



# Servas Monthly News 39



## October 2008

### Youth cancelled

- apparent lack of interest  
or not booking in good time

The Oz Youth Conference has been cancelled. Not enough people had booked places far enough ahead to guarantee that it would be economically viable. See the letter from Geoff Maltby as follows:

Dear National Secretary

I have just been advised by the Board of Servas Australia that they are CANCELLING the Youth Meeting planned for 24th to 30th January 2009. With there only being a few registrations received and just 13 weeks to go plus a global economic situation looming, it was their decision to cancel the Youth Meeting.

The venue at Fitzroy Falls required a minimum number of participants to run the event and the opinion of the Board of Servas Australia was that we would not reach the number required and that at a later date there would be heavy cancellation fees imposed on Servas and also cancellation fees imposed by the airlines on those participants who had purchased their airline tickets for their journey to Australia.

I personally am sorry and disappointed that the Youth Meeting will not go ahead as planned.

Servas Australia apologises for any inconvenience that may have been caused by the cancellation.

In peace and friendship

Geoff Maltby

One needs to review the situation to find out why this problem occurred. I know, from many years of being involved with conference planning, that there is always the worry of 'Will there be enough participants to make it economically viable?' I am also aware that many people will apply at the last minute. However these are not definite. The organising body must be ready to underwrite all costs. This gives a very large financial commitment. Is it worth the risk, could the members' money be used in better ways?

**Importance of planning ahead.** To attend such a conference it is important to book a place well in advance so that it is not cancelled. This means planning far ahead.

**Other questions:** Was the conference perhaps too close to the previous one? Was the timing suitable for the anticipated participants? Was the price feasible for the participants?

Let us use this to help us with the planning of future events. Let us use it as part of our learning curve.

### Wanted: Pictures for SI website

The Servas International website is looking for pictures to post. Send us your photos of meetings, picnics, tree planting, dancing workshops, marathons/walks, nights out at the café, international events, youth events, conferences, workshops!

Send them to Renée Gendron at  
[renee.gendron@hotmail.com](mailto:renee.gendron@hotmail.com)

### Welcome to:

**Servas Oman** who have just joined us with one host as a starter. Terri Everest of UAE will act as contact for the moment.

**Dianne Peterson** who is now officially the National Secretary of **Servas Singapore**. We know she has already been doing a lot of work there.

**Wolfgang Stapelfeldt** who is the new National Secretary for **Servas Germany**.

### And about the Youth Conference in Istanbul:

It was a "TURKISH-DELIGHT"!

*Pethu RAJA N A, Servas India*

### Contents: October 2008

1. Editorial - Cancelled youth event
2. News - In memoriam, Moving forward
3. Meetings
4. Travellers tales - Uganda to UK, part 5
5. Travellers tales - Vienna, France, Italy, Malawi
6. California Dreaming
7. Country tales - Sentierinsieme, Ghana
8. UN, Declaration of Human Rights, 60 years old
9. Internet info, Comment, past GA
10. Peace festivals, results of Sept 21 question
11. Youth - Istanbul comment and activities

### 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](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. Otherwise if the email address is not recognised it may get deleted before being read.

## U.S.A:

### Helen Rees: Fairview historian, civil rights marcher dies at 98

She volunteered for SERVAS selling fair trade imported articles, as well as Meals on Wheels, and as a 4-H Leader. She sent relief packages to foreign countries during World War II and made quilts for the homeless in addition to reading, gardening, needlework and food preservation.

She is survived by daughter Anna Rosene of Boring; son Charles Rees of Columbia, Md.; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The complete obituary can be found on:

[http://www.theoutlookonline.com/features/story.php?story\\_id=122342963164620800](http://www.theoutlookonline.com/features/story.php?story_id=122342963164620800)

## New Zealand:

### A tribute to Yvonne Brown

YVONNE BROWN, Educator and local dramatist, who farmed on the Durham Road, Inglewood, died in Paraparaumu on July 6, 2008 aged 86 - a woman of many talents who gave much to our district and to New Zealand.



Yvonne and Bill belonged to Servas, an organization for peace on the principle of education through travel. Through this they hosted many overseas travelers on their farm and traveled extensively. With courage and energy she ran the farm for 10 years after Bill's death, in their new home, which was always full of people.

Yvonne's contribution to the lives of many, both Maori and Pakeha, in education has been enormous. She was the matriarch of her family and an inspiration to all who knew her. We cannot measure the impact on society but she has been recognized for some of her achievements. In 1990, she was awarded the New Zealand Suffragettes Centennial Medal and in 1993 The Queen's Commemorative Medal.

We are the richer for knowing her.

The complete obituary can be found at:

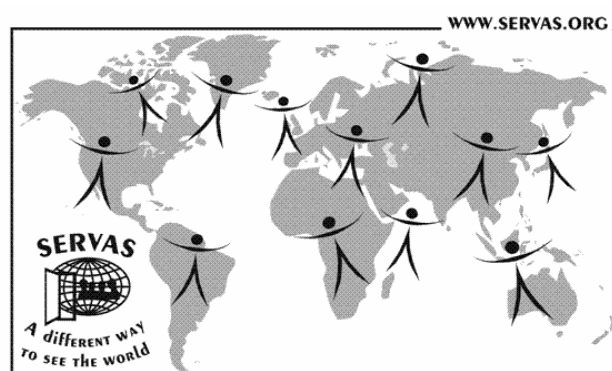
<http://www.stratfordpress.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3787840&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubsection=>

## Singapore Banner



Dianne Peterson, Singapore National Secretary, shows us the Banner that they have made and are using in Singapore.

## Britain: tea towel/cards



For some years Servas Britain has been producing merchandise to sell, more as promotion of Servas than for profit. This tea towel is a current item of merchandise with the same pattern being used for greeting cards. If any other country would like to use the design they are welcome to do so. Please contact Servas Britain to get the digital design.

emails: [britain@servas.org](mailto:britain@servas.org) or [info@servasbritain.org](mailto:info@servasbritain.org)

## Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

### International Announcements of Servas Events

The Servas Joomla website has a community calendar under the heading "Calendar"  
[http://joomla.servas.org/component/option,com\\_events/Itemid,87/](http://joomla.servas.org/component/option,com_events/Itemid,87/)

If you have any events you would like posted, please contact Gary Sealey  
[gary.sealey@gmail.com](mailto:gary.sealey@gmail.com)

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.

### Monthly Meeting in Brussels

*Venue:* Le Cirio in the centre of Brussels, next to La Bourse/De Beurs  
*Date:* Last Tuesday of the month  
*Time:* 6 pm to 8 pm .  
*Info* [belgium@servas.org](mailto:belgium@servas.org)  
You are welcome to join us

### Belgium & Luxembourg 2009

**February 07, 2009: Servas Anniversary Dinner in Brussels**  
In the afternoon a presentation around the European integration might be organised or a walk inside Brussels related to integration of people in Brussels  
SERVAS hosts in Brussels will welcome guests to give the possibility to stay overnight  
On Sunday morning there will be a second walk after breakfast, for the people who stayed overnight in Brussels.  
All interesting exhibitions will be announced in Brussels

#### May 03, 2009 : Leuven for all

Last day of 5-city fraternization (Leuven, Basel, Frankfurt, Utrecht, Strasbourg) is open for all people. Joint activities will be announced in due time

#### June 07th 2009, Transborder cycling tour between Belgium and France

Cycling tour starting and finishing in Péruwelz (Belgium)

#### SERVAS Weekend - date/place to be announced

Various activities will be organized including  
- joint music and singing  
- some presentations of travel stories of SERVAS travellers

More details will be announced in due time of the internet site of SERVAS-BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG.

Still other local activities are under construction and will also be announced in due time when dates and places will be known.

### Join with others in Lyon, France

*The venue is:* Grand Café de la Soierie  
*This is in:* 1 place des Tapis, Lyon  
*Date:* First Thursday of the month  
*Time:* 8 pm

### Meeting place in Paris, France

*The venue is:* **Le Vieux Châtelet**  
*This is in:* 1 place du Châtelet, 75001 Paris  
*The nearest metro is:* Châtelet  
*Date:* Second Tuesday of month  
*Time:* 7 pm to 9 pm

### 'Seoul to London' (the Asia-Europe Inter-Continent) Expedition

\* *Period:* March 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010 (for 6 months)  
\* *Route:* From Seoul through Asia and Europe to London  
\* *Team:* 20 Servas members (10 Koreans and 10 multinationals)  
\* *Invitation:* The international Servas members are now being invited to join this expedition.  
\* *Contact:* Mr. Jong Soo Kim N.S. Servas Korea  
[servas@korea.com](mailto:servas@korea.com) skype: kingofasia2 Cell: 82-16-830-2623  
See Servas Monthly News February 2008 for full details.

### "Sentierinsieme"

/ Pathways together 2009

Val d'Ossola (Italian Alps) 10-17 July

**For this occasion we will celebrate 60 years of Servas and 25 years of Sentierinsieme (1985 – 2009)!!**

Contact: Luigi Uslenghi,  
[uslenghi@fauser.it](mailto:uslenghi@fauser.it) Tel 0039 0321 402842

For full details see p6.

Servas Britain  
**01 May - 04 May 2009**  
Dalesbridge revisited  
for  
60th Anniversary  
Celebrations  
and AGM

## Travellers Tales - Uganda to UK, part 5

### Moses Kigosi finishes his UK visit ..

When we reached home I watched television while taking a drink, in United Kingdom they have many free channels. Rachael was preparing dinner I joined her see how she prepares. After dinner we went to sleep. The following morning we had breakfast. Rachel gave me copies of the photos she had taken. I was driven to Silverdale train station so I could go back to Ilkley. Ann was supposed to pick me up at Shipley train station, but I enjoyed the train so much that I forgot get off at Shipley. Finally I reached Leeds where I took a train to Burley in Wharfedale then walked straight to Ann's home.

When I returned from Silverdale, we had a separate Youth planning meeting at Ann's home. The event at Dalesbridge was mainly a social event rather than a business meeting. As members of the Servas International Youth Development Group, I was also involved in planning meeting for the group following the main event, We discussed:

- The future of Servas
- Why Servas in some African countries especially Anglophone is on and off?
- Why some National groups do hold meetings?
- United Nations (How UN works and how young people can understand its aims, and operations and what it offers to young people).
- Servas Africa Area meeting 6-10 December meeting 2007
- Communication between National Secretaries and Youth representatives from each country.
- Restriction of travelers especially from developing countries.
- Increasing members in our national groups

After some three days at Ann's home it was time to say good



bye. Jean the National Secretary of Servas Britain passed by Ann's home to pick me to go with her. She was returning to her home after a visit to her grand

children. We had already agreed at Dalesbridge to stay with her while visiting London. She lived in nice home in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. North of London. One of Jean's hobbies was music, so I listened to different kind of music all corners of the world, I liked Bob Marley which made me feel at home. During our journey I had a chance to see Motorways and underground roads. When we reached home that evening, Jean took me out to see a man made river which is over 20 miles. It was used long ago around 1884 to transport goods in London, She took me for a cup of tea in the nearby café. Before we went home to prepare dinner we shopped at Sainsbury supermarket. I saw that in every region in Britain they had the same things in terms of Supermarkets, Banks, etc. I recalled Steve in Silverdale, told me he had spent 6 year without going to London. When I asked him why, he said he got everything he needed in Lancashire.

The next day Jean took me to visit the Hatfield House This was another chance for me see motorways .This house was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It was located 21 miles North of London. Previously it was a home for Queen Elizabeth I. I had never seen such a big house with thousands of books in the home library. Every thing in this house was very expensive and some designs were imported from China during that time.

While returning home we discussed visiting my last host Larry before I went home. Jean advised me that London was very expensive to live in but Larry knew how to live in London cheaply. I had met Larry at Dalesbridge, a university student in Britain coming from Nigeria.

After a couple of night at Jean's home, the next day she drove me to London at her daughters place. Her name was Emily. From there it was very easy to go at Larry's home. I had to meet Larry later that evening. I left Jean at that home as I took a walk in London I took a train to Embarkment. I went over



different kinds of bridges, including foot Bridge, Tower Bridge, etc The buildings like the London Eye impressed me. I saw that buildings were constructed in a variety of shapes unlike Uganda where most are in box shape. By 5pm I had to be back at Emily's home so that I could go to Larry's home. Although some streets and houses looked the same, it was not possible for one to get lost as streets were marked with numbers and names. To reach Emily's home from Queen's Park station was very easy, roads had sign posts unlike Uganda where most roads do not have sign posts. I took Victoria Rd, turned left at Hazelmere Rd and again at Chasteris Rd. A few weeks before I traveled, I had a chat with my friends from Australia about mail delivery in developed countries. As I was returning to Emily's home I experienced mail being delivered at the physical address as told by my friends. In Uganda I have to travel 7 miles to get my mail at the Post office.

Larry lived in East London the last days I spent at his home, I was able to buy a cheap day travel card to enable me move around London throughout the day. I was able to visit the Charity Center This gave me chance to purchase books useful to APY. I also visited some Ugandans living in UK.

In conclusion, Servas in Africa needs a lot of support and I am sure Uganda will lead the change. Most of the things were new to me and I had always wanted to try out. First time to travel by train, plane I enjoyed the so much the day I forgot to get off the at Shipley station and remembered after reaching the final station in Leeds! , the buildings, the cars and people, lastly I liked the system of doing things in time.

We live on the same planet (earth) but see things differently. I remembered one day we passed under -ground and I asked Jean how they managed to develop to that level. She said that people in Europe plan for generations. This made me see that most Africans plan for today. Ignorance, poverty and diseases affect us so much. Lastly I want say my life changed for a better!

*Moses Kigosi, Uganda*

## Travellers Tales

### Visit to Vienna (Wien) in Austria

October 2008

I went to Vienna to attend a German course for three weeks last September and during that stay I had my first experience with Servas. As I rented an apartment I didn't need accommodation, but I wanted to meet people, speak German, get to know life in Vienna, exchange ideas and travel experiences. I met 5 people from Servas and I must say they were all really nice and helped to make my stay in Vienna really pleasant. I went to the cinema with Margit, met Conny for breakfast, went walking along the Danube canal with Michael. Kili was leaving on holiday in the following days, but she found time for meeting me and helping me address a list of must-do things and must-see places in Vienna. Heidi was a wonderful host: we went to the cinema, we visited the Freud museum and a photo exhibition, she introduced me to delicious Viennese desserts and she took me to the opera (with cheap tickets!), which was really a fantastic evening both for the show in itself, the beauty of the building and the elegance of the Viennese public. I hope I can stay in touch with some of them and perhaps meet them again in Vienna or Luxembourg.

*Laura Marinangeli, Belgium & Luxembourg*

### Travel report Malawi

Our primary purpose in visiting Malawi was for Hilary to spend two weeks working as a radiographer there, but we had read about its strong Servas contingent, and Demelza Benbow (coordinator) helped us to make the

necessary contact for Hilary's work. It was a wonderful start when hosts Betty Makamo and Tayani Banda joined forces to meet us at the airport. Later we stayed with the Benbow household in Blantyre and Fred Gibson in Limbe, and met other Servas members Mary Boloweza and Debora Sikoya during our day in Blantyre.

The bulk of our time was spent in a small part of Mulanje District, where Hilary was working, so we hardly scratched the surface



**Host Betty with Hilary**

of the country as a whole. But we will take back abiding memories of the market at Mulanje Mission, of the constant procession of women carrying buckets of water from boreholes, and of the massive bulk of Mulanje Mountain overlooking the plain below. Before we left we were able to spend two days at Lake Malawi, a refreshing break from the dusty heat that prevails at this time of year (the end of the dry season). We remember also many moments of friendship and kindness along the way, and especially the hospitality of Servas Malawi.

*Peter Nickol and Hilary Noakes, England*

### Italy - our first experience as a Servas guest

To celebrate my son's birthday (Caio, 20) we travelled to **Italy** and **Spain**. Thank God, he accepted to travel with me instead of making another backpacking trip with his college colleagues. Travelling through Italy, we got our first experience with Servas.

After sending several e-mails to Servas members in Italy without getting any replies, and my country coordinator advising me to keep trying, I decided to write to the regional coordinator in Lazio, Vittoria, who indicated me two hostesses. One of them was Pina, to whom I gave a call and hosted us in **Rome**. It was very nice to arrive in a foreign country and find a new friend waiting for us in the subway, to count on her hospitality and enjoy the good conversation, while we had dinner. We met Marcela, her daughter, who loves "Salvador da Bahia" (as they say), and plans to come back. We also stayed with Vittoria during two days in Rome.

While Caio and me spent the days walking through the city, stunned by the magnificence of Rome, Vittoria and Pina planned our visit to Italy and waited for us with dinner prepared. They were very kind with us, driving us to the train or subway station. We also met Cicina, another Servas' member, who drove us from Pina to Vittoria's place. We all together went out for dinner.

We also stayed in **Perugia**, a medieval city, with Maria, another friendly Servas' hostess indicated by Vittoria. We visited **Spolito** too. She taught me to make onion tortilla. In Venice, Enrico hosted us, who were indicated by Pina de Maio. It was very pleasant to be with Enrico and his friends and to taste *Spritz* (I never had *caipirinha*, but I believe *Spritz* is a stronger drink, although asking for a mild one, it was still very strong to me, who almost does not drink alcoholic beverages).

In summarize, we were surprised at how nicely we were hosted in Italy. It was rewarding to get to know the country, their people, their culture and the way of life. To me, it is an excellent way to make new friends and to travel to knowing the native people, thus improving the tolerance and understanding among us.

*Alvany Maria dos Santos Santiago, Hostess, Brazil*

### France, October 2008

Hi from Lux, we just got back from a FANTASTIC Servas trip to France. I don't think we have EVER eaten as well as we ate in France. The friendship and hospitality was once again absolutely magnificent!

*Minna-Maaria & Jarmo*

*Hosts from Servas Finland who moved to Luxembourg,*

*actually members of Servas Belgium & Luxembourg*

# California Dreamin' with Servas hosts: A Canadian's View.



San Diego hosts beat me again...

Lee took me to his favourite spots: Are these seals or sea lions?



I zipped past foggy San Francisco



Recovering after a loss...

Santa Cruz host, Isleen showed me the redwoods, this one was 'born before Christ.'



to Santa Rosa, where Servas host, Honora, took me on a tour of a museum dedicated to Charles Schulz creator of Snoopy, Charlie Brown and other Peanuts characters.



In LA, Don shows 'his' home -- "Greystone" film site since 1947 of: Spiderman III, Goldmember, X-men Batman, Bodyguard, Ghostbusters...



The coast is stunning north of Santa Cruz...



A friend, Posie, showed me her beautiful Marin County.

South of San Fran, hosts Mark & Joan bbq my 'last supper.'

My San Luis Obispo host, Ann, took me to an overly decorated restaurant and for a hike up a "mountain."



Without helpful Servas hosts I would have missed a lot.

Hwy 1: Everybody's gone surfin'



Hearst Mansion at San Simeon



I had lunch with, mushroom expert, Lee, whom I had stayed with in 1999 ...



A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO'LL SHARE HIS HOME WITH YOU

Thanks so much to all who did. Appreciatively, Michael J.

## Country Events - Sentierinsieme

### "Sentierinsieme"

/ Pathways together 2009

*Val d'Ossola (Italian Alps) 10-17 July*

After this year's successful Servas meeting at Aussoi, Sentierinsieme"/Pathway together will return next year in Italy in Piedmont: Ossola Valley (close to Simplon Pass, between Italy and Switzerland).

***In this occasion we will celebrate 60 years of Servas and 25 years of Sentierinsieme (1985 – 2009)!!***

Our appointment is for the **weekend 10<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2009**. After the weekend there will be **four-five days of trekking** for a limited number of people (max 50), divided in two groups, in the area of Valle Antigorio, Val Formazza, Alpe Veglia, Alpe Devero, near the Swiss border. Other people, -organized in a autonomous third group or free- can stay in valley visiting the different natural, historical and artistic attractions of this beautiful alpine area.

For the last two days, from Wednesday evening until Friday morning all the groups will be reunited together in the beautiful **Val Formazza** for the last "good-bye".

During the weekend -from Friday 10th in the afternoon- we will be at **Goglio**, a small locality in the little Val Devero, municipality of Baceno, (close to **Veglia-Devero Natural Park**) in an alpine hotel. This building can contain 90 people..

It's absolutely necessary to **book in advance**. The people who book for two full days will have the priority, as well as the participants in the trekking.

The daily cost for the week end (dinner, night, breakfast) is 35 Euro (plus 2 Euro for organization fees).

All the details and forms of booking will be directly communicated to those who will tell us -if possible by 31-12.2008- their availability to participate. Write with your name, address, telephone and e-mail, your intention (or not) to participate in the trekking, to:

Luigi Uslenghi,  
[uslenghi@fauser.it](mailto:uslenghi@fauser.it)  
Tel 0039 0321 402842

**The final limit of the booking date is 30-04-2009.**

After "Sentierinsieme" there's the possibility of staying with Servas families in the area.

We warmly invite you to join us: Ossola Valley -with its Alpine "attractions" - and Italy are waiting for you, as well as your old and new Servas friends.

*Luigi Uslenghi,, Italy*

### Ghana

My name is Yawa and I am the National Secretary for Ghana in West Africa. I have been getting Servas organised in Ghana for some years now. Yawa means girl born on Thursday. Sellaisse, my middle name, means answered prayer and my family name Ababio means reincarnated or back again.

We in Ghana are a very small Servas branch and many Servas members in other countries do not know that we exist. I have just received the host list for your country and as the National Secretary, I want to write to as many people as possible to say hello and also to say how nice it would be to hear from other Servas people.

I am a translator (English, French and Spanish) and I run a language centre ([www.edulinguaghana.com](http://www.edulinguaghana.com)) for the teaching of English to non-anglophones who come to our centre from outside of Ghana. The centre also teaches French and with time would add other languages. I give lectures on Ghanaian systems of belief and our different cultures, music and dance.

Our language centre provides a complete package of tuition, interactive sessions, lodging and sightseeing. I organise school children for sightseeing and informal interaction with children from other schools in England and some other countries. Maybe one day, we would come and meet school children in your town and learn many new things and maybe one day, you would come to Ghana or you could bring school groups to Ghana.

There are opportunities for volunteer work/gap year in teaching, language training, tourism, travel, hospitality, health care and journalism in different parts of the country. If you know anyone/ a group who would like to come to Ghana for excursions/sightseeing, or volunteer for the international experience, please let me know.

I am quite active in my local Baptist church and used to be an usher for many years. I help with the Residents Association in my neighbourhood of New Achimota.

Personally, I love travelling, making friends, talking, shopping, writing, reading. I love fashion and do PR work for some fashion houses here in Accra. I also love beads and making accessories for some of the clothes. Generally, I love life and want to live it to the full.

For now, I live with my parents (dad-retired banker 1934, mum 1934-retired teacher). We have 1 guest room, 2 couches and lots of space round the house. My mum loves to garden and we have a "mini-forest" in the house. My dad loves to listen to talk show on politics and the economy. I have 2 brothers who live in England.

Since Servas is about promoting friendship and the exchange of culture, it would be nice to exchange greetings and information about our lives and our cultures so that we can know more about each other.

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon and may friendship live in our hearts!

In peace,  
*Yawa Sellaisse ABABIO, National Secretary, Ghana*

## Servas at the UN, Declaration of Human Rights

### 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Current and Future

The Universal Declaration represented the first international recognition that human rights and fundamental freedoms are applicable to every person, everywhere. In this sense, the Universal Declaration is a landmark achievement in world history.

The preparatory work for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a remarkable. The text was drafted in two years, between January 1947, when the Commission on Human Rights first met to prepare an International Bill of Human Rights, and December 1948, when the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration. The eight-member of the drafting committee, chaired by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the former United States President, agreed on the central importance of affirming universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principles of non-discrimination, civil and political rights, as well as social, cultural and economic rights.

The Universal Declaration covers the range of human rights in 30 clear and concise articles. The first two articles lay the universal foundation of human rights: human beings are equal because of their shared essence of human dignity; human rights are universal and belong to all of humanity. The two articles assure that human rights are the birthright of everyone not as a privilege to be granted or denied.

Article 1 declares that "all human beings are born equal in dignity and rights. They should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." Article 2 recognizes the universal dignity of a life free from discrimination. "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

The first cluster of articles, 3 to 21, sets forth civil and political rights to which everyone is entitled. The right to life, liberty and personal security, recognized in Article 3, sets the base for all following political rights and civil liberties, including freedom from slavery, torture and arbitrary arrest, as well as the rights to a fair trial, free speech and free movement and privacy.

The second cluster of articles, 22 to 27, sets forth the economic, social and cultural rights to which all human beings are entitled. The cornerstone of these rights is Article 22, acknowledging that, as a member of society, everyone has the right to social security and is therefore entitled to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights "indispensable" for his or her dignity and free and full personal development. Five articles elaborate the rights necessary for the enjoyment of the fundamental right to social security, including economic rights related to work, fair remuneration and leisure,

social rights concerning an adequate standard of living for health, well-being and education, and the right to participate in the cultural life of the community.

The third and final cluster of articles, 28 to 30, provides a larger protective framework in which all human rights are to be universally enjoyed. Article 28 recognizes the right to a social and international order that enables the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Article 29 acknowledges that, along with rights, human beings also have obligations to the community which also enable them to develop their individual potential freely and fully. Article 30, finally, protects the interpretation of the articles of the Declaration from any outside interference contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It explicitly states that no State, group or person can claim, on the basis of the Declaration, to have the right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration.

Today, it continues to affect people's lives and inspire human rights activism and legislation all over the world. Today it is the best known and most cited human rights document in the world. The foundation of international human rights law, the Universal Declaration serves as a model for numerous international treaties and declarations.

This theme for 2008, "Dignity and justice for all of us," reinforces the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a commitment to universal dignity and justice. It is not a luxury or a wish-list. The UDHR and its core values, inherent human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality, apply to everyone, everywhere and always. Since its adoption in 1948, the Declaration has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for national and international efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

While we are entitled to our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of others and help make universal human rights a reality for all of us. In our efforts lies the power of the UDHR: it is a living document that will continue to inspire generations to come.

*Sent in by Noema Chaplin who is our representative at the United Nations in New York.*

*Servas is recognised as an NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation by the United Nations and has a right to attend a range of meetings at the UN.*

*This declaration of Human Rights embodies what Servas is about.*

*This year is its 60th anniversary.*

## On the Internet

Here is a network you may already know -- but if not, you may be interested? [[www.wiseearth.org](http://www.wiseearth.org)]

Its maps may also interest you?

You can search by people, topic, organization, etc.

When I skimmed the map, I saw for instance that Canada has over [6000 entries](#), including some good ones near my house. Shows power of Wiki.

*Gary Sealey, Canada*

And for Youth photos follow these links:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/servasyouth>

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?inbox/readmessage.php&t=1003472498131>

*Ömer Özkan, Turkey*

## A LETTER TO ALL SERVAS MEMBERS FROM AN EX PRESIDENT.

This is the first time I have entered Servas International [SI] debate since my term of office ended in 2001.

Servas is built on trust, love, friendship and understanding.

I was at a recent gathering of hosts in Wales [UK]. The conversation veered around to money and how we spend it and how we should spend it. Servas Britain collects about £10,000 annually, [£1=,\$1.75?]. About 500 hosts and 300 travellers contribute to this sum. We send about 20% to Servas International as a stamp tax. Many other Servas groups around the world collect similar amounts of money. Most of the money, I estimate over 75%, is spent on administration at present. The general assembly, held every 3 years, eats up over \$100,000, paid for by SI and member countries to sponsor delegates. Our host group asked me what benefits come from the GA as many similar organisations don't seem to need one. I found it hard to give a reply.

The group were very positive and wanted to spend the money on the original aims of Servas. They realise good administration comes at a price but felt that the whole organisation should be spending perhaps a third of its income on administration.

The group thought paying for travellers with low income, group peace travel and language exchange were just a few ideas of how we could spend hard earned cash. We all realise the Servas ship can only change course slowly, but, with our President and his team at the helm, this could be done without rocking the boat.

I was asked by the group to publicise this point of view. Space here is limited, but I can send you more details if you wish. **It is your money**

I WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS DISCUSSION, either as groups or individually, Please write to Chris Slader at [Slader1@aol.com](mailto:Slader1@aol.com)

*Yours sincerely, Chris Slader, Britain*

## SERVAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES - General Assembly - VENUES

*Following some queries, here is a list of the GAs held over the years.*

1952	Askov	Denmark
1953	Askov	Denmark
1954	Epe	Netherlands
1955	Schluchsee (Black Forest)	Germany
1958	Landeck (Tyrol)	Austria
1959	Osterwyk	Netherlands
1960	Ghent	Belgium
????		
1964	Paris	France
1965	Vienna	Austria
1966	Copenhagen	Denmark
1967	Zochova Hata (Nr. Bratislava)	Czechoslovakia
1968	Tokyo	Japan
1970	Vienna	Austria
1972	Wetzlar	Germany
1974	Arcegno	Switzerland
1976	Los Angeles	U.S.A.
1978	Elsonore	Denmark
1980	Anand Niketan Ashram	India
1983	Nahariya	Israel
1986	Rome	Italy
1989	Montreal	Canada
1992	Chedigny	France
1995	Marysville	Australia
1998	Antigua	Guatemala
2001	Nakon Nayok	Thailand
2004	Barcelona	Spain
2006	Latina	Italy

The 2001 GA in Thailand adopted a set of criteria for deciding where the Servas International conference would be held. The criteria are mentioned as:

1. Rotation (conferences should be held in different areas of the world in the course of time)
2. Health standards
3. Safety standards
4. Immigration (passports and visas)
5. Accessibility (travel to and from)
6. Adequate infrastructure (communications, roads, hospitals etc)
7. Feasibility study on costs
8. Sufficient local Servas people to help organize
9. Consider potential developing in the area
10. Adequate conference facilities

*Using these 10 requirements the positioning of the next GA is still up in the air. Cost of course is a major factor especially with the current upward trend in fuel prices which could put travel out of action for some.*

## An Indian festival of Good over Evil

It is festival time in India with full of festivity from September end onwards till December Xmas and New Year. A nice time to visit India and see the festivity and the colors here.

Today is the day of Vijayadashami the last day of the Dusserah festival which is celebrated all over India. This is the day when the good won over the evil and peace and happiness was restored back to humanity. This has significance to our great Hindu epic titled "Ramayana" where Ravana the evil demon was defeated by Rama the God and thereafter restored peace and happiness to the people who were disturbed by Ravana's evil deeds.

This happy day of Vijayadashami is celebrated in north by burning an effigy of Ravana and supported by firework display and followed by good dinner sweets and friendly greetings with friends and relatives. In South this is celebrated as Navarathri (nine nights) where in each household we have display of dolls and where all women invite their friends and relatives to homes and offer sweet and food and also share the vermilion powder (called kumkum in south, north and west, sindhur in east ). In the eastern part of India , Durga Puja is celebrated and these are displayed by clay models of deity and kept at various community centres. People greet each other in happiness and joy and offer sweet to others. In western part they celebrate Dandiya as a part of the Navarathri and Dusserah. Men and women , girls and boys all dance with small sticks striking with each other sticks as they dance along. These dances start in the evening and continue till early hours next morning.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Bijoya Greetings and Vijayadashami festive greetings to you and your family and may this bring peace prosperity and happiness to your households.

*L V Subramaniam, India*

.....and a Peace song composed by Mary Boloweza from Malawi at the Servas Britain AGM

### **PATSE MTENDERE NDI CHIDONDI (Give Peace and Love)**

Chorus:  
Patse Mtendere  
Patse Chikonde                    x 2

All:  
One world, One Love  
Peace and Understanding

One World, One Love  
We can make it happen

Back to Chorus, sing twice to the end.

In the September 2008 issue of Servas Monthly News I asked what was special about 21 September and 2 October.

This column has been designated to the answers that people would give. Note how it has been filled.

## Youth - Comments from Istanbul

### India

This is the first time I attended a SERVAS meeting outside India. I enjoyed meeting some good friends, especially my hosts dear Sercan Dugyan and Jaki Baruh. I thank the SERVAS hosts for giving me time for a few games, songs and talk.

I like SERVAS because, as I would like it to be, Servas is more a family than an organization. Even then, you may like to keep more time for discussing issues relating to the SERVAS set up, programs.

Congratulations & best wishes.

*Your brother., S.N. Subba RAO, Servas India*

### Italy

Just a few comments in response to your e-mail about Istanbul Youth Servas Conference. I enjoyed it a lot and I must say that it went beyond my expectations. Before going I was a bit doubtful because I thought it was reserved only to young people. In fact it was open to everybody and one of the participants turned 84 during the meeting. I enjoyed the relaxed, yet organized atmosphere and the possibility to share ideas with so many people from different countries.

Congratulations.

*Gabriella IACOVONI Servas Italy*

### Netherlands

The youth event was very well organized with lots of activities like cultural trips and workshops of Sufism, meditation sessions, sessions with Dr. Subba Roa and others. It was a memorable experience with friends from different backgrounds, different languages and different cultures with one common goal, and that is to promote peace.

I would like to make a suggestion regarding the schedule, it should be less tight, and within the prescribed time limits with time left for questions.

Hope to see you at the next conference.

Kind regards,

*Carla BUDJHAVAN. Servas Netherlands*

### Turkey

**For Peace...** I walked for to seek friend,  
I found everything  
I walked for to seek enemy,  
I found my doubt.

Thanks my friends for coming to Istanbul...

*Selçuk AÇIKALIN, Servas Turkey*

### Malaysia

Definitely fantastic!

This is the first youth conference I have attended since I joined SERVAS in 2007. It is really a great experience in another chapter of my life. Meeting friends around the world, learning languages, dances, history, arts and cultures of other countries (especially Turkey). Besides that, I believed that through understanding and interaction between people is the only way to give the world peace.

A thousand heartfelt thankyous to the Servas Turkey committee as you guys had put in a lot of effort to make this conference a success.

Cheers!!

*Sally LEE, Servas Malaysia*

### Egypt

It was my first time to share with Servas youth conference but really I had a big experience. It was amazing to live with all those people with different nationalities and different ages. The conference was great all of us got a big experience and all the goals were achieved. We talked about how we can make Servas more widespread and how we can attract the young people to join Servas and be a member also.

I would like to thank the Servas team in Turkey for organising the conference and hosting some of us, they did a great job.

*Amal ABD EL RAHMAN, Servas Egypt*

### Switzerland

The workshop I did was titled Meditation, but in fact we rather did a poetry/meditation/music evening. I brought some music from Arvo Pärt with me, a contemporary classical composer from Estonia. His music is very peaceful and really beautiful. So first we did some sitting meditation, then music and in between the music the participants read some of their favorite poems.

*Bettina Wyss, Servas Switzerland*

### Israel

I chaired a meeting which was a memorial for Bob Lutweiller. Many Servas members who knew him well over many years, contributed their thoughts... We were able to locate a video interview which was conducted with Bob several years ago. In this interview he outlined his philosophy of Servas and his hopes for Servas for future generations.

*Judy Shotten, Servas Israel*