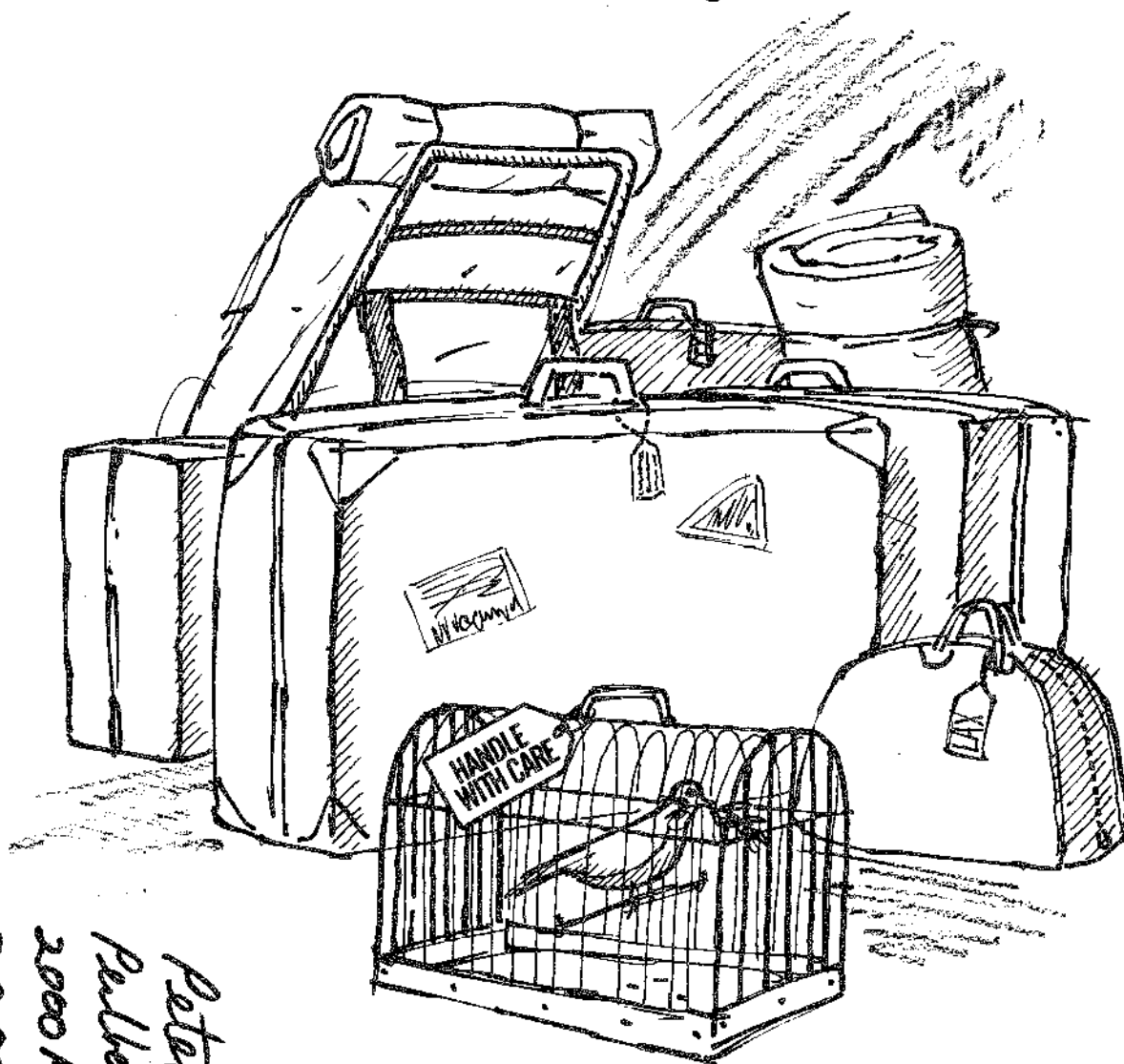


SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPRING, 1977 / NUMBER 7

Hospitality...



*Peter Brock
Pulldorfweg 70
2000 Hamburg 65
F. R. GERMANY*

and Travel for Peace.

SERVAS International Reva King, President

BULLETIN: USA PRESIDENT CARTER URGES PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES FOR PEACE

March 1--President Jimmy Carter of the USA today asked the governors of the 50 states of the nation to join him in creating a private--not governmental--volunteer international exchange program for peace, called "The Friendship Force."

The president pictures six or more group exchanges between the middle and end of 1977 averaging 10 days in length and \$300 to \$400 in cost, and six or more exchanges from each state in succeeding years. A staff is already being formed. No use of governmental funds is anticipated. "We're going to join in and raise enough money in private places to finance these trips," the president declared.

Let us members and officers of Servas express our support of the president in his endorsement of non-governmental exchange in the interest of peace. We urge members in the USA to write to the president and their state's governor to commend the idea. We can also make them aware that in Servas we already have in existence a base from which members of the exchange can be recruited. In addition, we hope members in the USA will support the program with money if they can. In other countries it is difficult to predict what organizations the Friend-

ship Force may contact. But we believe Servas national secretaries and other members should keep a close watch for developments, and make the presence of the Servas organization known to appropriate offices and individuals. And let's not quibble over small differences between Mr. Carter's heartening proposal and established Servas practice (group vs. individual visits, exchange vs. non-reciprocal traveling or hosting, etc.). We embrace the idea. Let us applaud and support this highest-level recognition that people are less apt to go to war against friends.

WATER! WATER!

Servas Co-ordinator for South America Marcelo Lorenzo has been actively involved in preparations for the UN Water Resources Conference in his country, Argentina, in March. "Adequate drinking water for everyone on earth by 1990" is the goal of that conference and its Sudanese-born secretary-general, according to the newsmagazine To the Point International. And today? Three quarters of the world's rural population has no access to drinking water that can be called even reasonably safe. Secretary-General Yahia Abdel Mageed was minister of irrigation and hydro-electric power in Sudan before joining the UN in June. He says Kenya, Egypt, his country, and some others have demonstrated that developing nations can co-operate to share water resources, and can make use of hydro-electric resources to reduce their dependence on expensive imported oil. He singles out Japan as a country making most efficient use, increasingly through recycling, of water resources. What sort of

low-cost means can help to solve the problem? Mageed mentions getting volunteers to dig trenches to bring water pipelines to their own villages. What would be a practical measure of success? At least a standpipe (a waterpressure-regulating reservoir) in every village. The world in 1977 is a long way from even that seemingly modest goal.

POR FAVOR

This magazine is to be translated into several languages and reprinted in several countries. The editors in the USA would be delighted to receive a copy of each Version from each Servas national secretary. Furthermore: We hope also to receive suggestions and other contributions in any language. We are as limited linguistically as many other Americans, but we believe we can get a translation made of a letter in almost any language. Write us! We want this journal to be truly international.

THE EDITOR'S FOREWORD

I. On the fifth day of the Servas International Conference in Los Angeles last August, in a flattering and undeserved but unanimous election, we (Don Fawcett and I) were chosen to be the editors of Servas International News (SIN) Number 7 and succeeding numbers in 1977 and 1978.

we were amused by the initials "SIN" because of their meaning as a word in English. A look into the Bible confirmed that the prohibition against "sin number seven" (the seventh commandment) says, "Thou shalt not kill." We find this a most agreeable prohibition and strongly recommend it. It fits the policy of the conference to emphasize peace, and we urge host families and travelers to have dialogue on the subject. We have heard that the commandment is found in all religions and is upheld also by humanists.

Probably there is less need for preaching to hosts than to travelers; there is a temptation for the latter to use Servas solely to escape hotel costs. As interviewers in our area, and thus first qualifiers of would-be Servas travelers, promise to approve only those who are search of knowledge and international friendships, who believe in grass-roots peace-building, and who will aid Servas in the future. We assume that this is the policy of all who approve travelers.

II. Besides Servas, and similar in some ways, there are The Experiment in International Living, Citizens Exchange, Homes Abroad, Coserv, Peace Pilgrims, and more. We cannot define their differences now, but should like to do so in an annotated list. International understanding and peace are abstract values unless one has friends in the foreign countries discussed. We favor most such grass-roots relationships and want to inform readers of existing opportunities. But we are editors without staff--except for our readers. So please send (or get officers of parallel organizations to send) definitive information.

III. Servas began, as we have heard it, in 1948 meetings of European and American pacifists, philatelists, and Esperantists under the cumbersome name of "Open-Door System of Work, Study, and Travel."

Please, will someone with the information give us 200 to 300 words of history for the next edition? Some of us are historically minded.

IV. Philosophically, can we know where we are going if we don't know where we came from? One has to wonder if time, like space, won't prove to be circular. Mankind went through this in discovering our world. People went off in one direction until they found themselves returning. One cannot know East without West. The distance for all is the same.

Now, having discovered matter in energy and energy in matter, science is pushing knowledge in all directions, into our past as well as our future.

We have finite experience within the dimensions of space, time, and energy. The consciousness thus generated is a biological reflection. Education is an expansion of such consciousness. Some experience it with microscopes, X-rays, and telescopes; some in equations and formulae; some in physical and artistic constructions; others in growing things. Some travel the world to experience it. Of these, Servas travelers are the most successful.

(In English or in translation, do these thoughts make sense? How do you respond?)



JOURNEY TO EASTERN EUR

International Vice-President Barbara Acquah of England prepared this report for Servas International News Number 6, her final issue as editor. It was dropped because of limitations of space then; we publish it now. (The "Irena" she visited in Warsaw is Irena Wyrzykowska, who has since become national secretary for Servas in Poland.)

"Make new friends and keep the old--one is silver and the other gold!" This could have been a theme song for my vis-

to Eastern Europe in the summer of 75, for there were new friends in Poland, old friends in Czechoslovakia, and both old and new in the German Democratic Republic.

The train journey from London to Warsaw is all of 900 miles, but the Polish travel agency put me in a compartment with five passengers who spoke only Polish, so for the daylight hours I was well occupied supplementing my "Teach Yourself Polish" with some useful phrases acquired orally.

TAZAB at the station in Warsaw told me which bus to take, and by good luck I reached Irena's flat shortly before her husband arrived with a Japanese visitor. Asako was a Chopin enthusiast, so we had an excursion in the car to visit the composer's birthplace, beautifully re-stored after the war, and saw a shrine where his heart is placed in a Warsaw church. I spent a Sunday morning in the rose garden of Belvidere Park, listening to a concert played by a pianist enthroned on the pedestal of Chopin's statue.

Irena and her husband were living at their summer residence, a wooden villa with a pleasant garden full of raspberries, wild flowers and forest trees. She also took me to visit friends and relatives in flats in the city, where they had communal gardens with playgrounds for children, often built by the residents themselves in co-operation. Some blocks still showed bullet holes from the war, which was a bitter experience, but still left a proud city, with several big churches, symbol of national identity for more than a century when Poland did not exist on the map, and testifying to vigorous life continuing.

The old capital Krakow, where I stayed with an artist who fashioned lovely sculptures in wood, was even more packed with architectural beauty and historic art treasures, and my host was so charming, I felt very much at home--this time speaking French rather than English, as he had some visitors from Paris.

11

I crossed the border to Czechoslovakia on a Sunday and, having obediently spent all my Polish money, had none to pay for my ticket from the frontier. The banks were closed. However the passengers were very helpful, and the officials very understanding, and I arrived at half past eleven that night without difficulty, to renew an old wartime friendship, after thirty years, with my old pal Jaroslav, and his wife Marie, whom I had never met, as she remained in Czechoslovakia during the war years. Alas, the man who once tramped over the Welsh hills so vigorously now suffered from heart trouble, and his wife from arthritis, which the annual free holiday at a spa helped, but didn't cure. Their only son had died during the war, and their happiest memories were of a student lodger from Cuba, who had been like a son to them, and returned to visit them with his wife and two children, to whom they were Granny and Grandpa.

Jaro's photo and army uniform were in the town museum; he had been chairman of the region and won many medals for hard work after the war. We visited a beautiful spa in the forest, and a model village, and saw many very pretty summer homes that the more thrifty workers had built for themselves.

Next in Prague I stayed with new friends who spoke very good English and helped me to enjoy their lovely old fairy-tale city, with its glorious river, Cathedral Bridge, the castle, the alchemists' alley, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Smetana museum, the Huss monument--all wonderful, even though it rained for most of my two days there.

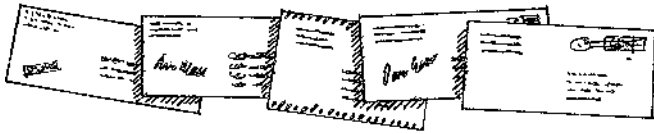
Reaching Germany was almost like coming home, as I could speak the language fluently, not struggling and searching for words as I had to in Polish and Czech. I revisited Weimar, where I had spent holidays in 1934 and 1935, and found it

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gay and beautiful, celebrating its thousandth anniversary--and to my joy, the Shakespeare statue was still smiling serenely on its pedestal! I attended the fiftieth yearly meeting of the German Quakers in Eisenach, not far from the Wartburg, where tourists still climb up to see where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German.

Besides meeting some of the hundred German Friends present at the celebration, I visited two very lively Quaker grandmothers in their fourth-floor flats, one in Leipzig and the other in Berlin. They lived comfortably enough, and so did the children and grandchildren who visited them. They had survived a succession of calamities--war, inflation, tyranny, invasion--and only wished to live at peace with their neighbours.

Come the day when all nations have respect for international law and stop preparing to settle their quarrels by resort to arms! Not because Eastern Europe is paradise, any more than Western Europe is--but because war is hell--extravagant and futile and uncivilised. Surely people who can shake hands in outer space can find some more satisfactory means of settling differences?



international peace is necessary for our survival, and thus of supreme value, don't most of us behave ridiculously? We waste time discussing trivia. We spend ours with empty-headed acquaintances. By investing a few cents in postage, we could help international understanding by exchanging ideas with someone in another country who shares our values.

Would you, in another country of the world, enjoy writing to and receiving letters from a Servas member or other individual in California, USA? If so, send an initial letter introducing yourself, to:

PEN PAL, Servas International News, 3518 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92103 USA. The editor (chairman of a university program for retired persons, and father of teachers) or assistant editor (Servas California co-ordinator) will attempt to match you with a "pen pal" (friendly correspondent) of about your age and similar interests.

WORLD GOVERNMENT NEWS

Servas was represented in recent events in New York intended to point the current review of the UN charter toward creation of a constitution for world government.

Servas International President Reva King delegated two representatives to attend PUNCH II (Parallel UN Charter Hearings), and personally attended a dinner honoring Syed Muhanunad Husain, a justice of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and one of about 20 international sponsors of Servas. Author Isaac Asimov told the PUNCH audience, "World government is more than desirable; the only question now is, will it come soon enough to save us?"

Justice Husain, addressing a meeting of the Coalition for International Cooperation and Peace (also attended by Reva King), said, "The problems of the developing world are not very great by the standards of the developed countries," and could be solved easily. But, he stated, "many, many people in the emerging world" hold the view that in an age of proliferating nuclear weapons, "the whole world must transcend the nation-state." Servas had helped arrange Justice Husain's trip to the USA. In Denver he helped a committee of the World Constitution and Parliament Association draft a constitution for consideration by the association in Innsbruck, Austria, June 16-29. An assemblage of world peace groups is planned for Innsbruck and Paris at about the same time.

Interviewed at the coalition meeting, Reva King recalled that the keynote speaker at the 1972 Servas International Conference was Max Habicht, international lawyer, advisor on world government to presidents and prime ministers since the 1920's, and honorary president of the World Federal Authority Committee.

The meetings of representatives of world-government groups (and the interview) were reported in World Peace News, publication of the American Movement for World Government, Inc. The newspaper offers one-year subscriptions for \$7 (three years \$13) from its offices at 777 UN Plaza, New York 10017.

FROM THE NEW EDITOR

— a challenge and an invitation!

One of the wholesome developments in the world during the past quarter-century has been the quiet growth of Servas hosting and traveling in 66 countries, about half the nations on earth. Now we are oriented toward the other half; our goal is to have host families and travelers in every UN-member country.

Servas rejects the divisiveness of race, color, nationality, and internal national politics. All we seek in travel is opportunity to understand and to appreciate and to discuss routes to peace.

Our network of peace-seekers is a Western development, but we are stretching our hands eastward. At our international conference in Los Angeles in August '976 we resolved to emphasize our peace mission. The theme of our keynote speaker, Pastor Konrad Libbert of the Federal Republic of Germany, was our responsibility (and opportunity) to strengthen detente ("a relaxation of tensions") between Eastern and Western Europe, as well as between Arabs and Jews, the Orange and the Green, blacks and whites, the Orient and the Occident.

Aside from old prejudices, official and unofficial, we daresay that the main difficulties for Servas in bridging the orders between capitalism and socialism will derive from (1) Western families' comparatively high degree of control over their private living arrangements, and (2) Eastern Europe's approach to life on a wholesale rather than retail basis, so to speak.

In much of Eastern Europe, where war destroyed millions of homes a generation ago, and housing is still a problem, most living quarters are small apartments. Eastern Europeans, knowing that some Americans live in big homes, are inclined to believe that nearly all do. So they may hesitate to reveal their smaller quarters to us Westerners.

(And often, civic red tape also complicates families' attempts to provide accommodations for strangers. Hotels there are, after all, government institutions to acquire money from foreign visitors.)

For most Europeans work, transportation, and even vacations are team experiences. Travel is geared to the group, not the individual. (However, as a rule this does not mean that, once lodged, one cannot go where he or she wishes. The major limitation to such explorations is language difficulty.)

Servas hosts in the West can already offer free lodging to visitors from socialist countries, of course, but for a while offerings from those countries to us may fluctuate greatly, may depend on discussions and negotiations, and initially may consist only of counterpart exchanges.

The editor has been in the USSR twice as a tourist, twice as tour conductor, and twice as guest--from Azherbaijan to Latvia to Siberia to Byelorussia. Residence in Eastern Europe has totaled more than a year and travel has included all the countries there except, as yet, Bulgaria. My deep interest dates from 1917.

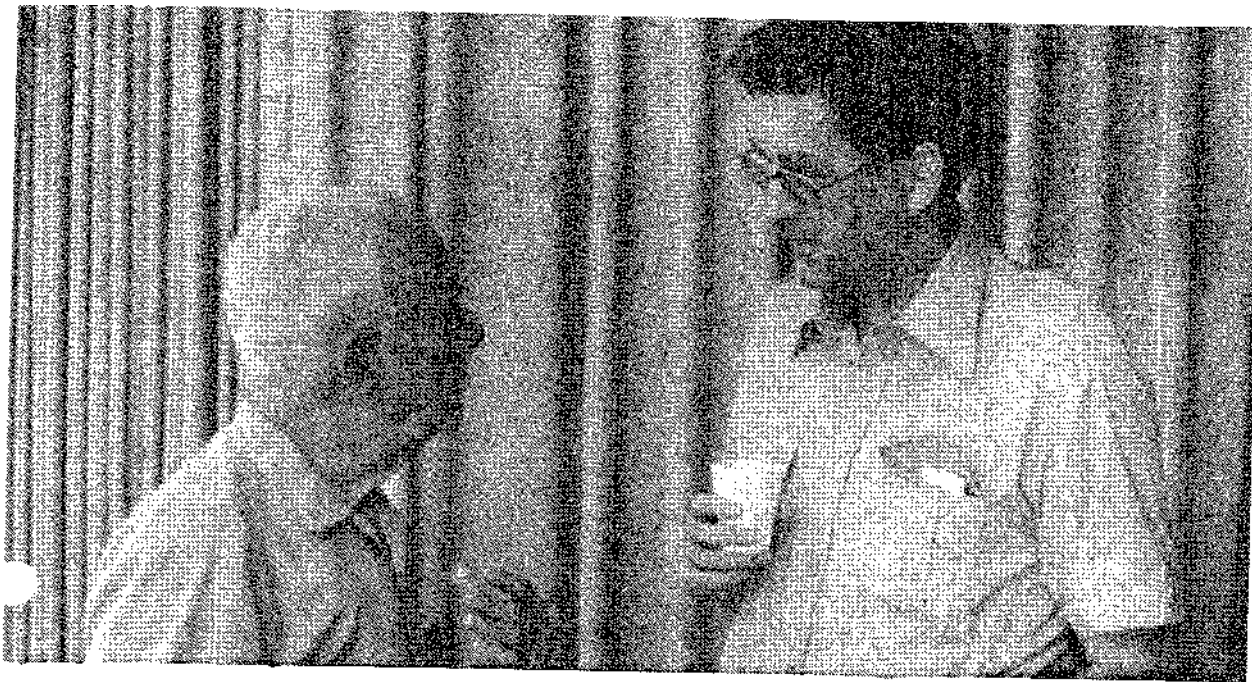
I believe a group of Servas members should visit the USSR in 1977 or 1978 to talk over possibilities with appropriate groups there: the Soviet Peace Committee, Union of Societies for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Union of Youth Organizations, the Soviet Women's Committee, and groups with vacation facilities. These are public, not governmental, organizations.

Our tour should include a boat trip on the Volga for acquaintance with the heartland of the USSR, with ample time for discussion with natives and among ourselves.

I believe I can offer my companions on such a visit access to a variety of educational experiences. Each traveler then should Report on his or her experiences for possible publication here in Servas International News so that subsequent East-West Servas relations can be based on the experiences of our members.

Furthermore, I see no problem in securing academic credit for registered students who (1) propose in advance a line

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Dr. Harry C. Steinmetz of San Diego, California, USA, is the new editor of Servas International News. During our international conference in August in Los Angeles, he was photographed (at

left above) with the keynote speaker, Pastor Konrad Lubbert of Uetersen, north of Hamburg in the German Federal Republic, as they discussed expansion of Servas in Eastern Europe.

of study en route, (2) keep a diary or systematic notebook of relevant experiences, (3) attend a few lectures en route by me and recruited professors, and (4) complete an oral or written examination at the end of the trip.

We already have several Servas hosts in Poland, a new contact in Hungary, some interest in Rumania, and the hope of establishing the organization in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the USSR. Servas advances detente.

How many of my fellow Servas members in the USA will serve on such a fact-finding and "negotiating" mission to Eastern Europe and particularly the USSR? How many in other countries will join the group in Europe?

If you are one (or if you and your spouse or companion are two), please type out the following information and mail it soon to:

Editor, Servas International News, 3518 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92103 USA.

1. Name(s), address(es), phone number(s)
2. Your preference for August 1977, September 1977, or any month in 1978
3. Besides the Volga trip, what other features in Eastern Europe would you

want on the itinerary? Basic, beginning cost from the USA would be \$1000. How much would you pay for the whole trip?

4. What aspects of Eastern European life interest you most?

5. What have been your occupations?

6. Of what peace-seeking groups are you a member?

7. Would you be interested in study opportunities en route either (a) for credit or (b) just as an auditor?

8. Additional information or questions

To form the group and to insure a profitable and enjoyable trip will require considerable planning and correspondence.

Let us begin.

HCS

By means of this issue of Servas International News, notice of the proposed trip is being sent to the cultural affairs secretaries in the embassies of the USSR and German Democratic Republic in Washington, USA, and through them to the Soviet organizations named above; their equivalents in the GDR; and other contacts in Eastern Europe. In our next issue we hope to publish details of the trip, and whether it can take place in 1977.

FROM AUSTRALIA WITH LOVE...by the way of India, Italy, Germany...

Jenny and John Templin have been "on the road" from their Australian home as Servas travelers for more than two years. A letter from them to the international conference in Los Angeles arrived too late for the participants

there to read it. For some of those participants, who are mentioned, and for other members everywhere, the excerpts below may exemplify some of the real spirit and opportunities of international travel Servas-style.

In India the Servas potential for promoting an understanding of a country and its people was first demonstrated to us. Our experiences completely altered the impression we would have left with, had we travelled simply as tourists.

I don't think we could have chosen two Indian families whose lifestyles contrasted so much as our first two hosts. Members of the family of Hiralal Jain in Vishakapatnam on India's East Coast all practice the Jain religion and live a very strict way of life to conform to their beliefs, eating only at certain times of the day, and even then eating only certain grains and vegetables.

During our visit the women remained upstairs, in charge of the domestic chores and seemingly completely isolated from the men's business and the visitors downstairs. I think our host was surprised when we asked permission on our last morning there to meet his wife, so that we could express our thanks for the trouble she had gone to for us!

The next family, that of Gora in Vijayawada, further to the south, was totally different. Each member contributes on an equal scale in all aspects of their daily life--from discussions around the dining table to drawing water from the well. They believe in the human being above all else and are taking a very active part in trying to break down the caste system, with its instant privileges at birth, or, at the other end of the scale, the life of an "untouchable."

Each member of the family is devoting his or her life to running a school, a hospital and community programs to help beggars and others...

Our unforgettable stay with Bhai Parikh /Harivallabh Parikh, Servas International honorary vice-president/ would take a book to describe, from a tribal fair rich in colour and custom to the Holi festivities when everyone (including

Bhai) delighted in throwing coloured water over everyone else at the ashram.

One of the most rewarding experiences we could have had was our going to remote villages with him and seeing the improvements that his help and work have brought to the lives of the people...

Our welcome to Italy and to Servas in Europe could not have been better. We are thankful for the warmth of Emilia Sciancalepore in Molfetta, and of her son and daughter.

Two short days there were highlighted by a visit to her geography class, held in one room in an apartment block for want of a proper school building. The enthusiasm of her pupils (14-year-old boys) contrasted greatly with the lack of opportunity that faces many of them. Now I appreciate the good conditions that the average Australian student takes for granted or grumbles about at home...

We had very interesting discussions in Milan with the Caneparis /national secretaries for Servas in Italy/...

On our way through Germany, in Landau we were given the grand tour of Antonie's school /Antonie Fried, Servas national secretary for West Germany/...

What promotes understanding between people of different customs is not simply travel itself, but rather being accepted into a home as a member of the family; helping in daily tasks; sharing a way of life for a while; and exchanging ideas. That's why we thank our hosts and every-one who keeps Servas functioning.



S Servas: Working for Peace

Five Servas national secretaries and five other participants in our 1976 international conference in Los Angeles are pictured during (literally) a round-table discussion. From the top, counterclockwise (or, as the British prefer, anticlockwise), with names of national secretaries indicated by asterisks, the members shown in this conference working session are:

Lydia Tabor, New York, Servas-USA;
Konrad Libbert, Uetersen, Federal
Republic of Germany (West Germany),
conference keynote speaker; Harry
Steinmetz, San Diego, USA, elected
editor of this publication; H.C.H.
Soysa*, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Christine Akinlolu*, Lagos, Nigeria;
Irena Wyrzykowska*, Warsaw, Poland;
Isabel Morales*, Bogota, Colombia;
Dorothy Ligda, northern California,
and Eva Krutein, southern Califor-
nia, USA: and Charles Agbenyega*,
Big Ada, Ghana.

TO SERVAS HOSTS IN MEXICO:

We thank 11 fine Mexican host families for our lovely month in your hospitable country. If your 65 other hosts are like _Ju, yours is indeed a cordial land! You improved our limited Spanish and our knowledge of international affairs, in San Miguel de Allende, Morelia, Toluca, Cuernavaca, Jalapa, San Angel, and Poza Rica, where all belongs to Petromex--over tequila and lemon, to the melodies of a marimba.

There must be
not a balance of power
but a community of power; 's not
organized rivalries
but an organized common peace.

--President Woodrow Wilson to
the US Senate in 1917, advo-
cating the League of Nations

We'll never forget the floating gardens of Xochimilco; your lessons in anthropology; enchiladas, tacos, and empenadas preferably poco picante; mariachi bands; and the chance to talk by amateur radio with Canada and Spain.

We enjoyed Guatemala, too, but there we were only tourists meeting other tourists in hotels.

Don't forget that in West Berlin we now have 23 Servas hosts, so you must come.

Hasta luego, amigos.

Jorg Strohbach Andrea Carstensen

* We hope to hear from many more Servas travelers and hosts about "the Servas experience." We may abbreviate your letter a bit, as we did this one, but we trust the writers will not mind. Hans-Jorg Strohbach is the Servas co-ordinator for West Berlin.

Servas travels in Japan-Two styles, Two Views.

Soon after students Anita and Lars Forsgren of Uppsala, Sweden, joined Servas they traveled for a month in Japan. Their report was translated into English by our Danish national secretary, Birgitte Damsgaard, and condensed by the assistant editor.

We spent two nights at the Tokyo home of the Servas secretary, Amano-san /Masuo Amano/, a fascinating person whose house is always full of Servas travelers. He helped us contact our next host and gave us advice about trains and tickets. He also made clear his interest in all that

"genuinely Japanese."

We stayed with nine Servas hosts, and everywhere encountered an overwhelming hospitality. Hosts who had previously received few or no visitors wanted to show us the sights of their towns; hosts who had received many travelers treated us more like members of the family (except that we were not allowed to help with household duties such as washing dishes).

It was nice to have both kinds of visit; it might have been too exhausting to be with hosts all the time, and sometimes we felt over-protected, but on the other hand we had opportunities to do things we couldn't have done as well if we had always been on our own.

On a typical visit all the family members came in, bowed, and greeted us; then we told who we were, where we were from, and what we had seen and liked in Japan so far. In some families we had dinner with the men only, while the women served us. After dinner each host telephoned the next host and helped us make arrangements for the next visit. We needed some help; almost all the train schedules were in Japanese.

In each host's household, at least one person spoke English, varying very much in ability, however. With some, we could discuss everything; with others, it was rather exciting to see whether we could make ourselves understood.

We visited big cities with tourist attractions, as well as smaller places in the countryside, where tourists were rare. We took part in Japanese family life, and felt that we got a very good idea of the life of the Japanese middle class.

Entertaining observations about the Far East are being sent to friends in southern California, USA, by Santa Monica residents Dr. Sam Parker, former director of psychiatry for the city of New York, and his wife Joan, who writes professionally as Joan Teller. The Parkers are Servas "day travelers" during their nine months abroad, staying in hotels and meeting Servas hosts for brief visits. Their dispatches include these comments:

Everybody tells you Japan is mountainous country. The real characteristic of the country, however, is tunnels. When you travel on the express trains, you are never able to see the beautiful Japanese countryside for long before you are once again in the dark. I am sure the tunnels came first, and the mountains were provided later to make a beautiful environment for them...

We Westerners have, from time to time, been tempted to make fun of some Japanese who travel abroad and become unhappy that they are not served rice for breakfast, or are not provided a bathtub deep enough for the Japanese-style bath.

Well, I am sorry to say we have discovered we can be just as unhappy when we are confronted in a Japanese-style hotel with a breakfast of salt fish, raw egg and eel.....

We have been treated to lunch and tea and a walk around the Ginza area by Servas hosts Kunio and Noriko Tanaka in Tokyo; information about the local area of Sendai and its crafts by Shohei Takahashi while we were "between trains"; tea at home and a performance of ancient Shinto music at the local shrine by Akio Nishimura in Kyoto; lunch at our hotel and a Japanese dinner and very pleasant evening at the home of Noboru and Masako Nishida in Osaka; and an interesting evening of conversation with a young Swiss woman and Ellis and Leora Harvey of northern California after a home-cooked meal at the home of Masuo Amano and his wife in Tokyo.

The experiences and the individuals have been impressive, interesting, and worthwhile. Thanks for the hospitality and help of our hosts and for Servas itself.

"They Were Strangers"

by Margaret Tiffany Wilcox

When we went to India to spend six years we took a valuable item with us: our membership in Servas.

Our name looked odd, as the only Western name on a long roster of Indian ones. That uniqueness proved to be the source of some fascinating experiences my husband and I otherwise would have missed. Travel-weary people, eager and grateful as they had been to experience Indian and Pakistani culture, telephoned us or rang our doorbell at any hour when the pressure of tryin^g to make new adjustments day after day became overpowering.

One call came from a retired New Zealand couple. They had been adapting to new ways as best they could manage. There was that Western name on the Servas list; would they be able to stay two days with us? Within a few minutes they were at the door, soon had a simple lunch, and then lay on beds with mattresses. Never have we had more grateful guests. And we know where a welcome mat awaits us in New Zealand. When young Marie from France and her traveling com^panion Brigitte from Ger^many visited us, we learned many things from their travel experiences and their cultural backgrounds. Most surprising, certainly, was the fact that Marie's

great-aunt was a highly revered woman at the Pondicherry Ashram.

Late one evening a young Italian man came to our house and asked if it was The House of the Open Door. I had never heard the term before, but told him our door was indeed open. He explained that in Italy, Servas had what we would call "hostels"--each one a House of the Open Door. We were glad he had come to our door; he was a delightful guest. All the time we were in India, only one Servas traveller wrote ahead to us. All the rest of our guests--and there were many--came on a last-minute or emergency basis. We often wonder what they would have done if they had not been Servas travellers.

We know we would have missed much if we had not been Servas hosts.

Margaret Tiffany Wilcox, author of these reminiscences, never was able to enjoy all the welcomes that undoubtedly awaited her in New Zealand and elsewhere.

She died on Christmas Eve 1976.

" Only Middle Class, Mostly Suburban

Servas International Secretary Bir^gitte Damsgaard has written details of her trip from Denmark to the international conference in August in Los Angeles. The "minor reservation" she mentions in this brief excerpt is one shortcoming of Servas that troubles members in many countries.

I crossed the US in eight days, lolling in the back of a car while two young Polish travelers acted as chauffeurs.

Thanks to Servas this was one of the most memorable holidays I have ever had. And imagine--I had decided last year not

to go, fearing it was too expensive, too far, too hot.

Only one minor reservation: We saw only middle-class, mostly suburban, hosts. In the eyes of Europeans they live rather luxuriously, though they may not agree. The travelers from Poland must have got an allurin^g impression of the leading capitalist country. I felt I had to tell them this was not representative of all the United States.

I and many other travelers would be interested in seeing how people from other strata live and think. Of course, we have the same problem in Servas here in Denmark and elsewhere.

USA-What's That?

Roly and Joyce Lishman of Edinburgh, Scotland, are Servas hosts and travelers who visited the United States for a month "mainly to find out if it is as it is said to be." This is part of what they said about it.

We rented a car in New York and drove to San Francisco by way of New Orleans.

(Memo: Car hire is cheaper if you return the car to the starting-place.)

We chose a full-sized car and had the experience of power assists and air conditioning, before those things go the way of the dinosaurs. We miss all that luxury now! (We recouped the extra cost by sleeping in the car some nights.)

Drivin^g in the US is easy, once you learn to find the road signs among the advertisements. The big problem is--it is a big country! It is always a long way from here to there, and we always had to apologise for being late, until we finally just gave it up. People were very hospitable to us. Several Servas hosts introduced us to their friends. That was delightful. A visit to the US could easily be a plastic experi-

We appreciated the clear contracts; our hosts told us when they expected us, and what they expected of us, and what was to happen. Britain tends to have unspoken, unwritten conventions, which must be difficult for the visitor to learn.

One quandary is that we are city people, and went to cities. This means that we missed all the hosts in small towns, as most other travelers apparently do. Hosts in cities felt overloaded, and those in out-of-the-way places felt left out.

Our having been Servas hosts in Britain made us more acceptable everywhere, with our ready topic of "Travellers We Have Known." America in general, and our Servas experience there, made us ^fe^el-competent. Most things seemed possible. We found the mechanics of life to be easy and pleasant. And people serving actually tried to help. (Would that it were so here.) The US has been symbolised as an adolescent culture, with energy, optimism, and wild swings of mood. Well, any statement about it, including that one, is both true and untrue. We enjoyed learning that fact by experience.

What Ever Happened to Mesopotamia?



It was so important in our schoolbooks--remember?

Well, Mesopotamia still is important, but now its name is "Iraq."

You knew that, of course. But look at the names in the first column, from the recent or distant past. How many can you match to the present names of countries and other areas in the second column?

Warning: By the time you can write each number in the appropriate blank on the right, some of the "present" names may be "past." The world of the 1970's is subject to change without notice. --DF

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.Siam | A.Taiwan |
| 2.Persia | B.Bangladesh |
| 3.Ceylon | C.Ghana |
| 4.Chosen | D.Kalimantan |
| 5.Borneo | E.Ethiopia |
| 6.Formosa | F.Kenya |
| 7.Abyssinia | G.Guyana |
| 8.Gold Coast | H.Indonesia |
| 9.Madagascar | I.Iran |
| 10.Bessarabia | J.Jordan |
| 11.Transjordan | K.Korea |
| 12.East Prussia | L.Malagasy |
| 13.East Pakistan | M.Moldavian |
| 14.Dutch Guiana | Republic |
| 15.Belgian Congo | N.Malaysia |
| 16.British Guiana | O.Olsztyn |
| 17.French Indo-China | (Northern Poland) |
| 18.Dutch East Indies | P.Pakistan |
| 19.German East Africa | Q.Sri Lanka |
| 20.British | R.Sudan |
| East Africa | S.Surinam |
| 21.Anglo-Egyptian | T.Tanzania |
| Sudan | U.Thailand |
| 22.Malaya, Sarawak | V.Vietnam |
| & Sabah | W.Vietnam, Laos |
| 23.Baluchistan, Sind W. | & Cambodia |
| & Western Punjab | X.Zaire |
| 24.Tonkin, Annam & Cochin-China | |

Who Will Represent Servas

...IN COUNTRIES WHERE WE
ARE NOT NOW ORGANIZED?

Do you have contacts with individuals who would be good hosts, and organizers of hosts?

Eva Krutein of Irvine in southern California, USA, enlisted her friend Lore Thorlaksson of Reykjavik in 1975 as the first Servas host in Iceland. Now the Thorlakssons carry on a thriving schedule of Servas homestays, and two other hosts there have joined.

Antonie Fried, co-ordinator for Europe, sorts a new contact in the island nation of Malta. A recent circular letter from the president gave information about a contact in Hungary.

Whom do you suggest in Yugoslavia? Greece? Thailand? Venezuela? Cuba? Luxembourg⁹? On Taiwan? In some of those places, Servas has previously had fragile contacts; in others, none at all.

Are we gaining or losing? Comparison of the August 1975 and November 1976 versions of a Servas brochure shows this:

New "national secretaries" or other organizers were added in Canada, Norway, Puerto Rico, Singapore, and Tanzania. And the list of areas with "one or more rsts" lost seven (Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Panama, Peru, Syria, and Vietnam) and gained seven (Bahamas, Cyprus, Egypt, Iceland, Malagasy, Papua New Guinea, and Western Samoa). Servas needs help to grow!

Help open more doors. Send the names and addresses of potential Servas hosts and organizers to the appropriate area or continental co-ordinator:

Mexico & Central America..Laura Langagne
South America Marcelo Lorenzo
Europe Antonie Fried
Africa Lydia Jones
East Asia Masuo Amano
South Pacific John & Judy Ebner
Other Areas Birgitte Damsgaard

Do I fear the tyranny
of a world government?
Of course I do.

But I fear still more the
coming of another war. --
Albert Einstein

USA

In parts of the United States, too, Servas needs peace-minded, people-oriented individuals who will be good organizers.

Examples: Latest count shows only one host each in the states of Nevada and Utah (none in the Las Vegas and Salt Lake City areas) and in New Orleans and the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area.

Please suggest the names of candidates to US Servas.

Interviewers: Save this information
for travelers to Iceland.

SERVAS HOSTS IN ICELAND

Vili & Lore Thorlaksson, Espilundur 4,
Gardahreppur, Reykjavik, Iceland.
Ingebjorg Haraldsdotter, Midbraut 34,
Seltjn, Reykjavik, Iceland.
Assy Nixon, Lugarveg 126, Reykjavik,
Iceland. Work phone 25090 or 20490.

(Miss Nixon is the newest member there, enrolled--as were the Thorlakssons--by Eva Krutein.)

Courtesy

It transmutes aliens
into trusting friends,
And gives its owner
passport round the globe.
--James Thomas Fields

SERVAS CERTAINLY HAS

AN INTERESTING MAGAZINE,

HASN'T IT?

To the organizations and individuals outside Servas who have received this issue: Doesn't Servas International News belong in your library? Wouldn't your friends enjoy reading our reports from around the world?

We invite you to send a donation and get a subscription.

We invite you also to send us--well in advance--news of the activities of organizations concerned with international relations and world peace, for possible inclusion in a future issue of Servas International News.

See the inside back page for details.



Servas President Reva King and Benjamin Jeremias, who was a featured speaker and represented Israel at our 1976 international conference, are seen above at the party which concluded the week of activities. Benjamin is also the founder of the organization he calls "Oliva," which seeks understanding and friendship between Arabs and Jews.

As Servas hosts in Israel, Benjamin and Hannah Jeremias welcome visitors, but ample advance notice is necessary.

Letter from a Young American in Israel

I spent today in an Arab village, visiting the market (souk), a clinic, and the home of one of the clinic's nurses. My impressions and ideas of Arabs and their lives have been radically changed. In a few hours I made friends whom I was sad to leave.

This experience is all due to a friend I met during a three-day visit in the Sinai. Thanks to this friend, I have seen segments of Israeli life that I will cherish in memory, and that I would not have known if I had been on my own without his guidance.

His name is Benjamin Jeremias.

I was welcomed into the Jeremias home as an integral part of the family's daily life. Benjamin's wife, Hannah, said more in her hospitable actions than others can say in fluent English.

I hope I can receive guests in the Finkel home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, the way I was received in the Jeremias home in Nahariya, Israel.

IN THE SERVAS OF YOUR COUNTRY

About half the Servas hosts in the USA say they want visits only from foreign guests, and half accept Americans too.

Our international Committee on Host-Traveler Relationships recommends added efforts toward intra-national visiting.

How is it working in your country? And do you know of any internal reciprocal arrangements? Some examples: We'll visit you this summer, and you visit us next winter. If we take care of your boat and sail it, will you take care of our horse and ride it? Send your daughter here and we'll send our son there. Would you like to stay in our house near the beach and leave us your cabin in the mountains? Co-operative living can take many forms and improve and expand our horizons. We (the editors) would like to know your experience with--or your suggestions for--interchanges of these kinds, within your country, within or without Servas.

The body travels more easily than the mind, and until we have limbered up our imagination we continue to think as though we had stayed home. We have not really budged a step until we take up residence in someone else's point of view.

--John Erskine

We have learned that we cannot live alone, in peace; that our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away. We have learned that we must live as men, and not as ostriches, nor as dogs in the manger. We have learned to be citizens of the world, members of the human community.--. Franklyn D. Roosevelt

The former and the new editors wish to express their gratitude to Ridge Walker of Los Angeles for supplying the photographs in this issue and two whole pages of photographs in Servas International News Number 6. A valuable and generous friend, Ed Mitchell of Los Angeles, has been designer, art director, and production manager for this issue. Sincere thanks to him for our new look.

Some Things Should Make a Pacifist Angry!

Do you agree with everything in this is-sue of Servas International News? If so, maybe the editors are not doing their job well! Please send us your comments.

We promise to include something controversial in future issues. Servas and its publication are dedicated to an exchange of ideas, not simply to reinforcing what members and other readers already think.

What Would You Like to Say to Servas Members and Others Around the World?

Narratives, photographs, opinions, drawings, news of other peace organizations, poems, complaints and ^ongratulations...

Contributions to this magazine are not just invited, but eagerly sought. The editors do ask that material submitted be relevant directly to Servas and not, for instance, of a general travel nature.

Please submit material in any form except handwriting; in English, or other language to be translated; with accompanying photographs, if possible; with this understanding:

(1) Your doing so is your assurance that the work is your own, uncopyrighted, and original, unless you specify otherwise;
(2) you thereby give us permission to publish it without payment; and (3) we may edit it, trying always not to change its meaning, but incurring no liability if we do so. Send material to this address:

Editor, Servas International News
3518 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92103, USA

Donations and subscription orders should be addressed to:

Servas International News c/o Fawcett
13000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA

Persons and organizations outside Servas are invited to become subscribers by donating two dollars or more to Servas. (\$5? \$10? Servas needs and is worth it.) Within Servas, national secretaries may still order the publication for members at the rate of fifteen cents per copy.

To Other Publications:

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in Servas International News, and send our editors a copy of the publication containing the reprint.

Dr. Harry C. Steinmetz, Editor Don Fawcett, Assistant Editor

**Our true
nationality is
mankind.**

H. G. WELLS The Outline of History

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