



Servas Monthly News



April 2006

Latina Issue

WOW!

I had been very dubious about the eGA, had voiced my opinions on it a number of times and considered it a waste of time and money. However I went.

I returned with a completely different frame of mind. It was not a repeat of Barcelona. It was a great meeting of people out to get on well together and make constructive decisions. Saturday people were arriving, greeting each other, enjoying Amir's birthday cake, having pre-meeting meetings all with the aim to get it right. Day 0 set the tone of working together and enjoying each other's company. The meeting flowed on from this with 3 wonderful moderators keeping events going and ensuring that everybody had the right to contribute but did not overrun the allotted time by too much.

The structure of the meeting with a mix of workshops and more formal assembly worked well. The workshops gave everyone a chance to both listen and air their point of view. The workshops produced plenty of constructive ideas ready to go straight to the GA for voting. It was good that people were often ready to accept the work that had been done in the workshops thus cutting down the discussion time during the assembly meetings.

Elections went well and at the allotted time, although they did run over to the evening. The election results are given on the New Exco page. We now have a team ready to answer to the General Assembly and so the whole of Servas.

And there was social time for people to get together and discuss what they liked, dance the night away and on Thursday afternoon enjoy a tour round the local area. Just think 2000 years ago Roman soldiers were marching down the Via Appia that we were driving along.

Overall the discussions and results of discussions can be found on www.siexco.org. Please read these so that you are aware of what goes on as part of the running of Servas. So the pages on the eGA here will be mainly looking at the unrecorded parts, that is how people felt and where they are going next.

Comments please:

Would the people who were at the eGA but not yet sent their comments please do so. We want to share what went on with the rest of Servas. We are looking for your opinions, how you felt, how the results will be affecting what you and your country will be doing in the future.

Look forward to hearing from you all.

Thanks

A big thanks to everybody at the eGA for all their positive, constructive comments about Servas Monthly News and SI News. It was good to put faces to all those names I have been emailing. You are now much more real. I look forward to more constructive comments so that these newsletters contain what you want them to contain. The best way is to send articles yourselves.

A special thanks to Uwe Federer who puts stuff onto the website for me. He carefully explained to me some of the problems in this. From his comments I will be changing some of the layout of the newsletters to make them more website friendly. I am learning.

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Contact

We welcome articles coming to SI Monthly News. We do not guarantee that the article, or any part of it will be published. This depends on the theme for the month along with what other articles are 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 well get deleted before being read.

The postal address is:

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

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

eGA generates and shares meetings

at least it seemed to. We had already had notification of some meetings but the openness of all at the eGA was such that people wanted to share their country's meetings with others. Some of these on these two pages have come straight from the eGA bulletins. Please keep sending more in so that people know what is going on and where.

General Assembly, Denmark

The General Assembly of Servas Denmark will be on May 7 2006 You are all welcome to join the social gathering and meeting (in Danish) in the town of Odense. For the address and details see www.servas.dk.

Bi-National Meeting, Mexico/US

A bi-national meeting between Mexico and the US will be held:

on 4-5 June 2006 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Hotel, meals, registration and excursion cost \$220. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mary Jane Mikuriya - mikuriya@aol.com or Grant Barnes - gbarnesesq@aol.com.

Bienvenidos a Mexico.

Reunion Bi-Nacional Mexico/US

La reunion bi-nacional entre Mexico y USA Servas desarrollada los dias 4 - 6 de Junio del 2006 en Cuernanca, Mexoc.

El hotel, comidas, registracion y el costo de las excursiones sera de \$220.

Calaquier persona que quiera asistir debera contactara Mary Jane Mikuriya - mikuriya@aol.com or Grant Barnes - gbarnesesq@aol.com

Bienvenidos a Mexico.

Latin American Meeting

There will be a Latin American regional meeting in July 2007. This is the initiative of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

Details to follow later.

Servas Monthly Meeting, Belgium

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

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

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

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

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

www.visitbelgium.com

www.luxembourg.co.uk

www.belgique-tourisme.net

See you, *Rita Dessauvage*
National secretary Servas Belgium & Luxemburg

Get together in London, England

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.

National Conference, India

This invitation is open to all.

Dates: 31 Dec 06 - 01 Jan 07

Contact: Dr Ramesh Sharma

email: drrameshsharma@yahoo.com

Troya Meeting, Turkey

Servas Turkey welcomes all to their:

3rd Euro Asian Meeting

Dates: 16 - 20 August 2006

Place: Troya, Turkey

website: www.servas.org

More Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Servas Peace Group Belgium & Luxembourg'

Sunday, June 18, 2006

SERVAS MEGA PICNIC AT 1.00 pm & BREUGHEL WALK at 11.00 am

On the occasion of its first anniversary the *Servas Peace Group, Belgium* and Luxembourg invites you to a giant picnic: you can meet people, celebrate and definitely enjoy the summer sun.

Do you know that Servas Belgium & Luxembourg has more than 300 members?

This is the opportunity to meet, to learn to know each other, to enjoy sitting and eating together. A wide outdoor space is waiting for us, and a large indoor centre is available, as well, just in case :-)

We'll organise a walk for those who want: Breughel walk, about 2 hours and start at 11:00

To enhance the quality of our organisation, the 'Peace' working group will try and address each one of you to find out whether you feel like coming to our mega picnic, whether you will register for the Breughel walk, what you thought to bring for food, and finally, how you see SERVAS.

In the meantime you can block the date of **June 18** in your agenda, so you don't miss the occasion and the get-together...

Location for the celebration

Speelplein Begijnenborre
Bodegemstraat 113
1700 Dilbeek (near Brussels)

See you very soon,

The working group 'Peace' of SERVAS Belgium & Luxembourg

Julie Pesesse + 00 32 (0)477 81 90 82 or + 00 32 (0)2 218 54 54

Gido Van Den Ende + 00 32 (0)2 466 45 86 or + 00 (0)472 490 137 gido.vandenende@scarlet.be

Camping Weekend, Netherlands

Servas Netherlands is organizing a camping weekend: from 4 pm Friday, 15 September 2006

to 4 pm Sunday, 17 September 2006

in Zeewolde, province of Flevoland,

and would be very happy to welcome Servas members from neighbouring countries.

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

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

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

Wine, beer and soft drinks are at cost price.

Participation for the weekend

(including camping, meals and tourist tax):

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

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

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

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

Please register with:

. name of participant(s)

. date of birth

. male/female

. to reserve a place in the group tent (€7.50 per person)

. contact address (with e-mail)

Pay to:

C.C.M. Takken in Almere/The Netherlands

The BIC (=Bank Identification Code) for the ABN AMRO Bank in the Netherlands: ABNANL2A

IBAN number (= international bank account):

NL49 ABNA 0576 1178 89

Refund is possible until 31 august 2006.

Hopefully until the camping weekend!

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

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

Ineke Takken, coordinator Servas-camping weekend

phone + 31 36 5352389

e-mail address: itinolland@planet.nl

Languages - Italian

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 be accompanied by 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 **ninth** language is Italian

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 sister

This is my 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.

Zero

Uno

Due

Tre

Quattro

Cinque

Sei

Sette

Otto

Nove

Dieci

Venti

Trenta

Quaranta

Cinquanta

Sessanta

Settanta

Ottanta

Novanta

Cento

Mille

Mangi la carne?

Dove vivi?

Questa è mia sorella

Questo è mio fratello

Questa è mia madre

Questo è mio padre

Questo è mio figlio

Questa è mia figlia

Che musica ti piace?

Hai visitato la città?

Dove sono i negozi?

C'è un mercato?

Grazie dell'aiuto!

Peace

Hello

How are you

Goodbye

Be seeing you

Have a safe journey

Best wishes to your family.

Do come again

Please

Thank you

That's nothing

Where is the toilet?

Left

Right

Straight on

Behind you

Where do I sleep

I am vegetarian

Where is the nearest telephone?

Pace

Ciao!

Come stai?

Arrivederci! (Ciao!)

A presto!

Buon viaggio!

Tanti auguri alla tua famiglia!

Torna presto!

Prego

Grazie!

Di niente

Dov'è il bagno?

Sinistra

Destra

Sempre diritto

Dietro di te

Dove dormo?

Sono vegetariano

Dov'è il telefono più vicino?

eGA Comments

from Mario Bulando, Italy

After the closing of Latina General Assembly I keep many impressions that I would like to share with you:

- The joy and the involvement of all participants (delegates and observers) in spite of the long hours spent discussing 'important issues'.
- The pleasure of being together, of sharing ideas with the others, trying to find the best solutions to the several problems left open at Barcelona. The presuppositions weren't so good: it hadn't been easy to plan this General Assembly (through long discussions by mail), there seemed to be contrasting positions which would lead to confrontations and lengthy mediations. On the contrary everything ran smoothly in an open, frank and collaborative way.
- The great job made by the moderators was very helpful and we all learnt to work better together.
- The great job of those who worked in the former months organizing the agenda and the workshops. They have ploughed the field thus letting us sow well. I'm sure that from this Assembly all Servas will harvest good and rich fruit

From: Harley, Sweden

In the very few spare moments that I have had while attending this eGA, I have been reading a book about the problems of 'Global Warming'.

The Global Warming of the hearts of all present at the eGA has not been a problem. I have never met so many friendly people at the same place at the same time.

My thanks to you all.

From: Carla Budjhawan, Netherland

There were many topics that impressed me, but the topic of Dag Eirik and Siri on day zero was the most memorable one.

Open-minded, this covers all: peace, friendship, trust, transparency, democracy, justice and truthfulness. This is the best way to take away, preconceptions regarding other groups.

From: Geoff Maltby, Australia

Immediate Past President - Servas International

I am delighted to report that a most successful General Assembly was convened at Latina, Italy. This in large was due to the many members who each spent many hours in assisting EXCO in the planning arrangements and agenda timetable. Their dedicated involvement prior to the EGA and also those members who got involved 'onsite' at Latina ensured that the conference was going to be an efficient, satisfactory and rewarding experience for everyone.

My personal thanks also go to Anna Flammini, Mario Burlando and their team of volunteer helpers from Servas Italy who did such a magnificent job of work. My 'Vote of Thanks' letter can be read at:

[http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/GeneralAssembly - Vote of thanks](http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/GeneralAssembly-Voteofthanks)

In peace and friendship

From: Dag Eirik and Tora, Norway

You did a wonderful job, Pat, through the presentation of your conflict resolution model, and most of all in your role as moderator through the most difficult sessions. I am also quite sure that your presence was an important part of the work in creating a good and relaxed atmosphere! (And the same comments are of course to be said about "our own" moderators, Julie and Chris!)

And we really experienced that the atmosphere at the GA was good, which also was the aim with Day Zero. We think that this day created a background for the rest of the week, although I also think that many people came with a feeling that good communication was a condition for a successful GA, and that this was quite necessary for the whole organisation. We think that it is a good idea to spend one day prior to GAs in the future, i.e. to have a Day Zero!

More eGA Comments

From: Demelza Benbow National Secretary Malawi, Deputy Southern African Area Coord.

"A very big thank you to all those big Servas countries with swathes of travellers. WHY? Because your raised funds has enabled Servas International to sponsor my attendance at the Latina Extraordinary GA in Latina, Italy.....and I appreciated that, I needed the financial support to attend and loved being there.

The Italian team were total stars with superb organisation skills in the face of ever changing delegate demands. 'I'm bringing a baby.....now I want my own room.....can you find me somewhere to stay in Rome in the next hour Anna? etc etc.

The conference atmosphere was . . . creative, patient, frenetic, nurturing, inspiring, loving, learning, demanding, time-starved, warm, impatient, peaceful, frenetic, noisy - we were super busy, talking, singing, dancing, listening, typing minutes, translating, taking photos, doing workshops, drawing up motions, voting, eating, thinking, laughing and some of us managed to get sleep too!! So many nations in one small space - proving we can get on together just fine!. Brilliant!

From: Sercan DUYGAN, Servas Turkiye, N.S.

Sometimes you wish to do what you want to, but usually you have some resistances in your own. When you get succeed to fight with them finally you get to an end which was not a destiny.

that is why "Decisions designate your destiny."

Being in Italy was only a possibility, now I had more then ever in my hands which is a reality.

I love to enjoy, I will remember you all as in the first day starting with just a HELLO

From: Dr. David Espinoza,

Servas Honduras National Secretary

Greetings to everybody, from Honduras, Central America! It was my first participation in a General Assembly of Servas. There I could know but thoroughly the spirit of the organization and to make friendship with people of near and distant countries. I am medical doctor of general practice and I am twenty years old of working for poor people of my country. If somebody of those who read this **Servas Monthly News** could make **a bridge** among an organization that donates medicines to **Servas Honduras**, I could implement extra medical works in my country or other neighboring countries that need it, to name of **Servas International** and to document it with pictures.

Peace to everybody!

Report from Servas Switzerland /eAG, Latina

We travelled to Latina as a group of 3 Persons. Our delegate was Beatrix Mantel, the observers were Hilda Burer and Ursula Schaerli. We participated at the following workshops:

1. Membership group, Distant Voting Procedure, Exco + Governance
2. Development + Membership
3. Host list Issues

We are very thankful for the perfect organisation of this eAG and the good spirit that we felt strongly through all these day.

For two of us it was the first GA and we were impressed about the great efforts and accomplishments that were made to get along with each other in a peaceful way (Day 0!).

We look back to these 7 days with a proud feeling about being members of this great Servas family!!

Thank you to everyone

Ursula Schaerli

From: Cintia, Argentina N S

I have been Argentinean NS for just a bit longer than one year and have already had very strong and touching experiences:

- 2005: the organization of Patagonia 06, with a marvellous group of people around, especially, Pablo Chufeni and Paula Falaschi, both young and inspiring members of Servas Argentina.
- Jan 06: Patagonia Youth Meeting was a success and the opportunity for most of the Argentinean members participating to live a very deep Servas experience
- April 06: the eGA. My first one. 42 countries represented and only one will: to do the best for Servas.
- In different ways, considering each one's personality, culture and history, we worked hard, with a strong commitment.
- I felt particularly happy to meet again Marina from Brazil (I had known her in Patagonia 06) and Marcelo from Uruguay, making good bounds that will lead to an Area Meeting during 2007.
- I cannot pick a particular moment because I think every time deserved compliments, but I'd think of the times of work and those others of joy and friendship. And I would say that, when we had to be serious and focused in the responsibilities we, as delegates had assumed, we did it. And when we could relax, sing, laugh, joke, dance, play, etc., etc., we did it too!!! Those moments were so important and necessities as the others, and allowed us feel that we were not strangers but brothers and sisters.

So, thanks a lot to all the people that made this wonderful meeting to go on so well, and best luck and success for the new EXCO!!!

eGA Longer Comments

Expressions from Servas India

Servas India represented itself at the EGA by four representatives: Dr Ramesh Sharma (N S, Delegate), Pramod Kumar (HLC Servas India- WCG EGA), L V Subramanian (News Editor, Servas India, Audit Committee member), Abhay Shaha, observer. Servas India brings to this wonderful Servas world gathering its goodwill and greetings from all Indian host members.

Vedic value systems proclaim “Athithi Devo Bhava” meaning “Guest are representatives of God” and that they deserve respect and affection. These strong values become the strong edifice on which the Servas India spirit revolves. It is with this acceptance that each Servas host member treats the Servas traveller. India is a country having diverse cultures with unifying thoughts weaved with the five religions living harmoniously side by side respecting each other. From the adoration of the ancient values and culture to the development of technological advancements, India plays a major role in revealing the importance of humanitarian values to the world at large. These are the frontline presentations to the Servas traveller when he decides to visit India.

India also respects the Gandhian philosophy which upholds “Jai Jagat “ meaning celebrating Universal Fraternity (**Think globally - Work locally**). This also embodies the Global village concept depicting Vasudeva Kutumbhakam (Whole world is a village). This has driven us to break the barriers of difference and connect with global points thereby ushering in waves of success and development.

Servas India started its foundation in India in 1951 and has now completed 55 years of its functioning and spreading the goodwill and amity of Servas spirit all around India. The founder of Servas India is Shri Hari Vallabh Parikh (Bhaiji) who has done extensive work in spreading this wonderful spirit amongst the various states in India. Servas India has opened doors for more than 9000 Servas travellers who have enjoyed the Indian hospitality and have adapted various facets of the rich Indian culture.

Servas India takes this opportunity to thank Servas Italy for organising this wonderful EGA in a very planned and harmonious way. From the Day zero, happiness and satisfaction was conspicuous amongst all delegates. The election of Mr Pramod Kumar as General Secretary of the Servas International and Mr L V Subramanian as a member of the Audit Committee by the General Assembly has brought Servas India to the limelight, We are grateful to the General Assembly for having reposed confidence in us and we assure that we will uphold the democratic values and Trust which the GA has placed on Servas India.

Servas India takes honour to extend “Su Swagatham” (Respectful Welcome) and Namaste to all member groups for welcome to India, the venue of the ensuing GA and will do its best to make this a grand success.

The Role of the Secretariat at the EGA

I am very grateful to many people for the splendid work they did to make the EGA a success. In my view the people who worked before and during the meetings deserve great praise.

I had organized a staff of three women to work with me as the Secretariat, but many more people offered their help.

The official Secretariat was:

Laura Ragucci in charge of translations.

She asked **many members from Servas Argentina** and other countries to assist her translate all the documents into Spanish and French, working months before the EGA began.

Texts were translated into Spanish by **Ramiro Oliva** (Ar), **Alejandro Casin** (Ar), **Beatriz Giri** (Ar), **Mónica Bing** (Ur) and **Laura Ragucci herself** (Ar).

Text were translated into French by **Marcelina González** (Ar), **Violeta Viola** (Ar), **Karin Evrard** (Bel), **Michèle Lescot** (Bel), **Danièle Monfette** (Can), **Jean Seymour** (Eng) **Maria Gloria Borsa** (It) and **Fanny Bousquet** (Bel).

She asked a lawyer, **Dr. Nelida B. Verdejo** (Argentina), to help review the translations of legal documents for accuracy.

She brought **Alejandro Casin** to help her type word for word translations, of the entire conference, into Spanish. They were instantaneous translations beamed to the large screen.

She would like to thank **Rita Dessauvage**, Nat Sec of Servas Belg. for her help recruiting volunteer translators into French.

Marisa Contini in charge of the binders.

Though the binders arrived with many documents in them, there were many more to be inserted. **LV Subramanian** from India generously volunteered to assist us.

Vibeke Matorp in charge of the reception/help table
The table was staffed most of the conference.

Elena Paxia was hired to type the motions as they were stated, make changes as dictated by the delegates, type the key points to each motion and the vote count results. She was assisted by **Gary Sealey** and **Sylvia Krogh**

David Asher most generously volunteered to type the minutes as the conference proceeded. His excellent work was most appreciated.

All forms of the minutes can be seen on the website.

Marisa and Vibeke kept the Speaker's Chart from which the moderator's selected the next speaker.

In addition the secretariat helped by running copies of new documents culminating from the many workshops.

Vibeke folded and taped the namecards of the delegate's country

They checked lists of attendees.

We all answered a constant flow of questions to make the work of the delegates as efficient as possible.

We all stepped in to help the other as the need arose.

I can only thank these wonderful people for the hours and hours of work they did behind the scenes as well as during the meetings. But, I can never thank them enough.

Honora Clemens , retiring General Secretary 2004-2006

New Exco Info

New Exco are:

President	Gary Sealey	Canada
Vice pres.	Mary-Jane Mikuriya	U.S.A.
Gen. Sec.	Pramod Kumar	India
Treasurer	Ömer Özkam	Turkey
Host Sec.	Anna Flammini	Italy
Peace Sec.	Nandasena Amarasinghe	Sri Lanka



Anna, Ömer, Mary-Jane, Pramod, Nandasena, Gary

There were elections for a range of other posts. Hopefully in future issues there will be something about these different positions so that we can all know better how Servas runs.

From: SI Host List Coordinator

I will do my best to support and strengthen a team working approach and to enlarge the Buddy Projects already active, so that all the countries will be able to participate in Servas life in their own way.

I strongly believe in cooperation and I think that giving and receiving help is very important for all of us.

I intend to be in touch with all the people involved in host lists and I will appreciate sharing ideas and working together towards a common aim of worldwide peaceful communication and relationship .

In peace and friendship

Anna Flammini

From: Vice President

There was a wonderful, welcoming, open, friendly, cooperative spirit at the EGA in Latina, Italy. When I went Italy, I had no intention of running for office and somehow allowed myself to be persuaded to run for Vice President of EXCO. The primary role of the Vice President is to "be responsible for the development and strengthening of national Servas Groups."

Over my 29 years as a Servas member, I have become active in developing and strengthening Servas in Northern California. I have learned that face to face meetings of Servas members and like minded individuals have resulted in new friends, willing workers, and an active enthusiastic Servas organization.

We have monthly dinner meetings, in a church or warehouse, where 25 to 35 people come. When it is during the week we charge \$8 and ask members to bring the drinks. About 20% to 30% that attend are new to Servas. Servas sounds too good to be true. What is it that I am missing? Let me check out these Servas members. When Servas Meetings are on a weekend, we have potluck -- where each person brings a dish to share with others. Frequently there is a theme that is related to being a good host or traveler or we have speakers. Our latest presenters were Fullbright Fellows from Mauritania. In learning how they saw the USA, we learned about life in Mauritania.

Richard was a first time Servas Traveler going to Japan and arranged to have a Servas interview. We was amazed to learn that his men's choir colleague was his Servas Interviewer. They asked each other why neither had known about each other's interest in meeting people from other cultures through home visits. We discussed how could we change and encourage all members to tell friends, family, work colleagues, and their organizations about Servas. We all are now spokespersons for Servas. We even sponsor a Servas table at Study Abroad student Fairs and at Intercultural events.

Northern California has about 200 hosts, 200 travelers and 18 interviewers. We encourage all individuals who want to become more active to organize Servas Gatherings, provide translation services for other countries' newsletters, offer to speak about Servas and be sure to distribute our special Servas Business Cards, call a host who receives too few travelers, look around and see what you can do to bring Servas to life in your community. It is amazing how rewarding volunteering for Servas is.

I would like to hear from individuals who would like to get more involved with Servas and would like to know what skills/competencies you bring with your offer to volunteer for Servas. Please contact me at mikuriya@aol.com

Mary-Jane Mikuriya

E G A Summary in pix

These pictures are to give you a quick overview of how the eGA went.



A singing session to show teamwork



A little role play demonstration on all the things that could go wrong!



The voting system. Possibly voting on whether they should vote!



Presentation by the Youth Team - Ann and Pablo



The whole group photo - plenty of us



Workshop in progress – finance

Youth

The YOUTH at the GA.

Hello everybody.

Here I am again in Rosairo, Argentina, in front of my pc working on Servas Youth. I need to say that the last GA was, as always, a huge experience. The good will was on the air, that was so clear.

In Latina I had the chance to see old friends, to find new friendly faces, and also to know better and deeper some persons. Thanks to each one for giving me the chance to share that time with you.

About my personal concern in Servas, the "Youth" I need to say that the whole group there was so positive and supporting to me and to the "Youth Action Plan" that I returned to my house with a new commitment on Servas. As I told you there, we have a chance to do something important here.

The GA at Latina, found the time and the energy to discuss the "Youth Action Plan" and to vote on it. Being elected by the GA is a great honour, but is mostly a huge responsibility. So, I hope to do it properly. You know that when I need help I will shout. And if you want to help, just let me know.

The human network is going deeper and deeper after each meeting. I used every minute at Latina to speak with delegates, members, officers, guys and girls who are interested in doing something to improve this piece of land called Earth. And I am already sending e-mails and proposals to every one. Looking for ways to continue working and to "do" actions. Concrete actions to develop the youth position in Servas. So sooner or later you will receive an e-mail from me.

Thanks to all of you, and let's do it!

Pablo Chufeni, International Youth Coordinator.

Youth Co-ordinator for Belgium and Luxemburg

Our national group Servas Belgium & Luxemburg is pleased to announce you that we have a **YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Lien De Meulemeester

Lien is living in Ghent, has a lot of Servas experience, is 25 years old, is very dynamic and is full of enthusiasm and love for Servas. She speaks 5 languages, has lived for a while abroad and worked already as a volunteer for AFS. I'm sure her input will be very valuable for Servas Youth.

Warm Servas regards,

*Rita Dessauvage, NS Servas Belgium & Luxemburg
www.servas.be*

Youth Web Site

Help needed

Do you know any organisations that would be good for us?

We need youth-friendly/beneficial/peace organisations that we can link to your youth website.

The Servas Youth website was a very important goal for us to reach after the meeting in Barcelona. With a lot of effort and a great deal of help from Iain Snee of Servas Canada and Claudio Pacchiaga of Servas Italy, this website is now ready to receive your visit, praise, wonder and constructive comments. Go there, check it out and be dazzled!!

Contact. Pablo Chufeni - Argentina
email: pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

If you want more details about how young people/groups of young people from any country can be involved in the Servas Youth and family event in Britain in July 2007 please contact Ann Greenhough - dasher1949@aol.com