



# Servas Monthly News 28



November 2007

## Problem solving

*"One nation's problems can no longer be solved by itself completely. Universal responsibility is: feeling for other people's suffering as we feel for our own. It is the realisation that even our enemy is entirely motivated by the quest for happiness."*

*The Dalai Lama*

Problem solving was in my mind as I investigated my overheating car engine to find water squirting out of a pipe. This generated the next problem of not getting to work so phoning in the lessons for my students. Thinking of the projects they were doing I asked them to write about the problems they had encountered and how they solved them.

What do we mean by **problem**?

What do we mean by **solving**?

A **problem** is something that disrupts our routine. Something that needs to be changed in some way to allow us to continue.

**Solving** is that changing of the circumstances to remove the problem and allowing us to continue.

However what is a problem to one person may not have equal importance to another. The car was a big problem to me whereas the mechanic had it solved quite quickly. Setting the lessons was a minor problem to me but rather larger for the person having to administer them.

These are minor problems relative to the world.

**Servas** was created to try and help solve the global problem of fighting and help replace it with peace. Servas is working on the Dalai Lama's statement in that we are looking at the global context as part of our universal responsibility. We need to look at methods of solving the problems. We are doing this by getting people to work together and learn about each other. This issue shows the meetings people have had and are planning as a way of bringing people together in a peaceful way. We review how Gandhi tops the popularity charts. Our president Gary Sealey muses over some of the global problems and how we can get involved in solving them.

As Servas members we have an obligation to consider other people's needs, work together peacefully and help solve the problems.

## Country email addresses, concern

The standard email address for a Servas country is [.....@servas.org](mailto:.....@servas.org) eg: [britain@servas.org](mailto:britain@servas.org) for Britain. This is the way that many people learning about Servas will try to contact a country. As the main contact for Britain I get many emails coming through [britain@servas.org](mailto:britain@servas.org).

During this month I have been trying to make contact with every Servas country to find out their requests for SI News 2008. Over 1/3 of the countries have the [.....@servas.org](mailto:.....@servas.org) bouncing back to me. Many of these are emails that have been forwarded from the country address to an individual address, which has then failed. It would seem that people have given their email address for forwarding but have not changed it when they have changed their email addresses. Please sort this out.

We look for more Servas members but from the figures above it is possible that at least 1/3 of the enquiries will not bother as the addresses do not seem to exist. Each country, please check that your forwarding address is still valid. If not then contact [keylist@servas.org](mailto:keylist@servas.org) or [ict@servas.org](mailto:ict@servas.org) for help.

I am aware the there is a problem with an old Servas Britain website and address we are trying to sort this.

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## 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.

## Adieu à Renée Luneau of France

Renée Luneau from Montpellier died at sea off Madagascar on 07.11.2007 (details vague for the moment). She was very active in SERVAS FRANCE and took part in several international conferences and at Barcelona. Renée was well known to many SERVAS Travellers.

## Popularity of Gandhi

This came to me as a surprise and may surprise you too, but apparently, Mahatma Gandhi is the most popular political figure in US universities. See p 9 for the news item from today's Times of India.

*Pramod Kumar*

## USA - San Francisco Event

SERVAS END OF YEAR PARTY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007  
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**POTLUCK**

Zocalo Furniture Imports  
1508 Bancroft Street  
San Francisco

**No charge!**

Join us for our last gathering of this year, at our favorite site. Jeremy Sommer has invited us to meet at his company's dining room. This time we will all share in the preparation of dinner, to give Jeremy a break from cooking for all of us.

RSVP!

Please respond to this e-mail by Sunday, December 9. Let us know if you are coming, and what you would like to bring:

- 1) a meat or vegetarian dish (never enough!) for about 6-8 people, or
- 2) a salad or vegetable dish or
- 3) a dessert

...AND

Bring a beverage of your choice to share.

Questions: call Susan Ovington at 415-826-7598

We will have use of the oven, microwave or refrigerator to warm food or keep it cold.

**AGENDA: HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS -** remember a special dinner, celebration or event that was new to you; tell us about it.

## To Servas Malawi From Canada

Dear Servas Members,

I would like to send my warm love from Canada; *'The Lord is keeping me well, strong and happy'* - everyday of my life I wake up to take step ahead and share my travelling, voluntary participation, Servas Youth Conference experiences, which were held in the UK.

In October I flew from Heathrow to Toronto and spent 6 days with 4 hosts, then flew from there to Edmonton which has a time difference of 2 hours behind to get to Edmomton. I was amazed with the time differences across this very large country, in other provinces it is +8 hrs, +1hrs, +3hrs; to get to where I am. I am not optimistic that I will be able to see many of the friends I planned and hoped to see because to the time/travel difficulties – so many provinces are far from where I am living now. My visit to Canada was made possible by a travelling Servas Canadian couple which I met in Malawi and who also hosted and knew the Malawi national secretary and her family. As the days go on now I am travelling to Vancouver to meet the friends I met in Malawi through my HIV outreach work, because it seems some new Canadian Servas Members are willing to pay my air ticket to go there – lucky huh! Canada is a big country and flying is quickest. Here the weather is not suitable for me – well what I mean is that it is seriously COLD, but I am trying to cover myself up in the warmest clothes I have.

You should know that I have been talking whenever possible about my health experiences in Malawi; indeed it's a great pleasure to see people willing to listen to me. And when I see how very emotional people become on hearing my words it encourages me to share and speak more. Everyday I have had new plans to meet new Servas members - different people and talk and show thanks.

I end by wishing you good luck at the Southern African Regional meeting in Zambia in December. Remember me in your thoughtful prayers.

I hope I am doing a great job in putting Servas Malawi and Malawi, as a whole on the map many because many people really do not seem to know exactly where it is in the world.

Love and hugs, *Mary Boloweza, Malawi*

## 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.

### Annual Conference, India

Bangalore

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to our Annual Conference which we plan to hold in the South part of India at a beautiful, natural place, MITRA NIKETAN near Trivandrum in Kerala State. The conference will be for 3 days, dated 9, 10, 11 February 2008. Mitre Niketan will provide the accommodation and hospitality.

This is being organized by the Reception committee.

Tel ;0472 2882015 H,

Tel ;0472 2882045 Office, F 0471 2333614

Registration fee – Rs. 300 per person (Including hospitality & food)

Travellers Rs 500 per person (Including hospitality & food)

Please send your confirmation to Servas India office by 31st<sup>th</sup> December 2007 to the address below:

1 Dr Ramesh Sharma National Sec Servas India  
[servasindia@gmail.com](mailto:servasindia@gmail.com), [drrameshsharma@yahoo.com](mailto:drrameshsharma@yahoo.com)

2 LV Subramaniana Host Coordinator  
[subramanianlv@gmail.com](mailto:subramanianlv@gmail.com)

After due date Late fee Rs 100 up to 31 January 2008

*Dr Ramesh Sharma, N S Servas India*

### 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

### Germany - European meeting

see page 6

### Sentierinsieme - Pathway

### Together - Route de l'Amitié - Miteinander unterwegs

Servas members from the Alps area have been meeting each year at the beginning of summer for more than twenty years.

The next meeting will take place on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 in France at Aussois, which is situated in the Maurienne Valley. It will be followed by two treks (4 days).

If you want to get an invitation in the course of next winter, please contact:

François Marseille

26, rue Pierre Curie 26000 Valence - France

Or (easier!) send an e-mail to

[francoismarseille@free.fr](mailto:francoismarseille@free.fr)

For Information You can phone :

In German : Sabine Joertz 33 3 88 60 32 66

In Italian : Joëlle Chappuis 33 4 50 22 13 82

In French : François Marseille 33 4 75 56 13 67

In English : By email :

Myriam Michel [myriam.michel3@hotmail.fr](mailto:myriam.michel3@hotmail.fr)

### San Francisco, USA, ZOCALO - DECEMBER 11

Mark your calendar! We'll be back at our favourite San Francisco location on Tuesday, December 11. Since we always have a big crowd at this location, we are not asking Jeremy to cook for all of us. The dinner will be pot luck.  
see page 2

### 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

### EVENT: International'08 Servas Youth Meeting

CITY: Istanbul (Turkey)

DATE: Jul.18- Jul.25 2008

PLACE: SABANCI UNIVERSITY-TUZLA (Sabanci is the one of the best universities in Turkey, for more info:  
<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/>)

SYNOPSIS: Servas Youth Meeting, Istanbul will be the 3rd Youth Meeting after Patagonia and Yorkshire.

## Languages - greetings

Where ever you go in the world greetings are important. They show recognition of the person to whom you are speaking, and hopefully care for them as well as recognition. When living in Africa I noticed that greetings were much more important than in Europe. When starting a new job in Botswana, both my boss and the office boy (both African) decided that I would have to greet people properly. Mind you, I found out that if my greeting contained the magic words - 'would you like some chocolate cake' - then I was forgiven if I forgot all the other parts of the greeting!!

**Below are greetings that I have picked up from people and countries. (You are welcome to correct me!) They have all been done in the European script, although it would have been good if I could have included the local scripts. So the European script may have been done phonetically rather than accurate spelling.**

**At the bottom of the page are the countries listed in alphabetical order.**

**Can you match the greeting to the country? Note some countries have more than one greeting and some greetings fit more than one country.**

### Greetings

Bonjour		Pula		Guten Tag
	Hej		Ni Hao	
Asalema		Namaste		Hujambo
	Dumela		Bom dia	
God dag		Shalom		Salaam allah e kum
	Aslam waleycom		Moni	
Ahlan		Hello		Ahoj
	Barev		Salom	
Bore Da		Konnichiwa		Czesc
	Hei		Goeie Dag	
Namasten		Grüß Gott		Marhaba
	Jo Reggelt Kivanok		Ciao	
Hola		Meraba		Selam
	Marahaba		Good morning	

**Countries:** Armenia, Austria, Belgium (Flemish), Botswana, China (Mandarin), Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India (Hindi), India (Bangali), Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi (Chichewa), Nepal, Netherlands, Norway (Nynorsk), Poland, Portugal, Sierra Leone (Krio), Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Wales

## Host and Travel Reports

### Budapest... I could have spent a couple of days more....

End of June I spent a long weekend in Budapest with a lovely Servas Host. Of all the HU hosts I contacted by mail she was the only one who was available and who offered for me to come and spend some time with her. She carefully explained how I could get to her house (which is just outside the city) from the airport (there is a collective taxi service). I received a warm welcome upon my arrival in the evening.

The next day I enjoyed breakfast in the garden, went out to explore Budapest (there is a bus stop just across from her house, the bus takes you to a city square from where you have to catch another bus or trolley to the very city centre). In the evenings Maggy and I chatted away about life and our travels and adventures in Asia and elsewhere (she has tons of photo albums and travel books). As she was free on Sunday, she took me around to Obuda and then to Szentendre for a lovely visit and walk, we also had a typical Hungarian picnic lunch on the banks of the Danube river. It was a very interesting Sunday. She also showed me which Hungarian pastries to eat and where before leaving Budapest (I did and the Dobos torte is a must!).

The days went by very quickly, I had a nice time in Maggy's nice and quiet house (quite large with a guest bedroom). She is a lovely and caring Servas host. As far as Budapest is concerned it is a very nice city which has a lot to offer in terms of history, architecture and atmosphere etc.... I could easily have spent a couple of days more.

*Rose Vandepitte, Brussels, Belgium*

### Poland to Venezuela

My name is Ania and me and my friend Olga had this pleasure of meeting Elena and Florencio in Venezuela in the beginning of September. We are very grateful that they organized the meeting with Adilia and Victor and that we could stay in their apartment in Caraballeda. It helped us a lot!

Thank you as well Elena for offering us help with money. Finally we trusted the owner of Osprey Expedition from Caracas who changed the money.

As it was recommended we went to Henri Pitier NP, Chuao Playa Cepe and Choroni and it was beautiful! Thank you for your advice:) We visited Merida as well but in this time I lost my debit card which was very confusing. But the best thing in my opinion in Venezuela is Angel Falls and Gran Sabana-absolutely unique, beautiful and amazing!!!

*Ania and Olga, Poland*

### Travelling in Victoria/Australia - Part 1

**“When camping in the wild, a part of yourself is left behind.”**

Altogether I walked about 300 km and drove about 5 000 km through Victoria. I saw many wild animals, all sorts of plants, and landscapes of different kinds. I experienced different weather and temperatures (from frost up to 42 degrees C). I saw cleanliness everywhere, e.g. there were toilets even in the half-domestic wild. But above all was the friendliness and helpfulness of the people. The hosts mentioned below all belong to the Servas community.

#### **Sydney**

Coming from the airport I managed to find the key of the flat of my trustful and open-hearted host near the Harbour Bridge. During the next 2 days I had a stroll through the city, went into the botanical garden to have a look at the famous Wollemi tree (a tree believed to be extinct since long ago, but was found in the Blue Mountains about 10 years ago), got some information about buying a second-hand-car and finally purchased a bus ticket to Melbourne.

#### **Melbourne**

Arriving late at the bus station I was picked up by a very supportive host family. They introduced me to an environment-friendly organization and later helped me to find my hiking maps and a car-dealer from where I finally bought an old car with a back-buying-guarantee. After my long travel through Victoria I was invited again, could sell the car back to the same dealer and I had enough time which I spend in the botanical garden, before being brought to the airport.

#### **The Otways**

Driving from Melbourne I arrived at a campsite in Forest, a tiny village in the hills of the Otways. The following day I drove to Elizabeth Lake created some years ago by a landslide, to watch platypuses, but with no luck. Heavy rain all the following day, and I camped at a large lake near Colac. Next morning an unpleasant surprise forced me to call the RACV – the Auto Club of Victoria – with my mobile: the car battery had given up. But the RACV Mechanic had a surplus battery at hand which I bought. For the next 2 days I was invited by a friendly host family, who took me through the green forest of the Otways to a hidden beach where we had a stroll around a cabin. On the way next day to Portland a crown of one of my teeth got loose, but in the next township a helpful dentist immediately fixed it temporarily. Near Portland I camped in a forest camp where I met a few retired Australians living in mobile homes permanently. They indicated many similar forest campsites on my map.

*Gerhard Ondrej, April 2007, Belgium*

*to be continued ...*

## Country Reports

**Malawi** - welcome to the latest  
Servas



member  
Taron Benbow  
has recently joined  
the Servas  
Community in  
Malawi as the son  
of Demelza, the  
National Secretary

**Canada-USA-Mexico  
Servas Conference,  
20-22 July 2007,  
San Diego Zoo, Tijuana Orphanage,  
Folk Dancing, 3 Boards Meet,  
Servas Presentations**



Obviously a very active  
and wide ranging  
meeting.

Lots more photos can  
be obtained from the  
photographer.



**Germany** - European Servas  
Summer Meeting 2008

From **4 th to 9th July 2008** a European Servas Meeting following the tradition of the "Servas Summer University" will be held in the North of Germany near the border of Denmark and the Baltic Sea.

It is aimed at Servas-enthusiasts from all over Europe who are interested in experiencing Servas beyond the private host-traveller framework in the context of a larger group event. The summer university offers the opportunity of meeting people from different European countries, learning together and from each other, developing and sharing common talents and interests, discussing and debating a variety of issues. Participants of all ages are welcome. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult/parent.

### Where?

We will be hosted by the  
**International Education Centre  
Jugendhof Scheersberg in Quern**  
The centre is set in a quiet, rural environment,  
close to the beaches of the Baltic Sea.  
[www.scheersberg.de](http://www.scheersberg.de)

### Costs

For accommodation and full board for 5 days  
including excursions  
230,- € per person in double rooms  
shared rooms (3-4 beds): adults 192,- € youth  
Children under 8: 110,- €  
Registration with payment of deposit (120€p.p.) by  
**1 February 2008**

For further information check [www.servas-summer.eu](http://www.servas-summer.eu), **Information will be regularly updated .**

For registration forms and email contact: **servas-summer@gmx.net** For full details of the European meeting see Servas Monthly News October 2007.

*The organizers*

*Margret Kläser, Erika und Ric hard Cabassut*

### USA, S F NOVEMBER GATHERING:

On November 14 we had dinner at the International House on the UC Berkeley campus. We learned about UC's International Friendship Program that recruits day hosts for international students. About 10 Servas members signed up as hosts, and several of them had students as guests for Thanksgiving dinner. If you are interested in being a host in this program, more information will be available at the December 11 dinner.

## Servas at the UN, Comments

### UN, Global Warming, Cities, ..... Bikes

Fred Seiden of New York attended the UN conference on Global Warming as a representative from Servas along with Kim Jong-soo from Korea. He gave some comments about transport which he would like to share along with the comment: 'Yes, sure, if it will help get some folks out of their cars, busses, trains and onto two wheels.'

As a life long New York City resident, I remember taking the standard tour of the U.N. perhaps 30 years ago. Other than that, it was just a place I passed by on a bike once in a while, and never gave it a thought. Those three days at the Conference changed all that.

I don't mind mentioning that, with my two bikes here on East 7th Street, and with Mr. Kim Jong-soo staying as my SERVAS guest, we were the only two delegates (so far as I know) who traveled from our New York residences to the Conference without generating any CO2 emissions at all. For three and a half decades, I've gone about this city on two wheels, for the speed and convenience, for the exercise, for the savings in bus and subway fares not spent; it's only recently that I realized that the bike had also avoided contributing to global warming as well.

There's more to it than the U.N. Conference with Mr. Kim of Busan. I have two bikes, and routinely take SERVAS guests out to run around town, especially on the new coastal greenway around Manhattan. I've done this with Poles, Italians, Germans, Israelis, French, Australians, Spaniards, others. Just last week, an Israeli couple who have been in New York a dozen times took out my two bikes - they realized it gave them a completely different perspective on what Manhattan Island is.

SERVAS, or any, travelers, who go to new cities and take expensive guided bus tours are just isolating themselves from everyone else. I've biked around Dublin, Hamburg, Bonn, Berlin, Regensburg, Copenhagen, Mumbai (Bombay), Tokyo, Kyoto and, most recently, Chicago. Nothing compares with the independence, freedom and endless opportunities to stop and go that a bike offers, in addition to the non-use of fossil fuels in intracity travel. Every city (except possibly San Francisco) should copy the new municipal bike rental system just started in Paris, used by residents and visitors alike.

*Fred Seiden*

*(Le Touquet airfield, north France, also has a bike rental system for those of us arriving by air for our lunch. Ed.)*

### BAPU TOPS THE CHARTS

*from the Times of India, 01 Oct 2007*

**Gandhi an inspiration for youth across the world, Bhaskar Roy | TNN**

New Delhi: A recent poll on university campuses across the US put Mahatma Gandhi ahead of political figures anywhere in the world — the only man more popular than him among the student community, understandably, was Bill Gates.

A Berlin school was renamed after the Mahatma on demand of its students. A large number of US universities and colleges have of late introduced courses in Gandhism.

Gandhi Society at the University of Exeter offers T-shirts and trips to India. All this clearly is evidence of a raging Gandhi revival powered by the memory of a young Indian lawyer's passive resistance in South Africa a hundred years ago.

Indeed, the half-naked fakir of Churchill's imperial arrogance is back in fashion, sweeping away many of his iconic contemporaries off their pedestals in capturing popular imagination about a world without violence. Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday left for New York to address the UN General Assembly on October 2 which the world body has decided to observe as the international day of non-violence.

That day, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will flag off a Congress rally in the Capital to observe the satyagraha centenary.

What is unique about the current Gandhi craze is the evocation of Bapu by creative minds to spread his message at the mass level. "I am really happy to get a chance to be associated with the symbol of peace and compassion," said sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan at the launch of a new album Remembering Mahatma Gandhi earlier this week.

Before his recital at the Capital's Gandhi Memorial, along with his sons, Amaan and Ayaan, Khan talked about his choice of some of Gandhiji's favourite songs. "This album is my tribute to him on the occasion of non-violence day," he said.

A number of books on Gandhi has been brought out and old ones reprinted to meet the growing demand. Thomas Weber's Gandhi as Disciple and Mentor is among these titles.

What is interesting is the courage of filmmakers in capturing Gandhi for ordinary masses. If Richard Attenborough's celluloid epic had swayed audiences across the continents in the 1980s, three recent Bollywood films have sought to explore different aspects of the Mahatma's mystique.

After Jhanu Barua's Maine Gandhi Ko Nahi Maara and Sanjay Dutt-starrer Lage Raho Munna Bhai, a film by director Feroz Abbas Khan Gandhi My Father looks into the other side of the Mahatma's persona, his inadequacies as father to his children.

## Presidential musings on the world today and what can we do about it .....

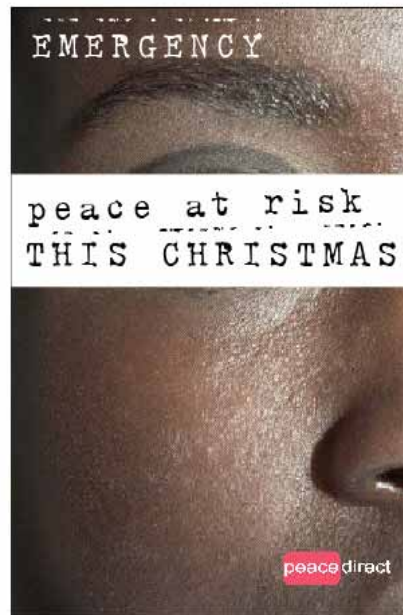
This week sees much current news on the Middle East and Asia peace and conflict, and on poverty in global regions, e.g.

- The King of Bhutan is starting a change process to a constitutional monarchy, and is committing the country to a gross National Happiness Index. It's in all the papers here.
- As well, the Peace Process in the Middle East is prominently featured.
- Many are expressing concern and despair about the waste of lives and resources in Iraq and Afghanistan, and damage to the world order.
- As well, I hear a new study in Philippines shows 20% poverty in the cities -- and a third of children under-nourished or hungry, with many of them stunted.
- This week's reports, too, relayed that "only" 25 MILLION people of Africa have HIV/AIDS -- a recalculation of the UN statistical base.
- To my shame, Canada persuaded Commonwealth countries to back off goals to reduce global warming and canceled further funding of Climate Change research.
- (A businessman in India likely a Nepalese migrant also called me and wrote me this week for Servas assistance in getting jobs in Iraq for impoverished army privates leaving the Nepalese army and Indian army.)

- **I'm wondering how Servas can relate to these developments in a helpful, peace-constructive way?**
- **Would it be useful to have Servas put some energy into the themes raised by these reports?**
- **How to build capacity, to mount Servas study/discussion leadership group(s) and bring report to triennial GA?**

*i.e. make a useful contribution to peace building?*

*Gary Sealey, Servas President*



Peace Direct emergency appeal booklets will be dropping through letterboxes at the end of November. [Email us](#) your address and we'll make sure you're on the list.

Keep up to date with Peace Direct through our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Myspace](#) pages.

And for all-month-long inspiration, [Insight on Conflict](#) is our online database of local peacebuilders across the globe.

This is just a small part of Practical Peace.

Practical Peace is a monthly email that can be sent to you: contact: [chris@peacedirect.org](mailto:chris@peacedirect.org)

Otherwise looked on [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) and follow the newsletter link. It has been sent there as well.

## Youth

### THE DARK SIDE OF DALESBRIDGE

By Rodolfo Alvarado Castañeda

When you travel with Servas, the principal treasure of your trip is the magic things that Servas families exchange with you. When you appreciate the details of your culture with the other culture you feed your spirit. Finally with this experience you grow up and appreciate more your country and society. Nobody knows exactly if in a one meeting, you would live a similar experience.

When you organize an event where there are people from a lot of countries, you are nervous about the reactions. In Dalesbridge were people from Italy, Spain, Poland, France, India, Australia, Nigeria, Germany, Czech Republic, Malawi, Uganda, Singapore, South Korea, Argentina, Venezuela, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Mexico, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and sure Great Britain.

In the beginning, the British committee looked so nervous, but day by day they were doing an excellent event where everybody enjoy each moment.

Servas Britain designed an ambitious program for a special week. They planned activities where:

- Servas Youth and Families showed and discussed about global topics where Servas have to participate.
- Servas Youth and Family had a close relation.
- Servas Youth and Families exchanged culture for each member in the conference.
- Servas Youth and Families knew beautiful places around the area of Dalesbridge.

Each activity was a successful. You could feel the energy of each member in any activity. The general enthusiasm was fundamental to create a magic week. In Dalesbridge, I never saw a sad or anger face. There were a few differences in the ideas of each member, but each difference fed our knowledge about other culture and ourselves.

#### ***But what is the dark side of Dalesbridge?***

The dark side was the place where the light could not be bright and you could appreciate any detail of this place. It is a special place where you could use your eyes and you had to open your other senses. You had to open your heart and feel.

In Dalesbridge, two dark special places existed.

#### ***The first one was the place where:***

- Ann Greenhough, Jean Seymour, David Asher, Chris and Marian Slader, Brian and Anne Heagney, Jane Giffould, and all the British team worked so hard for bring to each Servas member in Dalesbridge a special event in a peaceful and wonderful place.
- Ann and David gave all their time, resources and their home to try to do the best event as possible. I could see that they really enjoyed the event and their smiles showed the satisfaction.

- Ann and Pablo Chufeni worked together like coordinators of Servas Youth. They worked creatively to develop a special division inside Servas. They worked so hard to find funds; create relations with other organizations to exchange knowledge about social problems; find this beautiful place for the conference; coordinate all the Servas members, before, in and after the conference; and enjoy all the activities with everybody.

I was so grateful, because they gave me the opportunity to know this special place of Dalesbridge.



***The second place was where the light couldn't enter directly. It was other singular place where:***

- A special feeling appeared each night in Dalesbridge. This feeling gave us enough energy to express our freedom. An incomprehensible feeling opened all our communication channels; everybody wanted to express feelings, ideas, life. Each Servas member, not only youth, wanted to exchange and enjoy the experience of know other cultures, other ways to express similar ideas.
- Magic ballrooms appeared any night. The dance was a very important kind of expression. We appreciated all kind of movements with any kind of music. Magic and energetic movements that involved you and produced you involuntary reactions.
- You could see different faces, but you only felt the same energy. You felt the enthusiasm and optimism of each people in the conference.
- A small kitchen was converted in a particular room. A room, where we could talk about everything and nothing at the same time. We exchanged special confidence expressing a lot of different ideas. We played like a child when we tried to talk about serious social problems. We created a second family only for a week...

Dalesbridge has been an only one experience. It was a fast moment, but we enjoyed it extremely. I can say that everybody smiled and cried in Dalesbridge and we are looking for the opportunity to see us again the next year in Turkey.

Thank you all that people that make it possible.