



# Making Travel Plans? Why Not Include a Servas Meeting. This Issue: Two Meetings, One Special Invite, and a Mountain Climb!

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Terry Stone, Editor  
newsletter@servas.org



### Newsletter Recap

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. We here in Greece are experiencing more than just hot weather, as I'm sure you've seen on the news!

This month I want to go over a few items that may need clarifying about this newsletter.

Our intention is to come out with a monthly electronic (only) issue, that is unless we don't have any content (Deadline the 10th of the month, drop dead deadline is the 15th). Please check out the **How to Submit** instructions on page 7 for details on how to submit your story. (We no longer want files in PDF format - it's now just normal .doc or .txt files.) Please include the headline you would like to see used - try to be brief but add a sub-head if you feel you need more explanation. We prefer all photos submitted as separate file [e.g. jpg] attachments

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Helping Spread the Servas Experience

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# Servas Zambia Wants More Travellers

By Clare Mateke - National Secretary, SERVAS ZAMBIA  
 servas@zambia.org

**T**here are currently 15 Servas hosts in Zambia and many have never received a traveller so have not had a first-hand Servas host-traveller experience. Servas Zambia met in Livingstone in April 2011. Only half the hosts managed to attend the meeting, but a good time was had by all and many issues were covered. During the meeting hosts discussed the travellers they had received and it was discovered that some of the hosts had never received a traveller. Those that had received travellers had mostly had only 1 or 2 a year. Only about 10 Servas groups or individuals appear to have



This has resulted in a few hosts missing out on travellers who have tried to contact them. It was decided that the best way for travellers to contact hosts was through their mobile phones, or by emailing several months ahead. There is



passed through Zambia and been hosted in the last 3 years. Hosts who have never received travellers feel they are missing out on the Servas experience. Most Zambians cannot afford to travel, so the only way they can experience Servas is through

need for more hosts in some towns, especially the ones on major tourist routes, and the members discussed possible methods of recruiting more hosts. They also discussed the possibility of making exchange visits with Servas in neighbouring countries. Another host meeting is planned for October 2011. Zambia has a lot to offer travellers – some of the best wildlife experiences in Africa, the Victoria Falls and many other beautiful waterfalls, many large lakes and rivers, cultural ceremonies, and much more. But



hosting. Many hosts have communication limitations, since they can only access internet at internet cafes, which are costly and time-consuming, so many do not check their e-mail very often.

all this can be made special by staying in a Zambian home and experiencing Zambian life first hand.

Please visit Zambia and stay with our hosts, who look forward to taking care of you and showing you around! 📍

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Gary Sealey, our fearless President, is off on vacation this month and has asked Jonny Saganger, National Secretary for Sweden, to write this month's message. Thanks Jonny!*

### Step Towards a More Digital Servas

The Servas Sweden annual national meeting decided in March 2010 that Servas Sweden should stop printing the Swedish host list. It's now a little more than a year since the members made that bold move to cut down on costs, ease the pressure on nature and improve the quality of the personal data about the Swedish hosts. Since then the Swedish host list is distributed to key persons in other countries only as a .pdf, for those who have actually requested this document. All others are kindly asked to use the "Dolphin Host List Storage Area". The key persons can use the .pdf and print exactly the number of copies of the hostlist that are actually needed. Swedish hosts who wish to receive a personal paper copy of the host list do get one by regular mail. Our evaluation shows that very, very few hosts ask for a printed

copy. This means we only send host lists to the countries and Swedish hosts that have made such a request. We claim that this is making the best use of scarce global resources. We are aware that some countries might think that we give them extra work and that the cost for printing the lists end up in other countries. This is of course true, but only in a limited perspective, since in total, for the whole Servas community this way of working is less time- and resource consuming. Servas Sweden is of course not the only country in this organization that has made this change. But since members in some member countries are still hesitating, I would like to send these words as an encouragement to move towards a more digital, service minded and user friendly Servas. Servas Sweden now eagerly look forward to the day – hopefully in the near future – when the Internet based host- and traveller system Servas Online will become reality.

Jonny Sägänger  
 National Secretary Servas Sweden  
 jonsag@gmail.com

**Servas International NEWS**

**SEALEY Gary**  
 president@servas.org  
 SI President

**WASILEWSKI Miroslaw (Mirek)**  
 treasurer@servas.org  
 SI Treasurer

**COLANGELO H Pablo**  
 hostlistcoordinator@servas.org  
 SI Host List Coordinator

**PATTISON Penny**  
 generalsecretary@servas.org  
 SI General Secretary

**KUMAR Pramod**  
 vicepresident@servas.org  
 SI Vice President

**CORBETTA Luisa**  
 luisaservas@gmail.com  
 SI Peace Secretary

**STONE Terry**  
 newsletter@servas.org  
 Newsletter Coordinator

# Servas Italia to Host 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition Alpe Adria International Meeting



**T**he traditional ALPE ADRIA SERVAS MEETING this year will be organized in Arta Terme (Friuli Venezia Giulia region, Italy), from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th, 2011.

web site. When booking, you are expected to put down a deposit of Euro 35 (not refundable).

## How to participate

Just make the reservation and come! Servas members of every Country are welcome!

Alpe Adria Servas meetings are held in the Countries near the Eastern Alps and Northern Adriatic Sea and are meant to let Servas members know each other in a relaxed context. There will be time for talking to each other, making excursions and walks, sharing food, singing and dancing!



Dancing at the last Alpe Adria meeting, in Slovenia

In the past editions, most of participants come from Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, and also from Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium. Last year in Slovenia there were about 65 members from different countries.

To know how to pay, please just write an email to the hotel: info@hotelparkoasi.it


Rates above apply only if you book before September 1st 2011.

Please also send an email to the Servas Friuli-Venezia Giulia coordinator (address below) about your participation, in order to receive updates.

Extra information and contact

If you need extra information, please just write an email to Servas Friuli-Venezia Giulia's coordinator, Loris Tissino (loris.tissino@gmail.com).

Check Servas Alpe Adria web page for updates:

www.tinyurl.com/servasalpeadria2011 

## The Venue

We will meet at the Park Oasi Hotel in Arta Terme (province of Udine, in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region – North Eastern Italy) - www.albergoparkoasi.it.



North-East Italy



Arta Terme



The Hotel

## How to get there

**By Car:** highway A23 Udine-Tarvisio, exit Carnia-Tolmezzo. In the hotel's website you can have a look at the interactive map.

**By Train:** get off at Carnia railway station. There are several trains from Udine and from Tarvisio. We will organize lifts by car from the railway station, on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

**By Bus:** with busses leaving from Tolmezzo. Check the timetables on SAF web site.

## Costs

The total price for one person is Euro 114. It includes two nights in a 3-starred hotel, in double room, buffet breakfast and four meals, excursion with an expert local tourist guide, a dancing Saturday night. For children up to three years, no payments are required. For 4 to 7-year-old children, 50% discount. For 8 to 13-year-old children, 20% discount. For an extra day, Euro 65. For an extra meal, Euro 16. Single room supplement, Euro 10.

Single travellers may choose, when booking, the option "Find me a room-mate" (males with males, females with females).

Please note that when all rooms are booked, there will be some place in other hotels nearby, with comparable conditions.

## When and how to book

Please reserve directly to the hotel, specifying "ALPE ADRIA SERVAS MEETING". The receptionists speak Italian, English and German. Phone numbers and email addresses are listed in their

## PROGRAMME\*

Friday, September 9th	Arrival in the afternoon Dinner Evening walk
Saturday, September 10th	Meeting with local guides Mauro and Tiziana Walk in the Alzeri Plateau or visit to the old St Peter's church and to the Polse of Cournes Dancing evening
Sunday, September 11th	Mycological-botanic walk, with live identification of herbs and mushrooms Open air lunch under a big walnut tree, with Carnic Alps typical courses (frico, polenta, mushrooms, herbs) prepared by chefs Benedetta and Giovanni, and Friulian wines. Group pictures, greetings, departures.

\*Subject to change

# Servas Argentina's Mendoza Meeting

By Marlene Von During (NS) & Ana Manghi (Deputy)

**M**endoza is the place where all foreigners visiting Argentina head to after staying in Buenos Aires for a few days. Servas Argentina set up this 2 day meeting and it was attended by members from different regions of our country. The aim was to be together, share experiences, have the chance to get to know each other and to strengthen our relationships.

We had had our former meetings in Merlo, San Luis Province. In Mendoza we shared some gorgeous sunny days and lots of good wine, we went trekking in the pre cordillera of the Andes where we left an statement of our expedition signed by all the people who took part in it with a flag specially created for this event. We visited natural hot springs, we ate meat cooked in a mudbrick oven, we went rafting on the Mendoza river and we visited an organic vineyard ending up with a wonderful debate about our peace mission in the Servas community.

Wemetsomelocalhosts,weincorporated new members and we honoured Mr Francisco Morón, an Argentinian member who received most guests (approximately 530 fellows) We have appointed a new local interviewer to help in the growth of the region. We want to thank all the people who joined us in this meeting and to invite all Servas members to visit our country. It's huge, there're many awesome landscapes to visit and our welcome is as big as our hearts. We want to show you some photos!!!



Asado in the organic vineyard



Rafting in the Mendoza river



A group in the Cacheuta springwaters



I handed our handmade trips with words about Servas purpose



We honoured Mr. Francisco Morón who received 530 fellows



Mudbrick oven



Organic aromatic herbs in Daniel Mazzoca's garden



Servas flag



All the group



The group at the top of the cerro



A stop on the way to the top



The statement we left with the flag

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JULY 30 — AUGUST 6, 2011**

**YOUTH EVENT & AFRICA AREA MEETING**

Kamapala, Uganda  
 Everyone is invited. Let's empower youth and unite Africa!  
 Contact: kigozimoses@yahoo.co.uk

**1 AUGUST — 4 AUGUST, 2011**

**SERVAS YOUTH NORDIC MEETING**

Located in Hvalsø village close to the town Roskilde, Denmark.  
 Info and application at  
[www.servas.dk/Youthmeeting](http://www.servas.dk/Youthmeeting)

**SEPTEMBER 9 - SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

**22ND ALPE ADRIA SERVAS INTERNATIONAL MEETING**

Arta Terme, Friuli, North-Eastern Italy  
 Info at  
[tinyurl.com/servasalpeadria2011](http://tinyurl.com/servasalpeadria2011)

**JUNE 1 — JUNE 6, 2012**

**NETHERLANDS INTERNATIONAL MEETING**

Details to come.

Send in calendar items at least 2 months in advance of event. **Only International and Regional events will be listed.** Send National meeting info to [reneeendron@hotmail.com](mailto:reneeendron@hotmail.com) for inclusion on [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org).

**EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

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– please don't imbed them in the text file.  
 I would also ask that your email subject line be related to your article, just for my sanity. ("Uganda meeting-July issue")  
 Letters sent to the editor will be considered "Letters to the Editor" unless clearly marked as not for publication.  
 The Staff reserves the right to publish what it feels is appropriate for a newsletter format.  
 That's it for now, I'm going back to the BBC to see what's going on in Greece, it's moving very quickly here!  
 Hope your economy is healthy and happy.

**Uganda Africa Area/Youth Meeting Update**

**Discussions promise to be exciting and meaningful**

*By Sheldon G. Weeks, Servas Botswana*

The combined Africa Area Meeting and World Youth Meeting so far has over 50 registered participants who will gather near Entebbe, Uganda on Lake Victoria from the 31st of July to the 6th of August 2011. They come from at least ten countries in Africa and another ten from South and North America, Europe the Middle East and Oceania. More are welcome. We are grateful for the combined support of SI, the DC, Servas Belgium, Britain, New Zealand and Spain. This promises to be an important gathering that will lead to the further development of Servas across Africa. Click here to see some of the suggested issues for discussion. For further information, please email to [gudrun@info.bw](mailto:gudrun@info.bw)



**Translate Servas News into Your Country's Language.**

*By Terry Stone, Editor-Servas News*

We have received several requests for help with translating the newsletter into different languages. We want *Servas International News* to be accessible to as many members as possible, so, to help toward achieving that goal, we are offering to make current issues of *Servas International News* available to any Servas member country who would like to convert them into their native language.

To receive a complete, press-ready packaged file the country's Servas National Secretary should send a request by email to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org). Instructions on where and how to obtain the file will be furnished at that time.

*Servas International News* is produced using Adobe InDesign CS2 for Macintosh. A press-ready, packaged file will contain all the fonts, photos and linked graphics used

in the current issue along with the complete InDesign file. You must have either a Mac or PC version of Adobe InDesign CS2 v4.0 or better to open the file. Please remember that certain fonts may not convert properly from Mac to PC so some adjustments might be necessary when opening the file in a Windows machine.

If you do not have Adobe InDesign and want to produce a version of *Servas International News* using another software application you can still make use of the images and graphics contained in the packaged file and use a PDF copy of the current issue as a design and production template or a guide to rebuild your copy of *Servas International News*. Experience with the preferred software and producing publications or other materials is highly recommended.



**TRAVEL ADVENTURES**

Do you have a travel story from your corner of the world? Share your adventure and experiences with other Servas members. We will feature one a month. Please send your story and photos to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org). - ed

**SERVAS WEB CONNECTIONS**

**Servas Yahoo Groups**

1. **Servas International** - general discussion for all members.

Post message: [Servas-International@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Servas-International@yahoogroups.com)  
 Subscribe: [Servas-International-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Servas-International-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Servas-International>

Currently discussing: Members without email

2. **Servas News** - become involved with this newsletter

Post message: [servasnews@yahoogroups.com](mailto:servasnews@yahoogroups.com)  
 Subscribe: [servasnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:servasnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/servasnews>

Currently discussing: Translating the newsletter into other languages

3. **ServasOnLine** - website/database redesign

Post message: [Servasonline@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Servasonline@yahoogroups.com)  
 Subscribe: [Servasonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Servasonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Servasonline>

Currently discussing: Servas Web Site re-design

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, send email to the Subscribe email address. All of these email groups are private and have very little traffic at this time.

Servas is also on FaceBook & Twitter

**WHO'S WHO IN SERVAS**

**Penny Pattison, General Secretary, Servas International**

I have been a member of Servas for over 25 years. My first Servas travel experience was in India in early 1984. It was much more difficult to communicate with hosts in those days! I moved to Victoria, British Columbia on the west coast of Canada and became a Servas host in 1985. I live here with my husband, Chris Jones.



I enjoy singing in a choir, outdoor activities, gardening and theatre, and I am involved in several volunteer activities in Victoria, including mentoring a little girl in elementary school, and sitting on the Boards of the Greater Victoria Community Social Planning Council and Oikocredit Canada West micro-finance Cooperative. I also volunteer for a lot of cultural activities, such as the annual Fringe theatre festival

My working life has been mainly in Information Technology, most recently as a Project Manager and Business Analyst. My working interest has always centered on the interaction between people and computer systems, rather than the technology itself. I have a strong leaning towards manageable goals and projects, including identifying and celebrating when a project or phase of a project is completed. I have been doing part-time contract work for the last few years, and I am presently taking a break from paid employment. I love travel! I have spent time in a variety of countries around the world, including a 3-month volunteer opportunity in India in the mid-1980s. That experience cemented my interest in and enjoyment of the diversity of cultures around the world. We are all in this world together and there is a lot that we can all learn and share with each other.

I am committed to Servas because Servas gives me the opportunity to experience a country from the inside, and I treasure these experiences. I feel very fortunate to have friends all over the world because of Servas, who have taught me so much about their lives. While I enjoy the fact that we have so many things in common, I also really like to experience the differences in our different cultures! I have been a Servas Canada interviewer and host coordinator for 20 years, and was National Secretary for 7 years. That ends at the end of 2009 when I became Servas International General Secretary, although I continue to be a Servas Canada interviewer.

I wanted to become SI General Secretary because I really believe in Servas, and I thought that I could contribute at the international level. It is a challenging and time-consuming role, I must admit! It was important to me to make the SI processes as clear and transparent as possible, and that is why we have posted all of the EXCO minutes, status reports and other activities – to get a feel for the functioning of Servas at the international level, please check out [www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual\\_Report\\_materials](http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Annual_Report_materials).

And, in this role, I am privileged to have the opportunity to see Servas world-wide, and appreciate the wonderful variety of members and ideas!

*Each month we would like to run a short biography from someone in Servas. Please submit or suggest. - ed*

**“It isn’t enough to talk about peace, one must believe it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it, one must work for it.”**  
 - Eleanor Roosevelt

## Websites

Ken Foster has a very nice site for adventuresome travelers. The page linked here is where he mentions Servas, and the rest of his two sites are a wealth of good writing and good information: <http://thedromomaniac.com/alternative-travel/couchsurfing-and-servas/>

A lovely story about a Servas visit: <http://www.transitionthegrove.org.au/index.php/forums/local-tourism/3297-servas-visitors-local-tourism-at-its-very-best>

*(ed. If you have a good website to share, please submit it to: [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org))*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CORRECTION ON CORDOBA

The article related to Cordoba that we sent by Isabel Romero for the Servas publication has a mistake: it states that Servas was first known in 2003. What it should say is that Servas has been in Corboba since 1972. Isabel is abroad right now; that's why I took the liberty to send you this email. I'm the coordinator for Servas in Corboda.

Thanks, Amalia

*We want to hear from you. Your comments, suggestions are welcome. All members are encouraged to write with concerns, questions, problems, solutions, or the joke of the month! Tell us what you want to see in future issues your Servas News! -ed*

## How to Submit to Servas News

**IMPORTANT: Submission deadline for content is the 15th of the month!!! Material received after deadline will be held for insertion into the following issue.**

**TIPS:** Assume that the reader is new to Servas. Tell the Who, What, Where and When in the first paragraph. Avoid abbreviations. Keep articles to one page if possible. Make your item engaging and interesting, and pertinent to a global audience. We will not be posting individual country events or announcements. Long reports, such as technical and financial data, go to Renee ([reneeendron@hotmail.com](mailto:reneeendron@hotmail.com)) for posting on [www.Servas.org](http://www.Servas.org).

**Everything will be posted as submitted!** Please include a gripping headline (upper & lower case), author byline along with contact info, captions for photos. Spell check and proof your story, twice. We here at Newsletter Central will not edit copy.

#### We're looking for:

- Global calendar items
- Articles, opinion pieces, travel stories
- Letters to the Editor
- Short quotes regarding peace/Servas
- Short jokes, funny stories
- Web sites of interest to Servas members
- Questions about Servas

#### Technical Tips

- Prepare your story in a text application such as Microsoft Word, TextEdit. Save as a .doc or .txt format.
- Attach photos to email in JPEG format. **DO NOT PLACE PHOTO INTO THE TEXT DOCUMENT.** Use file names that match your story.
- Key photo captions to the photos (photo A, photo B, etc.) and list them at the end of your story.
- If it is not possible to use a text application software you can write your story in the body of an email. Please avoid fancy formatting and do not double-space after a sentence - single-space only.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask:  
[newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

**REMEMBER: What you write is what we'll post. Please thoroughly proof your article/letter before submitting it.**