



Servas Monthly News 45



April 2009

Better late than never

..... better never late.

I know Servas Monthly News is a week late. Other commitments including Servas Britain AGM held me up. However perhaps planning needs to be thought about. The commitments and the AGM were foreseen.

Planning is very much at the forefront at the moment with Exco and Argentina hard at work sorting out the GA 2009. This is a major event and naturally is quite a financial burden on the system. Note in a previous issue some people were querying the need for such a major event due to the financial requirements.

As part of the planning there are the nominations for the different posts. If you do not take an active part in the nominations and subsequent elections, then you cannot complain if you do not like what you get.

Key list is part of planning, please read about it in the next column and make sure your country is up to date.

And for a farewell see page 2 for India.

Urgent - nominations

The GA 2009 is rapidly approaching, Nominations are needed for all posts. There needs to be choice for the posts. It should not be that only one person stands and so gets in. In fact is this even fair? Perhaps someone unsuitable stands, is not opposed, gets in and then cannot do the job. Which is worse, an empty post or one filled by someone incompetent? Just this point was being discussed on a non-Servas committee the other night. We felt that a vacant post was better than one filled with someone who could not do the job. For more detail contact: nomination@servas.org

Those standing for a post must be nominated by either the National Secretary or 5 Servas members. It is important that nominees know exactly what is required for the post. Hence they should ask for the details.

Note the post of **Editor for SI News** is up for grabs. The nominee must have excellent English, French or Spanish with some working knowledge of the other languages. The person must have access to good quality IT and be IT literate. All the work is done on the computer. The person should have 24/7 access to the internet with broadband. All articles are sent by email, some have very large attachments. The person must have the equivalent of 4 months time available during a year to do SI News hard copy and Monthly News. December is essential for editing SI News and Feb/Mar for posting it. The person must have access to reasonable price good quality printing and postage for hard copy. This is an unpaid post. The only facilities provided are excellent French and Spanish translation teams who are contactable by internet.

For full details contact: newsletter@servas.org

Key list changes

It is essential that the keylist is kept up to date.

What is the key list?

It is the list of contacts for each country which is kept on the Servas website. It is only accessible by nominated people and is kept secure with passwords.

The contacts are usually the National Secretary and two other committee members. The main contact does not have to be the National Secretary but can be one of the other contacts.

Why have a key list?

The keylist is there to provide quick and easy access to main people in each country. eg: to find out how many copies of SI News are needed I find the contacts from the keylist.

Why should the keylist be kept up to date?

If the key list is kept up to date then the countries can be kept up to date with what is going on. If the keylist is not up to date then the country misses out on information and many people waste a lot of time trying to find contacts. eg: some countries will not be getting SI News because the keylist was not up to date and I could find no contact.

How is the key list kept up to date?

It is the job of the National Secretary or the main contact to keep the key list up to date. It is possible to do the changes themselves or to contact either Rita Dessauvage or the Dolphin team to do it. emails:

Rita: rita.dessauvage@telenet.be

Dolphin: dolphin.team@servas.org

eg: on standing down as main contact for Servas Britain I immediately contacted Rita to help do the changes.

Please keep the key list up to date.

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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 or jgiffould@aol.com

Please make sure Servas: Monthly News is in the subject heading. Otherwise it may get deleted before being read.

News

Farewell to: Founder of 'SERVAS INDIA' Mr Hari Vallabh Parikh

To all Servas Members,

It is a sad news for all of us. Founder of 'SERVAS INDIA' Mr Hari Vallabh Parikh passed on 11th April 2009, at the age of 85 who served Servas & International Servas for more than 50 years .

He was not only Servas founder in India but a true Gandhian who led all his life for the society specially in tribal area in and around "Rangapur Kawant" in Gujarat. He was pioneer initiator of "LOK ADALAT" (Open Court) which became a successful model in solving problems at local level.

I first met Bhaiji in 1993 and became SERVAS member. It opened our doors Internationally and international doors opened for us. Like our family thousands of families broadened their mind-set through Bhaiji's vision and inspiration.

Myself, Mr Pradeep Joshi (Coordinator Maharashtra), Mr Anand Raje Shirke, Anuj (my son) went to see Bhaiji on the 10th of April after travelling for 12 hours from Pune to Vadodara. For 2 hours , we sat with him, communicated, interacted with him, in the presence of local Servas members Mr Girish Raval & Kantibhai Patel.



It was fortunate for us & Servas that we could meet him and receive his blessings a day before he left all of us.

I wish his soul rest in peace. Let us continue to strengthen his dream of Servas India and for peace in society.

Abhay Shaha, Baramati, Dist Pune, Maharashtra, India

Servas - a light in the dark Video on Youtube

Dear Servas India friends,
(am inserting this as relevant to all. JG ed.)

I'm writing about a very good Servas video on Youtube. This is about an interview that Bob Lutweiler gave shortly before he died. It was recorded by: Seishiro JAY TOMIOKA, a Servas member from Japan I met in Delhi. Seishiro JAY TOMIOKA & his father(also a very senior Servas member from Japan) .They had been to Vadodara to meet Bhaiji in June 2008 . JAY is an excellent photographer. He recorded the video, the interview between BOB LUTWEILER & his father. This video can be seen on:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkNMTiR-gFQ>

The title is SERVAS - A light in the Dark . Bob is very critical of the current Servas organisation.

If the link does not work well then one can search for SERVAS - A light in the Dark on youtube.

The video is worth a see.

Gurdev Singh, India

Swine Flu warning

In response to concern raised by the National Secretary of Servas Mexico and pursuant to a request by members of the U.S. Servas Board of Directors to notify our membership about what has been called "swine flu," and after reviewing other proposed language, I proposed to the office team send the following text to our members, both hosts and travelers:

"Because the spread of the Swine Flu virus (now officially called H1N1 Influenza A) is being monitored as a possible pandemic, and because it has now been identified in the U.S. as well as at least eight other countries, we remind our members -- both hosts and travelers, as well as travelers coming from outside the U.S. -- to consider the risk of transmission and, using your best judgment, to take reasonable and necessary precautions when you host and travel to avoid not only being exposed yourself but also inadvertently passing on the virus unintentionally. See <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/content/SwineFluUS.aspx> (updated daily).

"At this time, the World Health Organization (WHO) is currently "not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the Influenza A(H1N1) virus. Limiting travel and imposing travel restrictions would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global community." However, hosts and travelers can monitor the WHO's evolving advice at: <http://www.who.int/en/> (updated daily).

"We hope that this information will be helpful to you in deciding on hosting and traveling in this precautionary time.

"In peace, The U.S. Servas team"

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Regular meetings

Around the world there are regular, often monthly meetings of Servas people. Here are some of them. If you want your meeting on the list them please send it to newsletter@servas.org alternately to have it on the main site contact Renée at reneegendron@hotmail.com

Country	Place	Day/time	Contact
Australia	Mawson Club, Canberra	Third Thursday, alternate months	australia@servas.org
Australia	The Carringbush, Melbourne	First Weds, alternate months	australia@servas.org
Belgium	Piazza Italia, Brussels	Last Tues of month, 18:00	belgium@servas.org
Brazil	Fran's Café, São Paulo Ave. Paulista, 358 metro: Brigadeiro (green line – exit Carlos Sampaio – direction: centre)	2nd Sunday of month - from 16:00 to 18:00	brazil@servas.org
Britain	Pontefract Castle, London	First Monday of Month, 18.30	info@servasbritain.org
Costa Rica	Gran Via Café, San Jose	Alternate months	costarica@servas.org
France	Grand Café de la Soierie, Lyon	First Thurs of month, 20.00	france@servas.org
France	Le Vieux Chatelet, Paris	Second Tues of month, 19:00	france@servas.org
Germany	variable Hamburg	Third Tuesday of month, quarterly	treffen-hamburg@servas.de
Germany	Mainz, variable	First Monday of month, variable	treffen-mainz@servas.de
India	Bangalore	monthly	servasindia@gmail.com
Mexico	Sahuaro's Coffee Mexico City	First Monday of month, 19:00	mexico@servas.org
Portugal	Café d'Alma Lounge, Lisbon	Last Weds of month, 18:00	portugal@servas.org
Scotland	Elephant House, Edinburgh	Last Thurs of month, 18:00	britain@servas.org
Spain	A la Gorra, Madrid	First Friday of month, 20:00	bbc17926@gmail.com
Spain	Barcelona	Last Friday of month, 20:000	cpisabel@gmail.com
USA	San Francisco, variable	variable	sfservas@yahoo.com

To find more meetings both regular and occasional go to www.servas.org and follow the events links.

60th Anniversary events 2009

More and more events are appearing for the 60th Anniversary celebrations. Some are here. As for the regular meetings, look on the website to see what is happening and for fuller details.

Country	Place and detail	Day/time	Contact
France	all host homes to be visited	all year	france@servas.org
Korea	see page 2, Dec 08 for details	See p2, Dec 08 for details	korea@servas.org
Belgium & Lux	Leuven for All, 5 city meeting	03 May	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
Italy	Val d'Ossola, for Sentierinsieme	10 - 17 July	uslenghi@fauser.it
Belgium & Lux	Transborder cycling, Péruwelz	June	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
Switzerland	Wintertur, Biel-Bienne	4 July, 12 September	switzerland@servas.org
Denmark	Helsingør (see p 4 for detail)	4 - 8 August	info@servas.dk
Argentina	Mare del Plata, for GA	5 - 12 September	siexco@googlegroups.com
Belgium & Lux	Ardennes, weekend	October	jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be
India	Goa	10 - 16 October	india@servas.org

If your country has a meeting that you would like to add to the list then send the details to newsletter@servas.org

Welcome to Palau

Palau is a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean as a part of Micronesia. It is to the north of Irian Djaya and east of the Philippines. It is part of the US Trust Territory.

Palau now has a Servas host, Pierrette, who would enjoy hosting you when you visit the island. The following pictures are from Palau to help entice you to visit the island.

1. World War 2 relics



4. Monkeys are a real problem totaling 5000 or more but cannot be hunted due to endangered status



5. Everyone just loves these crabs for eating, they are all over the streets every full moon so that is when everyone is out collecting them.



2. Beach house ANGAUR

6. My friend Marla (who lived in the beach house) inside the ABAI which is where the body of the high chief



would be viewed before the burial.

3. inside beach house



7. Steve in entrance of ABAI. He & Marla were the caretakers for the beach house.

Country Reports - Colombia, India, Britain

Colombia "Encuentro Latinoamericano" at Villa de Leyva 05-11 April 2009

COLOMBIA ... is GREAT and SAFE, don't worry!

It's always a pleasure to be on a Servas meeting in Latin America where friendship is a reality and not only a word without content.

The week before the meeting we stayed in Bogota. The first day we assisted at the funeral of Jaime Albert Romero's father, (Jaime is the national secretary of Colombia) and even in those sad circumstances Jaime found the time to meet us and to continue with the preparations of the meeting. Thank you Jaime! Thanks also to Fanny and Octavio our hosts and good friends with whom we had a very interesting and varied program.

One week later at the meeting in Villa de Leyva we met friends of almost all countries of South America and of Mexico. Gary Sealy, SI president and Javier an indigenous Arhuaco of Sierra Nevada were among the participants.



We had a charged agenda but were happy to be together to contribute to the future of Servas. The last day we moved to the national park of Iguaque with an overnight stay in the mountains. The scenery and the mountain view was fabulous. After the visit to the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá we had to say goodbye to our friends.



However with some of the group we spent the following week in colourful Cartagena, we had the impression to enter in another world...

COLOMBIA...the only risk is wanting to stay!

Thank you Servas Colombia for organizing the meeting, for your warm heart, your hospitality and your friendship!

Rita Dessauvage NS Servas Belgium & Luxemburg

NB: Follow this link for the meeting report: [villadleyva abr 09](#)

The Servas India get together

This was held on 12th April at Chinna Swamy Cricket Stadium, Bangalore

The program started with garlanding our chief guest and chief speaker and their introduction. A brief introduction of all the members present was narrated.

The dinner was arranged by Mr S S Rajesh, the producer of the TV serials.

Mr Rao is working in the peace missions for more than 25 years in many countries all over the world. He shared his views and said that SERVAS is doing a very good work. He has assured of lending a helping hand to register SERVAS India with UN.

Mr Mahesh Joshi expressed our travelling experience in Europe and other countries. He said that in recent times - media has become a stronger instrument to motivate the people. He said that it can also play a key role in developing SERVAS.

SERVAS India has started organising monthly get together at Bangalore from March 1st, 2009. Although the attendance of current members is very poor, new members are attending, which is good achievement. Though this time also we discussed ways about increasing the membership and improving the participation of SERVAS members in events. With this respect Sushma Jaiswal wants to invite all the people personally to her residence in May 2009. Tentatively she has fixed 10th May 2009 for lunch. She will send an invitation to all.

We are grateful to Mr. S S Rajesh for arranging such a lavish dinner.

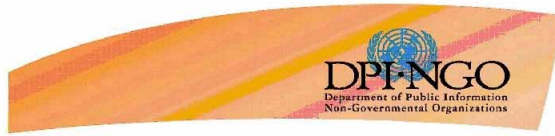
Some changes in Servas Britain

Servas Britain held their 2009 AGM at Dalesbridge in Yorkshire over the bank holiday weekend of 1 - 4 May 2009.

They used this time to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Servas. To do this they invited a guest speaker, Bruce Kent of CND to join them for the weekend. More detail will be given in the May issue of Servas Monthly News.

As part of the AGM 2 committee members were standing down due to end of term of office. Marian the excellent minute taker was replaced by Bob from Scotland. Jane, the long standing treasurer, was replaced by Ken from London. Both Bob and Ken are known for their committed work with Servas. In addition Brian has taken over from Jane as main keylist contact in answering emails about potential members via the www.servas.org site. So if you email britain@servas.org expect to get an answer from Brian rather than Jane.

Servas at the UN, Comments



ANNOUNCEMENT

DPI-NGO
Department of Public Information
Non-Governmental Organizations

30 April 2009

Dear NGO Representative,

You are cordially invited to participate at the 62nd Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), which will be held in Mexico City, Mexico at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from **Wednesday, 9 September to Friday, 11 September 2009**. This is the second time that the Conference will take place outside the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Conference: *For Peace and Development: Disarm Now! / Desarme Ahora! Trabajemos por la Paz y el Desarrollo!* is being organized in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the Government of Mexico and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs.

The Conference aims to highlight effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to the advancement of disarmament and peace, and as a result promote sustainable development. It will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences between the diverse experts and organizations operating in the field of disarmament and peace. It will also provide a valuable network-building opportunity. In addition to representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations, grassroots constituencies, the UN System and Member States, representatives of the media, academia, the private sector and other institutions will also be present. The Conference will provide various opportunities to engage participants in sharing experiences and articulating perspectives on how to enhance their activities in the name of promotion of peace and development including roundtable panel discussions and break-out sessions, interactive dialogues, workshops, caucuses and other activities. Background documents and information on the programme will be available on the Conference website.

NGOs associated with DPI, in consultative status with ECOSOC, accredited to the Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Mexican Government are invited to register for the Conference. Please extend this invitation to members and staff of your organizations, including youth and grassroots representatives. Please note that we must limit the number of participants from any one organization to **no more than three persons + one youth** (youth according to the UN would be between the ages of 15 to 24).

All participants are required to register for the Conference regardless if they have a UN Grounds pass. The registration will be available online at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection beginning 1 June 2009. The deadline for registration is 1 August 2009 to ensure timely receipt of your confirmation letter and a special invitation to all events. Please note that no registration will be accepted after 1 August.

The DPI/NGO Relations Cluster cannot assist NGO representatives in obtaining visas for Mexico and cannot fax confirmation letters to Mexican embassies. Arrangements for travel, visa, and accommodations, as well as all expenses related to participation in the Conference, must be provided for entirely by the participants or their sponsoring organization.

Please check our website at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection for updated information on the Conference.

Looking forward to your participation in Mexico City,

Sincerely,

Maria-Luisa Chávez, Chief
NGO Relations, Outreach Division
Department of Public Information

Sincerely,

Charles Hitchcock, Chair
62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference
Representative of Peace Action

Dear ALL,
Here is information about
the DPI Conference

In Peace
Noema Chaplin

For more detail contact
Noema at:

noemachaplin@yahoo.com

and from the Editor:

Note that to represent
Servas you must be a
current member and must
have registered with the
UN through Servas - this is
a fairly complicated
procedure which I did not
manage to achieve last
year in Paris.

JG, editor

*apologies about the quality
of print for this item. It is
taken from a .pdf which
appears to have been
scanned and is in picture
format rather than text.
Hence I cannot improve it
other than by enlarging
which would mean that it
went over the boundaries
of the page..*

*The .pdf can be sent to
those interested. There is
also a Spanish copy.*

GA Update from the SI President

GA 2009

This update is for you, your newsletter editor, committee, Area or Board.

- a) Decisions on Financial Support to the GA
- b) Status of Budget, etc
- c) Appeal for Nominations
- d) Strong response to Anniversary, new Servas Course and training
- GA Agenda and Working Groups

a) Financial Support: EXCO has reviewed a first slice of funding applications. Separately, General Secretary Pramod Kumar is writing in detail to each national secretary and elected Area Coordinator who applied in time and with the required information.

- We looked carefully at the reported performance in the member group applications and other reports. Some will not qualify. We will offer use of small grants where we see a need and opportunity to use such support effectively.

b) Budget and Audit: Treasurer LV Subramanian has been bringing the books up to date. Part of this work has been to educate Servas in the Financial operating Procedures, a new way of working.

We do see some requirements for more documentation, but have decided to give you our Budget information -- so you can prepare for reasonable policy and strategic decisions at the GA.

To avoid loss of time, and also to avoid overlap with the GA, we have not gone forward with a second Distant Vote. We will report on the DV experience to the GA.
The Budget will be opened, and offered for inputs before it is voted at the GA.

c) The Nominations Committee indicates it needs more candidates for a full slate. Servas needs good teams to replace or renew leadership: National Secretaries -- please look about you!

It is a distinct honour, and very educational and rewarding to serve Servas. It is a life-changing experience.

- international officers or International Committee member directly assist Member Groups and others to expansion of global friendship and genuine Peace.
- a real sense of team achievement, and fun.
- For young people, successful experience on an international team is a career-building opportunity.
- For elders and mid-career, you can continue to learn, and also to give, while you enjoy a term of international service.

Think of some of the best people you know:
nominations@servas.org

d) Area and Anniversary Meetings: As we hoped, the Servas world is seeing an amazing and very gratifying outburst of

- Servas celebrations,
- Servas Peace reflections and
- Servas improvement workshops

These include a new Servas Peace Course and training activities. The online Servas calendar page has over 200,000 hits. Please try to attend some Servas anniversary activities. Share and rejoice in your Servas experience.

Please ask Servas Interviewers and editors to highlight some of these to Servas travelers.

You are invited to share at the GA special "Best Practices round table" and to contribute to SI News. Photos and stories welcome at the website at: www.Servas.org

d) GA Agenda: National Secretaries and others proposed over 80 items for the agenda for the Servas General Assembly (GA) in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 2009.

Some of them are "good ideas", some are "motions for decision" and some call for more investigation. Several would result in a new kind of Servas. Naturally, several are on different sides of the same topic.

- We are setting up an Agenda Working Group (AWG). It will help prepare the Agenda as it did so successfully for the last GA. Every proposal will be treated fairly.

Your own help for Subject working groups is also needed shortly -- and continuing through the GA -- to discuss, prepare and advance the various groups of agenda topics.

- More information will be coming to you shortly as the AWG work goes ahead.

Meantime, we have heard that some people have already offered to help, to:

- discuss,
- help focus,
- facilitate and
- engage others.

Are you ready to help -- or perhaps you know someone good - please tell me or any of the members of the Agenda Working Group.

The members of the Agenda Working Group are:

- Penny Pattison (Convener) pmpattis@islandnet.com
- Pramod Kumar pramod.servas@gmail.com
- Rami Rafaeli gilvaron@gmail.com
- Eva Meggender eva.megg@gmail.com
- Chris Patterson (e-mail address to follow)

The work of this Group will be supported by EXCO through Gary Sealey, Chair, GA, president@servas.org

d) In summary, the GA will include:

- **Formal GA sessions** of national secretaries and SI officers where decisions are made on the future of Servas by voting on motions on agenda items.
- **Working Group sessions** will review and prepare motions for decisions by the Formal GA sessions.
- **Training and orientation**, building on the successful "Zero Day" at the last GA, 2006, at Latina, Italy.
- **Sharing Best Practices**, to help national secretaries and others share their successes, issues and questions on strengthening Servas.

We know there are some concerns about the cost of travel to the GA for remote travelers. For those who can attend, you will find the GA more valuable than ever. For others, we are hoping you will get involved to help prepare for decisions, through "working groups", so that you can help guide and shape Servas. For everyone: please take time, to celebrate the Servas anniversary.

The GA is your conference; your help is needed to make it successful.

Gary Sealey, SI President

Peace Conference in a War Museum

Peace History - lessons from the past hope for the future

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 April 2009
at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1



Organised by the
International Peace Bureau and the
Movement for the Abolition of War
in association with the Imperial War Museum

Does this make sense, having a Peace Conference in a War Museum?

Yes it does.

War museums are not there to glorify war but to show us the folly of it. To remind us of what not to do. To try and help us not to repeat history.

I could not attend this conference. However at times I visit the Duxford branch of the Imperial War Museum which looks at aviation throughout the ages. One hangar has been devoted to WW2. We are given re-enactments of the blitz to remind us that it was not fun.

REPORT OF THE PEACE SECRETARY SERVAS INTERNATIONAL (abridged)

The most outspoken word in the world today is PEACE. As the world in almost every country in turmoil the need for peace is increasing everywhere. Every being in the world not only man but also every living being seeks and craves for peace to live happily. Great religious leaders of all faiths have preached and shown paths to their followers to march along their paths in searching peace by way of sympathy, compassion, serenity, respect and finally simple living. We pray for peace, we meditate for serenity, we travel to most revered places to show our devotion. But do we really mean what we do or are we doing it just for the sake of doing and to show the others that we are in it. Peace Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln, Patrice Lumumba, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and many more sacrificed their lives trying to promote and trying to live the name of peace.

We as a peace organisation anticipate and try to march along in promoting peace and make this piece of planet a lovable and a safe place to live. We try to overcome jealousy, greed and discrimination. We try to overcome hunger through alleviating poverty and relieve pain of others through implanting love. This is what our founder Bob Luitweiler wanted and anticipated. But how far have we achieved?

How far have we achieved? :

Many Servas member countries have tried many ways to achieve our objective, our target, PEACE. They have tried and applied various strategies in achieving their objectives. I know some countries have organised and established their Peace Task Forces. Some have established their Peace Museums, some organise peace marches and marathons. We organised work camps and youth camps thinking of our future. But have

we achieved our objectives and if so to what extent. Was it only a social gathering.

Sharing and Peace Network:

The Executive Committee of Servas has tried to establish a peace network since 2006 but it is sad to say that no positive response was shown by the national groups to date. This was intended to identify the positive approaches already made by the respective countries so that these positive and successful strategies could be shared with others who face the same problem. Sharing makes people to understand each other very closely and relieve their pain at least to a certain extent.

Are The Peace Organisations successful to-day:

World's most accepted strongest Peace Organisation the United Nations which has many of its tentacles to approach towards a better living and harmonious social conditions for the living world. Yet their decisions and approaches too are being challenged and not listened to. Many countries do not heed to what UNO request. This is the same with many other organizations. UNO and other peace organizations have become very weak and almost lost their faces when they tried to implement their expectations. Peace organizations should gather around local organizations and make the people feel they play a neutral role to solve their problems.

SERVAS HAS NOT IDENTIFIED PEACE AS AN IMPORTANT AREA TO WORK WITH

Some Recommendations made to strengthen Peace activities by Servas:

1. Servas groups in the respective countries should be made an accepted peace organization in their own governments as most governments do not know what Servas is.
2. Servas countries should strengthen their mediation work, form mediation committees of their own and involve in solving their own problems failing with could invite their neighbouring partners of Servas to solve the problem.
3. Try to out reach the needy by way of establishing Servas villages in poor countries.
4. Help people to learn more about themselves to relieve themselves from unwanted power craziness, hatred, anger and jealousy which main cause for many of these social ailments of which ultimately it the weak and innocent who will be victimized for these unfortunate happenings.
5. Organise to establish a Peace Development Fund : Like that of the Development Fund by FAO of Rome, every member of Servas could set aside US\$ one cent every month and this could be handed over to their National Secretary, We have more than 10000 may be all over the world and could collect a fair amount of money to promote peace without tapping into the general till of Servas.

CONCLUSION:

It is true that Servas organizes many activities every year to promote peace by way of social gatherings. But we must always try to harpoon these to focus it to some specific point. If not it will be another social gathering with a happy ending with no outcome.

People live in two worlds. The physical world and the spiritual world. No religious leader or faith has ever said to do harm to any being. They all sought peace and harmony within a person and to assist the outer world through this.

As man improved his knowledge on science and technology his interests on physical needs overpowered his spiritual needs and to grab more was his main concern. Thus his life became more complicated paving his way for a frustrated life filled with anger and hatred. This is so with many governments and countries. Let us begin our venture from ourselves, then our family, our neighbours, our country and then our world.

From; Nandasena

Youth Report

Proposals for discussions and decision making at the General Assembly

(This is taken from the rather longer GA report, it has been included as providing a good discussion base)

The overall work of the Servas Youth team will need further discussion and evaluation at the General Assembly with a view to some decisions being made about future developments. The following are suggestions arising from my involvement as the Servas Youth Development Officer.

1. The future of the Youth Travel Award

Some of the issues to be considered include:

- A review of the first Youth Award in 2007, looking at how far the initial aims were achieved and the positives and negatives outcomes of the experiment.
- A review of the criteria for the selection of young people for the Award.
- Should an Award be further developed and offered on an annual basis?
- If so, how would it be managed? By Servas Youth within SI or possibly, in time, as a separate independent trust fund?
- Should the focus be on raising funds through donations and legacies from individual Servas members, donations from National Groups, grants from the Development Fund or from all these sources?
- Should the Award continue to be offered in connection with a particular event and with the emphasis on contributing to Servas or could it be offered to help a young person pursue a more individual travel plan?

2. Servas Youth Contact Scheme to link hosts with young people

A trial scheme is proposed focused initially on the Servas Youth website and linked to the SI website. Issues to be considered include:

- What would be the practicalities of Servas Youth running a central scheme where hosts could indicate what they would like to share with young travellers? This could be in terms of their particular interests and skills or how they could open up possibilities for work/study experience or voluntary work in their own community.

- A possible model for the scheme might be: The initial information publicised openly on the Servas Youth website and elsewhere would be a starting point for a young person to pursue a particular interest. It would include the host's country and region together with some idea of what they were able to offer. It would not include contact information about individual hosts as a safeguard against any inappropriate use. The young person could request more information about a host from the scheme coordinator. Having checked from both sides that the expectations of host and traveller were realistic the coordinator would pass on the host's contact details with their permission. The arrangement would then proceed on the basis of agreement between host and traveller.
 - Once a central scheme was established National Groups might want to include more detailed information about what hosts have to offer young people within their own host lists.

3. Developing links between Servas Youth and the UN and other agencies

How could Servas Youth make links with the Servas representatives at the UN?

This would raise young people's awareness about the work of the UN and other organisations and about what opportunities are open to them to make a contribution.

4. International Forum for Servas Families on SI website

The Servas Youth website is now well-established. Could some similar space be set aside on the SI website for Servas families to have a forum where they could share ideas and experiences about being in Servas? It could help to promote Servas as a family friendly organisation and be a focal point for planning exchanges and future group events for families with both teenagers and children.

*Ann Greenhough
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