



Servas Monthly News 19

January 2007



Presumptions

Oh, I supposed that.....
 But you did that last time
 But I told you last year why should I tell you again

 I assumed that

How often do we expect things to stay the same?
 How often are we put out when someone asks for the
 same information again?

Yet the world is not static, things are constantly
 changing. Whether it be Host Lists, Letters of
 Introduction or details of the SI News contacts we ask
 you to give your details each year. This way we know
 that at least once a year they will be up to date.
 People change their email addresses or perhaps
 something was just copied down slightly wrongly. We
 ask for the details to ensure that we get it right.

And for some analogies: Before I go out on my push
 bike I check the tyres. Just because they were OK last
 week does not mean that they are fine now. In the
 morning I do a quick walk around my car. Just
 because it was OK last night does not mean that some
 one did not vandalise it for example pulling the wing
 mirrors off. When hiring an aeroplane I do all the
 safety checks. Just because the person who had it for
 the last hour says it is OK does not mean it is still OK.
 I had been happy with the aircraft one time, the next
 person found that one of the instruments had failed,
 presumably between the time of landing and parking
 as this instrument was not needed on the ground.

We need to make sure that we get the information
 correctly and not presume that it has stayed the same.

Peace

We are an organisation with Peace as a major
 concept. Most countries have Peace Secretaries with
 varying roles depending on the wishes and possibly
 the political restrictions of their country. It is generally
 being felt that we need to review our action on the
 Peace side, and consider that we are not yet another
 host/traveller organisation. Nandee as the Exco Peace
 Secretary is now working on making a Peace network
 to involve all the Peace secretaries, so that we can be
 more active in this line. This does not mean joining
 protest marches (as I well remember from my youth!).
 It does mean being far more aware of what is going on
 and being ready to offer help and encouragement to
 those who wish to be active, for example in various
 forthcoming UN conferences. We look forward to a
 development in this area. After all that is the base
 meaning of our organisation.

Sharing useful websites

So much information is available on the internet.
 Sometimes it feels like information overload with so many
 choices. Hence it is useful when people come up with
 websites that they have found useful. It is good to share
 these. Hence when people send ideas to me I try to
 include them to share.

Gary Sealey has sent: Global Voices Online:
 Hi, here is a website forwarded to me. One of the
 founders was interviewed on TV today. I see blogs
 on it in English, French, and Spanish. Also see RSS.
<http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/>
<http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/top/faq-frequently-asked-questions/>

and Peace Pedallers: Peace Pedalers Africa Newsletter:
 Mozambique 1 of 2
Peace Pedalers <newsletters@peacepedalers.com>
 with pictures on:
<http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=9AauGbRi3aNBu¬ag=1>

Mary Jane Mikuriya found this one about a UN Youth
 assembly. Details are on page 9.
http://www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm

What do YOU have to share with us?

Contents: 2006

1. Editorial - presumptions, websites
2. News - Conferences, DVD
3. Meetings - around the world
4. Languages - Uzbek
5. Travel reports - Volunteer in San Francisco.
6. Travel reports - South America, Cuba
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11. Youth Award

Contact

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

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

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

Central American Servas Regional Conference

A brief overview, for complete report of the Conference you can read the minutes.

The elections were based on an agreement of one vote per country and by majority of the ballots cast. A check list of the duties of the AC (which included those required by the GA) and a list of the ideal personal characteristics of the Central American AC were generated by the group. The 5 voting countries were: Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico.

After two days of getting acquainted, and reports on the operation of Servas in each country, the unique Servas needs in each country, the discussion of the leadership in Central America, it was agreed that the Area leadership would be in the form of a Leadership team composed of an AC, a SAC (i.e., Deputy AC), and a Regional Newsletter editor. Election were by secret ballot. Of 4 candidates for AC, Hector Peralta, NS of Mexico was elected by majority vote on the first ballot. The 3 remaining candidates for AC were considered for SAC. By unanimous vote, Lineth Lopez de Cano NS of Panama was elected SAC on the first ballot. Ivan Garcia, youth representative and voting representative of Guatemala so designated by the NS of Guatemala by way of a signed letter of appointment, was elected Newsletter editor and Sharon Espinoza was elected Central American AC for youth.

The next Central American Regional Conference will be in Panama in 2008. Central American national groups have agreed to reach out and help develop Servas in Spanish speaking countries in the region such as Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba and to welcome English speaking Belize if it wants to be part of the Central American Servas Area.

Stefan Baschel 19 years old of Servas Germany is assigned alternative Military duty in Nicaragua for a year. Markus Kapfenberger NS of Servas Germany encouraged Stefan to attend the Conference and Servas Germany provided funds for him to attend the conference. He was acclaimed by consensus to be the Servas establisher for Nicaragua and will be helped by other NS of the area. The DFC approved \$200 to develop Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Spanish is the language of Central America and I was the only person there who spoke only English. I was assigned 3 translators to whom I am very grateful -- Pablo Chefuni, Francisco Solomon Luna Alberto of Mexico, the 26 year old youth representative from Mexico, and OLYN the wife of Hector Peralta.

The National Groups in Central America would like to receive names and contact information especially for individuals in El Salvador and Nicaragua who might be willing to be Servas members. The National groups are will follow up. Send information regarding contacts to Hector Peralta AC of C Am at mexico@servas.org

Also needed are volunteers willing to translate Servas documents into Spanish such as the SI Handbook and the SI Financial Operating Procedures to contact me. Volunteers willing to translate the Central American Regional Conference minutes into English are to contact Pablo Chefeni pablochefeni@yahoo.com.ar and volunteers willing to translate C Am newsletters from Spanish to English are to contact Hector Peralta mexico@servas.org.

Mary Jane Mikuryia, USA, Exco

For pictures see:

<http://servasreunioncentroamerica.blogspot.com/>

eGA, Latina, DVD available

A DVD of the April 2006 EGA in Latina, Italy has been mailed to all attendees and all National Secretaries. Contact Michael Johnson at: unexpected@sympatico.ca if you don't get a working copy by the end of February. If you are not supposed to receive the DVD but WANT one, please ask your National Secretary to copy one for you.

There is a 30-minute video and 8 minutes of still photos with music.

The video and a few photos are by Michael. Most of the photos are thanks to Amir. Additional photos were taken by Uwe. All expenses will be paid by Servas International. It is hoped members will enjoy this "memory of Servas working well together."

Michael Johnson, Canada

Sri Lanka, Annual Meeting

I am happy to let you know that the Sri Lankan Servas conducted its annual meeting on 09th of December 2006. Two Special invitees the Ex. Deputy Minister for Justice in Sri Lanka Mr. Shelton Ranaraja and the Secretary for the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Dhanasena Hettiarachchi in addition to the Board of Governors of Nation Builders Association participated and the Servas Hosts twenty out of thirty six attended. Although I was sick I too attended and following are the key persons elected for the year 2007 please.

In appreciation of services rendered by Mr. M.B. Adikaram, he was elected to be the president of Servas, Sri Lanka 2007 although this is a mere Honorary Post. Also we elected Dr. D.H.A. Subasinghe who is also one of our Senior Servas Hosts to be the Vice President.

Since I wish be more at work with Servas Exco. I wished that the National Secretary ship be palmed off to someone else. Herewith I send you the Key Persons or Servas Sri Lanka for the year 2007 please.

In Peace,

Nandasena Amarasinghe, Peace Secretary

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Get together in London

The venue is **Pontefract Castle.**

This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.

The nearest Underground Station is
Bond Street.

Date: First Monday in every month.

Time: 6.30 onwards.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

A Schedule for the 2007 FEA Meeting

We would like to hold our 4th FEA Meeting in April this year with a purpose of reconfirming our philosophy of peace-building and friendship through exchanging our ideas and experiences.

- 1) Date Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8, 2007
- 2) Place Arirang Hotel, Pusan, Korea
- 3) Schedule see <http://www.servas.or.kr>

Indian Annual Conference 16 - 18 February 2007 at SEWAGRAM

Activities in Kazakhstan

March 19 2007

Round table talks

Members of Servas will talk about their work that was done during half a year. Discussions about prospective plans and events.

The meeting will be dedicated to national new year holiday - Nauryz.

Place: Kazakhstan, Karaganda (about specific place please ask NS)

Youth and Family Week, 2007
Dalesbridge, Yorkshire, UK
Sun 29 July - Sat 04 Aug
See page 10 and 11 for detail
Contact: dasher1949@aol.com

EUROPE

A good reason for all Servas travellers to visit...

Luxembourg and the Greater Region: European Capital of Culture 2007

Get ready for plenty of enriching experiences, discover new horizons and find out more about the Servas hosts in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Greater Region (parts of Belgium, France and Germany)

Couldn't the two objectives of the Capital of Culture 2007 "Reaching beyond borders" and "Daring to take on the unexpected" be Servas objectives? Also the themes of the city match very well with Servas "Discovering Yourself - Discovering Others" and "Europe of the Future" at least when you replace it by "Servas of the Future" ... A good topic for a discussion!

The project reaches even Romania as there is a partnership with the Romanian city **Sibiu**, also European Capital of Culture 2007

More than 300 hosts of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg are expecting you in 2007!

With warm Servas regards,

Rita Dessauvage

NS Belgium & Luxemburg

belgium@servas.org luxemburg@servas.org

Visit <http://www.luxembourg2007.org>

<http://www.sibiu2007.ro>

Southern Africa Area Meeting

This will be held in
Livingstone, Zambia
August 2007.

Languages - Uzbek

Language is an important tool of communication. When we understand each other we are more likely to be peaceful. Think of the problems that have arisen just by the wrong interpretation of what someone is trying to say.

In this section, the aim is to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language will be English. Hence any non-English words and phrases must have the English translation of them.

In the long run it would be good to be able to publish a booklet of useful words and phrases in a range of languages for the Servas hosts and travellers.

Our 17th language is Uzbek. This year Samarkand, in Uzbekistan, is celebrating its 2750 birthday - so it has been going rather longer than many places. See SI News 2007 for more detail.

Zero

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

Twenty

Thirty

Forty

Fifty

Sixty

Seventy

Eighty

Ninety

Hundred

Thousand

Do you eat meat?

Where do you live?

This is my older sister

This is my younger sister

This is my older brother

This is my younger brother

This is my mother

This is my father

This is my son

This is my daughter

What music do you like?

Have you visited the town?

Where are the shops?

Is there a market?

Thank you for your help.

Nol

Bir

Ikki

Uch

To'rt

Besh

Olti

Yetti

Sakkiz

To'qqiz

O'n

Yirirma

O'uz

Qirq

Ellik

Oltmish

Yetmish

Sakson

To'qson

Yuz

Ming

Zi go'sht yeysizmi?

Siz qayerda yashaysiz?

Bu mening opam

Bu mening singlim

Bu mening akam

Bu mening ukam

Bu mening onam

Bu mening otam

Bu mening o'glim

Bu mening qizim

Qaysi musiqani yoqtirasiz?

Sahharda bo'ldingizmi?

Do'konlar qayerda?

Uyerda bozor bormi?

Yordamingiz uchun

rahman

Peace

Tinchlik

Hello

Salom

How are you

Ahvolingiz qanday?

Goodbye

Xayr

Be seeing you

Ko'rishguncha

Have a safe journey

Oq yo'l

Best wishes to your family.

Oilangizga eng yaxshi
tilaklar tilayman

Do come again

Yana keling, albatta

Please

Marhamat

Thank you

Rahmat

That's nothing

Arzimaydi

Where is the toilet?

Hojatxona qayerda?

Left

Chapda

Right

Rostda

Straight on

To'g'rida

Behind you

Orqangizda

Where do I sleep

Men qayerda uxlayman?

I am vegetarian

Men go'st yemayman

Where is the nearest
telephone?

Eng yaqin telefon
quayerda?

Travel and Volunteer Report

Wonderful and useful volunteer-work-experience in San Francisco as a SERVAS TRAVELER from A Japanese SERVAS TRAVELER

I stayed at Sacramento, in the USA. from December 13, 2006 to January 10, 2007.

Although the main purpose of my traveling was to visit my wife, who is studying there, doing nothing at the college dormitory didn't seem interesting enough for me. I didn't have any special plans to do except making one or two short trips during this time. After retiring from a 38 year teaching job last March, I decided to have some new experiences by visiting several Servas Members and taking part in some volunteer work to help the people in need.

When, in preparation for the trip, I started looking for hosts San Francisco area, it was very difficult to find a host who would accept me due to the busiest holiday preparation period. I was fortunate enough, however, to be informed that Ms. Mikuriya is the person whom I should make contact with in the first place. This is how I came to know Mary Jane Mikuriya. She not only accepted me as a member but also let me and my wife stay in her house later after my first stay.

During my stay with Mary Jane in her house I was lucky enough to participate in one of their Servas monthly meetings and also to experience various kinds of volunteer work in San Francisco through her assistance. If we were not a member of Servas, we could not have got such a wonderful experience. I am glad that I enjoyed my traveling and made a small contribution to the community in US that cares for the people in need.

In spite of the busy time of the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year, Mary Jane helped me greatly in finding volunteer works. As a result my wife and I could work for four different sections of three volunteer groups. During this period of stay in San Francisco of about two weeks we met many interesting and caring people, some of whom we met through volunteer work.

Mary Jane also arranged for other houses we could stay which enabled us to stay as long as two weeks and continue to work in the same area.

I would like to mention a little about those volunteer works we had experienced:

The first volunteer-job was to work as an assistant of St. Gregory Church's Food Pantry. Our job is to hand out food to the homeless or the people who need food, directly. Food was carried into the church by the Food Bank Trucks which have a lot of food-donations from the food companies and agricultural producers. I don't know well, but probably the reason that the day was just before the Christmas, huge amount of food was delivered. It was well organized and arranged nicely. According to the organizer of this Pantry, this church has a long history about this activity. About 400 persons

made the line and received distribution on that day. Usually, the number of the people is about 300, I heard.

The second volunteer working was wrapping Christmas presents for children who would not get Christmas presents from others.

The third work was "Curbside Donations". I couldn't imagine what it meant till I had such an experience. Who created such a good donation style? Any one who wants to give money, toys, food, clothes, and etc. to the people who need food or other things can park along the curb in front of the donation-office. Parking cars during doing donations was permitted exceptionally. We, volunteers are waiting for the contributors, and when they come, we run up to the car. We receive their donations and passed custody proof to them.



The 4th volunteer activity was to work in San Francisco Food Bank, which distributes food to the church or the welfare facilities which help the homeless or the people who need food. The volunteer's job was to wash and pack vegetables carried in from a farm or food companies by trucks, or stick the food-name-tags of the canned food which have a little bit damaged appearance. Most of the canned food got damaged by the process of mass-production just for a moment. There were huge amounts of food near or just before the time limit. Most of all jobs there were carried out by volunteer's hands from the beginning to the last with only a few directors.

It was a great pleasure for me to have traveled, stayed at members' house and get socialized with people working for Peace. Although I have been a member of Servas more than 20 years, this was my first experience to participate volunteer activity in a foreign country. Both my wife and I were lucky enough to have ample time to spare this time. Otherwise volunteer work during my SERVAS travel would have been very difficult.

I would like to thank once again for Mary Jane Mikuriya for her generosity of letting us stay in her house for long time, for arranging matters for our convenience and for a lot of good advice. We talked a lot over dinners Mary Jane cooked for us and the conclusion of our talking is that the way to maintain world peace starts with helping people who need help. The help may be letting travelers stay in your house or working as volunteer. They eventually all contribute to world peace.

Yamaguchi Tomio, Japan

Travel Reports

Meeting of SERVAS Day hosts in Salvador/Brazil in October 2006

I prolonged a business trip to Brazil over the weekend and took advantage of this to meet two SERVAS day hosts in Salvador de Bahia/Brazil. To stay for the usual full two nights with SERVAS hosts did not work out for these dates despite some attempts. I had contacted SERVAS hosts José Borges Dantas (host number 7) and Silvana de Vasconcelos Teixeira (host number 17) separately. However, since they were both available on the same evening and knew each other, we finally decided to meet all together on Friday evening (13 October) and José also brought another SERVAS traveller from Italy with him. Silvana and José showed us the beautiful old town of Salvador and explained a lot about the customs and habits in the Brazilian State of Bahia. Afterwards, they had the great idea to go to a local theatre with a very good performance of local dances and music. We concluded the evening with a drink where we shared our different SERVAS experiences. It was obviously too short to get to know each other very well, but I very much appreciated to have been able to meet local SERVAS hosts during my short stay, as this gives a very different view of the country to when you only read about it or listen to official tourist guides. I hope I will be able to come back and to also visit other parts of Brazil with more time.

Thanks again to the national Belgium SERVAS coordinator Rita for the, as usual, efficient and quick help with all preparations.

Nils Weller, Belgium/Germany

About the Servas Cuba

I was really surprised when our Hungarian secretary gave me the host list of Servas Cuba, asking me to handle it secretly, because he knew it was not legally allowed at the moment in Cuba. (I knew our Hungarian Servas history, it was a long struggle to legalise during the socialist time..) The second surprise was how many members they have in Cuba. Then I surprised they have internet, because in Cuba it is difficult to get permission and expensive to have a connection. I was even more surprised when I got answers from everyone I contacted!!! I have traveled in the last 3 years with Servas, this activity is really rare. And I got positive answers from everyone, even though it is illegal to have a foreign guest for Cuban citizens.

I met all of them. I had an excellent time with these people. All of them are very active in the cultural scene (life), I got valuable information about their country, about their people. And most of all I got hospitality and I could have a glance at their everyday life, how they are struggling in that country, how they hope for a peaceful free life. They were very enthusiast, intelligent, helpful, sociable, open to know more about the rest of the world. Unfortunately they get little chance to visit other countries. But if they do I recommend you to meet them, they are great people. You will spend a pleasant time with them, and you will find real friends among them.

LIMA, OUR FIRST SERVAS EXPERIENCE October 2006

When we arrive at Lima airport (coming from Iquitos) we are looking for Felipe, when at once we see Richard and Jessica, travellers with whom we were on the way from Celendin –Chachapoyas and we start looking at the pictures they had with them and forgot about the time and about Felipe...After a phone call we meet and some minutes later a taxi is bringing us to our first Servas host Fresia, a close friend of Felipe. Fresia is a very courageous and dynamic woman of 82 years old. Also Fernando, another friend of Fresia is coming along to meet us and to have a talk.. We are telling about our adventures in the north and our plans for the south.

But unfortunately we are very tired; we are almost falling asleep on Fresia's sofa. We say goodbye to Felipe and Fernando and we go to bed. These people are so kind that we feel in some way a little bit guilty, but really travelling is very tiring....

The next morning we have not to wake up early in the morning, Fresia surprises us with a delicious breakfast: papaya juice, fresh sandwiches, jam, coffee, tea. Fresia advises us to visit the old centre of Lima, the monastery of San Francisco and the change of the guard.

In the centre of Lima there is a lot of activity, the procession of "El Señor de los milagros" is coming to the Plaza de Armas. We miss the change of the guard due to change of the timetable for the procession. We visit the monastery with interesting catacombs, we do some shopping and we go back to Fresia after visiting the tourist information office.

When other friends of Lima are calling we are already in bed, but Fresia is taking notice of the message.

The next day we visit the very interesting 'Museo de la Nacion', a must for everyone who is in Lima. After spending some time in an internet café we go back to say goodbye to Fresia. She helps us to find a taxi to go to our friends in Monterico, another part of Lima.

Lima offers a lot: we visit the very expensive 'Museo de Oro, we enjoy the show with folklore dances 'Brisas de Titecaca', we go to a bull fighting in Plaza de Acho but we don't enjoy this cruel event, we drink Pisco Sour, the national drink of Peru and a lot more...

Before leaving Lima we make a stop at Fresia's place to thank her with a bouquet of flowers.

Our first Servas experience has been wonderful.

Veronique and Filip, Belgium

I hope the international Servas will help them in all possible ways to exist and support this growing group of Servas people in Cuba, who are looking for friendship, knowledge about different cultures and the life abroad. I hope at the next Servas international meeting they will discuss about their problems and we can find solution for them.

Gabor Csonka Hungary

More travels + Peace Activities

Israel and Turkey - part 5

In the December issue the 12 travellers from India visited the Mount of Olives along with parts of the old and new city. They now see more of Jerusalem.

As in every issue space precludes being able to include the whole of this descriptive report. Those wishing to read the full report should contact the editor - see email address on p1.

5th June 2006

Free day in Jerusalem.

SERVAS meeting in the evening.

We went to see Museum so walked through the valley for 20 minutes to reach the Museum. The guided tour in English had started so we ran for the tour to the Jewish Ethnography. The Guide was explaining about the synagogue of different countries- Germany, Poland, Hungary, Cochin. I told her that the Jews were not expelled from India. She agreed to it and said, 'yes, but when they came to Israel, they brought the carvings of Synagogue with them. It was covered with black colour and it took so much of time to remove it. Then at 12 noon we had tour of Archaeology. It had articles from Paleolithic age to Neolithic age. There were instruments for agriculture, pottery, hunting etc. The way in which the guide explained was very good with questions and fun in between.

Mr.Amitai came exactly at 4.00 p.m. from the University. He is a professor of Hebrew language. He inquired with his wife whether he should show us some sights or come home Nurit told him to come home so that we can all go together and have a round. We went home had tomato Juice and pita. We got ready and left for SERVAS Meeting. We saw the higher point and from there Jerusalem. Then we went to Ramchaal Rakhat. We saw barracks there. There was a point built with big stones as if the stones were hanging from the point. It was beautiful Scenery.

We walked down to the house where we had the meeting. Only 4 hosts were present Rami, the host from Kibbutz talked about her experiences at Uttaranchal in India and her experiences in Israel. She had seen many wars during her life time and cannot imagine life without wars as in India. She was very much impressed by use of nature in India rather than abuse of Nature. In the Meeting, I appreciated their hospitality. Nurit and Amitai also expressed their views that it is commendable that you appreciated our hospitality.

We had a round of Jerusalem at night. "On the walls of the hotels there are holes of the gun, these hotels were vacant before we took away this part of Jordan because there was continuous fight. It was Britishers and French people who divided our land saying that this part is Jordan and this part is Israel They would not think of life without war. Rami lost her son in the war and she was happy when she visited Himchal Pradesh, the land without any war". Amitai and Nurit explained to us the situation in Israel.

To be continued next month

Dr Geeta Mehta, India

Day Hosts in Malaysia

My name is Naweed & I am a SERVAS host from Lahore, Pakistan. I visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia & met two SERVAS members there who were "DAY HOSTS". Before meeting personally, I had been in touch with them through emails & phone calls. The two members are "Dr.Kamal Arifin Shah" & "Harbans Kaur".

I must say that what "SERVAS" needs is the members like both of them. They were courteous, friendly, hospitable, knowledgeable, helpful, welcoming and very fine persons indeed. It was a very pleasant experience meeting these two decent members in "Kuala Lumpur" and I consider it my duty to provide feedback of my experience, for the benefit of other members

Namweed, Lahore, Pakistan

Peace activities in the USA.

The US Servas Board wants to put Peace back into US Servas activities. The board has expressed its desire to partnership with like-minded nonprofit organizations. This means that we are looking for NGOs that have similar or compatible missions statements and could provide day host experiences/volunteer opportunities. We are looking to be equal partners, that is, if we are to have an article in our US Servas Newsletter about the partnership, we would expect our partner organization to also have an article about Servas in its newsletter. Because we are at the beginning stages of this outreach effort, we have identified two lists of NGOs - one list is the UN Department of Public Information list of NGO members and the other list is developed jointly by the USA Department of State and the Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange. We have piloted this concept of NGOs being Day Hosts 4 years ago and found it to be a powerful extension of Servas opportunities. The Faithful Fools is a NGO in San Francisco that helps the poor and homeless and provides education and training for those who are want to become community ministers or community advocates. The Board of the Faithful Fools and the Servas Board agreed to be partners and the Faithful Fools are listed in our host list. A National Secretary attended a Buddhist meditation at the home of the Faithful Fools before meeting with its administrators - Rev. Kay Jorgensen a Unitarian Minister and Sister Carmen Barsody, a Dominican. Two German Servas bicyclists went on a two day street retreat and lived with the homeless for two days. Like all who participate in a 1-day, 2-day, 3-day or 1 week retreat, they were debriefed and shared what they learned about the homeless, how they felt, what they learned about themselves and how this experience changed their perspectives in how they see the poor.

In December, the National Peace Secretary of Japan, Tomio Yamaguchi and his wife Taiko came to San Francisco and volunteered in 3 different organizations helping the poor. See article on page 5.

Mary Jane Mikuriya, USA

Exco Info

Meeting of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL ICT

The ICT team (Uwe, Omer, and Claudio) met on 7 December with Mario Burlando and his son, Marco. Gary Sealey came and edited these notes. We noted 5 ways ICT can help improve quality communication in Servas:

1) Help Servas Have Fun

Traveler-Traveler
Traveler-Host
Host- Community
Community-Community

2) Serve Servas

6 big, incorporated groups;
15 smaller groups with constitutions;
30 informal associations; and
25 individual Servas country organizers.)
(numbers are approximate)

3) Contribute to Servas Outreach

WebPages

SI News

4) Serve GA Governance

Host List

Key People

Democracy

5) Assist Orientation/Education

Distant Interviews

Local Interviews

Our meeting set out:

An action plan linking the ICT programme with the budget;
a beta test to see what needs to be done to complete Dolphin;
summary of our work, so Key List and others could see what is being done by ICT and, possibly, where they could help

Space is too limited to provide full details, but anyone in Servas is welcome to a copy of notes of our discussions. Please let us know.

Overview of ICT Activity:

ICT should provide for collection and spread of information by providing

- Architecture
- Infrastructure and tools

Information comes through everything connected with Servas:

- Travelers and hosts
- Key People – exercising their specialist responsibilities
- Other groups, government, and partners

But Servas has a problem knowing what Information to link and how to structure it. Servas needs editors to make information useful and user-friendly.

Other ICT challenges

- Entering data
- Need financial and operational help
- Perceived and real Security issues and regulations

Some of the deficiencies in the existing approach:

- Loss of information
- Lack of appropriate archiving – e.g. back issues of SI News, legal documents, etc. (Grant is working on this.)

*Suggested Policy (for review): "All information is public unless regulated otherwise."

ICT Projects:

Public Website: clean up, simplify, make more useful to travelers, hosts, groups

Dolphin: continue to develop, assist groups to choose features.

WebSaturna: enable quick information finding

SharED: help information sharing about communities, like Intelligent Roadmap.

*Uwe Federer, Italy
Claudio Pacchiega, Italy
Ömer Özkan, Turkey
Gary Sealey, Canada*

Summary of the work done by EXCO members in January.

President Gary has been working with **Peace Secretary** Nandee on appointment of a Servas Representative to UNO, Geneva. He is also working on a Peace Roadmap and in this connection, he is interacting with teachers and theologians (interfaith).

Vice President Mary Jane represented SI EXCO at the Area Meeting cum Youth Conference of Central America held in Costa Rica. There she also conducted a workshop on interviewing techniques.

General Secretary Pramod has been working on the first ever Distant Vote of Servas International to be held in 2007 and in this connection, he has been trying to contact all National Secretaries.

Peace Secretary Nandee has been working on developing an international network of Peace Secretaries.

Treasurer Omer has been working on accounts for the years 2004 and 2005 and also on Dolphin Project. For those who may not know, Dolphin is a software which will make it easy to create and update host lists.

Host List Coordinator Anna has been working on collecting and compiling the host list requests from all National Groups and is also helping with the Dolphin Project.

Pramod

Youth Exchange

2007 Israel & European Youth Exchange (I&EYE) & Servas

I&EYE Association (Israeli & European Youth Exchanges) is a non-profit organization that has 33 members who do their work as volunteers. Their mission is to create bridges of understandings and cooperation between youth and young adults in Israel, Europe and the Middle-East.

They have every year 6-8 bilateral youth exchanges with different youth organizations in Europe, and make all our projects affordable by not having a paid staff member and having all our exchanges based on home hospitality as a basic tool for getting to know each other and getting the participants involved in our endeavours.

Mr. Shmulik Lahar, president of the I&EYE association, heard about Servas on a coincidental encounter with Inken, the former national secretary of Servas Germany at the airport of Berlin. He was intrigued of the Servas organisation and offered Servas to be a partnering organisation for one of the youth exchanges that he is planning during the year in 2007.

As a matter of fact we were able to have Servas Israel and Servas Turkey (Middle East groups) as well as Servas Poland and Servas Germany (European groups) participate in this exciting youth exchange project.

1) PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Water is the essential element for human life, so many of us living in the developed countries take it for granted. Water is also a major source for conflicts, domination and misunderstanding between societies, nations, especially when it is a scarce resource. How do we educate the youth and young adults concerning its importance and the major role it has even in today's world?

The project will use the fun elements involved with water in order to teach and make the participants understand its importance to society in the past and present, how it has been and still is a major source for conflicts and what can we do in order to make it a bridge for cooperation and understanding.

The fun elements will include rafting, swimming, water games, etc, but these will be only tools in order to dig into the more serious issues like: how can you survive in the desert? What were the practices of those who lived in the desert in the past and those living today in the desert not having the modern equipment, the water issues in the Middle-East as a region and these issues between Israel and its neighbours in particular. Can the water become a bridge for cooperation and understanding? What should we do in order not to waste this limited resource?

2) WHO CAN APPLY FOR IT

The project would probably happen between August and November 2007 (tentatively September) and would last about approx. 9 days. Each national group is encouraged to send about 9-12 people.

Any young adult at age 16-25 can apply for it. People who apply for this project should preferably match the following criteria: they need to know English, it is advisable that these persons are doing some kind of voluntary work, perhaps they should be persons who have hosted in the past and are committed to host in the future, they should be connected to Servas, they should be high-school students or university students or both, etc.

We will apply to the European Union for funding. If the program is approved by the European Union, then the participant pays 30% of the travel expenses and administration fees. This could add up to an estimated total of 195-245 euros per participant.

Please contact the national secretaries or youth main contacts of the respective countries to learn more about how to apply for the youth exchange.

Servas Germany, Servas Poland, Servas Israel, Servas Turkey

Markus Kappenberger, Germany

4th Annual Youth Assembly at the U.N.

August 12-15, 2007

**Post Assembly Leadership Training Seminar
August 16-20, 2007**

- Get involved with U.N. issues & Global NGOs
- Make a difference in YOUR lifetime and ... Prepare for a Great Experience in New York City
- Networking and Career Opportunities
- Great Speakers, Engaging Workshops
- All events at the United Nations are FREE
- Special Post-Assembly Leadership Training Seminar: Transforming Information Into Action

BE THE CHANGE!

~ Website Launch and Applications Accepted from February 10, 2007, at the web address below

Special Youth Achievement Awards: Your school, community, religious or civic organization can nominate you for SPECIAL RECOGNITION for Humanitarian deeds in 2006-07

Special for 2007: Join the U. C. Peace Festival! Performance Groups interested in Cultural Diplomacy and Peace through the Arts are invited to join us for a day, or two, the entire week, or more!

Email us for accommodation costs; Groups welcome: Perform or attend with your mates!

email: yaapplications@faf.org

web: http://www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm

Youth and Family Event, Dalesbridge, 28 July - 4 Aug

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT

We are now able to take bookings for the event.

For a booking form please contact :

Ann Greenhough (dasher1949@aol.com)

See attached publicity which we have previously circulated about the event. - (Monthly News Oct/Nov)

Accommodation:

The cost per person for the event will be dependant on the type of accommodation.

We have 48 beds in dormitory style bunkhouses and a limited number of places in more comfortable Bed and Breakfast type accommodation. The least expensive option is camping if you have your own equipment. We will have our own camping area next to the main building which has space for up to 75 people if needed.

Catering:

Everyone will take the evening meal together. This will be provided by the Centre.

For those in the bunkhouses and the main house food will be provided daily to prepare breakfast together in small groups.

Campers will be self catering for breakfast and lunch although some may want full board at extra cost.

Reductions for Young People and Families with Teenagers and Children

We are able to provide a number of places for young people and families with children at 50% of the full cost. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient funds to provide places at no cost at all.

Please let us know if you are a young person who is keen to come but find the costs too high. We will have a small number of tents available for those without their own equipment.

Costs:

Bunkhouse accommodation (4 or 6 bed ensuite cabins with small kitchen area)

£150 per person – 7nights full board

Young person up to 30 - £75 per person full board

Limited Bed and Breakfast accommodation

Cost dependant on the room. Please ask.

Single, double and triple rooms available (some ensuite). In the region of £200 per person for 7nights full board.

Camping

£85 per person including 7 nights evening meals

Young person up to 30 – in the region of £50 including evening meals.

(Final cost dependant on numbers, Please ask.)

Pitches available for tent, campervan or caravan

Full use of main buildings and outdoor marquee.

Family camping groups:

£250 per family of 4 (2 under 10) with evening meals

£300 per family of 4 (2 over 10) with evening meals

For other combinations please ask.

Breakfast and Lunch can be provided for campers at extra cost.

Nearby accommodation

You may want to take part in the event but prefer to arrange your own accommodation. Bed and Breakfast and self catering cottages are available in the nearby village of Austwick which is in walking distance of the Dalesbridge Centre.

Costs will be higher than at the Centre – an average cost for Bed and Breakfast in the area is around £26 per person per night. Self –catering cottages are all available but can be quite expensive in high season.

This might be a suitable option for a larger party from one family or National group. Evening meals with the Servas group would be available at the Centre.

Please ask for details of contacts in the area. We would make a small daily charge per person for use of the group facilities available at the event.

Facilities and Activities at the Centre

We will have use of a number of rooms of all sizes throughout the week and our own outdoor space with small marquee next to the camping area and main house. There will be other campers on the site which has a reception area, internet access and a bar open most nights. Austwick is a small village a few minutes walk away with its own pub, Settle is the nearest town with shops and banks.

Any questions?

Please ask.

Full details:

For full details about the weekend see Servas Monthly News, September 2006, October 2006 and November 2006, in the Youth section.



Youth Travel Award

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TRAVEL AWARD 2007 INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL GROUPS

Please circulate the following information within your National Group and encourage young people who fit the criteria to consider applying for the Award.

Using a host donation of \$1000 the Youth Travel Award will be offered for the first time in 2007 to enable a young person to attend the next international youth event in Britain in July.

This will be something of an experiment to test the viability of the Award as we work at developing a fair and open selection process. Unfortunately we only have sufficient funds to offer one Award on this occasion.

In time we hope to build up a fund from donations from both individual members and National Groups and so be able to offer the Award on an annual basis.

Management of the Award:

This is to be the responsibility of a Servas Youth working group in conjunction with the Development Fund Committee. Ann Greenhough, Vibeke Matorp, Dianne Peterson and Abhay Shaha developed the selection process whilst in Latina. We are looking for a further member to join the group to consider the applications and allocate the Award in 2007.

Focus of the Award:

The aim is to offer sufficient resources for a young person to participate in an international Servas event combined with a programme, ideally over a few weeks, in the country or region where the event is taking place. Although the emphasis will be on offering Servas hospitality to the young person some additional financial resources of their own will be needed for their stay.

In a small way we would hope that the Award will reflect something of the spirit of the early days in Servas where emphasis was on 'work study, travel'.

Through taking part in an international event the young person will have chance to meet with other young Servas travellers and contribute ideas about how Youth in Servas should develop in the future. We hope that Servas hosts will be able to open up a wealth of potential opportunities for a young person to experience and appreciate daily life within the families and communities they visit.

For 2007:

We hope the young person receiving the Award will be able to visit Britain for at least a month if commitments at home allow. This would include the Youth event between 28th July and 4th August and the few days get-together in Manchester beforehand.

Building on the Youth Language Exchange we will involve Servas hosts in providing opportunities for the young person to extend their English language skills.

If they have a particular work or study interest we will try to offer some suitable short-term unpaid work experience through a Servas host. There will also be an expectation that the young person will be open to getting involved in some sort of voluntary work, may be as part of a youth camp in a social or environmental project.

Last but not least we will be available to offer support and advice so they can enjoy exploring Britain as a Servas traveller.

For the future:

The Travel Award, alongside other initiatives such as the Servas Youth Language Exchange, will be part of demonstrating that Servas can offer 'added value' to young people, not so easily found in the increasing number of internet-based hosting networks. The philosophy on which Servas is based can be of real relevance to young people looking to make travelling an in-depth experience and keen to make a contribution to a more peaceful world. As a next step we would like to develop a system open to all young people whereby unpaid work experience opportunities offered by hosts can be matched with interested young travellers.

Timetable for the Award:

The closing date for applications will be February 28th 2007. We anticipate that applications will be made by email. The working group will then consider the applications and, dependant on numbers, may either immediately make a final decision or shortlist a small number of young people for a second stage. If that is the case those young people will be contacted about what happens next. It is intended to make a final decision as soon as possible to allow time to make travel arrangements and get visas if needed.

We ask the National Secretary or someone from the National Group provides a letter of support for a young person making an application including confirming their membership of Servas. It would be helpful if this could be provided by the closing date but applications will initially be accepted without it. More than one application from each country can be considered.

Eligibility for Youth Travel Award:

In order for a young person's application to be accepted they should:

1. Be a member of Servas as a traveller, as a host or as part of a host family.
2. Be aged 18-30 at time of travel.
3. Have been a member of Servas for at least one year at time of application.
4. Provide a letter of recommendation from their National Secretary or other member of the National Group.
5. Declare if related to any Servas officer in either their national group or SI. This will not exclude an applicant from being fully considered.
6. Provide full and accurate information in their application form.
7. Have a working knowledge of spoken and written English.
8. Be prepared to provide a written report of their travel experience if in receipt of the Award.

Please make sure that young people interested in the Award carefully consider these criteria before making an application.

Visas:

National groups and young people thinking of making an application should bear in mind that from some countries they will have great difficulty in making an application for a visa to enter Britain and may well be refused even with the active support of Servas Britain as a sponsor. It may be helpful to take advice in your own country before making an application.

Other funding:

If, as a National Group, you are interested in making a donation to the Youth Award Fund or perhaps able to sponsor a young person from your own country or elsewhere to attend the event in 2007 please tell us.

For further information and application forms:

Please contact: Ann Greenhough dasher1949@aol.com
on behalf of S I Youth Team and Servas Britain