



# Servas Monthly News 32



## March 2008

### The Triumph of Triviality

This is the title of an excellent article by John F Schumaker in the magazine New Internationalist. He looks at modern society, which in many countries is consumer oriented. He reviews how there is indifference to any depth in thought and action, how culture has been debased leading to a demand for trivialities. He is concerned that celebrity drivel becomes compelling. He looks back to half a century ago when humanistic thinkers were heralding an age where human potential could unfold and people reached for higher levels. He considers how this pyramid of positive potential has collapsed. He has expressed my views on life far more explicitly than I ever could. However he does see around the place nuclei of people who do have some global consciousness, who can see beyond themselves, who are concerned about what is going on and who are ready to do something about it.

Where would Servas members fit into Schumaker's views? Would he see them as people who travel for their own pleasure and for development of their own egos? Or would he see them as one of the nuclei of people who are part of the positive human potential, whose aim is to work with others to have, in his words, 'heightened moral sensibilities, compassion and greater community responsibility'.? I know which group I would want to belong to, it is not the first one.

New Internationalist website: [www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org) If you subscribe you can get the current magazine either in paper format or electronic. Otherwise you have to wait to see what is now current.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2008

#### Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Nearly sixty years ago, 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble recognised the inherent dignity and 'the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world'.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2009

#### Servas

Sixty years ago, next year, Servas was started as a peace oriented organisation aiming to bring people together, provide cultural understanding that would bring an end to war. These two 60th anniversaries have the same aims. We need to study the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ensure that it is also part of our Servas programme.

### SI News 2008, Paper Copy

SI News 2008 has now been sent out all round the world. Every Servas member has a right to have a copy. However the ordering is up to the country contact who orders for the whole of their country. Some countries have decided to print their own. Then they can get them more quickly without having to wait for the postage from Britain. So some people may already have their copies. Others may have to wait a few months whilst the boats carrying the cargo cross the oceans. It is sent surface mail to keep the costs down. It is sent in bulk and it is then up to the country contact to decide on the best method of distribution. Many countries will send the SI News along with their own newsletter. This helps keep the costs down.

If you do not get a copy of SI News 2008 then contact your National Secretary and ask them to follow it up.

#### Reminder:

The position of **Editor for SI News and Servas Monthly News** will come up as vacant in the GA of 2009. It is an elected position.

This is a post requiring plenty of time, an excellent command of English, at least a recognition of French and Spanish, access to a computer with plenty of memory and a 24/7 internet connection, easy access to printing and post services. Those interested should contact the current editor. See addresses below.

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### Contact

We welcome articles coming to SI Monthly News. We do not guarantee the article, or any part of it will be published. This depends on the theme for the month along with the number of other articles also available for publication.

Preferred method of contact is email at: [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) or [igiffould@aol.com](mailto:igiffould@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.

## News - A Servas Box

### The Servas Box recommendations by Northern CA Members, USA

Northern California Interviewers and Servas Members -  
**Jay Davidson** - Staffed Servas Table at UCB Study  
Abroad Fair

**Richard Piro** - Designed Brochures for 50th Servas  
Anniversary National Conference, Brochures for  
Regionalization Leadership Conference, and Editor for  
Seeds of Servas by Bob Luitweiler and Key Notes

**Susan Ovington** - Updated the outreach Flyers for  
UCB I-House Meetings

**Edith Sommer** - Compiled the 2006 Interviewer  
Handbook distributed at the 2006 National Meeting

**Werner Krutein** professional photographer and image  
designer made faces Servas Banner and Servas poster.

**Lisa Zamora**- Servas traveler, Graphic Designer

Mary Jane Mikuriya, the pot luck host, set up sample  
Servas table. The group critiqued the set up and the  
idea of the Traveling outreach box for events such as  
local Servas meetings, college study abroad fairs,  
cultural fairs, Leadership training, national meetings..

The Servas Traveling Servas Box was seen as a good  
idea. However, the group recommended that a great  
deal more can be accomplished with Internet access to  
downloadable PR materials and designs. Let's put  
some effort on the media presentations.

A Servas Poster in honor of the 60th Anniversary of  
Servas was designed by Vern (Werner Krutein), go to:

<ftp.photovault.com/Servas/ServasCountries60.jpg>

Vern suggests you have to wait while the file downloads  
since it has over 800 mega. He suggests that you save  
the file on your desktop and print the image. Because  
the Poster says [www.usServas.org](http://www.usServas.org) on the bottom, Vern  
is willing to put other countries web contacts on the  
poster, but definitely will offer [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org)

The 6 foot vinyl banner that 24 year old Joe Harty  
made in Blue and white, with a half globe and the words  
**Travel the world as a guest of Servas,**  
**www.servas.org** two years ago was placed on the  
front of the 6 foot demonstration table.

Every one recommended that the banner be duplicated.  
(This banner travels well.) Linda said that this two color  
6 foot banner can be obtained from Kinkos for \$30  
each by emailing them the URL. Any one can have a  
reusable banner produced any where in the country for  
their area in the same as that of Vern's poster  
at <ftp.photovault.com/Servas/ServasCountries60.jpg>.

#### The box should include:

1. a vinyl **poster** by Vern,
2. a vinyl **banner** by Joe Harty,
3. Servas **brochures**
4. Servas **business cards**,
5. **Servas Flyers** Need 4 or 5 good ones for different  
audiences.
6. **5 sample** expired colorful **host lists** for countries  
representing different continents and, of course, the  
US Servas Host List

7. laminated sample **original news articles** about  
Servas from different Newspapers and magazines,
8. **maps** of the world and USA
9. the **Servas International-Host List Statistics**  
(produced by the office showing which countries  
are in single list -- how many hosts in each country  
and the date of the last published host list. Update  
needed each year The statistics are essential to  
answer questions on numbers of hosts in each  
country the potential traveler is planning to visit.
10. **Sample forms** for international, domestic travelers
11. **Fees for membership and deposits for each of  
the 5 US Travel Programs.** The most current list is  
from 2005 listing the types of travelers  
as International, student, domestic for non Servas  
members, Servas to Servas for US hosts, American  
Family.
12. **Servas buttons,**
13. **Servas T-shirt, Servas Apron or Servas Pin to  
identify the table staffers** as Servas. An on line  
design that can be personalized should be available  
for iron-on
14. **The mailing box should be is the 11 3/4" x13  
3/4" x 3 1/4' Priority Mail Flat Rate box** that needs  
\$8.95 for up to 70lbs.. Contents must fit in this box  
and sent to a USA address.
15. **Use 15" table tripod for folded or rolled up  
informational posters.** It fits in the box diagonally
16. **Vern's poster scanned to 13' width** and inserted  
into an 11' paper towel tube that fits into the 11 3/4"  
x13 3/4" x 3 1/4' Priority Mail Flat Rate box
17. Include a **photo of the suggested table set up** to  
reduce the need for directions explanation
18. Have a **check list of boxed items** sent and items  
returned to assure full kits are sent and returned.
19. **Ask for photos with captions and dates of the  
table and staffers for the newsletter.**
20. **Identify Servas volunteers and write an article**  
about the event and personal observations in order  
to encourage others to host Servas "Booths"/tables .  
There was a debate on privacy as to whether to show  
the LOIs of Servas travelers we have hosted as a way  
to explain Servas. There was no agreement.

It was clear in this electronic age, the Internet and the  
Servas business cards are out best educational tools.  
We need to use electronic tools and local development  
of Servas materials for cultural and informational events.

It should be noted the traveling box/Servas booth was  
recommended by Bob Luitweiler. at the Volunteer  
Opportunities workshop at the US Servas National  
Conference in 2003 in New Orleans

Five boxes can become a reality in 2008 in anticipation  
of the 60th Anniversary of Servas.

Who is responsible for putting these 5 boxes together?

## 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.

### Join with others in Lyon, France

Venue: Grand Café de la Soierie  
1 place des Tapis, Lyon  
Date: First Thursday of the month  
Time: 8 pm

### Meeting place in Paris, France

The venue is: **Le Vieux Châtelet**  
1 place du Châtelet, 75001 Paris  
The nearest metro is: Châtelet  
Date: Second Tuesday of month  
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm



### Servas International Youth Meeting " Istanbul '08 "

Servas Turkey and Servas Youth are inviting you to the next International Youth Meeting event in Istanbul -Turkey. Following the Youth meetings in Patagonia'06 and Yorkshire'07, you are all welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Meeting in Istanbul and the first in Asia!

- The meeting will take place on 19-26<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the Sabanci University:  
[www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng)
- An opportunity for all young travelers and hosts (18-30) to get together and to share their Servas experiences.
- Also open to other Servas members of whatever age.
- Discounted prices available
- Please visit the web site on [www.servasturkiye.org/youth2008](http://www.servasturkiye.org/youth2008) for the details of the event.
- You can also apply online via the same page
- **Help us inviting!** Join us at Istanbul'08
- For any inquiries, please contact [youth@servasturkiye.org](mailto:youth@servasturkiye.org)

### 2009 - Youth in Oz

**MORE INFO:** [www.servasyouth.org](http://www.servasyouth.org)  
**CONTACT:** [pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar)

### Germany - European meeting,

For full details of the European meeting see Servas Monthly News October 2007.

**International Education Centre Jugendhof  
Scheersberg in Quern, near Baltic Sea  
4 th to 9th July 2008**

[servas-summer@gmx.net](mailto:servas-summer@gmx.net)

Margret Kläser, Erika und Richard Cabassut

For further information check

[www.servas-summer.eu](http://www.servas-summer.eu)

### Sentierinsieme - Pathway Together - Route de l'Amitié - Miteinander unterwegs

Servas members from the Alps area have been meeting each year at the beginning of summer for more than twenty years.

The next meeting will take place on 5, 6 July 2008 in France at Aussois, which is situated in the Maurienne Valley. It will be followed by two treks (4 days).

If you want to get an invitation in the course of next winter, please contact:

François Marseille

26, rue Pierre Curie 26000 Valence - France

Or an e-mail to [francoismarseille@free.fr](mailto:francoismarseille@free.fr)

For Information You can phone :

In German : Sabine Joertz 33 3 88 60 32 66

In Italian : Joëlle Chappuis 33 4 50 22 13 82

In French :François Marseille 33 4 75 56 13 67

In English : By email :

Myriam Michel [myriam.michel3@hotmail.fr](mailto:myriam.michel3@hotmail.fr)

### 'Seoul to London' (the Asia-Europe Inter-Continent) Expedition

\* *Period:* March 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010 (for 6 months)

\* *Route:* From Seoul through Asia and Europe to London

\* *Team:* 20 Servas members (10 Koreans and 10 multinationals)

\* *Invitation:* The international Servas members are now being invited to join this expedition.

\* *Contact:* Mr. Jong Soo Kim N.S. Servas Korea  
[servas@korea.com](mailto:servas@korea.com) skype: kingofasia2 Cell: 82-16-830-2623

See Servas Monthly News February 2008 for full details.

### FEA (Far East Asia) AREA MEETING

Hong Kong, September

# Travellers Tales - America

## South America, first time Servas

**Argentina** - 2 hour tea with a day host in Buenos Aires. Very pleasant.

**Chile** - 2 days with Patricia in Santiago - very pleasant, generous welcome. Took me to her country house. Fluent French, no English

On the whole, very favourable impression of Servas hosts. It was my first experience and I am positive about doing it again wherever I go in the future.

*C Milward, London, England*

## Chile, Argentina 2

**Chile - Valparaiso.** Hosts were not available for staying but we were offered cheap rates at an apartment style hostel. Very welcoming and lots of info.

**Argentina - Mendoza.** A heavy smoker but a kind man.

**Argentina - Missions.** Lovely but we were unable to get there, unfortunately.

Over all good, but there are few places that accept a family of 3 people, which greatly limited our options.

*E & D Thomas, Sydenham, England*

## Brazil, learning

We stayed with Roberto in Sao Paulo who was an excellent host in this very hectic city. He was knowledgeable about Servas and the very vast moving history of the town. Certainly an insight that would have been unavailable any other way.

Hannah also stayed with André in Rio Grande do Sul, his first guest! This area was totally unlike the metropolitan distracts and once again the host was key to learning how it all works.

*R Boyle, H Dee Leeds, England*

## Brazil 2

São João del Rei: Tom and Marcia went out of their way to spend time with us, showing us much of the local area as well as introducing us to other friends. Last but not least, the food from Tom's own garden was great!

Rio de Janeiro: At very short notice (1day Jürg invited us to spend 24 hours on his small-holding in the mountains. He introduced us to his philosophy of eating only raw fruit and vegetables (virtually all home grown)

*C Allen, Buxton, England*

## and some problems.....

A wonderful time cycling around Argentina, camping, Youth Hostels, small hotels and spontaneous hospitality by strangers. But my experience with Servas was not at all satisfactory. I am not a complainer by nature but I got no response from numerous emails I sent before I left home. The one person who did reply and confirm a visit became impossible to contact after I had arranged to stay. To be fair while in BA I called other hosts who were already hosting. So maybe I was unlucky with timing. Anyhow it did not spoil my holiday though I did miss making that extra special contact.

*T Golding, Worthing, England*

## U.S.A., East and West

**Staten Island** - Nice and welcoming. Kept in email contact ever since the visit. Left me to my own devices.

**Baldwin, NY** - Wonderful hosts. Had so much in common. They spent lots of time entertaining me - beach, Jewish bagel cafe, visit to daughter's Steiner School. First thing they asked was if I had any washing, which was lovely! Perfect hosts.

**Santa Rosa, CA** - Laura visited my grandparents in the 1970s when they were hosts in Scotland. We think this is the 8th visit between our families. Surely the purpose of Servas. Lovely visit. I had never met her before but was looked after very well including a trip to the Redwood forest.

**San Francisco, CA** - Susan hosted my parents in 2000 then visited them in Scotland. So this is the third connection. Susan was really nice, very hospitable. Just gave me a key and effectively said I could stay as long as I wanted.

*C Gordon, Moray, Scotland*

## Lucky with the weather in Canada

Wonderful fruit and veg and wild life. Be prepared for rain. Unsure I would recommend Canada weatherwise outside summer, unless skiing. We were told 'we were lucky with the weather'. Distances huge, so not very relaxing if time is short and you want to see a lot.

Did not use the list in the end as my extended family were very accommodating and we met people I did not know existed. Was great to have it as a back up and will be back again with our next trip.

*D Jackson, Manchester, England*

## A poem from Ontario

It was a great trip. We managed to connect with a nurse who had visited us last spring. And had overnight stays with 2 other Servas hosts, one of whom wrote the following poem.

### For Gill and Kirk from Brenda

Two strangers come from far away.

They linger here for just a day.

A day is short, but in the end

I find I have another friend

How wonderful we humans are,

Each following a guiding star.

We share each other for a day

And the, goodbye, we're on our way.

How much pleasure in the greeting,

What a treasure is in the meeting.

Thank you for this precious day,

My blessings as you go your way.

*G Branch, K Beach, Aberbavenny, Wales*

## Travellers Tales - West Europe

### France, forests, fishes - Sept 07

We live in NW Scotland so France is a long way from home. We had a very special party in Winchester in September. A reunion 50 years on from the date when I joined the Royal Navy and started at Dartmouth. We wanted to go and tied it in with a week in France.

Arrived in Caen early in the morning and drove to Monet's Garden near Giverny. Then still in Normandy we drove to Le Bec Hellouin where we stayed with Servas members Jacqueline and Daniel. We had stayed with them 4 years ago and they had stayed with us 2 years ago. Jacqueline speaks very good English but we always expect to speak the language of the host country when we can. Equally we expect our visitors at home to try and speak English. We were made very welcome and spent much of the next day in their wood. Daniel is a retired Forestry Officer from the Moroccan Forestry Service and they have their own woodland of about 200 hectares which is very well managed by them. I am a retired land agent so have a similar interest in woodland management. On the second morning after breakfast we had the problem we find so often with Servas: we wanted to go but still had so much to talk about.

From Normandy we drove down to South Brittany to stay with Servas members Anne Marie and Maurice who live, in a very quiet situation, almost on the edge of the Morbihan, a large inland sea on which I had sailed some years ago. They made us very welcome. They did not speak much English so we made use of the dictionary as necessary. Before dinner Maurice took us down to the beach. The access was down a narrow lane with very steep walls. A couple of hundred metres took us down to the sandy beach with a lot of small boats anchored close offshore. Back at the house we had some drinks and dined off tiny crêpes stuffed with shellfish and fresh sole which Maurice had caught. After dinner and more wine at about 11.00 pm Maurice said he was going out and wife said he was not! In the end he and I went out, pushed a small dinghy down to the beach and then went to a larger dinghy from which we set a trammel net for more sole. Next morning after breakfast we went back to the beach and lifted the net. Only one sole. Maurice said there had been a full moon and little wind so the fish would probably have seen the net. Our hosts then gave us instructions of what to do and see. We had an interesting day out. Back in the evening while we were having drinks a neighbour called and joined us for dinner. Maurice and Anne Marie are certainly piscivores, but so are we. Dinner started with oysters and cockles. We had great difficulty in recognising the stew which followed. It was Seiche in French, Morgat in Brett, which is cuttlefish. It was excellent. The next morning we had the same trouble getting away.

Our trip followed on with three days in Chambre d'Hôtes and some excellent food. But the highlight was certainly the two Servas visits. What else did we expect?

*R & S Coyne, Arisaig, Scotland*

### NPNR in Nürnberg (Nuremburg)

A wet night in Nürnberg outside the Youth Hostel. The hostel was full. I telephoned Christian who said he would be there in about 20 minutes, and he was. We were hosted as they had been during their many travels, especially in the USA. All three spoke excellent English, although it does help if dad teaches English. Next morning we set off for the Netherlands after viewing the sight where the pre-world War 2 rallies had been held. Thomas set off to Bend it like Beckham on the football field.

Now Margaret and I are going to change our Servas Britain Host list entry to NPNR (No Prior Notice Required) so that we may get more travellers.

*Norman and Margaret Andrews, Chesterfield, England*

### Spain notes - May 2007

Friendly and hospitable. Info in list explicit and useful. Numerous hosts, wide variety.

In my circumstances, with a child, I would have appreciated more hosts offering NPNR, as my movements for Rosa's sake were sometimes unpredictable - though I understand this is a lot to ask.

*S Keene, Gloucestershire, England*

### Farms in Italy

We stayed with two families in Pesaro and San Quirico. In Pesaro they ran an agriturismo and were rather busy. The others we helped on their farm. Being on bikes we found it hard to make definite arrangements for other stays.

*J & G Clark, Maltravers, England*

### Basque country welcome

We had a two week trip to The Basque Country. We had four positive responses (out of only six requests). In the end we had to turn down one of the three lovely invitations because I felt it would be too much rushing around for myself and my seven year old daughter. We enjoyed a wonderful welcome from the three host families we were able to visit and would like to stay in contact.

One of the highlights was visiting English classes in two different schools \*where two of the host members taught). I will never forget the kindness of one of the families \*who had two young children themselves), who offered to pick us up from Inin rail station late in the evening, after our train from Paris had ben delayed \*due to strike) for over 36 hours!

We definitely hope to visit the Basque Country again, soon.

*J Mann, Oxford, England*

## Country Reports

### Interest from Mongolia

Hello, dear friends in Servas! It is my pleasure to report to all of you that a young woman in Mongolia showed keen interest in Servas. Her name is Hishig Sambuu living and working in Ulan Bator for a US travel agency. She studied in Hiroshima, Japan, for several years, during which she was taken good care of by Ms Kyoko Hayashi, branch secretary for Hiroshima region. As a result she became interested in joining Servas in Ulan Bator where she is now working. She e-mailed to Ms Kyoko Hayashi what to do in order to be a member, but as she didn't know, Ms Hayashi asked me how she could join Servas in Mongolia. I told her there is no member in Mongolia and that I can work for the Mongolian lady as AC, FEA (Area Co-ordinator, Far East Asia).

Several years ago Mr Eum Jay Ryang, the then NS for Korea, and I visited Ulan Bator to see a gentleman interested in organizing Servas in his country. However, he was more interested in making money by joining Servas than spreading Servas in Mongolia, so we concluded that we should wait for some more time till the fruit turns ripe.

Today I e-mailed to Ms Hishig Sambuu and explained like this:

- 1) We welcome your joining Servas. You will be the first member in Mongolia, though many years ago there seemed to be one or two members.
- 2) I, AC, FEA, will contact SI EXCO and ask how you could join Servas..

So, please let me know how she can join Servas. It seems that she wants to join Servas Japan, but I'm afraid she can make it because she is now living and working in Mongolia. I think it better for her to become the first Servas member in her own country.

*Masahiro Nishiyama, Area Co-ordinator, Far East Asia*

### More about Sierra Leone

See February Servas Monthly News for first part.

The Wildlife in Sierra Leone is diverse with 21 protected areas. Visit the wildlife conservation centers. Located about 200kms from Freetown, Outamba Kilimi is the place to look for animals. Mamunta Mayoyoso Bird Sanctuary hosts a wide range of species.

Climb Bintumani Mountain or take a dip in Lake Sonfon. Tingi Hills is popular for mountain climbing. The Binyumani Mountain and Lake Sonfon in Koinadugu District, about 1945 metres above sea level, and the Tingi Hills in the Kono District, offer visitors mountain sports and other adventures.

Guma Valley Dam is renowned as a picnic spot.

Neighboring countries: Guinea and Liberia.

*Shed Jah, National Secretay, Sierra Leone Servas*

### NEWS FROM SERVAS SAN FRANCISCO and INVITATION TO THE APRIL GATHERING...

Wednesday, April 23, 2008  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Zocalo Furniture Imports  
1508 Bancroft Street (Bayview District)  
San Francisco

#### **THIS DINNER WILL BE POTLUCK**

\$5 per person: a small contribution to Servas to cover our deficit from the last dinner and for ongoing expenses.

If you are coming from work and are unable to prepare a dish you may want to bring a bakery dessert or a simple appetizer.

As usual we appreciate it if you bring a beverage of your choice to share.

#### **AGENDA THIS MONTH: SURPRISES**

Every visit (whether here or traveling abroad) is a chance to learn something new. Bring your stories about what surprised you when traveling or ask your guests what surprised them when they came to the US. That may also be a surprise to you!

Our last dinner gathering was Pizza Night at St. Gregory of Nissa Church in San Francisco on January 24. It was a dark and stormy night and the attendance was smaller than usual. But this gave us more chance for general conversation and the atmosphere was very congenial.

#### **COLLABORATION WITH ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

At the last dinner we had a presentation by Amourence Lee, director of the San Francisco International program which provides J-1 visas to international visitors who come to San Francisco for professional training as well as cultural exchange. Mary Jane Mikuriya worked out an agreement with SFIP whereby Servas hosts can volunteer to receive some of these visitors who in turn become Servas members. A reception for the present visitor, Rene Grummt from Germany, was given on February 24, and included members of Servas and SFIP. Dr. Michael Kreutzer, a Servas host who is a psychiatrist at UCSF, gave a presentation about attention deficit disorders in children and how they are being treated. Rene is being hosted for a week or two at a time by several Servas hosts in San Francisco. If you are interested in participating in this program, please talk to Mary Jane at 415-285-3427.

#### **NEXT MONTH - A PICNIC?**

We would like to have a daytime event (Saturday or Sunday) in either the East Bay or Marin, so we can include some of the people with children or work schedules that make an evening event in San Francisco impossible

We are looking for suggestions and for a volunteer to check on space of 25 to 35 people in a nice park setting.

## Comments, recommendations

### International Friendship Program

"Just wanted to report in -- we had our first meeting with our new friend in this program -- a lively, fascinating woman from China in her 40's who is a visiting scholar at Berkeley, here for a year to pursue information about U.S. social policy and action on HIV Aids. We spent about six hours with her at lunch, in conversation and touring the Marin Headlands/Sausalito/Mill Valley area. Thanks for recommending this program!" Roy.

Amy and George had 4 from the program (3 Chinese and 1 from Turkey was reported by the Social Work Fellow from Germany in the San Francisco International Program who was a Servas guest there)

Nancy had 4 the other night - 2 Chinese (English Literature Scholar & Business), an Indian (Marketing), and a Taiwanese (Green Business - environmentally friendly businesses)

This hosting foreign scholars, fellows, international students is very exciting -especially since the number of Servas visitors has gone down.

*Mary Jane Mikuriya*

### ... and SFIP .. read on .....

Here is the first SFIP Fellow for our joint project. He was interviewed and is now a Domestic Servas traveler. He has interested some of the SFIP board members who have hosted him to want to become a Servas Member. How do you like that for symbiosis?

**US Servas, San Francisco International Program, CouchSurfing** will collaborate efforts to build peace and understanding through cross cultural exchange.

2008, we launch a joint pilot project to bring international professionals to the Bay Area for cross-cultural training and leadership development programs. We seek support from US Servas, CouchSurfing, SFIP members to find host families for the 2008 Core Training Fellows. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the world to you! Hosting helps build bridges among local and global communities, it directly supports the career growth of emerging international leaders, and contributes to the work of nonprofit organizations serving communities.

In January, we welcome our first 2008 Fellow, Rene Grummt of Germany. He will train for four months at the Institute for the Study of Community-Based Services. Rene has 8 years experience in youth services and child psychiatry. In previous positions he directed a children's home, was a social worker and case manager for the mentally ill. Rene lectures at a university of applied sciences, works for European Social Work Association, and as a lay assessor at a county court. He has a German diploma in social pedagogy, a degree in social management and a master's degree in social services administration. His training sponsored by the German government through a competitive social work training program.

Please contact SFIP Executive Director, Amourance Lee to learn more about how to get involved:  
[director@sfip.org](mailto:director@sfip.org). [WWW.SFIP.ORG](http://WWW.SFIP.ORG) December 2007

### A recommended book:

I strongly recommend the book '**Heat: How We Can Stop The Planet Burning**' by the renowned newspaper columnist **George Monbiot**. ISBN: 9780141026626 (Published by Penguin)

In this very well researched and referenced book Monbiot argues that the richest countries need to reduce their carbon dioxide equivalent outputs by 90% by 2030, to prevent a global temperature rise of 2 deg above pre-industrial levels. The 2 degree point is critical, as you can learn in Monbiot's book. This makes Alistair Darling's budget seem at best irrelevant. It also makes the ambitions of the Kyoto Protocol look ridiculous.

However, Monbiot, the eternal optimist, proceeds in his book to lay out how 90% emission cuts can be achieved, **with minimal impact on the typical affluent lifestyle of a 'developed nation' resident**.

Governments are unwilling to make the necessary changes without the support / pressure of their citizens.

Of course, it is the poorest countries which would suffer first from dramatic global climate, weather and geological disturbances...it would be easy to separate ourselves from the mass deaths that would occur. But after twenty years of earlier Springs and bountiful fruit harvests in Northern Europe, I am afraid that things could get very tricky for us too, folks!

I hope I have raised your awareness of this issue a little.

*Matt Lepley, England*

### And some recommended videos

Dear World Citizen Friends; About the 3 videos below;

This needs a different look.

This needs time to watch.

This needs to think for your own.

This needs to pay attention.

This needs action.

This needs Love.

This needs belief.

This needs courage.

This needs accepting.

This needs you.

And this will change you and change the world, with the power of love...

**May I ask a favor to watch these 3 videos in patience starting video 1 to 3, these 3 will take 1,5 hours totally. if I were you, I would have given my time if this was 10 times longer than it is...**

1- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7229401566658942356>

2.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4472671349450886466>

3- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1543466413190271647>

With Power of Love & Peace.

*Sercan Duygan, "Excursionist Dreamer"*

## Pablo Youth Report, 2007 Jul - Dec, Part 3

### • Regional and Youth conference "AUSTRALIA'09"

- The coming **January'09** Servas Australia has agreed to organize and support the next Servas Youth event. "**AUSTRALIA'09**". Thanks **Lindsay!!!**
- The team lead by **Geoff Maltby** is looking for the perfect venue and drafting the agenda.
- Focus on the youth this event, inviting to all the National Groups of this area to be present, looking for a **deep impact in the region**.
- Please help us to spread this news so everyone will have the chance **to include it on their agendas**.
- More info will be distributed soon.



### • SYLE '07 (Servas Youth Languages Experience)



- Offering one month learning a **foreign language** abroad through the Servas network.
- The **4° edition** will be during the 2008, and we are looking for travelers. Help us !
- See the reports "**SYLE'05/'06/'07**" on our web site.
- Please send us your application trough the site.
- More than **20 countries** will be involved in 2008. What about yours?!

#### PORTS CITIES'07

#### YOUNG TRAVELERS'07

Rosario(ARG)	-----	Gosia (POLAND)
SaoPablo(BRA)	-----	Francisco (MEXICO)
Mexico DF(MEX)	-----	Fernanda (BRAZIL)
Vancouver(CAN)	-----	Richard (ARGENTINA)
Montevideo(URU)	-----	Laura (ITALY)
SanJosé(C.R.)	-----	Cassandra (NEW ZEALAND)
Rennes(FRA)	-----	Magiari (VENEZUELA)
Panama(PAN)	-----	Isah (USA)
Guatemala (GUA)	-----	Mael (Francia)



# Peace

## Ideas on Peace from Brazil

I have just taken on National Peace Secretary function in Brazil and I am very excited to contribute, with my skills, gifts and limitations, in some way to make this world better. I agree Servas can be a very nice network that we can spread and exchange good initiatives through. And I also agree peace has a large spectrum – from solidarity to sharing, from respect to human rights to support to humanitarian projects around the world. Also, and perhaps first of all, a huge love to oneself and to the Other, for the humanity we carry inside and for this amazing Earth we live in.

Let me introduce myself: I am a Brazilian 32 year-old dreamer. Journalist by career, (amateur) clown and actress by choice, traveler by vocation. At the beginning of 2007 I quit my job as editor of a magazine to follow my bliss. I have been experiencing deep moments of detachment, freedom and self-knowledge. For sure, sometimes I have doubts, I feel a mix of fear and discouragement facing those terrible events around the world that come to us through news and reports. But my faith is stronger than this and, mainly, I do believe we can make this world better and worthy. So, in a month and a half, I will back to the road, visiting humanitarian projects around the world. As I used to say, I have a path, but not a final stop. Only God knows it, and this is enough for me. As a journalist, I intend to tell stories I hear and see and experience during the journey. As a human being, I intend to contribute with my small but shiny lamp to light up possible ways to live together...

I have some suggestions concerning to your message. (See January 2008 Servas Monthly News)

\* **First**, I think we can create small networks among Servas members with common interests and skills. As travelers or hosts, we've been meeting many different people and creating our own connections. Sometimes it comes up naturally – my friends and I have a small network to exchange and develop ideas in arts. I also know in Mexico there are some initiatives in ecological issues. As my dear Turkish friend Sercan says – and I agree – it's better to start with small groups for not missing the focus or energy or important details. Servas International, through national secretaries, can stimulate this. After some time, maybe we can have several small groups working together in some specific projects: a group for arts, others for ecology, for issues related to children and homeless, for no-violence projects, for history and nowadays conflicts and so on.

\* **Second**, we must improve communication and exchange of information among the different countries and inside the countries to be aware about what is going on. Sometimes an excellent initiative somewhere can be an example to the others. Servas members, from some country, can be helping with programs or donations or free time a beautiful project in certain place – but we don't know this yet. And I think we can't leave all responsibility to SI News. Again, each country, supported by Servas International, has to organize itself for that.

\* **Third**, I think each National Secretary and/or Peace Secretary would be able to ask member in their country to tell if they take part in some NGO, voluntary and humanitarian work. With this data, each NS can prepare a list of interesting organizations and projects in progress in each country, organizations and projects which are worthy of being helped. Thus other members can take part in it. Afterwards, these lists would be divulged to Servas world and can be published in national lists. It could be interesting to travelers who wanted to join some project as a volunteer during the time he or she is visiting the country... Moreover, we stimulate people to know each other and to do something else. More young people can be interested in Servas as well. Actually I will propose this to our members in Brazil as soon as possible.

That's it.

Hope my ideas can be useful.

Hope to know many interesting projects around the world. We need to spread good news. We need to know each other. -- it's good to know there are other active people working hard to improve the reality. We need to transcend the boundaries of prejudice, selfishness, egomania, laziness. All we need is love... love and action. I grew up listening to Brazilian governments and leaders telling young people: "you are the future of Brazil". Many of them doing nothing, only waiting for a saviour, a future which never arrives. I fed up with that. Let's put our plans into action!

*Maria Fernanda,*

*a dreamer without borders, from São Paulo, Brazil*

## Servas Artists and Peace

Gizella Borcsok (Servas Hungary) and Jean-Luc Turlure (Servas France) decided together in Budapest in August 2007 to create a group of Servas Artists. Servas-Artists will be multi-cultural, gathering all kinds of artists - authors - visual artists, painters, sculptors, photographers, film makers, video-makers... - interpreters of music, songs, guests, dances...- journalists, historians of culture, art critics, curators, art galleries, music-lovers collectors art teachers etc.

The objective of Servas artists is to bring into contact members of Servas to work together in cultural exchange and communications for the purposes of helping world peace. Each country will have its representatives linked for the moment by Gizella Borcsok and Jean-Luc Turlure

## Youth



# SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING ISTANBUL '08 July 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2008



Servas Turkey and Servas Youth invite you to the next International Youth Meeting event in Istanbul-Turkey. Following the Youth meetings in Patagonia'06 and Yorkshire'07, you are all welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Meeting in Istanbul.

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

### VENUE

Main Campus of Sabanci University will be our venue. Campus settlement is in Tuzla which is 45 minutes away from the city center. For more information- <http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/>

### ACCOMMODATION

Participants have the possibility to stay either in dormitory rooms or in the hotel located within the campus area. The dormitory rooms have two-bed or four-bed options. The beds in the dormitory rooms are bunks, which most of them have upper bunk beds (If you have request for lower bunk beds please contact us). The hotel rooms are private rooms for one person only. We have no tent option.

### CATERING

- Participants will have full board meals at the cafeteria of the university.
- Meals will be taken all together
- For excursion days, lunch will be taken outside the campus.

### PRICE LIST

PRICE LIST - in Dollar			
	Discounted*	Normal	Non-Servas Member
2-Bed Room	\$220	\$255	\$270
4-Bed Room	\$190	\$220	\$240
Hotel Room	\$410	\$480	\$520

PRICE LIST- in Euro			
	Discounted*	Normal	Non-Servas Member
2-Bed Room	\$150	\$175	\$180
4-Bed Room	\$130	\$150	\$160
Hotel Room	\$280	\$330	\$350

### Prices include:

- Accommodation and catering
- Costs for workshops, presentations etc.
- Costs for logistics and other conference expenses

### Prices exclude:

- Entrance fees to museums, historical places, national parks etc.
- Transportation to the campus from main city centres and transportation from the campus to the main city centres.
- Transportation expenses for the excursions

**\* Discounted prices will be applied to the applicants upon the criteria below:**

- Servas members with a valid Servas LOI
- Who applied and needs discount, expected to be fair
- Discount is limited up to 80 people
- Early applications will have priority
- Each evaluation will be done on personal level
- Servas countries whose membership status is "Contact" have higher priority
- Servas Youth officers have priority
- Who have not funded in any Servas event before have priority

*Please indicate your request for discount when completing the application form under "Discount Request" Section.*

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

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

Each day has a concept which is actually a part of Servas and the Youth Meeting. The activities of each day will generally be about that specific day's concept.

- 1st day: Open Doors: Come whoever you are
- 2nd day: Peace within, peace without
- 3rd day: Istanbul, two sides of water
- 4th day: Be the change
- 5th day: Journey/Experience
- 6th day: Imagine
- 7th day: We are one

**Activities**

- Plenty of activities **for all ages and interests.**
- Closed and open area activities at the Campus for both small and large groups
- Activities related to getting to know each other better, understanding the value of peace, developing Servas spirit and discovering Turkish culture
- Entertaining and informative workshops
- Travelling in and around the city

**Discussions**

- What Servas has to offer young people for the future.
- Share ideas and concerns about world issues and look at what contribution Servas can make to a more peaceful world.

**ARRIVING AT SABANCI UNIVERSITY**

Sabancı University is situated on the Asian side of Istanbul, close to Izmit. For arrivals on the meeting day, Sabiha Gökçen Airport is closer to the University location rather than main airport - Atatürk Airport.

There will be also shuttle buses on 18<sup>th</sup> from main centers of Istanbul such as Taksim and Kadıköy in order to transport you to the campus. You may use one of these shuttle buses or prefer to come on your own. Further information will be sent to participants for details of the shuttle buses.

**BOOKING**

We will be open to take bookings from the beginning of February 2008.

You can apply via our online application form:

<http://www.servasturkiye.org/youth2008>

- Click to Registration Form on the left menu

- You will see our registration page. Click to "New"
- Now you will see our online form. Fill in the form, then click "Send". Your application will be registered!
- You will receive a confirmation e-mail with your password included. If you want to edit your information later, you can use your e-mail and password to login to the page.
- If you encounter any problem about displaying the online application form, please contact to Servas Turkey Youth Team:

Servas Turkey Youth Team  
Email: [youth@servasturkiye.org](mailto:youth@servasturkiye.org)  
Tel: + 90 533 240 69 52

#### **PAYMENT**

We would like you to pay the conference fee in full in order to make your registration complete. The account numbers are as follows. You can pay either in Euro or in US Dollar:

#### ***For Euro Payments:***

**Account Holder:** Ömer Özkan  
**Bank Name:** HSBC Bank  
**Account No:** 706 1009005 770 99  
**IBAN No:** TR570012300706100900577099  
**SWIFT No:** HSBCTRIX  
**Address:** Büyükdere Cad. Özsezen İş Mrk. No:122/B Esentepe İstanbul-TURKEY

#### ***For Dollar Payments:***

**Account Holder:** Ömer Özkan  
**Bank Name:** HSBC Bank  
**Account No:** 706 1009005 770 01  
**IBAN No:** TR840012300706100900577001  
**SWIFT No:** HSBCTRIX  
**Address:** Büyükdere Cad. Özsezen İş Mrk. No:122/B Esentepe İstanbul-TURKEY

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

The following rules apply for those who register and pay for the meeting but cancel their registration before the meeting:

- Registrations cancelled more than 60 days before the event will be refunded 80% of the registration fees.
- Registrations cancelled less than 60 but more than 30 days before the event will be refunded 50% of the registration fees.
- Registrations cancelled less than 30 days before the event will not be eligible for a refund.

#### **SOME OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

If you would like to get involved in planning and running an event-workshop, play, presentation etc., let us know:

Evren Atvur: [evrenozkan@gmail.com](mailto:evrenozkan@gmail.com)  
or  
Pablo Chufeni: [pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar)