



# Servas Monthly News



February/March 2006

## Patagonia Issue

### Patagonia - great

Such positive reports coming from Patagonia. With these in mind it was decided to put the February and March issues together to concentrate on Patagonia and what came out of it.

However Patagonia is not the only thing happening in Servas. As always there is plenty happening around the world along with future events being planned.

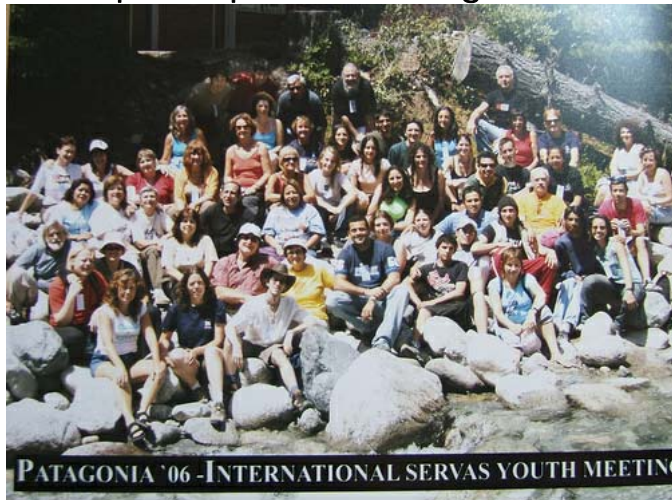
- The start of April sees the eGA in Latina, Italy. Looking at the nominations list on [www.siexco.org](http://www.siexco.org) there could be a number of new faces on EXCO by the middle of April along with a number of new subsidiary committees.
- Servas Britain's AGM saw the National Secretary John Dowsett stepping down and being replaced by Jean Seymour.
- Servas Netherlands are promoting a camping weekend in September.
- SI News 2006 is now on its way around the world

### Introduction to Patagonia

As the organizer, together with the most incredible group I only can say that I am proud and happy. Very interesting things coming out of Patagonia'06

*Pablo Chufeni International Youth Coordinator*

### Some participants in Patagonia



### SI News 2006

SI News 2006 is now on its way around the world. Most of it has got to the post office with the Spanish edition being last. This year the French edition is being printed in France and being sent from France. Some other countries are printing their own copies and CDs have been sent for this. Hopefully they will then be able to send them out when they need to.

Note: every Servas member is entitled to a paper copy of SI News. I am aware that in some countries people have requested to have their copy emailed to them. However people should be aware that this is only feasible for those that have broadband due to the size of the file.

Request to the contacts: Please make sure that you either return the postcard or that you email me on [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) to let me know when it has arrived. This is important, otherwise I do not know if it has got to you. I also need to know what sort of numbers you will be needing next year so that planning can be started for the next issue.

Congratulations to Belgium being the first country to let me know their English copies have arrived.

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### Contact, your articles please

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

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

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

The postal address is:

Jane Giffould, Servas Monthly News Editor  
20 Weavers Row, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JX, England.

## Servas Britain AGM, 18/19 Mar

The Servas Britain AGM was, as always, a relaxed amicable affair, in pleasant surroundings at a cost affordable to all including those with families. Children were welcome with activities available for them. At one point in the meeting they were asked to attend so as to be able to find out what was going on and to be able to offer their contributions. After all they are part of Servas.

Highlights of the weekend included a walk in the glorious Gloucestershire countryside. The traditional food sharing brought a sumptuous feast for all. This all in the Servas spirit of making new friends as well as catching up with old ones.

The business side of the weekend took on its normal constructive discussions with everyone given the chance to have their way and know that people would be listening and not interrupting. Part of the proceedings included the elections. As there had only been one offer for any of the posts so all those standing were duly elected. On the international scene this means that John Dowsett has been replaced by Jean Seymour as the National Secretary.

Over all a good weekend where all felt that everything had gone on in the Servas spirit of caring and sharing.

*Give us a summary of what goes on in your AGMs.*

*Share the good points.*

*It helps to know when the National Secretaries change.*

*Then people know who to contact.*

## eGA, Roma, Latina 02 - 08 April 2006

By the time people are reading this newsletter the eGA may well be taking place or even have ended. Many are feeling that it could be an important time for showing the direction of Servas. Will it have some of the problems experienced 2 years ago in Barcelona or will it have learnt from the problems and so be moving on in a peaceful direction. Servas is a Peace organisation. It is important that it lives by its own ruling. The meeting last year at Askov in Denmark reviewed the concerns in this area. The participants looked in some depth at Conflict Resolution. However as Servas members we should be offering Conflict Resolution to others and not needing it ourselves. Part of the Conflict Resolution is of course just a way of living and reacting with others. In any big gathering there are bound to be disagreements. With the ability to listen and reason these can be sorted out amicably. The Servas Britain AGM was a good example. A point was raised which generated differences of opinion. Everyone listened to the different viewpoints. Some people seeing some of the problems tried to put them in a different aspect to explain them. All was agreed on in a friendly way of people with flexible minds.

And another story which is relevant though not related to Servas:

Some teachers had been invited for a weekend interview for a responsible post. They were obviously being watched all weekend. One of the 'watchers' was an industrial psychologist. In the evening there was a discussion game where each person had to give a short presentation on an unknown topic and then defend it. The situation was set up to trap people. One teacher fell into the trap and dug his hole deeper and deeper. The psychologist's eyes lit up with glee. He imagined that the rest of the group would pounce on the struggling person and do him in. The expression in the psychologist's eyes turned to utter confusion when the rest of the group were ready to sacrifice themselves in the game to help the struggling person out. He did not comprehend that teachers work together as a team, even if they do not know each other. They are ready to rescue someone else even if they might have to lose their own position in a game and in this case in the job they were seeking.

As members of Servas we are also working in a team with people we do not know. Let us be ready to help and not pounce.

## Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

### CAMPING WEEKEND IN THE NETHERLANDS

*Servas Netherlands* is organizing a camping weekend: from 4 pm Friday, 15 September 2006 to 4 pm Sunday, 17 September 2006 in Zeewolde, province of Flevoland, and would be very happy to welcome *Servas* members from neighbouring countries.

The province of Flevoland, one of the last to be reclaimed from the sea (1940 to 1970), consists of new cities with new architectural designs, organic farms and different land-art objects. Large newly established nature reserves are of international importance for migrating birds.

We have reserved a fantastic camping site where you can place your own tent, camper or caravan, or rent a place in a tent for 6 to 8 persons provided by the organization (in that case, bring your own sleeping bag and air mattress).

For the Friday evening meal, people bring their own food or buy a take out from the camping snack bar. From Saturday morning until departure on Sunday afternoon, we provide the meals and snacks.

Wine, beer and soft drinks are at cost price.

Participation for the weekend

(including camping, meals and tourist tax):

€50 per person (€7.50 extra for a place in the tent)

€30 for children, 4 to 17 (€7.50 extra for a place in tent)

(Children 3 and younger are free, they pay only €7.50 for a place in the tent if needed)

This weekend has space for 100 *Servas* members from the Netherlands and 100 from neighbouring countries. Write as soon as possible, for the early bird catches the worm.

**Please register with:**

- . name of participant(s)
- . date of birth
- . male/female
- . if you wish to reserve a place in the group tent (€7.50 per person)
- . contact address (with e-mail)

**Pay to:**

C.C.M. Takken in Almere/The Netherlands  
The BIC (=Bank Identification Code) for the ABN AMRO Bank in the Netherlands: ABNANL2A  
IBAN number (= international bank account): NL49 ABNA 0576 1178 89

Refund is possible until 31 august 2006.

Hopefully until the camping weekend!

There is a bus from railway station Harderwijk or from railway station Almere Centraal to Zeewolde. More precise information will be available later. At any rate, if you let us know, we can pick you up at the bus stop in Zeewolde.

If you would like to come a few days early or stay a few days after the weekend, let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best to find a host for you.

*Ineke Takken, coordinator Servas-camping weekend*

phone + 31 36 5352389

e-mail address: [itinholland@planet.nl](mailto:itinholland@planet.nl)

### Servas Monthly Meeting, Belgium

The day of our monthly *Servas* meeting has changed. From now on we meet on the last TUESDAY of the month in the pub Le Cirio in the centre of Brussels, next to the Bourse/Beurs, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Hosts, travellers, visitors, friends, everybody can join us and enjoy with us one of the 500 famous Belgian beers!

On our annual *Servas* dinner in January the participants were of 10 different nationalities, all members of *Servas* Belgium & Luxemburg. We are 'Servas International' ! You can have a look at the pictures on [www.servas.be](http://www.servas.be)

We invite all *Servas* members from all over the world to visit Belgium & Luxemburg, two small countries in the heart of Europe which had a lot to offer to all of you. We want more travellers!

More than 300 *Servas* hosts living in small villages or in bigger cities are waiting to give you a warm welcome. I'm sure your visit to Belgium & Luxemburg will stay in your memory for ever.

[www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)

[www.luxembourg.co.uk](http://www.luxembourg.co.uk)

[www.belgique-tourisme.net](http://www.belgique-tourisme.net)

See you,

Rita Dessauvage

National secretary *Servas* Belgium & Luxemburg

## Languages - Spanish

<p>Language is an important tool of communication. When we understand each other we are more likely to be peaceful. Think of the problems that have arisen just by the wrong interpretation of what someone is trying to say.</p> <p>This section aims to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language is English. Any non-English words and phrases must have the English translation.</p> <p>In the long run it would be good to be able to publish a booklet of useful words and phrases in a range of languages for the Servas hosts and travellers.</p> <p>Our <b>seventh</b> language is SPANISH to go with Patagonia.</p>		<p>Zero</p> <p>One</p> <p>Two</p> <p>Three</p> <p>Four</p> <p>Five</p> <p>Six</p> <p>Seven</p> <p>Eight</p> <p>Nine</p> <p>Ten</p> <p>Twenty</p> <p>Thirty</p> <p>Forty</p> <p>Fifty</p> <p>Sixty</p> <p>Seventy</p> <p>Eighty</p> <p>Ninety</p> <p>Hundred</p> <p>Thousand</p> <p>Do you eat meat?</p> <p>Where do you live?</p> <p>This is my sister</p> <p>This is my brother</p> <p>This is my mother</p> <p>This is my father</p> <p>This is my son</p> <p>This is my daughter</p> <p>What music do you like?</p> <p>Have you visited the town?</p> <p>Where are the shops?</p> <p>Is there a market?</p> <p>Thank you for your help.</p>	<p>Cero</p> <p>Uno</p> <p>Dos</p> <p>Tres</p> <p>Cuatro</p> <p>Cinco</p> <p>Seis</p> <p>Siete</p> <p>Ocho</p> <p>Nueve</p> <p>Diez</p> <p>Veinte</p> <p>Treinta</p> <p>Cuarenta</p> <p>Cincuenta</p> <p>Sesenta</p> <p>Setenta</p> <p>Ochenta</p> <p>Noventa</p> <p>Cien</p> <p>Mil</p> <p>Comes carne?</p> <p>Dónde vives?</p> <p>Esta es mi hermana</p> <p>Este es mi hermano</p> <p>Esta es mi madre</p> <p>Este es mi padre</p> <p>Este es mi hijo</p> <p>Esta es mi hija</p> <p>Qué música te gusta?</p> <p>Has visitado el pueblo?</p> <p>Dónde están los comercios?</p> <p>Hay un mercado?</p> <p>Gracias por tu ayuda</p>
<p>Peace</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>How are you</p> <p>Goodbye</p> <p>Be seeing you</p> <p>Have a safe journey</p> <p>Best wishes to your family.</p> <p>Do come again</p> <p>Please</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>That's nothing</p> <p>Where is the toilet?</p> <p>Left</p> <p>Right</p> <p>Straight on</p> <p>Behind you</p> <p>Where do I sleep</p> <p>I am vegetarian</p> <p>Where is the nearest telephone?</p>	<p>Paz</p> <p>Hola</p> <p>¿Cómo estás?</p> <p>Adiós</p> <p>Nos vemos</p> <p>Que tengas buen viaje</p> <p>Mis mejores deseos para tu familia.</p> <p>Vénte nuevamente</p> <p>Por favor</p> <p>Gracias</p> <p>No es nada</p> <p>¿Dónde está el baño?</p> <p>Izquierda</p> <p>Derecha</p> <p>Derecho</p> <p>Detrás tuyo</p> <p>¿Dónde duermo?</p> <p>Soy vegetariano</p> <p>¿Dónde está el teléfono más cercano?</p>		

# Patagonia

## Servas Youth in Patagonia

– Pablo Chufeni.

Hello there everyone. Hope that you are ok. Here we are so happy about the hit that PATAGONIA '06 was. 60 delegates from 15 countries. The atmosphere was great and the friendship just happened. This meeting was the first international meeting to discuss and to work on the youth situation in Servas and how we can use the potential of this group in profit of the whole network of Servas.

### **This is a resume of the activities that we did:**

#### Work sessions on Servas issues

Patagonia Statement Workshops (Three group sessions and two organisation team sessions)

New programs for Servas Youth (Jobs experiences abroad, Diversity meals, etc.)

Servas Youth Web Site.

Servas Youth Languages Exchange (One group session and other of the working team)

Interviewers workshop

Conflicts Resolution workshop

#### Servas Presentations

Servas South America “Our history” (Roberto)

Servas India (Anuj)

Servas Perú (Judith)

Servas EEUU-Servas Italia (Escuela de las Americas) (Pepe y Soledad)

Servas models in South America ( Delegates from Argentina, Brasil, México, Perú and Uruguay)

Servas personal experiences (travelers reports)

#### Cultural exchange activities

Introduction to the “mate”

Curanto Lunch

Paleontologic Museum

Regional Historic Museum

Conference on Ecology

Tango for beginners

Salsa for beginners

Spanish workshop for foreigners (Two sessions)

Compared Spanish workshop

Cloth painting workshop

Plaster masks workshop

Mexican piñatas

Kathak Dance (traditional of India)

#### Tours

Walking tour to Colonia Suiza

Walking tour “Moon on the Lake”

Lantern walk around the SAC

Walking visit to the Llaolao woods

The spirit of the meeting was (is in some way) looking for the combination of hard work and goods discussions and presentations with tours and social interaction. We can say now that that was what happened.

### **PATAGONIA '06: Building a dream!**

It's so difficult for me to describe the incredible mix of feelings that were stuck in my throat when I first met the 60 people that came to the GET TOGETHER! of SERVAS YOUTH in my hometown Bariloche, Patagonia Argentina, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> January.

The idea was born the year before, when we read the news about the last Get Together in Poland. Thinking about the wonderful nature where I grew up, then the question came up: WHY NOT?? A strong organisation team started the hard work, with the conviction that building our “little” Keops pyramid was possible, that's it, something that would go beyond ourselves and that would remain forever in the hearts of all participants. And now I'm very proud to say that we did it!!!!

We shared a wonderful week at the SAC camping site, 22 km from Bariloche, sharing our thoughts and dreams, several workshops on Servas experiences around the world, Youth languages exchange and Diversity meals programs, Leadership and conflict resolution. A very hard work was done on the Manifest for the EGA that will be held in April in Italy. All this was beautifully led by our International Youth Coordinator, Pablo Chufeni.

Other cultural and recreative workshops included an “introduction to the mate”, Spanish for foreigners and Compared Spanish, tango, salsa, cloth painting, masks, a visit to the Paleontology Museum and of course, a very special place for talking about the environment we were in: a walk through the Llaolao forest and talks with specialised botany guides, who thought us how to recognise the trees using the touch and smell and not the eyes!!

I'd love to transmit the infinity of details of every friend who was there, the infinity of little moments of real “getting in touch” (is that the peace?), of conversation, of hugs, laughs, tears. Little bricks in the pyramid. But how to choose which ones? Impossible.

It's time to say goodbye, wishing in my heart that very soon, somebody else asks himself again WHY NOT?? We know, we'll be there once again.

*Paula Falaschi, Servas Bariloche/La Plata - Argentina*

P.S: for those who have not seen the web site, please have a look at <http://youth.servas.org>

## Patagonia Quotes

### Quotations from people with great experience in Servas meetings.

*Soledad Pagliuca* - has been at Servas Conferences in the Czech Republic and France  
“people were so kind - the group’ dynamic was spontaneous and very nice. Everybody was always available  
Thanks a lot for a magic, beautiful and productive experience!”

*Jo McIntire* - has been to other Servas Conferences  
“I liked the location and the participants very much. I also like the idea of Servas “Youth””.

*Janet Schoder* - Servas US interviewer  
“Excellent facilitation of sessions, results-oriented meetings, variety - something for everyone, the LOGO designed by Pablo C. was great!”  
“We look forward to seeing some of the concrete ideas carried forward.”

*Ann Greenhough* - SI Youth Coordinator, has organized several meetings  
“The presentations were well planned, people had taken a lot of care to prepare them.”  
“It was really good to be out in the country - a very beautiful place.”  
“Thank you very much for the warm welcome I have received from you all when I have been so far from home and my family. After the difficult time I had at the last International Conference in Barcelona it was good to be reminded what Servas is really about.”

*Jean Seymour* - has attended a Servas meeting in Poland and the General Conference in Barcelona  
“Good discussion, deep thinking. No complaints. I appreciated the plentiful hot water for showers”  
Friendly staff”  
“I had a lovely time and feel we have done some serious work to move Servas Youth forward on the International level. I am pleased with the outcomes and especially the statement.”

*Bruno Manfredi* - Servas Italy - attended Servas meetings in Visegrad, Kent, Baerental, Poland and the General Conference in Barcelona - I’m a veteran, he wrote.  
“Simple, essential, familiar edition, unforgettable!”  
“Infinite thanks. I do not have another word.”

*Carolina Balestra* - former NS for Servas Uruguay - was present at the General Assembly in Barcelona  
I enjoyed the variety of the activities. There was plenty for everyone. The good mood of the participants, smiles, support, small talks and more. The organization was excellent.  
“I loved this get together because the focus were not the burocratic details, as it happened in Barcelona”

*Lucia Ferrero* - Servas Italy - has attended meetings in Baerental, Poland and the General Conference in Barcelona  
“A present for your heart, I felt just as in my own house, so far away from Torino”

*Anita Kalberman* - former NS for Servas Uruguay, former AC for South America, attended 3 General Conferences (Guatemala, Thailand and Spain) and other Servas meetings.  
“I really enjoyed the extracurricular activities also, like the masks workshop and the ecology workshop”  
“A meeting plenty of good will and tolerance”

*Gregory Kehn* - Servas US - attended the Servas meeting in San Francisco and regional meeting in Vancouver, Canada.  
“I appreciated the interpreters to help (us) foreigners.”  
“For me money is always an issue, because by American (US) standards I have always been poor. So I think by me saying “yes” to the question “was it worth the registration fee?” is a large compliment.”  
“I think it was at least as successful as San Francisco and maybe better than Canada in some ways”.

*Alma Nimis* - Servas Italy - attended a Servas meeting in Poland and was present at the General Conference in Barcelona  
“The meals were so much better then other meetings.”  
“Is complicated to find a bigger pleasure than the time shared here with the Servas people”

## Patagonia Comments

### Quotations from people with little or no experience in Servas meetings.

*Isabel Peralta Puga* - Servas Mexico

“Thanks a lot for your work and your invitation, enthusiasm and good will, this meeting was for Servas Mexico a big help and support to our own development.”

*Lili Kerekes* - Servas Mexico

“I will appreciate to have more time to discussions in social actions that Servas could run, like Servas Uruguay have done through their peace secretary”.

*Luigi D'Alessio* - Servas Italy

“The energy, the fantasy, the interactivity.”  
“For me this is a special occasion to be here in Patagonia 06”

*Laura Hernandez* - Servas Mexico

“Congratulations! I don't want to go”

*Miguel Haller* - Servas Mexico

“The interaction with the people in the camping that were not Servas members was very interesting, a lot of them got interested in Servas”

*Cassandra Chapman* - Servas New Zealand

“Discussions on future direction for Servas Youth, Curanto and presentations from different countries were great.”  
“Great that it was far enough from town to feel like you were “away” but close enough to go there easily if need be.”  
“Thank you for a very special week. I have never met so many kind people in my life. I have felt welcomed to Argentina and it is very appreciated! signed Cass obviously!”

*Pablo Hernandez Peralta* - Servas Mexico

“I love the Tango and Salsa workshops”.  
“I do hope that the next event like this is going to be soon.”

*Daniel Mon Peralta* - Servas Mexico

“I'm taking with me the excellent work of the discussion groups and the tours to the lake and the museum.”

*Marina Maluly Pacheco* - Servas Brazil

“Mix of team work and “relax” moments. Everybody could express their ideas and thoughts.”  
“In this low budget get together I'd say everything went extremely well.”

*Paco García* - Servas Mexico

“We are already thinking in a meeting in Mexico”

*William Graves* - Servas Mexico

“I liked meeting energetic and interesting people from about 15 countries and the high level of cooperation and consideration given to each other. To learn that Servas is related to, and contributing to world peace.”

### **Argentinians:**

*Nélida Verdejo* - Servas Rosario

“I enjoyed the presentations of the different countries, the experiences narrated by the Servas travellers and specially the presentation about Servas India.”

*Violeta Viola* - Servas Buenos Aires

“I really appreciated the cultural exchange, the spirit and the energy of the organisation team”

*Soledad Segovia* - Servas Rosario

“Every workshop was very well prepared”  
“A different way of interaction in Servas, not the traditional host-traveller”.

*Estela Oklander* - Servas Bariloche

“The interactions between generations and cultures was so great.”

*Marta Pilnick* - Servas Rosario

“I really enjoyed the way that the proposals were made. The topics were interested and I found a good balance between discussions, presentations and workshops.” Congratulations to the organisation team.

*Adriana Franco* - Servas Buenos Aires

“I loved the regional presentations and the one from India.”

*M.Paulina Segovia* - Servas Rosario

“I liked the curanto Lunch and the compared Spanish workshop”.

*Francisco Rodriguez Oklander* - Servas Bariloche

“I liked workshops specially”

*Alejandro Cesarini* - Servas Rosario

“A complete but not tiring agenda. A good spirit and atmosphere. Clear and shared goals.”

*Raúl Duek* - Servas Buenos Aires

“I liked the workshops about the Servas activities and those were we can share our traditions, like Mate and Picada Criolla.”

*Catalina Horny* - Servas Rosario

“Excellent level of discussions when we work on Servas issues.”

I personally enjoyed the conflict resolutions workshop

## A Patagonia Report

### **SERVAS YOUTH MEETING PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA JANUARY 2006**

#### **Report From Jean Seymour National Secretary Servas Britain**

I attended the Servas Youth Meeting, organised by Pablo Chufeni, Servas International Youth Coordinator, and the brilliant, energetic and very efficient Servas Argentina team. It was a very definite “hit” and an experience we should definitely learnt from.

I felt very privileged to be among such a vibrant group of people, fully committed to Servas ideals, and incredibly hospitable, welcoming and full of incredible good will.

First, the brilliant logo, the PANGEA, designed by Pablo Colangelo. His idea was to portray the joined up world before the continents divided, together with cave hand paintings and a tent for our camping ground, with lovely, gentle colours. We are hoping to take this design further within Servas International.

There was no sign of negativity at this meeting. It was totally positive, as Servas should be! We did not even need any ground rules – they came naturally!

There was a good agenda, well planned beforehand, which we stuck to. The Servas “Bingo” for ice-breaking, worked really well. Serious workshops were interspersed with many fun, craft and physical activities, and lots of time for small group and one-to-one contact.

We worked hard on the Youth Manifesto all week, in many sessions. I am very proud of the document which came out of this meeting. The process was very democratic; everyone’s views were heard and accounted for. The Manifesto will be available at Latina. It is to be commended.

The other serious business included an interviewers’ workshop for young people, a workshop on Conflict Resolution, which was a cascade from the ASKOV meeting, New Programmes for Servas Youth, a presentation on “Our History” by the Servas South America

Coordinator, a presentation on “Youth Languages Exchange”, carried out in Rosario, Argentina and well worth copying elsewhere.

The “fun” sessions were many! They included an introduction to the MATE, the herbal tea drunk in Argentina and Uruguay, very good for you, full of antioxidants! I brought some home and have been sipping daily!

We had a wonderful “CURANTO” lunch at the GOYE family establishment. This involved burying lots of meat and vegetables in leaves, soil and hot stones to cook via an ancient cooking tradition. And it was delicious! We then had a walking tour of the Colonia Suiza and the Craft Fair, with Tango for Beginners in the evening. Other highlights were Spanish Language Workshops, a visit to the Palaeontology Museum, a dance presentation from Servas India, a lecture on ecology and local natural resource management, a lantern walk, a walk in the woods and explanation of the Southern Sky Stars, a Mexican Plaster Masks workshop, a Salsa Workshop, a Mexican Pinatas Workshop – wonderful papier-mache balloons, exploded finally by Pablo!

And finally a wonderful Circle Dance on the last morning to bring everything together in harmony and peace, in the true Servas way.

It may seem that we had much more fun than serious. But that is not true. We worked hard to achieve a good outcome from this meeting, which Servas can use for the future.

These young people have a great deal to offer to Servas. And also a great deal to teach us! They are the future of our organisation

We had so many good moments! And we were all of different ages. Quite a lot of “oldies”, like me! But we were completely at home with the young participants. In fact, at the end, we were thanked for bringing our wisdom to the meeting! What an honour!

We all left the Meeting buoyant and energised with new ideas for Servas Youth.

Patagonia 2006 was a great experience, thanks to the brilliant Argentinean team.

A wonderful experience! Thank you for inviting me!

## More from Patagonia

### A beautiful country, wonderful hospitality

I cannot separate the magnificence of the Patagonia, with its sharp snow covered peaks and groaning, sometimes anguishing glaciers from the incredibly hospitable Argentine SERVAS gang. Never have I felt so welcome, so instantly part of a very synergistic family, never have I seen such a facile integration of folks from different countries, diverse cultures and sometimes with severe language limitations. Patagonia Youth organizers went way beyond the norms of hospitality to extend all their energy and good will to us, the visitors. This is a hard number to equal, but we all left the conference energized with new ideas especially with regard to a greater integration of YOUTH into the aging SERVAS. May we not let our hosts down.

*Soledad (Italia-Usa)*

### A great experience

Patagonia '06 was a great experience for all participants, I bet. It was a different meeting for Servas members, used to the host-traveller relationship. In Bariloche, members from different countries & cultures, different ages & interests spent a wonderful week sharing meals, stories, pictures, life experiences, debates and activities for one week in a Camp.

Discussions about Servas Youth issues were very productive because each member thought about what can they do for Servas, and not only expect things from the organization.

Organisers worked hard to make this dream possible, but all participants helped a lot having a positive attitude all the time and creating an excellent atmosphere.

*Soledad Segovia, Servas Rosario, Argentina.*

### What Servas is all about.

Patagonia provided me with the possibility of confirming once more what SERVAS is about. SERVAS means love, friendship, sharing ideas, tolerance, peace and diversity.

SERVAS Argentina did a magnificent job in transmitting this message through several activities, games, discussions and informal talks. A very special atmosphere was constructed through dialogue among people from very different nations, backgrounds, ages, cultures and interests. It was a fantastic week, which filled me with positive energy and joyfulness. Not only was a fun week but also a very positive and constructive week.

The consequence of this excellent organised and planned week was a statement concerning youth in SERVAS which reflects opinions from all of us. Thank you SERVAS Argentina for an unforgettable week!

*Carolina Balestra - Uruguay*

### A first experience

Patagonia '06 was my very first Servas experience. Far from home and with almost no knowledge of the Spanish language I arrived a little nervous of what the week might hold. My concerns melted away on arrival when I was wholeheartedly welcomed to Argentina by her many representatives. Over the week – through personal conversations, Servas-oriented discussions, over meals, during workshops, and while singing, drinking, and dancing together - I not only gained a better understanding of Servas and of Argentina, but I also made many new friends from far flung corners of this world. Thank you to all the participants, and especially to the organisers, for making Servas, and South America, feel like home to me.

*Cassandra, New Zealand*

### And from Brazil....

I am thankful to Brazil and Argentina for providing me this great experience. It was important for Brazil to send someone there. Some young Brazilians were interested in taking part of the Conference but in the last moment we had no money.

Patagonia/2006 was rich and intense. Pablo(s), Cintia, Laura, Paula and Beatriz have done a great job organizing the event and they have fulfilled us many aspects of Argentineans culture. I did enjoy the workshops although some important talks were in a lack of people. The highlights for me were the brainstorming to prepare the Manifesto and Anuj's speech about Indian culture and 'the Indian dance'. All the energy is with me and I am trying to return this to Brazil. With Pablo (Argentina) and Lilly (Mexico) we will do the Youth Exchange Program next July. Thank you all! I miss you! It was hard to go back to my routine.

*Marina Maluly Pacheco, Brazil.*

### Some participants join together .....



### - Servas Youth -

Hello gang! Here is Pablo Chufeni from Argentina again.

This month is the international conference in Latina, near to Rome in Italy, when a lot of important decisions for the future of our organisation are going to be made, and there we will be with a lot of ideas and proposals to develop the youth potential into Servas.

The full report of activities that we will present to the General Assembly (GA) and the complete proposal will be uploaded on the web site [www.siexco.org](http://www.siexco.org) if you want further info, but the goal of this article is just share with you a brief view at least.

After Barcelona Servas Youth worked on different topics. We sent articles and reports to the "Servas Monthly News" to every edition with fresh info, also to the "Servas South America Newsletter" to each one of its 3 editions, the third one is on the way. We sent material to "Servas News" and to several national web sites like US, Canada, Spain, Argentina, Poland, etc. We strongly believe that this diffusion is crucial in our activity.

The creation of a youth web site for Servas was also a goal that we achieved, [youth.servas.org](http://youth.servas.org) is there waiting to your visit, actually now we are working on making more attractive and dynamic, with more pictures and a link with other interesting web sites.

Patagonia'06, the first Servas Youth International meeting was a total success. 60 delegates from 15 countries from South and North America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. The agenda was huge, with a total focus in discussions and workshops to develop the youth potential in Servas, to think about the interaction of different generations, to design new programs to Servas Youth and to write an statement, the "PATAGONIA'06 STATEMENT" took a lot of work but we did it. The idea is that this statement will help to think in the future of Servas Youth, is like a guideline. Every member signed it the last day after discussions and re-discussions. The Statement will be also be included in the report that we will do for the GA

The last year the trial experience of the "Servas Youth Languages Exchange" (SYLE) between Argentina and Brasil was a hit. A young member of Servas Brasil went to Rosario City, Argentina to learn Spanish with the Servas system. Interact with the local culture and atmosphere, the best way available as surely all that had the opportunity to learn a language abroad must know. Was great to the local group that hosted the traveller also, the best way to build a group in every way is to have a clear goal to achieve, Servas Rosario is now a very active and dynamic group that is ready to host the second step of the SYLE, a young traveller from Servas Canada will go this year. And one of the achievements of Patagonia was the concretion of another two ports cities to the program, Mexico DF and Sao Paulo in Brasil where another two travellers will go this year to learn Spanish and Portuguese. The third level of the program include Canada to be available to have French and English included, and we will do it.

Servas Youth was present in the bi-national conference US-Canada during last August working with a group of young members and running some workshops and also we had a few working meetings in Mexico. The outcome of these visits are clear. Personal contacts help a lot, that's why the meetings are so important. And surely the next GA in Italy will be another step to Servas Youth. Our proposal is good and we hope to find support for it.

The potential of the youth is huge, and I think that Servas is discovering it. I am ready to continue working on, and you are more than invited to join us.

Thanks for you time.

*Pablo Chufeni*