed up into her garden and began to feed her flowers. She let them eat and we watched it. The show was a real great. We do not have moose in Korea.

Early next morning on the way to Seward, we visited P and M. They invited us for tasting beer of his own brewing and his bagpipe playing. He brewed the Guinness Stout, which I like best. Private brewing is not permitted by law in Korea and playing bagpipe is rare thing. For the Koreans both were interesting.

Mark Moraes, an American friend who visited me in Pusan(Busan) when in Korea and invited me to come to Alaska which is most beautiful in the world, came to the Anchorage International Airport to pick up us with his son Brendon. We went to the Anchorage RV Park where his camper trailer placed in. In the first evening he and his wife Julie brought us a rice cooker. The Korean ladies liked it very much. For they were not so happy to eat bread and meat for every meal. You might know that rice and Kimchi is Koreans staple food. We can't eat a single meal without it.

We all are happy that the other Korean couples began to speak in English. They came a little accustomed to the Western environment and they dared to speak in English. When A asked Mr L of his job. He answered that he managed Koreans' erection. Al seemed a little embarrassed. I corrected his pronunciation 'erection to election.' Everybody laughed. He got retirement two years ago from a high ranking Korean government official managing Elections. Everybody laughed and enjoyed the evening.

Sylvia asked me to bring two letters for Mr. Eum and Ms Lee who once hosted her in Korea. She didn't forget the warmth of Korean Servas. We loved her attitudes. This is a kind of model for every Servas travellers.

In Calgary, T and M hosted us as VIPs. T connected electric line to from his garage to our RV, for at least one couple should stay in the RV. I and my wife were lucky commanding English, we were excluded from the couple who should stay in the RV. After a long mountain life, we want to sleep on a stable bed, not swaying one and the other side all night. The other couple were smart enough to sleep in the house turn by turn. When I told this to my wife, she liked it. We were happy at their home. We liked their new wooden floor imported from Brazil for the colors, which most Korean prefer to live on. They were Jewish in blood, and we had many things to see and to talk with. Other couples showed their interests too, for they never met Jewish people before in their life. In Korea Jewish people are well-known for their education and religion. The next day we went to the 'Heritage park Historical Village' folk village of Canada. We saw the past and present of Canada. I visited the Freemason's Office in the town and talked about the past and present of Freemasonry in Alberta. I was eligible to visit the office as I am a Master Mason.

In Vancouver again to fly back to Korea, A and E J came to the Canadream RV company to pick up us with two cars. We were so glad to meet them again. It was already one month after the conference in UBC. One couple, Mr Lee from Seoul, went to their son by taxi who is studying mass media in Vancouver. Now we two couples are left after the long journey together. It gave me a kind of mixed feelings, sad to depart and a relief to get more space ourselves from 6 to 4.

The gardens of the jacksons were extraordinary. They keep just the wild ponds of Asia with the varieties of oriental wild weeds, water lilies, bamboos and oriental flowers. Two bronze cranes stood like alive ones. To our surprise, there was our national flower, the rose of sharon were smiling to us with vivid color of nature as if they knew us. Two more things to mention is that they keep a Korean Aemilleh Bell and a Korean gong, about the bell, a legend goes that the master bell builder couldn't make the bell sounding as he wanted, but obeyed to the instruction of a spirit in his dream to cast her only daughter into the burning iron. Not to mention about the killing of the baby, but he succeeded in getting the sound he had been desired. The original Aemilleh Bell in Kyungju still rings 'Aemilleh' or 'Maaaaam' to call her Mother sadly. And a Korean Gong, which is still being used for the farmers' music. My wife could never forget the whole beef, a cow, big loaf of beef--- prepared for us. They gave us rich information on the city which we used the next day.

The summer of 2005 was great for us 6 Koreans. We owe much to all those shared their time and talk and their hospitality. We love Servas. Peace is being built originating from one's heart, from every one's heart to others.

Jong Soo KIM , Young Og WOO , South Korea

Country Reports

Britain - Region C - Bristol Area, Somerset and Dorset

C – for cathedrals, castles, caves, cycle ways, coast, cider and cheese...The list could continue. With excellent , public transport to the larger cities from London and the South East where international travellers often first make landfall in the UK, Region C is a fine place to visit for the Servas traveller whatever special interests he/she has. It is also a region where a number of hosts WMT (want more travellers).

Bristol, a large historic city, offers a lively cultural scene of great diversity. The famous old Theatre Royal, close to the waterfront, has been joined in recent decades by arts cinemas, clubs and restaurants in the regenerated dockside area. Its close neighbour, Bath, also a city of great history with the fantastic Roman baths, abbey and a picturesque riverside setting for its famous Georgian terraces is also well-visited.

Venture further afield after exploring these popular centres and you will be well-rewarded. The countryside and smaller towns are full of opportunities to find like-minded Servas hosts with a huge variety of interests and the possibility of walking cycling and experiencing the more down-to-earth and spiritual side of beautiful rural areas. Public transport can be a little more difficult but most places are accessible with determination and ingenuity (qualities seen in most Servas travellers) and where not hosts will often be able to assist in some way. Here you can meet with craftsmen, organic gardeners, philosophers and environmentalists. There are fine stretches of coastline such as the cliffs of historic Lyme Regis or the 4 mile stretch of sandy beach at Studland (close to Corfe Castle) to explore. There are uncrowded inland areas for walks and contemplation - the Quantock and Mendip Hills and the Somerset levels.

Come to Region C and see for yourselves and enjoy the most important aspect of Servas travel which is the welcome you receive and the pleasure taken in guiding you to the experiences which best suit your travelling dreams. And do not forget those hosts who WMT. Happy travelling!
Caroline Naysmith, Region C, England

Upto 300 words about
your country
Please

Upto 300 words about
your country
Please

Upto 300 words
about your country
Please

Comments

Servas' Peace building

Here follow a few comments on Servas' Peace building which I wish to share with you. They come from my 40+ years of peace building as Servas Host, Traveler, National Secretary, Area Representative in the Pacific, Servas International Representative to the United Nations & EXCO Servas International Peace Secretary.

All united in Servas, hosts and travelers, together make the difference and do indeed bring humankind closer to Peace. I wish to take this opportunity to commend Servas and its global membership for its unique and exemplary global Peace Building !!!

Servas gave the example and many organizations followed our example, and they all contribute towards peace building. As a former AFS scholar, I'm happy to note that the best among them, and the one that works closest to Servas, is the Hospitality Club, which was born from the AFS Intercultural Programs' experience and network of its founders.

1970-73 I was in very close contact with Reva King, and, following her wise guidance in her very many letters from her home in lower Manhattan/NYC, she had guided me in developing Servas in Africa through which I was then traveling and where I was fortunate to visit and update about Servas also so many of her contacts and their many friends through Servas information meetings in hundreds of places.

Reva King is the individual to whose great vision and initiative Servas International owes its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN).

Reva was our first Representative to the UN and for so many years she participated proactively in its peace building-related committees and activities to which Servas International has since been invited as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO).

Our consultative status to the UN offers to Servas:

1. the opportunity to participate in the UN's peace building, share the point of view of Servas through our statements that become official United Nations' documents; but also, most importantly,
2. to meet personally, discuss and share Servas' Peace Vision with all the nations' leaders !

Yes, besides globally proactively facilitating, developing and simplifying our hosts and travelers' exchanges, let's make sure to develop Servas in all regions, and make the most of the so very many constant opportunities which our consultative status with the United Nations offers us !!!

With best wishes for 2006,

Marco Kappenberger, NS Servas Samoa
k@samo.ws

From Servasnet after comments about lack of activity on the site:

Imagine the possibilities!

We have a saying in french: 'Pas de nouvelles, bonnes nouvelles!' (No news, good news!). I too noticed the lack of activity...whatever happened to that 'Christmas traditions around the world' report that someone had volunteered to put together?...I recall that many took offense at the suggestion when it was proposed, implying that other religions were being 'discriminated' against. I for one would have loved to hear about various cultural traditions specific to one country or another ...Oh well... Whether one is christian or not, the story of the birth of Christ (what Christmas is supposed to be about - not santa claus, north pole and reindeers and often excessive useless gifts) is still a beautiful and fascinating one.

Anyway, I want to take the opportunity while I'm here online to wish you all a new year filled with good news and good opportunities, good work and good adventures, good health, good love, good friends and lots of happiness.

I also take the opportunity to wish everyone in Servas many wonderful moments in 2006 filled with inspiration and creativity, magnificent travels, meetings with remarkable people and much laughter.

May this year bring peace to the world and a better understanding among the people of the earth.

May those who suffer find the courage to overcome their grief and those who have much find the generosity to share.

I leave you with one of my favorite new year's quote:

Now let us welcome the new year,
full of things that have never been...

allow me to edit that:

'full of GOOD things that have never been...'

Magali

From SI Exco News

President's Welcome Letter to eGA 2006

Dear National Secretaries and other official delegates to the General Assembly,

I have the honour, as your Servas International President, to send you both this one-page Programme and this lengthy Agenda for your extraordinary General Assembly at Latina, Italy running from Sunday morning, April 2, 2006 to Saturday, April 8, 2006.

For the success of this General Assembly, I am asking you to:

- Read the Agenda
 - Prepare to schedule your time for both formal voting sessions and for preparatory Workshops
 - Help establish a Working Group or join one
- My detailed explanation of the Agenda follows.

Geoff Maltby, President - Servas International

EXPLANATION OF THE AGENDA

After I received about 100 Agenda proposals from National Secretaries and other officers before the deadline of October 2, 2005, I realized I needed help to fit them into a workable Agenda.

I enlisted an Agenda Working Group consisting of Penny Pattison (Servas Canada), Chris Patterson (Servas New Zealand), Pramod Kumar (Servas India), Muriel Gipalou (Servas France), and Rami Rafaeli (Servas Israel), all assisted by Gary Sealey (SI Peace Secretary who is serving as interim Programme Chair, extraordinary GA). Your thanks are due to them. Responsibility for approval and any errors or omissions is mine; please let me know.

It was clear to them and to me, as it will be to you: many of the items you submitted require advance discussion and Workshops to clarify them before the formal voting sessions of the GA can decide.

Also, because several National Secretaries submitted varying recommendations on similar items I liked the idea of sorting these items into broad groups for Workshops.

In the one-page Programme you will quickly see that these groupings result in broad thematic subjects, of Development (**D**), Exco and Governance (**E**), Financial Administration (**F**), General Assembly (**G**), Host Lists (**H**), Membership (**M**) which run through the week, both for Workshops and for some formal eGA decisions. Discussions at Workshops arranged this way will save time. They will help you prepare for decisions in the formal voting sessions of the extraordinary GA or at later General Assemblies, or possibly through Distant Voting.

The one-page Programme document conveniently distinguishes Formal extraordinary GA decision-times (over 20 boxes shaded on the Programme) from Workshops (about 12 boxes in white, each indicated by **W**).

As you can see, and I hope you agree, I wanted to reserve your time in the formal GA for decision-sessions. All discussion has been scheduled for Workshops.

Some planned Workshops are intended for Education and Training of Servas leaders, and not for specific decisions. Other Workshops will prepare for Formal decision-making at the GA by providing a preliminary round of discussion on some of the Agenda items before these items go to the decision-making GA sessions for voting.

Thus, we have planned two distinct types of Workshops as follows:

1. *Non-decisional Workshops, for education and for holding discussions on Agenda items which do not call for a decision from the GA. Such items shall not be put up for voting.*
2. *Preliminary Workshops, for holding preliminary discussion on Agenda items that require a decision from the GA. In some cases, National Secretaries proposed Agenda items intended for decisions but not yet in the form of clearly drafted motions. Workshops will help in drafting of their motions that will then be decided in the formal voting sessions of the GA.*

I think we have respected your intent, in sorting items into the right places on the Agenda. In case you have any doubt, I am asking the Agenda Working Group to be prepared to offer consultation and assistance to you and to advise me.

To summarize, the general flow of the Agenda, outlined in the Programme is intended to show:

1. *Workshops for discussion or for preparing presentations.*
2. *Formal GA voting sessions on those Workshop presentations of finalized proposals, which may include clearly-stated brief principles, briefly-stated reasons for the proposal, estimated benefits and costs and other likely impacts, and concise motions for GA vote;*
3. *GA voting sessions are limited to short questions of delegates to the Workshop group, to clarify specific points of their work.*
4. *GA delegates may make brief statements of support or reservation on the Workshop proposals and may offer improvements to proposals acceptable to originators in advance of the vote.*
5. *General Assembly formal Voting process for decision, or*
6. *GA request to return a specific item to a Workshop for more discussion before GA decision.*

I will be asking a special Working Group to consult and assist in the development of Rules of Order. When these Rules are adopted by the GA they will support an efficient and orderly approach, while respecting principles of fair, efficient, and democratic governance of Servas.

I am asking you to indicate your interest as soon as possible, to help create a Working Group or join one, and lead Workshops on your and related agenda items. Your work will help foster clarification and understanding of items to be decided by the GA

The programme for the Zero Day Workshops is being designed separately, to help us sharpen our skills at conflict management and leadership. It will also help us to build our capacities as delegates, to participate very effectively in the extraordinary GA. It will equip us with expertise and practices proven at recent, successful meetings of Servas National Secretaries: especially at Askov; in the Americas; at Servas Pathways Alpine meeting; and at the New Delhi meeting of Asian Servas countries. I will be announcing a Working Group to advance it; your help to the Zero Day Working Group is welcome. Please let me know of your interest.

How to read the Agenda? You will find each Agenda item you submitted listed among the Formal decision sessions of the extraordinary GA session at the time when it will first be considered. Your recommended Agenda items are coded with a short form of your member-country's name, for instance ITA (Italy). If you recommended educational activities or a workshop without requesting a decision, you will likely find your item grouped under Day Zero, not among the decision-items for the eGA.

A little time is set aside for Social activities too. But we received a strong message from National Secretaries: they want to focus most of their time on the 100 recommendations they made. Dealing with those recommendations is the main work and chief purpose of this extra-ordinary General Assembly. We are not encouraging large delegations and many "observers". It is our expectation that every single person who attends will be working.

However, beginning on Zero Day, you will be given the opportunity to join a small "Home Group". It is a proven way, very Servas-like, of sharing in a common experience, enjoying each other's company, and learning each other's culture in a small circle of friends who begin as strangers. We hope "Home Groups" will continue through the week.

To keep this letter as brief as possible, I will be using the web site www.servas.org/siexco to update you on the meeting. I am also posting there, and will later send you, the Report of the Agenda Working Group on the detailed methods

used to help me consider and approve the Agenda. Full texts of the items submitted for the Agenda by National Secretaries and officers are already available at that website.

I feel you will agree this Agenda achieves the principles set out, for:

- *Treating fairly everyone's suggestion*
- *Making sure everyone is heard*
- *Giving time to develop conceptual and discussion items further*
- *Focussing the eGA on a good, efficient and decisive process*
- *Helping develop the capacity of Member Groups in a Zero Day, to re-tool skills for a productive meeting*
- *Setting out enduring principles of good behaviour and communication in Servas.*
- *Developing more good Servas leaders*

Volunteers both in Turkey and at the Servas Conference Secretariat in Latina will help us print the Agenda and related documents, and give it to you when you arrive, at Latina. We are trying to get it translated at low cost. If you can help translate, your help is welcome. You will also be given the opportunity to approve the Agenda at the start of the eGA and to amend it, if necessary, as the eGA progresses.

So that you get the best possible value from your Conference and from formal decision sessions of the eGA, please:

- *study the Agenda now,*
- *network with others, to make this an excellent General Assembly,*
- *realize that not everything can be completed during the eGA; work must continue after we leave Latina*
- *help us set up the Working Groups for each of the sessions helping refining the wording of many Agenda items so they can be advanced to the formal voting sessions*

I will be asking the Agenda Working Group to prepare advice and help facilitate next steps. We will inform you as work progresses.

Thank you for your energy and dedicated contribution to this Programme and Agenda. We look forward working with you towards a wonderfully productive Servas International meeting at Latina!

In peace and friendship

Geoff Maltby, President – Servas International
Dated 31 December 2005

**President's letter (23 Jan 2006)
regarding Preparation of eGA Workshops**

The following letter was emailed to all National Secretaries, Area Coordinators and other Delegates on 23rd January 2006.

**Servas International –
extraordinary General Assembly, Latina, Italy,
2-8 April 2006
Preparation for eGA Workshops - Subject
Working Groups**

Dear National Secretaries, Area Coordinators and all other delegates to
the extraordinary General Assembly (eGA):

To take a big next step towards the eGA at Latina, I am writing to ask you to help create Working Groups or join Working Groups already underway. I hope you have read the Agenda for the e General Assembly, and are now discussing it with your Board and key members? If you are having any difficulty downloading the information package, you can read it at www.siexco.org <<http://www.siexco.org/>> Please let us know.

As you see, I have made a place for everything you proposed for the Agenda by the deadline of October 2, 2005. Not every recommendation can be decided in the time available, but many things can be advanced at least to the stage of identifying principles and agreeing on them. Some items may have to be decided later.

To ensure efficient workshop sessions at Latina, I have asked the Agenda Working Group (AWG) to start now, to help me as Chair guide all National Secretaries and other delegates, especially those who proposed agenda items, and to link with other National Secretaries who can not attend, but who would also like to help. The details of my mandate to the AWG is attached below.

Their Key Tasks over the next few weeks will be to:

- Prepare a general paper outlining the role of eGA Workshops, guidelines for reporting back to the formal voting sessions of the GA, and drafting of motions for those GA voting sessions.

- Assist setting up a Subject Working Group for each of the subject groupings. These Working Groups will prepare background information and arrangements for the first round of workshop sessions. They will include a member of the AWG and proponents of the agenda items as well as other interested National Secretaries and conference attendees. They will meet via e-mail and possibly by teleconferences. Each working group will consider and report on their subject. We aim to have this preparatory information ready to send out to delegates prior to the GA, including translations if possible.

- Work with me, as Chair of the eGA, to facilitate adoption of the agenda on Day '0', and help collate any proposed agenda amendments for consideration by the GA.

As you may by now know, many Agenda items call for amendments to the Servas International Statutes. These will be considered in workshops and voted on as separate agenda items, by the GA. The AWG will help me set up a Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group for the GA, to ensure that several statute amendments, separately adopted by the GA, do not create conflicts or confusion.

All this is background to why I am asking every delegate to commit to a specific Subject Working Group. Please choose the one most important to you, and avoid spreading yourself too thin. Your active membership in a specific Working Group will help you steer the GA to success.

We need your input to ensure success at Latina. Please let us know in which Working Group you wish to participate.

In peace and friendship

Geoff Maltby , President - Servas International

Correspondence relating to the Agenda and the work of the Agenda Working Group (AWG) should be sent to: Gary Sealey,
peacesecretary@servas.org
Convener of the AWG and Interim Programme
Chair for the General Assembly

**Servas International – extraordinary General Assembly
(eGA)
Latina, Italy 2nd to 8th April 2006**

**Next steps for the Agenda Working Group (AWG)
Summary**

The agenda for the General Assembly (eGA) has been published. The AWG will help National Secretaries and others prepare the agenda items between now and the conference. Key objectives are to:

- arrange for the conference workshops
- involve as many conference participants as possible, and where possible for input from non-attending National Secretaries
- clarify agenda items where needed
- distribute translated pre-conference reading material

The items on the eGA Agenda were grouped into six subject areas:

1. Development (**D**), including Area Coordinators
2. Exco and Governance (**E**), including Officers, SI Committees and Communications
3. Financial Administration (**F**)

4. General Assembly (**G**) including Distant Voting
5. Host Lists (**H**), including quality and data issues
6. Membership (**M**), including National Group processes

Subject working groups will be created to work on the items under each of these headings.

In addition, I am asking a Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group to take on the job of coordinating the process of amending Statutes. This work is needed because some eGA Agenda items will require amendments to the S.I. Statutes if they are passed by the eGA. Each of these will be considered separately, both in workshops and when they are voted on by the eGA. The Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group will work to ensure that Statute amendments adopted by the eGA do not create conflicts or confusion. We anticipate that the Job Descriptions and Statutes Committee to be elected in Latina will continue this work on Statutes after the conference and may oversee a longer term, comprehensive review of the S.I. Statutes.

The mandate for the AWG in this phase is to:

1/ Prepare a general paper applicable to all workshops outlining:

- the role of the workshop sessions
- guidelines on reporting back to the General Assembly
- how to draft motions to be voted on by the General Assembly

2/ Help me as Chair set up and guide Subject Working Groups for each of the six areas made up of a member of the AWG, the proponents of the agenda items, other interested National Secretaries and conference attendees. Meetings ensure the intent of amendments gets a fair hearing.

will be via e-mail and possibly by teleconferences.

Subject working group mandate:

- consider all items, to ensure a fair hearing
- prepare logical proposals, with supporting information and noting links with other subject areas
- receive and consider any comments or proposed amendments to submitted items
- prepare a draft agenda for the workshop sessions, including a recommendation of the order in which the submitted items and any amendments should be considered.

3/ The AWG will also work with Exco to facilitate the agenda adoption process on Day '0' of the General Assembly.

- work with Exco to encourage National Secretaries to be involved in the eGA
- answer agenda-related questions that the President and Exco may forward to AWG
- monitor comments on the agenda, collate proposed agenda amendments, ensure they are clear, and forward them to the appropriate subject

working group or Statutes Coordinating Group

- maintain and publish a list of agenda amendments to maintain transparency
- draft agenda amendment motions for consideration by the General Assembly.

4/ Assist and support Exco in their briefing of legal advisers on agenda items requiring legal advice, especially any amendments to the S.I. Statutes.

5/ Work with Exco to form a Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group to facilitate the statute amendment process during the conference.

The mandate for the Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group when formed will be to:

- review all statute amendment motions drafted by Working Groups before they are voted on by the General Assembly

- maintain a list of all statute changes recommended, and agreed

- identify any amendments that conflict with the Swiss Civil Code or Standard Accounting Practices or with other sections of the current S.I. Statutes, and identify need for legal comment as may be required

- identify any inconsistencies, ambiguities or duplication created by proposed amendments

- identify motions that are inappropriate as statute amendments

- assist workshops to reword amendments, where possible, so they do not create conflicts or inconsistencies or ambiguities

- assess in advance motions for "decision in principle" be voted on by the eGA to determine direction requested by workshop discussions

- guide the order that amendments are voted on by the eGA

- maintain capacity for advice and assistance in all matters relating to statute amendments and help

6/ While carrying out this work, the Agenda Working Group will maintain ties with other working groups, including the:

- group preparing a proposed set of Rules of Order
- Day '0' Education and Training Group
- Job Descriptions and Statutes Working Group

To keep updated and to review nominations for the different positions go to www.siexco.org