



Servas Monthly News



August 2005

Meetings, meetings, meetings ..

Around the Servas world meetings are taking place. They may be a Servas traveller meeting his or her host for the night, a local group getting together for a barbeque, a national group having its Annual General meeting or an international group sitting down to discuss the way forward for Servas. Over the last month or so all these events have been happening around the world with plenty more to come. That is one of the purposes of Servas, a peaceful getting together of people in small and large groups to get a greater understanding of each other and so help spread accord rather than discord round the world. In this issue there is a record of some successful meetings that have been held: on the International level in Askov, Denmark; on the national level in India, and on the individual levels in a variety of countries. Potential successes are anticipated with national/international level meetings in Germany and Patagonia. In this latter the future of Servas, the youth, are making big strides.

Find out more about what meetings are happening by checking our Meetings and Get togethers on page 3. Check the national newsletters which are now coming on line on www.siexco.org.

Join in, take a constructive, positive part. And remember to listen. As Servas we hope to help bring about peaceful solutions in a quiet way. We cannot help find solutions if we have not listened to the problem. And to quote from The Art of Conflict Resolution by the Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution: 'The less we blow ourselves up as being experts, the more we can contribute.'

Hurricane Katrina - how can Servas help?

As this is written, our thoughts and wishes for positive re-construction go out to those who suffered the effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. We need to do more than provide thoughts on such occasions. What can Servas do to help in such situations?

It would be good if Servas Monthly News readers could help provide answers to that question.

Is the monthly news now accessible?

I ask this question as I know that I have not been able to access the pdf on my home computer although I can access it from work. This is because at home I have an old version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Through discussion we decided that I could not access it due to some fancy fonts that I had been using for previous issues. From this I have now changed the fonts to more basic ones. Hopefully the problem will have been solved so that more people will have access to the Monthly News and so be able to keep up with what is going on.

Please let me know whether you can access or not.

Contents: 2005

1. Editorial
2. News - meetings
3. Meetings
4. Languages - Dutch including Flemish0
5. Travel and host reports
6. Countries
7. Servas and the UN
8. Servas and the UN contin. + a poem
9. Youth

Contact

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

Please keep the article length to a maximum of 1 side of A4, preferably less. If more than this it is likely to be cut.

Preferred method of contact is email at:
newsletter @servas.org
or jgiffould @aol.com

Please make sure that Servas: Monthly News is part of the subject heading. Otherwise if the email address is not recognised it may well get deleted before being read.

The postal address is:
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England.

News - Meetings

Report, Askov Meeting 11-14 August 2005

On the initiative of Dag Eirik Eikeland and Jan Degrauwe, National Secretaries of Norway and Denmark, members of some European countries held a meeting at Askov Folk High School in Denmark.

The participants were Ewa Dzierzawska (Poland), Rita Dessauvage (Belgium), Jan Simon and Jerry Lantz (Sweden), Hannu Huusko (Finland), Dag Eirik Eikeland and Siri Simonsen (Norway), Jan Degrauwe and Sus Thestrup (Denmark), Eva Meggeneder (Austria), Jane Giffould and Jean Seymour (Britain)

The main themes discussed were:

- Conflict handling and resolution (workshop)
- Comments and questions about Distant Voting (draft no. 3)
- Sharing experiences regarding Barcelona 2004- Discussing ideas and possibilities

Bjarne Vestergaard from the Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution in Copenhagen (www.konfliktloesning.dk) introduced us to conflict handling and some methods we can use for participation in future conferences. The starting point was that conflict can never be avoided. It is part of life, so it is important to know how to deal with it and try to resolve it in a peaceful way. Bjarne also presented models on which we did practical exercises. For those interested, we refer to websites which were recommended during our workshop: www.transcend.org and www.worldcafe.dk/uk_cafedialog/cafeseminar.htm

Looking back on the GA in Barcelona 2004 we were able to identify a number of good points, as well as the bad ones which have been widely discussed over the past year. Also, we agreed that willingness and effort will be needed to make the next GA better. We worked on recommendations for practical matters concerning the GA (e.g. clear language, conference word list, structured timetable, facilitation and translation).

On request from the Distant Voting work group we looked at their draft proposal, discussed the proposed rules and the changes that will be necessary in the Statutes. We appreciated the work done by the Distant Voting work group. We will respond to the group with questions and comments.

The participants at the Askov Meeting agreed to keep in touch via email and will be happy to receive any comments, questions and ideas from anybody who wants to contribute.

Happy Servas greetings, from the Askov participants

Ewa, Rita, Jan S, Jerry, Hannu, Dag Eirik, Siri, Jan D, Sus, Eva, Jane and Jean

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

NEXT EVENT: MEMBERS' MEETING IN SEPT.

The next event to be organized by the Servas Sao Paolo group is still being planned. It will probably be on a Sunday at the home of a host in Sao Paolo. Travelers who plan to be in Brazil during this period: mark your calendar. To confirm, check the event page on the Servas International website: www.servas.org or contact the events coordinator: Juvenilson K. (kuninari@uol.com.br).

The last event was on June 4: a happy hour in a traditional bar in Sao Paolo. Nine persons participated in this delightful gathering: 8 from Sao Paolo and 1 Canadian.

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY

The National Secretary of Paraguay announced a new e-mail address.

Servas Paraguay has also been experiencing a reduction in the past few years. The host list was last printed in 2002, and so it is obsolete. The chief task of Servas Paraguay at this time is to put out an up to date list. The National Secretary, Victor Hugo Gonzalez, announces a new era for Servas Paraguay, in which he wants to maintain more current communication with Servas throughout the world. Victor Hugo says that he intends to work for Servas in a coordinated and effective way. The new e-mail address for Servas Paraguay is: servasparaguay@yahoo.com.ar.

INDIAN CONFERENCE DECEMBER 2005

By the time the our conference was in progress, we heard the shocking news of the Tsunami disaster which had destroyed the coastal areas resulting in loss of many lives. Dr Ramesh Sharma lost no time in organizing and accompanying the relief operations party carrying food, clothes and medicines to the homeless and the badly affected survivors. We have tried to include some interesting information on what SERVAS is all about and the wonderful organization which is spread in 130 countries

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Get together in London

Please note the change of venue.

It is no longer Boswells.

The new venue is **Pontefract Castle.**

This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.

The nearest Underground Station is

Bond Street.

Date: First Monday in every month.

Time: 6.30 onwards.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

A reminder:

Germany -The Baltic Sea

Surrounded by nine countries

In the northernmost corner of Germany, next to Flensburg and even closer to the sea that the Germans call "Ostsee", (East Sea) (Baltic Sea in the English speaking countries), the next yearly assembly of Servas Germany will take place from Friday Sept 23rd to Sunday Sept 25th 2005.

We would especially like to invite Servas members of the other eight countries surrounding the Baltic Sea to join us for our conference! The motto of the conference will be "The Baltic Sea - Surrounded by nine countries". We will have a special program for the young Servas members -to produce a video tape by themselves; for the adult Servas members there will be some workshops on Sunday morning dealing with the motto. On Saturday we will mainly discuss and "workshop" items of Servas Germany. On Friday evening and Saturday evening we will have a cultural program where contributions are welcomed!

For further information you may contact me (e-mail Nationalsecretary@servas.de). You will find information about the venue at www.scheersberg.de

We are looking forward to meet you in Quern!

*Inken Resa-Thomas,
National Secretary of Servas Germany.*

SERVAS YOUTH "PATAGONIA'06 Get Together!!!"

San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina

13 - Jan 23, 2006

First international Youth Meeting in the
Southern Hemisphere

(All of you are invited,

does not matter

how young or old you be)

Contact: Pablo Chufeini

For further information you may contact me (e-mail Nationalsecretary@servas.de). You will find information about the venue at www.scheersberg.de

We are looking forward to meet you in Quern!

*Inken Resa-Thomas,
National Secretary of Servas Germany.*

Servas General Assembly

Latina, Rome, Italy

2 - 8 April 2006

What do YOU think should be
discussed.

Discuss this with your National
Secretary before the end of
September.

Make sure your country is
represented.

aa

Servas Britain

Frolic in the Forest of Dean 2006

Friday 17th March – Sunday 19th March

Yes, the annual weekend gathering and AGM will be held at a highly recommended (relatively) luxurious manor house in delightful surroundings in the Forest of Dean (Wales/Glos border), with easy M5 access.

Reserve the date in your diaries now!!

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Languages - Dutch including Flemish

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 be accompanied by 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 third language is Dutch including Flemish

Hello	<i>Goeie Dag</i>
How are you	<i>Wie Benje?</i>
Goodbye	<i>Tot Ziens</i>
Be seeing you	
Have a safe journey	<i>Goeie reis</i>
Best wishes to your family	<i>Groeten aanje familie</i>
Do come again	

Please	<i>Asjeblieft</i>
Thank you	<i>Dank je wel</i>
That's nothing	<i>Graag gedaan</i>

Where is the toilet?	<i>Waar is het toilet</i>
Left	<i>Links</i>
Right	<i>Rechts</i>
Straight on	<i>Rechtdoor</i>
Behind you	<i>Achter jou</i>
Where do I sleep	<i>Waar zal ik slapen?</i>
I am vegetarian	<i>yk ben vegetariër</i>

Where is the nearest telephone?	<i>Waar kan ik telefoneren?</i>
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Zero	<i>nul</i>
One	<i>een</i>
Two	<i>twee</i>
Three	<i>drie</i>
Four	<i>vier</i>
Five	<i>vijf</i>
Six	<i>zes</i>
Seven	<i>zeven</i>
Eight	<i>acht</i>
Nine	<i>negen</i>
Ten	<i>tien</i>
Twenty	<i>twintig</i>
Thirty	<i>dertig</i>
Forty	<i>veertig</i>
Fifty	<i>vijftig</i>
Sixty	<i>zestig</i>
Seventy	<i>zeventig</i>
Eighty	<i>tactig</i>
Ninety	<i>negentig</i>
Hundred	<i>honderd</i>
Thousand	<i>duizend</i>

Do you eat meat?	<i>Eet je vlees?</i>
Where do you live?	<i>Waar woon je?</i>
This is my sister	<i>Dit is mijn zus</i>
This is my brother	<i>Dit is mijn broer.</i>
This is my mother	<i>Dit is mijn moeder</i>
This is my father	<i>Dit is mijn vader</i>
This is my son	<i>Dit is mijn zoon</i>
This is my daughter	<i>Dit is mijn dochter</i>

What music do you like?	<i>Van welke muziek hou je?</i>
Have you visited the town?	<i>Heb je de stad bezocht?</i>

Where are the shops?	<i>Waar zyn er winkels?</i>
Is there a market?	<i>Is er een markt?</i>
Thank you for your help.	<i>Dank je voor je hulp.</i>

Host and Travel Reports

My Experience of Servas International Meeting Sentierinsieme/Pathway together, Italy 2005 (African Lady)

I am a Nigerian by origin residing in The Gambia. The first time I heard of Servas was from the National Secretary at the bar when he introduced the Association and I showed interest, then I was registered. Ever since, I never regretted ever being a member.

Servas Italy 2005 brought joy, empowerment, and exposed me to real life, through the help of Mr. Luigi Uslenghi who invited me for the meeting. I met and made lot of friends from all works of life. I love Servas because there is nothing like ethnic prejudice. Everyone is one and equal to rights

On arrival at Italy Luigi (the organizer) showed me real Servas love, I was hosted for the number of days I spent in Italy (three weeks precisely). I was well taken care of. I was given a nice guestroom with a nice bed, a telephone for communication, a computer for browsing and nice meals throughout my stay. Sincerely speaking, I felt at home and wished never to come back to Africa.

I enjoyed the trekking aspect of it, we climbed a mountain of 850m at Cinque Terry, took the ferry across the Mediterranean Sea, swam in the Mediterranean Sea and had lots of funs, it was full of life.

My representations of The Gambia-Africa at Italy 2005 have united Servas members in The Gambia. Haven shared my feelings and adventures to the association, it's a great challenge to us in the Gambia/Africa to host Servas and we look forward to hosting Servas conference in Africa.

I pray that our good Lord will uphold Servas, unite her members and guide our handwork. We hope to meet again someday/sometime either in Africa, Europe or America.

God Bless.

Long Live Luigi!

Long Live Servas!!

Long Live Italy!!

Long Live Africa!!

Long Live The Universe!!

**Blessing Ngozi Ojobu – Nigerian
(Servas, The Gambia - Africa)**

How Servas can increase understanding.

Thought it might be nice to share a real-world example of how Servas can increase understanding.

Last week I hosted a family from France. Before they arrived, my roommate expressed a lot of political hostility toward France, and said he wanted to ask them some very pointed questions.

This attitude is

common among Americans right now. I explained that these people probably had nothing to do with their government's policies, and that I had no way of knowing in advance what their thoughts might be on the issues that were of concern to him.

They arrived right at the height of Frontier Days, which is the biggest event of the year in Cheyenne. We had very busy times, watching parades, a mock gunfight, rodeo, an air show, and Indian dances. The short time they were here was completely packed with activity.

With all that activity my roommate didn't have much time with them. He quickly realized that their command of English would not allow a complicated political discussion. He also got to see them as real people, not just as representatives of another country. His political considerations completely disappeared, and he learned a lot from our visitors.

For me, the visit proved very beneficial in an unexpected way. I have for several years been doing a lot of research into the history of education, and writing articles on the subject. Long ago I had looked

at the contributions of Rosseau to educational philosophy throughout Europe. Using some mixture of French and English, I mentioned this to one of our visitors. He agreed that Rosseau had been influential, but said that Descartes had been much more of an influence. I had not even thought of this. After they left, I started looking up his works, and have gained some valuable insights which will be useful in future writings. Many of Descartes' contributions to education are so fundamental that many writers in this field don't even think about them. My visitors helped me to understand much more deeply the paradigms we are using constantly in our society. This has already turned out to be a great benefit to my work as a teacher.

Thanks again to everyone who is helping keep Servas running.

*Michael Riversong
Teacher, Musician, Bard
Cheyenne, Wyoming
mriversong@earthlink.net*

Country Reports

Servas Belgium & Luxemburg WMT

All Servas hosts understand the abbreviation WMT, which means WANT MORE TRAVELLERS.

Our countries WMT !!!

We are two small countries in the middle of Europe. Who has never heard about Brussels? It's the capital of Belgium and Europe.

We have so many hosts and they would be very happy to receive more visitors.

Not all are living in the main cities.

Come over and explore our beautiful country side and stay with our hosts.

Some have not received travellers for many years and feel a little bit disappointed.

A warm welcome will be guaranteed.

As distances are very short (300 km and you are out of the country) and public transport is rather good, there would be no problem to reach a host. Almost all hosts can be contacted by email.

*Have a look at our website www.belgium.be , go to **Info** and you'll find a lot of practical information, also in English, and on a map you'll find the place where our hosts are living.*

We really hope to meet you,

*Rita Dessauvage
NS Servas Belgium & Luxemburg
belgium@servas.org*

Servas in India

"With Every True Friendship We Build more firmly the Foundations on which the Peace of the Whole World Rests. Thought by Thought and Act by Act, with Every Breath We Build the Kingdom of Non-Violence That is the True Home of the Spirit.....Mahatma Gandhi

"Athithi Devo Bhava" is one of the tenets of Hindu Philosophy that has been engrained into the Indian Citizens who consider their Guests as Gods and give them the hospitality and love that would befit the Lord.

The founding of this organization coincides with India's gaining Independence and this spirit of Servas has been prevailing in India from the mid 50s under the stewardship of Sh Harivallabh Parikh at the auspices of Anant Niketan Ashram at Rangpur in Baroda (State of Gujarat). The present Servas India office is in Bangalore, details of the contact address and telephone /email id given above.

We have a list of over 300 active members who have opened their doors of welcome to the Servas visitors and given them the hospitality in the best possible method which has brought well being and goodwill from the visitors.

from: SERVAS INDIA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 1 MONTH: July/August 2005

NEWS FROM ECUADOR

Servas again has hosts in Ecuador.

The interest and initiative of some volunteers has brought Servas back to life in Ecuador.

A couple of Argentine travelers, Laura and Roberto, were hosted in Quito at the home of Milton and Emy Chamorro. Laura reported that they were extremely well received: "We were welcomed by this nice family as if we had known them for a long time. We felt really comfortable in the company of Milton and his family."

A French traveler, Flaurant, visited them recently and helped them to fill out the host registration form. Milton is a professor and his wife is a nurse. Their main interests are in the areas of communication, films, video, human rights and social movements (homeless movement).

Servas needs more hosts in Ecuador. The Servas South American coordinator asks all those who can participate to help us by contacting more persons who might be interested in being part of our organization. If you can help, please contact: southamerica@servas.org.

*Taken from: NEWSLETTER number 1
Servas South America, June 2005*

Servas and the UN

UNITED STATES SERVAS AND THE 58th ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE

“OUR CHALLENGE: VOICES FOR PEACE, PARTNERSHIPS AND RENEWAL”

The 58th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, ‘Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal’ will be held from Sept 7 to 9, 2005 in New York. It will provide the forum for a dynamic and diverse gathering, and will assume an enhanced role as the central civil society gathering prior to the Millennium +5 Summit the following week. It is expected that a broad range of civil society partners at the highest levels will participate in this event.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan and H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, President of the Fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, will open the Conference on Sept 7 in the General Assembly Hall. In addition to the opening and closing plenary sessions, which will feature keynote speakers, the Conference will hold five morning and afternoon plenary panels, as well as interactive dialogues with civil society organizations. Speakers will include representatives of NGOs, academia, the private sector and the media with first-hand field experience.

The Following U.S. Servas United Nations Reps Will Be Attending The Un Dpi/NGo Conference:

Sharon Wallenberg, United States Servas Main Representative to the United Nations, has the responsibility to maintain U S Servas in good standing with the United Nations by fulfilling their mandates, as well as assigning and coordinating the efforts of the other US Servas UN Reps, and disseminating information from the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on World Heritage sites, and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and Rainforest Alliance on Ecotourism.

Sharon Wallenberg has been a member of Servas since 1984 and traveled all over Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, the Middle East, North America, Africa. As a Host, she has had many visitors .

Sharon has been the Main Representative for U S Servas since 2002. Prior to that she represented Servas International at the UN. She was instrumental in Servas giving a UN NGO Briefing in 2000. When Sharon became US Servas UN Rep, NGOs not in compliance with UN requirements were asked to step aside. Under her leadership, US Servas became an NGO in good standing, and applied for an upgrade in status to ECOSOC. Sharon was invited to give a presentation at the UN World Summit on Peace through Tourism in February 2003. She has worked with other Peace and Travel NGOs.

Sharon is the Mother of two Daughters, has owned a home in Long Island for 25 years, and works in the Health Care field. She has an MBA from Long Island University, and studied on the Doctoral level at Fordham University. Sharon has been involved with her Church Peace and Justice Committee and a local Amnesty International Group member for over 20 years. She is a pilot and with own airplane.

Lynne Murguia, United States Servas Alternative Representative to the United Nations, has a vast network of United Nations contacts both in the UN and the NGO Community. Lynne will be a regular contributor of article to the US Servas Newsletter and web site.

Lynne Murguia is a retired high school Spanish teacher, a career that provided lifelong opportunity for travel during vacations. As a long time Servas member, she became the third official Servas

Representative to the United Nations in 1992, following Reva King, initiator of the Servas – UN connection, and Willeen Smith.

Upon retirement, after training with the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Lynne began initiating pilot projects in micro-credit (small loans to the poorest-of-the-poor) in Asia. She has been a volunteer at the international headquarters of Habitat for Humanity, Amnesty International and Lucius Trust.

At present, she is focusing on spiritualizing the United Nations and the world media by effecting realization of their underlying spiritual purpose, given their roles as organizations with widest direct contact with the One Humanity. Lynne has been involved for many years in astrology, meditation and activities of social progress worldwide.

Kathleen Harnig, United States Servas Representative to the United Nations, is working with UNICEF and the NGO, ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) to end the serious issue of so-called child sex tourism, as well as working with other UN agencies and NGOs.

Kathleen Harnig is a retired Deer Park Teacher. Kathy taught for 14 years as a second grade teacher and 18 years as a kindergarten teacher. She also taught one year in the Philippines on Clark Air Base, and taught ESL in Silistra, Bulgaria for the Peace Corps.

Kathy as a Servas Host, Manhattan, has had 100+ Servas Travelers from all over the world. As a member of Servas, she has gotten to know New York City and loves taking her Servas guests. She has traveled in Europe. Kathy represented Servas International at the United Nations for several years.

Kathy has also volunteered as a language partner for the International Center, in the Mid-Manhattan Library. Kathy is a member of E-buddies, an organization headed by Anthony Shriever.

Carole Silverman, United States Servas Representative to the United Nations, will be planning and co-coordinating dinners with Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors) from the United Nations and the United States Servas UN Reps.

Carole Silverman works as an Administrative Assistant in a large New York City hospital. She has been a member of Servas for over 26 years, both as a Host and Traveler. Carole has volunteered as a Host and Traveler Interviewer, Host Co-ordinator, Area Representative, chaired and served on various committees, arranges local gatherings, and attended UN NGO Conference several years ago.

Carole has traveled extensively for over 30 years in the United States, Great Britain, Europe, Middle East, Canada, and the Caribbean. Carole has also researched Kurdish folk dance with Kurds in Iran. She enjoys diverse cultures, hiking, dancing, aerobics, writing, event planning, and teaches travel solo courses and folk dancing.

Karl Wolf, United States Servas Representative to the United Nations, will be involved in lobbying efforts to the United States government in Washington to further United Nations Peace initiatives and Travel issues that United States Servas is working on

Karl Wolf, a Servas Host and Traveler for many years, has traveled in Africa, South, Central and North America, Europe and Asia. Karl is a member of the Society of Friends, and has been very involved in peace activities, several not-for-profit organizational Boards, and many other volunteer activities.

Professionally, Karl has been in the not-for-profit world at the senior management level with Yale-New Haven Medical Center, Lucille Salter Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford (University), Saint

Jude. Children's Research Hospital and other world-class organizations. His managerial responsibilities have included strategic planning, marketing, communication, fund raising and public affairs

Karl is from the Boston area and was educated in New England obtaining an MBA from the University of Vermont. He now resides in Reston, VA, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Willeen Smith, United States Servas Representative to the United Nations, will be involved in the wording of documents being prepared at the United Nations on the issues of Peace and Travel.

Willeen Smith was the first Representative of Servas International after the late Reva King, who originated Servas at the United Nations. With Servas International's then General Secretary, Vibeke Matop, Willeen attended the 1995 World Summit on Social Development with the main emphasis on following and working on wording documents. Later that year Servas International brought her to their meeting in Australia. The major interaction was with the International Peace Secretary and National Peace Secretaries.

During Willeen's tenure, Servas members from Lyon, France and Geneva, Switzerland served as Servas International NGO Reps at the United Nations in Geneva, and a Servas member from Bratislava, Slovakia served at the United Nations in Vienna. In New York City, seven Servas members represented Servas International at the United Nations Headquarters. They included Lynne Murguia, Jeanette Gear, Mary Shoikett, and Lyn Fine. Lynne Murguia succeeded Willeen as Servas International Main UN NGO Rep.

Willeen is a Social Worker by profession. She loves yoga, opera, and the international scene. She is exploring a growing interest in astronomy and the space program. Willeen is semi-retired after 17 1/2 years administering an international grants program of the Episcopal Church USA. She now administers grants that support a premier medical college and hospital in India.

Mary Shoiket, United States Servas Representative to the United Nations, is a long-time member of the United Nations Non Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament, and will continue to serve there.

Mary Shoiket hails from New Jersey where she has been a Servas Host and Traveler for more than 20 years. Together with her husband, Henry, she has traveled in Europe: Greece, England, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Russia, and Turkey; Africa: Morocco and Egypt; Central American: Mexico and Panama; the Caribbean: Cuba and Maastricht; and China. The couple has an insatiable appetite for travel!

Guided and inspired by Reva King, Mary became a Servas United Nations Rep, and a member of the UN Non Governmental Organizations Disarmament Committee, where she has faithfully served for all these years.

Mary and Henry have two children and four grandchildren. They are volunteer teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL), long term members of 'Peace Action', the largest Peace organization in the USA, and are active in 'Health Care for All', which hopes to educate US citizens to demand health care for all under Medicare.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE CHAPTERS

*I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost.... I am hopeless
It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.*

*I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
But it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.*

*I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in ... it's a habit.
My eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.*

*I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk round it.*

I walk down another street.

*Poem by Portia Nelson -
quoted in "The Tibetan book of living and dying"
by Sogyal Rinpoche,
Harper, San Francisco, 1993.*

?Does this apply to YOU?

Youth

PATAGONIA '06

Hello everybody!!!

As you surely know the General Assembly in Barcelona voted for the creation of SERVAS YOUTH, based on the great work that a lot of people had been doing before, developing a youth project within Servas.

After Barcelona a lot of good, hard work was done. Every report is on the SERVAS FORUM. Please take a minute to visit it. You are welcome to add your input there!

Now SERVAS YOUTH is writing to you to share with you a great news. Working hard, with the help of SERVAS Argentina, we managed to give a name and a schedule to the first international youth meeting in the southern hemisphere: PATAGONIA '06.

PATAGONIA '06 will take place in the third week of January, next year, for a whole week, in Bariloche the heart of the Argentinian Patagonia. The landscape is simply amazing. You can go to www.campamentosac.com to see the place of our meeting. Guys and girls from different parts of the world are already asking for directions.

With some luck and a lot of hard work it will be a hit! Our focus is not on the landscape, that's clear, but it helps. And surely if someone is coming from the north maybe it is a good idea to go ahead and know a little bit more.

We are working now on the Agenda, to make it complete, attractive and realistic. I would love to have some of you there, so please,...do your best.

As you already know, SERVAS YOUTH is not only for people under their 30s. If you are interested in the youth issues and want to help us develop the youth project in Servas, you don't need to be a teenager.

The meeting will cost, USD 160, covering four meals a day, access to every single activity, accommodation in bungalows or tents (no transportation from Buenos Aires included).

Our branch in Patagonia is a healthy one. They are doing a lot of work, so most of the organizing activity is in their hands. That help us keep our costs low (we did not need to travel ourselves to look for the possible locations, for instance).

This youth meeting will help us a lot to continue developing the position of the youth in SERVAS and at the same time to grow as persons.

There will be three different topics during the meeting. The specific topic of Youth in Servas: how to develop the youth position, how to reach more young people, the programs that we are already doing and how to make them grow, how can we help developing the local activities in our national group, how to get the youth involved, new programs that we can start implementing, and everything linked to the Youth issue inside Servas.

There will be also workshops about different subjects, like Spanish lessons, artistic and regional, and at last some short touristic trips and walks. The landscape is so marvellous: mountains, lakes, woods, everything is there.

I need to ask you for something: Please, help me spreading the news. Put the info in your national web sites, or send it to your national secretaries, (or maybe you are a National Secretary, if so, please share it with the Servas members in your own country), you can also send it to any Servas friend of yours, that you know could be interested in the youth issue.

I'm counting on your help!

Goodbye for now and hoping to see you in Patagonia 06.

In peace.

Espero que tu mundo este girando lindo, un abrazo.

Pablo Chufeni

-SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH COORDINATOR-

.... and some quotes they might like to consider

War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

Bertrand Russel

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies ... a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

Dwight Eisenhower

The only groups who win in armed struggle are the arms manufacturers.

Hugo Chavez

The death toll from small arms dwarfs that of all other weapons systems - and in most years greatly exceeds the toll of the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In terms of the carnage they cause, small arms, indeed, could well be described as "Weapons of Mass Destruction".

Kofi Annan

..... so what are we going to do about it?