



Servas Monthly News 30



January 2008

Individual versus group work or Should we involve others just for the sake of it?

In Britain we have the expression 'If you want a job doing then do it yourself'. That is you can be sure of it being done if you do it yourself but you cannot be sure it will be done if someone else says they will do it. A discussion with a committee member of elsewhere generated the feeling that we both preferred to get on and where possible do things ourselves. An example of this is packing envelopes with newsletters to send out to members, in common with many committees. We agreed the committee concerned frowned on those who got on and packed as it was felt that others should be involved. Hence a work party should do the packing. My colleague and I wondered whether more time and energy was spent on getting the work party together than actually getting on and doing the packing.

This discussion was in my head as I reviewed SI News 2008. I had a good time schedule for it and in December I was a week ahead of myself. I was pleased because it is very tight to get SI News to the printer and then out around the world. People have said that I should have a team to work on it. Listening to previous editors I decided working on my own was preferable where possible. In a way all Servas members are part of the team as they provide the articles for me. National Secretaries are part of the team in providing numbers required. To go with this, because I am not that fluent in French and have negligible Spanish, I have a team of translators for each language. So I do have a number of teams doing those parts of the work that I cannot do. However I have found I do spend an inordinate amount of time chasing up team members. I chase up articles that have been promised, but not materialised. I chase up translators who have not kept to the time schedule. I chase up Nat Secs who have not provided the numbers. Yet these are jobs I cannot do myself. And these are the ones that I am involving out of necessity rather than for the sake of involving them. Should I involve more just for the sake of it?

In Servas should we get on with the job or make sure that we involve others?

SI NEWS 2008

SI News 2008 is now at the printer. I have taken the numbers given to me by each country that has replied. Unfortunately not every country has replied.

During March I will be sending copies round the world to the given contact in each country. This means that they will arrive sometime between March and June. **Every member whether host or traveller has a right to have a paper copy.** If you do not get one then you need to contact your National Secretary and ask why you have not received it.

Servas in Paraguay: a comment from a New Zealander traveler

I live in New Zealand . I am very pleased to say that we were treated like royalty by the Asuncion members! They all made us feel very much at home and we experienced much more of Paraguay than we expected because of their combined efforts. What a great bunch! We will certainly be recommending them as wonderful hosts.

Somehow they made the language barrier disappear, though Victor Hugo was a huge help of course! Paraguay may be poor in its governance, but it is certainly rich in its people, and we feel sure they will win out in the end.

Juliet Leigh (julietleigh@ihug.co.nz)

Contents: 2007

1. Editorial
2. News - Editor warning, Canada meeting
3. Meetings - Istanbul, Germany, France, UK
4. Meeting Reports - Africa, Youth
5. Country Reports - Belgium
6. Comments - Bob Lutweiler
7. German - Israeli Youth Exchange
8. Peace - Walnut tree, Peace Sec
9. Youth - Pablo report Part 1
10. Peace, Forgiveness and Celebrations

Contact

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

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

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

News

Warning

Editor's term of office due to expire in 2009 at the G A.

This is a call for a new editor.

This is to alert people to the editor's office falling vacant at the GA in 2009. I will have done 2 terms of office after which it is obligatory to stand down.

Hence there will be the need for a new editor for SI News and Servas Monthly News.

People should start thinking about it now. It may be 18 months away but time can move very quickly.

I will get written up the work schedule as I have seen it. For each editor it is different dependent on how they work. So this will be the schedule that I have found worked for me.

It is a job which is both exhilarating and frustrating; it has a very large work load concentrated over December to March for the SI News and at the end of each month for the Monthly News. At times it makes one wonder if it is worthwhile and then a small country in Africa will congratulate me on a good job and it is suddenly more than worthwhile.

English as a first language is preferable or excellent written and spoken English such as by people who use it regularly along with enough understanding of French and Spanish to be able to check the translations.

Those who are interested should contact me through newsletter@servas.org

Servas Canada board meeting

Servas Canada held a two-day face-to-face board meeting in Cambridge, Ontario (near Toronto) in November 2007. Because Canada is such a large country, these face-to-face board meetings are only held every two to three years. The other regular board meetings are handled by teleconference (with photos of each other to remind us of exactly who we are talking to!). We use non-board members to chair and take minutes, and are very fortunate to have such capable volunteers in these roles! Gary Sealey, SI President, also attended the whole meeting as an observer.

Two new board members were added to the board, including a young person, Sarena, as our Youth Coordinator. This brings our board to it's maximum size of nine members. Significant decisions at the meeting included acceptance in principle of Servas Canada constitution changes (which include elections and terms of office), approval of the budget, signing of 'oaths of office' by all Board members, approval of consent and privacy letters to be signed by all hosts and travellers, and increased traveller fees with the increase to be donated to SI/DFC. Michael hosted the meeting in his 3 x 6 m. living room, and prepared the many tasty meals and snacks. Everyone stayed at Michael's home or with nearby hosts. The board dined and chatted with local hosts on Saturday and Toronto hosts on Sunday.

See picture below for the board members.



From left standing: Graham [neutral moderator], Elizabeth [Treasurer], Julie [Assistant NS], Sylvia [Peace Sec.], John [observer], Claude [new Board member], Michele [observer], Lesley [Newsletter Ed.], Norm [minute-taker]. From left, seated: Gary [SI pres.], Penny [NS.], Sarena [new, Youth Rep.], Sandy [Host List Coordinator], Michael [Board member and host of the meeting].

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

2009 - Youth in Oz

MORE INFO: www.servasyouth.org

CONTACT: pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

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.

Click on this web link

http://servasyouth.org/newsstuff/index.php?con=true&con_cod=00095

to find out all the information about:

International '08 Servas Youth Meeting

CITY: Istanbul (Turkey)

DATE: Jul.18- Jul.25 2008

PLACE: SABANCI UNIVERSITY-TUZLA

for more info on university:

<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/>

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

MAIN THEME: "Servas Dream Life"

Each day will have a concept to follow and activities to go with the concept.

MORE INFO: www.servasyouth.org

CONTACT: pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

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

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

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 5th and 6th 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

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

Germany - European meeting,

For full details of the European meeting see Servas Monthly News October 2007.

**International Education Centre Jugendhof
Scheersberg in Quern, near Baltic Sea
4 th to 9th July 2008**

servas-summer@gmx.net

Margret Kläser, Erika und Richard Cabassut

For further information check

www.servas-summer.eu

Meeting Reports

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AREA CONFERENCE IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA, AFRICA

Getting to the conference was a bit of a hassle – late-leaving buses, long journeys, arriving late – money-exchange-stamps-in- passport hassle, but we, the Super-Malawi-Team overcame the odds. We were well organised, with our Demelza-prepared delegate folders of tourist info, A3 photo-sheets, Servas Agreement, Traveller Letter-of-Introduction's, camera and new T-shirts. We looked good – we felt good!

The atmosphere was very friendly and welcoming and people came from the UK, Japan, Congo-Brazzaville, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana & Uganda. We were amiably accommodated by our Zambian hosts and we were hectic with conference business from day 1! We, as a team tried hard to be 'active' and involved in everything (as encouraged by Demelza) and Chris got voted into the position of Youth Coordinator and for the whole of the Southern Africa Area! Clever! ☺

We made a colourful tourist display on Malawi which generated interest and we felt proud to be Servas Malawi. Food was great and we got to visit the enormous Victoria Falls – which was really wow and the Zoo with its injured white rhino.

Sadly we didn't have a lot of time to stay for the close of the conference – we had far to travel 2000km! and we all had work to get back for! (I had my nursing Diploma graduation in Lilongwe!)

I thought it was a well organised event and I am really pleased I had the chance to go. I met new people and made new friends. We would all, I am sure like to thank Sheldon for organising it, Servas Zambia for hosting us all so well and Demelza for encouraging us to attend and represent our country and giving us funds to do so – which we hope she'll get refunded back from the Southern African Area.

If you ever get the chance to go, take it, it's FUN!

By Exton MTANDE, Malawi



SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT

Settle, Yorkshire, UK July 28th – August 4th

I was the super 'travel-with-children' dad and went with Pâschwa, Lèmorah and Sichelha from Africa to Yorkshire, North England for this very special Servas Youth Event.

Travelling by train from Cornwall for ten hours was tiring and I had to wait for 30 minutes to catch the train to Settle. It's amazing how people can pick you out as Servas. Maybe it's the 'look' or the demeanour. Within ten minutes of waiting at Leeds station platform we had made contact and friends with 3 Servas people also on route to Settle; from Turkey, Italy, and Belgium.

On arriving everyone made us welcome and we moved into our bunk accommodation the next morning. Our little room had 2 bunk beds and a small toilet/shower. All 6 of us squashed in, Pâsch and Lèm sharing, me and Sichelha sharing and my nieces Catherine and Lisa who joined us from Lancaster for a few days. We were about 100 people in total from all over the world. People camped, bunked or stayed in the posh house.

The first 'real' day was hectic and took some organising, trying to introduce everybody, play ice breakers, and get a working format together.

Eventually each day was divided into Youth Group meetings, Music activities, Childrens' activities run by the families and volunteers, trips out for swimming, hiking, caving and even some shopping.

Mary Boloweza was there representing Malawi and was very busy as she was one of the main organisers of the music and singing group, led by the amazing sponsored rep. from Venezuela. There were a number of youth especially selected and sponsored by SI to attend the event from Venezuela, Turkey, Mexico, and Uganda. Mary (who was sponsored by Servas Great Britain due to its special link with Malawi) gave a heartfelt talk on HIV and its impact in Malawi from a very personal point of view. Many of the audience hugged Mary afterwards - she made a lasting impression on them.

Several highlights included;

- * Open air swimming in 'cold' water (*can you believe they said the water was heated?*)
- * The girls cooking and painting.
- * Paschwa and me caving through water!
- * Walking over the limestone cliffs.
- * Listening to some great and moving presentations that opened our minds.
- * Hanging out with people of all different nationalities.
- * Managing to read the latest and last Harry Potter book when the kids were asleep ☺.

The children were great hits with everyone. It was a great atmosphere all week - everyone sang, danced and chatted together, sharing ideas and philosophies of life.

The idea of a youth and family event was a great success and I would recommend a trip to Turkey for next year's event. It was a lot of work for the organisers, who deserve a massive thank you from Servas International, because I think it was well worth the effort!

By Gordon Benbow, Malawi

Country Reports - Belgium

Servas Belgium & Luxembourg Annual Servas Dinner January 2008

Piazza Italia...in the heart of Brussels ...in the middle of the winter....it's cold outside...but inside the atmosphere is warm...incredible how 80 Servas members, hosts and travellers as well joined us, didn't want to miss the annual dinner, a tradition since 2003

On every meeting we have some new faces, new members or members for many years who come over for the first time. This is great and gives energy to go on!

Our members are travelling all over the world from north to south and from east to west. I think there aren't a lot of Servas countries that haven't been visited by one of them...You could listen to amazing stories about the hospitality of Servas hosts in so many countries, about new friendships but unfortunately also stories of disappointment not finding hosts, about mails that bounce back, phone numbers that are not correct etc ...Hosts in Zambia, India, Japan, South America, Taiwan, Canada, USA, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Israel, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Senegal..., almost all the European countries, neighbouring countries or countries further away and last but not least hosts in their own country have been visited.

Sharing Servas experiences strengthen the ties of friendship and are very important for all of us.

We can only hope that more travellers will visit our small countries in the heart of Europe!
A warm welcome is guaranteed!

"Buddy Project" ...New Servas Countries

For Servas Belgium & Luxemburg the "Buddy Project" of Servas International is a reality. During the last years we printed and sent out the host lists of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Kyrgyzstan. We supported the Youth Meeting in Yorkshire '07 and the African Area Meeting in Zambia in December 2007 This year we will give support to some other countries.

New Servas Countries: Congo-Brazzaville & Cameroon

In **Congo-Brazzaville** Servas never existed. With a young enthusiastic and motivated person Titan Serge Ondon living in Brazzaville I established Servas in this country, there are 12 members.

Now they are looking forward to receive travellers. Great if you would be the first one!

congo-brazzaville@servas.org

For many years Servas was no more active in **Cameroon**. When Etienne Mumble heard about Servas from a Canadian Hospitality Club member he wanted to re-establish Servas in his country. We realised it and now 13 members are expecting you and many others!

cameroon@servas.org

Every Servas meeting opens your eyes and changes your view on the world.

Servas that's you and me and 15000 others!

Rita Dessauvage, NS Servas Belgium & Luxembourg

www.servas.be belgium@servas.org



Servas Belgium & Luxembourg Annual Servas Dinner January 2008

and here is a pictorial record of what was going on.....

Comments

Informing the Members:

Gary, visiting here, brings me news that they have just instituted Electronic Distant Voting, but thus can only have value unless the people voting have all the information, which at present they don't. Here is a list of issues that we need articles on for informed votes:

The basic issues are those that effect the long range development of Servas International, which will affect whether it is a travel organization, concerned with financing its travels, or an organization concerned with growth and will finance efforts in other directions.

Servas International has an enormous potential to promote social and peace awakening and we need to put more thought and effort into how to do this and get more leadership that has a long-range vision. Unfortunately Servas has been come to be known as a hospitality system and not a peace-education system. The future of Servas can be saved by reawakening this earlier vision. Unless we do this, Servas will be seen by the public as little more than a low-cost hospitality network.

When I started Servas the vision was to create an international network that had strong social concerns, including individuals who were actually doing something practical about them. That is one reason *Servas Internationale* became a key player in the organization of the first national committees. *Servas Internationale* is an organization that was started during WWI to persuade governments that had military training to offer constructive projects to young men that didn't want to involve in military. It started in just a few places, but quickly grew until today its branches and sympathetic programs don't call themselves *Service Civile Internationale (SCI)*. It started out with young men but quickly expanded with women and older people who were sympathetic with their efforts. First was to break down class differences between the poor and middle-class, and build a sense of community and social progress. The people who joined these work-camps, almost all of them naturally envisioned a more classless society, caring for all. Another aspect of the *SCI* program was to include in one camp people pf many ethnic backgrounds and different countries in order to build bridges of solidarity between them. The camps primarily were led by people who believed there was a good alternative to war. In India, the work-camps, most of which inspired by Gandhian ideals, believed they can work for an alternate social order based on peace and understanding. Servas International has the potential of spreading this ideal to many corners of the world.

Gary encouraged me to write this article and he has helped in wording it and encouraged me as well to submit it to SI News.

Bob Lutweiler

(Typed by Heather Mason, Bob's administrative secretary)

A small link that leads on.....

Dear Friends:

Today I just saw a small link and checked it. Later then I wish to write some to you all...

We can only live the life looking for forward, but if we wish to understand what has happened we need to look back. This is a combination...

I have shared 2 links with my friends in Turkey, after sharing I received a new link which I think It will be good to watch and listen by you all.

It was in 1945 Hiroshima (Japan) is bombed.

This is the most inconceivable and heartless thing I heard and has an effect on thousands of people. The other part of this effect is for now and for the future. Japanese people know and feel these more then us I think. Also a lot of human being feels this sad story inside themselves. This is the feeling for past and now...

One of these person who is the pilot on this plane became a world citizen after his deep annoyance with taking part in this operation... www.worldcitizen.org

When Einstein heard the bombs his answer was "Oh, My god.." later then he focused on peace and all the time against using these kinds of Nuclear military products.

Einstein is the professor who discovered much about atom and pilot is one who just pressed one button. There are lots of people who participate in this operation.

What I wish to do is to show you the history of this REALITY and to ask you to look forward to future for creating a better study with in your life... Which will have a positive effect on human beings..

We can, so be the change...

The first link is the camera simulation of bomb from the plane to Hiroshima ...
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JGu_2h5Co&eurl=http://www.tvnet.tv.tr/detay.asp?c=4&i=60467&Hiro%C5%9Fima/nas%C4%B1/vuruldu/Video

The other one is the pictures after the bomb...
<http://www.milliyet.com.tr/content/galeri/yeni/goster.asp?prm=0.533424&id=1&galeriid=2710#galeriStart>

The last one is a song that was written by turkish poet Nazým Hikmet and singer is a Turkish girl for Hiroshima.(sabi thanks for forwarding)
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=MmD-QpyYdhk>

With love and peace.
Sercan Duygan, Turkey
"Excursionist Dreamer"
Dream Just Dream

German-Israeli Youth exchange

Foreword

The German-Israeli youth exchanges have evolved over the past few decades become a prominent focus of the international exchange relations of Germany and Israel. The governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the state of Israel want through the promotion of German-Israeli youth exchanges help to the younger generation of both countries to get to know each other's people. At the same time, they want the dialogue between the young people as a major part of the process of understanding between the two peoples intensify. The youth exchange feels this issue in a special way.

The awareness among German and Israeli youth in the present is - in the context of past and the future - a continuing challenge that can only be tackled jointly. We hope that common rules will also play a central role.

I. Objectives

International youth work promotes the willingness of young people to take responsibility in society to develop a better and deeper knowledge of other people, of its political and social situation, his country, its history and its culture to attain. It promotes the ability to common action.

The meeting of young people from Germany and Israel is an essential part of the international youth work of the two countries and thus contributes to the common efforts to understanding between peoples. Standing objectives of the German-Israeli youth exchanges are therefore in a special way to know each other, understanding, intercultural learning and joint action.

II. Participants in exchange programs

1. Young people aged up to 26 years (with special priority). It can be up to two accompanying adults are encouraged, in justified cases, exceptions are allowed.

III. Programming

A. *programs with young people gem. Section III. A*

1. **Match programs in Israel**, where possible, should include:
 - o Visit to Jerusalem
 - o Visit to Yad Vashem, or Lochamei Hagetaot with German accompaniment, it is strongly recommended that in the further course of the meeting a joint interview about;
 - o Briefing and discussion on the history and the self-understanding of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, with special emphasis on the Nazi tyranny
 - o Learning about different regions and ways of life in Israel
 - o Visit a museum and the memorial of Massada
 - o At least a two-day seminar on political, social or environmental issues in Israel
 - o Meetings and discussions with Jewish and Arab counterparts
 - o Israeli stay in host families
 - o Participation in cultural events and youth activities
 - o Discussion of the current problems in Israel, including the situation in the Middle East
 - o Trade talks on issues of youth policy and youth work in Israel
 - o Evaluation talks within the group and with the program partners.
2. **Match programs in Germany**, where possible, should include:
 - o Discussions or working days on lessons learned from the period of Nazi tyranny to draw, and the attendant adult special relationship between the Jewish and the German people
 - o Joint visit, especially from concentration camps or memorials to the Nazi anti-Semitism and terror. It is strongly recommended that in the course of the meeting a joint interview;
 - o Visit sites of Jewish history and culture in Germany, where possible contact with a Jewish community
 - o At least a two-day seminar on political, social and ecological problems in today's Germany
 - o Visit and talks according to the trade interests of the guests (such as industry, agriculture, youth and social services, education, arts sites)
 - o Participation in cultural events and youth activities
 - o Stay in German host families
 - o Information on the political unification process in Europe and on the particular situation in relation to Germany, Eastern Europe
 - o Trade talks on issues of youth policy and youth work in Germany
 - o Evaluation talks within the group and with the program partners.

Markus Kappenburger

Peace

Lessons from the Walnut Tree – an article published in our local newspaper.

By Usha Jesudan – The Hindu dated 11th January Friday 2008

Sheer violence always takes us by surprise. But we need the violator with courage and make peace.

In the gardens of the Dominican Priory at Tallaght, (Dublin) where I attended a consultation held by the World Council of Churches for the Healing of Memories, stood an old, gnarled walnut tree. Walnut trees were introduced to Ireland in about 1760. This particular tree called the Maelruan tree, captivated me with its huge, canopy-like branches. It wasn't just a beautiful tree, it was a tree with a story.

We had just been listening to and talking about lives that were destroyed by violence caused by the trampling of human rights, oppression, and war. Often, the destructions were caused by meaningless violence over which the victims had no control. A bomb going off in the middle of the street; a child stepping on a landmine; a young man disappearing suddenly because of his political beliefs; families being murdered because they were of a different ethnic group. We heard of the rape and murder of young women.

It was sad listening to stories of such violence.

We also heard how when after the conflict, men, women and children put themselves through the pain of remembrance and gave the violence they had experienced a name, and voiced it loudly so that others could hear it, it helped them to begin the healing process within them. It was possible sometimes to look the violator in the face and say, "Look, this is what you did to me. This is how inhuman you were." We heard too how when people did this, they often saw their violators not as powerful, brutal, evil men with diabolic weapons, but as weak, ignorant, pathetic men. In many cases, the victims did find it possible to forgive, be reconciled with their violator and be healed of their anger and pain, though the scars of the violence like lost limbs, health, or the loss of families remained.

Making Peace: The Walnut tree was a living reminder that all of creation needs reconciliation and healing from violence. In 1797, this tree was sliced when lightning struck it during a fearful storm. Branches fell far apart and some parts of the shattered tree appeared to wither and die. Then over a period of time, it seemed as if the broken tree faced Nature, which with all its fearful violence had tried to destroy it. The tree despite the pain of being severed into pieces, refused to give into the violence and just die. The different parts of the tree made peace with the earth where they had fallen and slowly began to take root. Little twigs began to appear;

then fresh new, leaves and finally the fruit. People picked the fruit and found it sweeter than before and marveled at it.

How, like the walnut tree, many of our lives are. We too are suddenly struck by violence- whether it is disease or the death of a loved one; or through the destruction caused by thoughtless everyday verbal and emotional violence – whatever form it may take, the sheer violence takes us by surprise. For a while, we are unable to make sense of it; neither do we have the desire or energy to rebuild our lives. But when we face our violator with courage, reconcile and make peace, like the walnut tree, we too get a new life through faith. The flowers and fruit that we bear may not be the same as before, but they will be sweeter and with a lovelier fragrance. Those who taste our fruit, which may be in the form of kindness, compassion, empathy or a commitment to work to end violence and suffering, will truly marvel at the new life that has given birth from violence.

Message from the Peace Sec.

Dear Servas colleagues.

Since 2007 May I have been trying to establish a Servas Peace Network where our Servas family could join hands to help who seek our help and awareness. As per my view, peace is not only nonviolence. Peace has a broad spectrum. Some have various ideologies on peace. This is why the Noble Peace award was given to Prof. Yunus of Bangladesh (2006) for his efforts in poverty alleviation through Grameen Bank (micro financing) and Mr. Al Gore the U.S Vice President was awarded the Nobel Peace price (2007) for his efforts in prevention of Global Warming. Let us at least do something this year (2008) to establish this Peace Network. I wish to share your ideas. Please respond

In Peace,

Nandee, Peace Secretary, Servas International

For Peace direct



here is the website link:

http://servas.org/practicalpeace/Practical_Peace_2008_01.html

Youth

- Servas Youth Actions - Part 1 (more next month)

- **Music for Peace CD**



- **26 peace songs** from all around the world to promote Servas ideals.
- Was distributed at the **North American Conference '07**, **Yorkshire'07** and the **South American Meeting '07**.
- This project did not request any Servas financial support. Only received personal donations.
- **Interested?** a copy/ info/comments? Reach me and let me know.

- **Distant voting**

- For the first time Servas will have a **Distant Voting** process and Servas Youth has presented a motion.
- The voting will focus on "Budget" for the next year 2008, and on the Auditor's Report for 2004. **Servas Youth is asking for a proper budget to follow the action plan approved in Latina'06.**
- We do hope to count with your support !!!



- **ServasYouth.org**



- See all the info available on **servasyouth.org**
- Thanks to the ICT and others for their help.
- We are **looking for volunteers** to upload info and **financial support** to develop the site and make it more attractive. This is now our primary need. Let us know if **you can help !!!**
- **Create a link** to servasyouth.org from your national website

Pablo Chufeni
Servas International Youth Coordinator
pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

Peace, Forgiveness, Celebrations

Dear Friend,

First of all I would like to give best compliments on *NEW YEAR 2008*, wishing, healthy & Peaceful New Year.

We celebrated

* 15th September - **Paryushan and Ganesh Festival** - These ten days long festivals are celebrated in Jainism and Hinduism respectively. Each day of Paryushana stands for different values such as Truth, Non-Violence etc. **The final day stands for Forgiveness.** In our life we come across many people and do many things. Sometimes we commit mistakes and hurt others feelings. **Let me take the opportunity** to request for **your forgiveness** if in any way I have hurt your feelings. This day is thus a way of freeing oneself from the burden of hatred, because we never know when life ends. Burdenless end is precious.

* 2nd May. - ***Buddha Pornima*** preached Eternal peace.

* 15th Aug. - ***Independence day***

* 20th Aug. - ***Parsi New Year***

* 2nd Oct - Birth of ***Mahatma Gandhi*** apostle of Peace & Non- violence of last Millennium

* In Oct. - Our Jewish friends celebrated ***New Year & birth of Our earth.***

* 10th Oct. - ***“Servas Day”.***

* 14th Oct . - All our Muslim friends celebrated ***Ramadan Id .***

* 9th Nov. – Four days of lovely fireworks & king of Hindu festival & nirvana (Enlightenment) of lord ***MAHAVEERA*** that is ***“DIwali”.***

* 24th Nov. - ***Gurunanak Jayanti.***

* 25th Dec. - People of the world celebrated ***Christmas*** in the name of Jesus Christ who preached **Love & Forgiveness.**

* 1st Jan. - Much of the world celebrated ***New Year.***

* 26th Jan. - We Indians the largest democracy in the world are celebrating ***Republic Day.***

As every religion and every part of each Society believes in living with Peace & Harmony, Truth & Happiness.

I wish you all the best for New Year 2008. With Peace, Love & Metta

WE EVERY BODY SHOULD TRY TO MAKE OUR HEARTS GLOBLIZE.

ABHAY, SUNITA, Vipul and Anuj SHAHA

INDIA