



Servas Monthly News 17



November 2006

Host lists

There is much discussion about Host Lists going on-line. There are the points that if the host list is only on-line that is inconvenient for those that do not have access to the internet. It has to be understood that not everywhere has access to the internet. For example motorcycling up northern Norway where there are 100s of kilometers between some towns, there was no access to the internet. I could not have managed without my paper copy. However there is the disadvantage in paper copies that they can take a long time to get round the world by surface mail. Air mail is very expensive and beyond the budget of many for bulk sending of thick lists.

So an intermediary point, for those with computers, could be to have a CD of the host list. They could have the whole host list on the CD and print out the areas needed for their journey. Or if they have a laptop and access to power on the journey then they might take the laptop with the CD so as to have the whole picture.

The ideas for electronic host lists is moving forward. See p2 for the Dolphin hosts project.

There are so many ways in which we can access information. Let us make use of those ways to help us. Similarly different people have different needs and different facilities. We must recognise that what is perfect for one person is not necessarily suitable for someone else. Let us make use of diversity and share it.

Languages

Discussion with a fellow Servas host and traveller brought about the concern he felt about communication as a traveller with hosts. He noted how so many of his travellers had excellent English and felt that when visiting other countries he could not replicate this with the hosts' languages. This led to discussion as to what language requirements there were. Obviously host and traveller need to communicate and preferably have a discussion. However it does not have to be in the native language of either the host or the traveller. It was agreed that hosts respect the travellers who try to speak at least a little of the host's language. It was felt that most hosts are happy to try and help the traveller learn a new language so that they can communicate more easily in that country. However not speaking the local language should not be a bar to visiting the country. Travellers should just find hosts with whom they do have a common language.

Ceiling on Desires

"Who is the poorest man?"

"He who has many desires is the poorest man in the world."

"Who is the richest man?"

He who has much satisfaction is the richest man in the world".

From LV Subramanian

SI News 2007

It is now time to put together SI News 2007. I am sending out requests and reminders about articles and numbers.

Congratulations to Chile for having responded almost instantaneously with Armenia a close second.

So far 23 out of 113 have responded. I do need the other 90 replies, please.

1. Articles

If there are any articles that have not yet been sent to me, then I need them immediately, or I will not be able to put them in. The dead line was Nov 30 but there is a bit of leeway until Dec 10 as I put the SI News together.

2. Numbers

It is essential that I have the numbers required by each country by Dec 30. Then I can put in the print request.

3. CDs

Some countries have requested to print their own SI News. Again I need to know which these are by Dec 30. I will then be able to copy sufficient CDs. Reminder that SI News is A4 format. This can be changed if necessary but requires more work.

Contents: 2006

1. Editorial
2. News - Dolphin project, web sites
3. Meetings
4. Languages - Nynorsk
5. Travel reports - Sweden Israel
6. Countries - Turkey, Greece, Kazakhstan
7. Youth Leadership for Servas Central America
8. Exco Info
9. United Nations link
10. Youth

Contact

We welcome articles for 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 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.

Host the "dolphin" ;)

For those not knowing who are these kind of marine mammals in Servas, we just remember that in the Thailand meeting in 2000, a pilot project was officially set up and run by Guido Bienhaus and Amir Levi. This eventually produced the Whale system as a unique, monolithic technological solution for handling and storing Servas Host lists in electronic format. Whale is currently run by Germany eV Servas branch.

Whale was officially presented in Barcelona workshops in 2003, and a few countries decided to use it. But at the same time, countries like Italy started to present a different model to overcome some perceived limitations and rigidity of the Whale project.

During the Latina meeting in 2006, Italy presented a more structured prototype of the new ideas, covered by the general concept of "dolphin". Here the main points, many of which are explicitly backed up by resolutions of the Host list Group during the assembly:

- **Federative**

Dolphin program is NOT forcing centralization, but enforces free and efficient federation. It can be used even by countries with poor Internet Access. (resolution from Italy approved in Latina)

- **Safe**

Every country decides the level of protection, access, visibility they desire for their data. (as explicitly stated during Latina 2006 conference).

- **Open Source.**

Dolphin programs are freely available to any country wanting to use them on their own computers and providers, so as to enhance security and data

- **Talkative.**

While not promoting bureaucratic centralization, Dolphin promotes communication so that each separated database can work in a federated way and have all the needed data at the right moment. Dolphin can even talk with Whale (if the other mammal wants to..)

- **Flexible**

Every country, while sharing a common and needed standard for keeping their list data, can have some personalized data.

- **Friendly and Easy.**

Forms are easily usable by people limiting the time they must be connected to internet or to their computer.

- **Up to times**

Better competition with similar programs such as Hospitality Club, (but handles information in a safer more Servas-minded form).

- **Well Stated.**

Dolphin project (in a different incarnation, but with similar concepts) is currently used very happily in Italy since 2002, so it is well set up.

In November 2006, an official usable website in servas.org had been set up with professional help for hosting Dolphin. Countries wanting to experience it can contact Omer Ozkan, Uwe Federer, Anna Flammini, Mario Burlando to be put in the list of participating countries and to receive needed training for the use and the possible transfer of their lists to Dolphin. Turkey?, Brazil?, Sweden?.... already volunteered to use this.

Countries already using Whale can keep with it or switch to this new program.

Claudio Pacchiega

Some websites

Hi, there! Here is a website, **Charity.focus** which may interest you.

www.charityfocus.org

CharityFocus Programs

[One-Page Overview](#)

[HelpOthers.org](#): make someone smile.

[SigsofLight.org](#): daily good news.

[ProPoor.org](#): South Asian development work.

[iJourney.org](#): inspiring profiles of everyday heroes.

[cShops.org](#): community shops to support rural artisans.

[InspiringMessages.org](#): banners with meaning.

[PledgePage.org](#): put your fundraising cause online.

[BeTheChange.org](#): all in one.

Quite an interesting organizational approach to Budget, too "see 'About Us' >Budget

Gary Sealey

AIDSfreeAFRICA

This could be of interest to Servas members looking to help others.

<http://www.3-needles.com/>

<http://movies.aol.com/movie/3-needles/24594/synopsis>

As president of AIDSfreeAFRICA, a non-profit organization that supports the creation of a pharmaceutical infrastructure in Africa, I have seen my share of HIV/AIDS related movies. However, nothing like 3 Needles! Saw it yesterday at the United Nations pre-screening.

It comes out tomorrow 12-1-06 all over the US and I believe Canada.

Highly recommended. The best film to show that there is no "one fits all" solution.

"The humanity of our world will be measured against the fate of Africa," said Horst Koehler, German President and former managing director of the Washington, DC-based International Monetary Fund, in his inauguration address in 2004.

AIDSfreeAFRICA, Inc.

<http://www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.org>

Community Partnerships Against AIDS Programs
Bamenda/Cameroon

<http://www.copaapcam.org>

Dr. Rolande R. Hodel, Ph.D.

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.

Activities in Kazakhstan

December 17 2006 March 19 2007

Welcome meeting

All the hosts will meet together.

Lecturer Zhandos Aitymov will tell about Servas International it's history and nowadays situation. At the end of meeting people will discuss about prospective themes and events that can be organized soon.

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

Round table talks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Servas greetings from Belgium.

Rita Dessauvage, NS

China

We are planning a national gathering possibly in December, though it may be difficult for many member in such a huge and economically under-developed country. The cost for travel to one point place is too expensive for most of the members.

International Youth and Family Week 2007

Dalesbridge, Yorkshire, UK

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

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 Servas structure and outreach in the area

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

Contact: pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

Southern Africa Area Meeting

This will be held in
Livingstone, Zambia
August 2007.

Languages

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 **sixteenth** language is **Nynorsk** (New Norwegian. compare it with the Bokmål, or formal Norwegian given in August 2006)

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.

Null

Ein

To

kTre

Fire

Fem

Keks

Sju

Åtte

Ni

Ti

Tjve

Tretti

Förti

Femti

Seksti

Sytti

Åtti

Nitti

Hundre

Tusen

Et du kjøt?

Hvar bur du?

Dette er syster mi

Dette er bror min

Dette er mor mi

Dette er far min

Dette er son min

Dette er dotter mi

Hva musikk likar du?

Har du vore i buyen?

Hvar er forget?

Takk for hjelpa

Peace

Hello

How are you

Goodbye

Be seeing you

Have a safe journey

Best wishes to your family.

Do come again

Please

Thank you

That's nothing

Where is the toilet?

Left

Right

Straight on

Behind you

Where do I sleep

I am vegetarian

Where is the nearest telephone?

God dag / hei

Horleis har du det?

Farvel

Vmar å sjå deg alt

God reise

Velkommen alt

Takk

Takk

Det er då ingen ting

Hvar er toalettet?

Venstre

Högre

Rett fram

Gak deg

Hvar skal eg sova?

Eg er vegetarianar

Hvar finn eg ein telefon?

Host and Travel Reports

SWEDEN 2006, from Turkey

We are members of Servas Turkey. (Ismail, Ayfer, Damla and Okan). We departed Istanbul on September 9, 2006, at about 10:40 a.m. local time by Turkish Airlines. After 3 hours 10 minutes flight time we arrived at Stockholm Arlanda airport. The time difference between Turkey and Sweden was 1 hour. The population of Sweden is about 9 million and Stockholm (the capital) is about 760 000. The area of Sweden is a little larger than half of Turkey. Our Hertz Rental car was ready at the airport, since I reserved it online a few days before our arrival date. We loaded our luggage into the car and started driving from Stockholm to the south of Sweden. We took the freeway E4 south to Norrkoping, then E22 to Rockneby, 30 km north of Kalmar. Distance of Stockholm to Rockneby is about 420 km, it took about 4 hours to drive it. In Rockneby, we met our Servas Hosts Lars, Ulrika and their children Jakob and Ellen. They live in a country house near Rockneby. Lars is a social worker and Ulrika a University Administrator. We stayed with them for 2 nights. We visited Kalmar and Oland. Oland is an island connected to Kalmar with a 10-km-bridge. Kalmar is a small city. Oland is one of the summer holiday destinations of Sweden. Dear Lars and Ulrika, thank you for your time and hospitality. We've been happy to meet you in Rockneby.

Then we drove the same route (E22 and E4) from Rockneby to Stockholm. In Stockholm, we met our Servas Hosts Hans, Christiane and their children Stephan and Estelle. Christiane was born in France. Everybody in this family was French speaking so Damla had a chance to speak French with them. They had a piano in their house and Damla also had a chance to play piano for us. Their house was located in Huddinge, about 10 km south of downtown Stockholm. We stayed for 2 nights. During that time, we visited: the TV tower of Stockholm from where you can see all the city; Vasa Museum; Skansen where you can see old styled and historical houses of Sweden; Stockholm University, Natural History Museum and Cosmonova where we watched an IMAX 3-D movie. Dear Hans and Christiane, thank you for your time and hospitality. We have been happy to meet you in Huddinge, Stockholm.

Next we headed to north of Stockholm about 30 km north of Arlanda, about 60 km north of Stockholm, to the city of Uppsala. This city is well-known with its University and the famous Biologist Linne. We met our hosts Christopher, Eva and their 4 children. They live about 6 km south of downtown Uppsala. We stayed for 3 nights. During that time, we visited Linne Garden, Linne Museum, Cathedral in downtown Uppsala, Hammarskogs Herrgard in south of Uppsala, Skokloster Castle in north of Sigtuna, small city of Sigtuna in the West of Arlanda. We also visited IKEA of Sweden in Uppsala. Dear Christopher and Eva, thank you for your time and hospitality. We've been happy to meet you in Uppsala.

We stayed 2 nights in Rockneby, 2 nights in Huddinge (Stockholm) and 3 nights in Uppsala. I drove about 1500 km in 8 days(7 nights) in Sweden. Sweden is greener than you may expect, has lower density of people than you may think, has beautiful and unpolluted nature, has intelligent people, has world famous companies like Volvo (cars and trucks), Saab (cars and airplanes), Scania (trucks), Tetra Pak (packages), Ericsson (telephone), IKEA (furniture), Finally, on September 16, 2006 at 02:10 p.m. we took the scheduled flight of Turkish Airlines and after a 3-hour-trip we arrived in Istanbul on our scheduled time at 06:45 p.m. Thanks to everybody who made this holiday possible, enjoyable, valuable, unforgettable. We highly recommend all travellers to visit this beautiful country Sweden when they have time and energy. With Our Best Wishes, Thanks,
ismail+ayfer=damla+okan

Israel and Turkey - part 3

Last month the 12 Servas travellers from India visited a kibbutz. Now they continue their journey.

As last month, due to space, I have cut down on the very interesting descriptive and historical detail. Those who would like the complete text are welcome to contact the editor.

3 June 2006 Drive to the Dead sea- visit Masada, Ein Gadi, Bath at the Dead Sea. Qumeran and to Jerusalem.

We started today's journey late, crossing different cities and driving at the shore of Sea of Galilee. We observed many people at the shore of Sea of Galilee with their tents. Friday was a Shavuot day, holiday followed by Saturday and Sunday, so people were enjoying their holidays at sea-shore. It is known as sea of Galilee because it is a huge big lake, of course with sweet water. After a long drive approximately at 1.p.m., we reached to Masada. We had to go up by huge bus like Cable car. Before we went to the cable car, there was a film of 20 minutes by the historian who found this palace.

At 3700 square meters, the western palace, built during Herod's reign, is the largest structure on Masada. We saw the Northern palace and the upper terrace. It is 30 meters high and built on three rock terraces and supported by impressive retaining walls. Herod and his family lived on the upper level and the two lower levels were for receptions.

The Dead Sea region. 417 meters below sea level, is one of the world's wonders- a body of water so rich in salt and other minerals that entire economic sectors are based upon it. Cosmetics firms the world over market Dead Sea salts, mud baths and other cosmetic items made from products mined from the Dead sea; year-round sunshine and the ability to effortlessly float upon its waters lies at the basis of a flourishing tourist industry. It was my dream to have a dip (floating) in the Dead Sea! It was a unique experience where we could not touch our legs on the sand. The legs would come up automatically. It was very hot. I could be in the sea for four minutes and then I could not bear the burning sensation. After having floating experience, I came out and had plain water shower. Out of 12 persons, 4 took bath in the Dead Sea. We proceeded towards Qumeran after half an hour. There was a small fort on the mountain from where we had the panoramic view of the plain lands.

We reached Jerusalem at 8 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. Our hosts were near the place where they had decided. Our host Nurit(Nurit is a name of a flower and it is a very common name in Israel) came to receive us and we walked down to her house one furlong away from our stop. It was a small house, maybe 500 sq.ft but the old couple were very hospitable. Her husband Yehudah L. Werner is a Prof. Emeritus of Zoology in Jerusalem. Both knew English very well and had visited India on the way to Australia. He had many books and Atlas in his house. His wife Nurit had prepared pure Vegetarian Lasania. Tasty Lasania and then fruit-salad prepared by her husband satisfied me and Ms. Azone. They were sorry that on the following day they were to receive their son's friend as the Guest and so we were with them only for one night. They were SERVAS Host for a long time because their daughter when she was young, desired to meet the people of different countries hence they preferred the travellers with the child of their daughter's age. Now, the daughter has got married and she has children, so they entertain the travellers of any age.

I had taken Indian gifts of shawl, ear-rings, cloth- bags, Vanity box. for every host. They were happy to get something new.

Dr. Geeta Mehta, Peace secretary, SERVAS India

Continued next month.

Country Reports

Servas Greece Re-establishment Project

Dear Friends;

Servas Turkiye had the responsibility to reestablish Servas Greece 8 months ago from SI EXCO, we have been working for this project and had new members from Greece.

We wish to print them in new Servas Turkiye Host List 2007. This students from Greek Universities year were invited for Summer & Winter semester to Turkiye, you all welcome...

Any of Servas members who knows any Greek friends around the world, please inform them about this project to become a Servas member. Your e-mails will be replied when you send to greece@servas.org

Servas DUYGAN (Servas Turkiye National Secretary)



Nikos ECONOMOPULOS (Photographer) 1989 Turkiye

Turkey

Servas Turkiye started a book collecting campaign for the primary school in Tacirli village which is situated in one of the eastern cities of Turkiye. Within the context of this project about twelve boxes of books were collected from different parts of Turkiye and sent to the school. The library has now around 300 books and the campaign is still on its way to provide more educational resources to the teachers and the villagers.



To appreciate the support of the people for this project Servas Turkiye has donated for seeding 225 oak trees by the name of Tacirli Primary School.

Ozge Karadenizli, Peace Secretary, Servas Turkiye

Some information about Kazakhstan:

Many greetings from Kazakhstan! I would like to announce that Servas just launched its service in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is a quite a young country. It obtained independence during the 1990s. Kazakhstan is situated in Central Asia region. It borders with Russia to the North, with China to the East, with the Caspian Sea to the West and with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turmenistan to the South. Kazakhstan historically has connection with Mongolia, that was happening during 12-13 centuries when great Chingiskhan first entered here. Then there were the times of influence of the Soviet Union. Some people compare Kazakhstan with United States, moreover it's absolutely interesting to see mixture of different nationalities here. Eastern and Asian cultures starts and finishes here in Central Asia. On the streets among the local Kazakhs it is possible to see Russians, Koreans, Germans, Ukrainians and many others who came here and settled after the Second World War.

People are interested in Kazakhstan mainly to experience extreme tourism and wild tourism. Kazakhstan is very large and its nature very diverse - very flat, steppe, dry on the North and quite humid and mountainous on the South but there are some places with forests, lakes, and even canyons. It is possible to experience some days and nights in the steppe cut absolutely from the civilization (people of ultra urbanized countries like it very much), or experience living on the mountains of Tyan Shan. Gourmets can experience absolutely wild and absolutely interesting meal "Beshbarmak" with a burned sheep's head.

Historically Kazakhs are nomads. But nowadays it is quite hard to find a real yurt - a hut, a house that is made of wool, only some people live in the yurts and they mainly reconstructed on national holidays.

Kazakhstan has a great perspectives in the tourism sphere and I would like to invite interested people to see and experience Kazakhstan today.

Zhandos Aitymov

Youth and leadership for Servas Central America.

Hello everybody. As you know SERVAS YOUTH (SY) is taking actions 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 & 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

Regional conference for Servas Central America, Leadership & Youth for Servas

As you might remember the General Assembly (GA) of Latina, had decided that regional conferences are necessary and that each geographic region must decide if it will become an "Area" or not, if will have an Area Coordinator (AC) or not, and that each national group (NG) can take an option about to be or not to be part of this Area. Also the AC will be elected by the NGs or appointed by EXCO if is required.

Starting with a lunch of NS during the GA, and taking shape through this year on a very intense coordination with each NG, Servas Youth is pleased to announce that the regional conference for Servas Central America "Leadership and Youth for Servas" is ready to be a complete hit. As the out come of lots of work and the unconditional support of EXCO and DFC the project is now a reality. A chance for the region to improve Servas outreach, organisation and function. To know each other and then work in a better atmosphere. To remember and to renew our commitment in Servas.

From 08/01/07 to 12/01/07, at the "Earth University of San Jose de Costa Rica" all the NS of the area (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama), members from the region and abroad (US, Singapore, Germany, New Zealand, etc), interested persons from countries where Servas has no current NG but used to have (Nicaragua and Cuba), Servas International Officers (Vice president, DFC officer, Servas Youth), young Central American members ready to contribute with new blood and energy and the Servas Spirit itself will be together thinking and taking stands about Servas. Giving the best of each one to let our organisation do what it is meant to do, improve this world from the base, person by person.

This project, as we have said, follow two main topics, that can be written in a single one sentence:

(1) Improve the Servas structure and outreach in the area, (2) propose the youth as a vital element for this improvement.

The election of the new AC was discussed and approved by all the parts involved. Also the agenda was put under revision of each NS. We can say that this project was made democratically and listening every voice.

So I will come back to you to let you know the outcome of this meeting. The results of the Servas Central America Regional Conference "Leadership and Youth'07"

*Pablo Chufeni
Servas Youth International Coordinator
pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar*

Exco Info

Brief Update

Your Executive Committee of Servas International has met frequently in telephone conference calls. SI News Editor Jane Giffould has published our short reports on our work in the Monthly Servas Newsletters which are on www.servas.org Some of these are quite detailed, e.g. the October issue. Please, if you have a website, link it to the Servas Monthly News.

National secretaries are also encouraged to send news items to Jane (jgiffould@aol.com or newsletter@servas.org). Her next deadline is 20 December.

Like some of you, we have felt delays from life's unexpected personal challenges and from Servas International's regulated banking procedures and other routines.

It now seems that we will be ready for the Distant Vote decided at the GA in Latina, about July-August, 2007. Before then, we will prepare a good consultation with national secretaries, so that no one is surprised by the Distant Vote and so many can input to the budget materials.

Next week some members of EXCO will be meeting to advance special topics:

a) **Money Committee** – setting it up, again (it has not met since Thailand). It would collect advice and help in the medium and long term plan for Servas.

b) **Budget timetable** and forecasts -- preparing for 2008 and future; examining trends and issues; arranging consultation process, in advance of Distant Vote, etc.

c) **Internal Audit Committee** hearing from at least some of the Audit Committee, on what information might influence the Budget; and also reviewing and settle international administrative requirements to complete the **Outside Audit**.

Because General Secretary Pramod is on temporary assignment in Western Europe, the meeting will be in Frankfurt , November 25. Thanks to Treasurer Omer and to Markus Kappenberger. Your advice or questions are welcome in advance of the meeting. We also look forward to learning more about your own work, successes and challenges.

As you may recall, the General Assembly at Latina encouraged developing a new SI Board. We already know more work is needed, e.g. on Outreach, and on providing a stronger focus in Servas leadership of

Servas Travelers and Workers , and on planning for the GA. We are aware that Servas is thinly spread in many areas, and that Servas needs to study and find ways to advance the ethics and practice of Democracy.

The strong team at present assembling to work with ICT, on improving the SI website will help some of this. You may also see results from EXCO's offer to all other Committees, to help improve communication without interfering in their work.

Meantime, this week is founder Bob Luitweiler's birthday. Might you take a moment to send him a birthday greeting note saying how Servas has touched your life, or changed the lives of others whom you know -- or telling your hopes for Servas in future? His address is bobl@stead.org [BOBL@STEADI.ORG] If you wish, please send a copy to us; perhaps we could put excerpts from some of your best on the website -- or in other outreach?

Gary Sealey, President, EXCO

Exco in action

On 25 to 27 November, 2006 Servas International meetings were held on the following subjects:

- 1) Budget update for SI for 2006/2007 and outlook for Budget 2008-2010. We analysed the current situation and prepared a call for advice from National Secretaries.
- 2) Draft Plan for Distant Votes for 2007 (drafted a letter to be sent to National Secretaries)
- 3) Appointment letter for External Auditor
- 4) Statement on completion of Internal Audit (meeting with two of Internal Auditors)
- 5) Design of Book-keeping action plan to improve rapid updates and access to books
- 6) Opening of renewed discussions on WHALE and Dolphin.

Present at these meetings: Gary Sealey, Omer Ozkan, Anna Flammini, Burcu Duzguner, Markus Kappenberger, Pramod Kumar, Eva Meggendor, LV Subramanian Miroslav Wasilevski. We were very grateful for the assistance of Markus Kappenberger and Servas Germany hosts Markus, Margrit, Rudolf and Ursula, Franke, Alpert and Christine, Rahel, and other friends and the Osterkirkche and Lukaskirche of Frankfurt.

Gary Sealey, President

Violence against WOMEN as a universal phenomenon

Half of humankind lives under this threat regardless of income, class, race, culture or ethnicity. Violence causes untold misery, harms families across generations and impoverishes communities. It stops women from fulfilling their potential, restricts economic growth, and undermines development.

Violence is an extremely diffuse and complex phenomenon with biological, psychological, social and environmental roots.

The World Health Organization defines violence: 'use of physical force of power, threatening another person with a high likelihood of resulting in injury, psychological harm or deprivation.' An effort could be to reach consensus and set universal standards of behaviour through the elaboration of human rights to protect human life and dignity in our fast changing World.

The human cost in grief and pain, of course, can't be calculated. The impact of violence – lives lost and health harmed. Many of the victims are too weak, scared or young to protect themselves... More violence occurs out of sight in homes, workplaces and even in the medical and social institutions, set up to care for people. Many acts of violence are never recorded because they do not come to the attention of authorities.

Since then a wide range of public health researchers in the United States and around the world have set themselves the task of understanding violence and finding ways to prevent it. From analysis to action to raise efforts of visibility of violence against women: individual, relations, community efforts. Many different sectors and agencies should be involved in prevention activities and evaluation an integral part of all programs:

- Create, implement and monitor a national action plan for violence prevention;
- Enhance capacity for collecting data of violence;
- Increase collaboration and exchange of information on prevention, etc.

It is time to take these efforts to the next level. Violence against women has been recognized as a human rights violence. We must play a stronger, better coordinated and more visible leadership role. Member States can do more to implement legal and policy framework to which they have committed themselves. And all of us must form strong and effective partnerships with civil society, which has such a crucial role to play on this issue at every level.

Consequences of violent behaviour could not be ignored in the effort to improve the nation's health and made tackling the roots of violence a top priority for the health community. Together, we must work to create an environment where violence against women is not tolerated. Let all of us -- men and women alike -- **join forces in this mission.**

Noema Chaplin
Member of the Planning Committee of 57th, 58th, 59th
DPI/NGO conference, New York

Effective Partnerships for Human Security, Sustainable Development" *Noema Chaplin*

59th Annual United Nations Department Of Public Information/ Nongovernmental Organizations' Conference held at United Nations headquarters, New York, Sept 6-8 (UN/DPI/NGO) .

The gathering represented six hundred NGOs included over one thousand representatives from 90+ countries. Each Conference panel and each participating NGO had one representative under the age of thirty to help ensure the widest possible exchange of views and experiences. The focus was upon the partnerships created between civil society, governments and the U.N. working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) signed by 189 world leaders in 2000 in which they pledged, among other goals, to halve world poverty by the year 2015.

Mr. JAN ELIASSON, President, sixtieth session of the General Assembly, warned U.N. officials to ask the U.N. to build bridges with civil society. The U.N., he said, needs to hear civil society's criticisms and concerns as this helps them grow and toughen up so that together we can move more fully into the 21st century. He described his personal commitment to the NGO community. NGOs are good at dealing with real situations. They are also good at transmitting early warning signals. The NGO community reminded Governments and parliaments that there was a world outside of their own. NGOs were "advocates for a good cause".

SHEIKHA HAYA, President-Elect, 61st session, General Assembly UN, noted civil society had made a significant contribution to United Nations evolution. The Organization would only achieve its goals with NGO participation/partnership. The world had witnessed civil society's efforts in times of crisis, where NGOs represented a strong voice and remained key partners in delivering humanitarian service in the most remote and difficult places.

Addressing the issue of the participation of young people, SHAMINA DE GONZAGA, Special Advisor on NGO relations, said the world was witnessing a change in consciousness. It was a matter of opening the door not only to the well-informed and endowed, but to those not knowing much about the U N.

The Conference held a discussion in which participants had an opportunity to discuss the role of media and communications technology in achieving the Millennium Goals and "new media ecosystem" that. as new avenues for freedom of expression and individual rights emerged, it would be crucial for civil society. Important workshop was "How a People's Assembly would contribute to the Goals of this conference".

Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that together, civil society and the United Nations could make even greater strides towards a more democratic peaceful future for all. "We must share our knowledge and reinforce our actions. I see a United Nations that celebrates non-governmental revolution, the power of the global citizen, as the best thing that has happened to our Organization in a long time. We must work to strengthen alliances with the United Nations, the private sector, the public sector and among yourselves. That minimizes duplication and maximizes impact".

To allow the United Nations partnership with NGOs to be more effective, more work must be done in implementation. Despite past efforts, we still live in a highly imbalanced world: 2.5 billion people live on under \$2/day; one billion have no access to clean water; one-third of the global population lives without electricity; 30,000 children die each day from poverty and another 30,000 from preventable diseases, or as Jeffrey Sachs states, "because they can't afford to live," totalling 22 million needless deaths each year.

That was particularly true in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. At the current time with great discontent around the world, it was important to recognize the diversity and contributions of different sectors, maintain an open dialogue with the NGO community - www.un.org/webcast/SE2006.html/.

Youth

Hello my dear friends. Here I'm presenting another great Servas youth member. A friend from Malawi is here to share with us her personal perspective. Malawi is one of the stronger and more dynamic groups in Africa. Don't miss your chance to go to visit them and have a life time experience. This article and others are on the Servas Youth Website, www.servasyouth.org

Pablo Chufeni, Servas Youth International Coordinator

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SERVAS MALAWI

It is a privilege for me to write you as the Servas International Coordinator. The first time I heard of Servas was from a couple friends of mine who introduced about what Servas is and how it works here in Malawi.

On 5th August 2002, I showed my interest to join our little group of Servas hosts and began to see X-pats in a different light, more as people than as "whites". Servas is a peace organization that helps my understanding other's world culture by opening their hearts, mind and open doors.

Despite different languages in Servas we are all equal and Servas has a full spirit of experience which teaches us to love each other beyond world differences.

Having joined I have never travelled since becoming a host but I have enjoyed it because of the Local experience, sharing our experiences. Members have talked a lot about culture differences of our own as well as comparing other countries. Although I travelled our neighbouring countries such as Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, here in Malawi we have plenty of those barriers of poor understanding between those living here. Servas helped me to break down my own barriers of misinformation and prejudice and I hope more with visitors coming to stay with me. I now have shared the interest with expert on equal footing of Servas Malawi. No matter what I have, what is important is who I am, what Servas travellers are interested in. In fact I am probably in a better position as visitors want to stay with me rather than an experienced host because I can give a real local stay life experience.

The elder host expects a young traveller to share the experience about travelling, culture differences backgrounds and learning about how both adult and young people live together and enjoy themselves.

Young travellers expect the host to offer them excellent and understanding hospitality, experience culture differences in the way of exchanging ideas for young Servas members and build peace and have an opportunity and obligation to inform a traveller on the best ways to undertake local visits, to explore natural and cultural destinations.

I am in Servas to explore culture differences backgrounds about other and experience the life of living experts and locals. Here in Africa we live far behind others so it very important for the youth to build up world peace. I am quite happy to understand the word Servas which has brought many happiness, peace and vision as a member, I am inspired how Servas works!!!

Mary Bolowera, Malawi

MALAWI

TIPS

1. Lovely weather
2. Beautiful highest mountain
3. Llovely lakes
4. Friendly people
5. Opportunity to learn Chichewa
6. Meeting new family friends
7. Socializing in sports activities
8. Nice fish called chambo
9. Walking freely etc
10. Nice food

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND '07 July 28th - August 4th 2007

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 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

Links with a Servas Britain host family

Servas Britain host families are keen to meet young travellers before and after the event in Yorkshire. If you are a young person 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.

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, usually for 2 to 3 weeks 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.