



# Servas Monthly News 46



## May 2009

### How peaceful are Servas members?

I am watching the development of the GA. Theoretically the GA is a 'good thing' as it allows national representatives, usually but not always the Nat Secs, to meet together face to face and be able to discuss the myriad of Servas themes, actions, policy ..... ad infinitum. It gives people the chance to share a multicultural assembly, learn about the different cultures, see how different cultures can be blended harmoniously together and so generate goodwill.

However problems start with getting people to the GA as well as their accommodation, food, meeting rooms and many other items such as travel insurance and visas which all require that age old bugbear of money. Some countries are fine and cover the expenses of their representative. Many cannot. So as it is an official meeting they turn to SI Exco to claim expenses. There is an international pot with a certain amount of money in it to help those in need. This pot is not infinite. It only has in it what has been put in and it has to cover more than the GA. There is not enough to cover everybody for all their expenses. There is not enough to cover all expenses of just those who need them. There is not enough to cover part of the expenses of all who need them. So decisions have to be made as to who can get funding and who cannot. These are very hard decisions for Exco to make. So they have made a set of rules to follow when making the decisions, these depend on such items as numbers of hosts, travellers and activities to promote Servas. They are concerned that there are occasionally those who only come out of the woodwork when a paid trip is available. This is not a Servas attitude but Servas is made up of humans who sometimes have human rather than Servas attitudes. Together with this there will understandably be those, who not getting funding, will declare that it is not fair, maybe unpeacefully.

So how do we solve these problems in a Servas manner? Some countries with more funds have offered to help either by sponsoring a country or by putting money into the main melting pot for SI Exco to decide on its distribution. Some countries looking at the funding they can claim have considered how much they can put in so as to not claim the full amount and so leave more for others to use. Those countries that do not get funding need to examine the reasons so that they might do better next time. All countries must understand that the money pot is finite. Exco is sharing it out the best way that it can.

Finally, when at the GA will the Servas representatives behave in a truly Servas way as in the first paragraph? Unfortunately there have been a number of GAs over the years which have been unpeaceful with a lot of acrimonious feelings. Latina broke the trend with a big effort to behave in a Servas way with only a couple of outbursts. Hopefully Argentina will be the same.

### Short and late

This Servas Monthly News is short and late for a number of valid reasons including my internet connection being down for two weeks.  
*Editor*

### Recent visit to Israel, May 2009

Israel may very well be one of the most unique countries to visit at this point in time, especially for two senior Jews born and raised in the United States. This was our first visit, although we have been world travelers since our retirement 11 years ago.

Israel is a complicated country, politically, culturally and religiously and if were not for the many SERVAS hosts we stayed with, I think our month there would not have been nearly so meaningful. It was especially informative for us because we stayed with Jewish families having a variety of views about Israel Judaism and politics.

Our various hosts were warm and welcoming to us. But more important they were open about their opinions and shared their thoughts with us about what is happening in the country. And interesting enough each had a little different point of view.

We have been active members of SERVAS for 16 years and we think Israel was certainly one of our best experiences. It is interesting to us that prior to this we met many Israelis in our travels and did not have this feeling of warmth and kinship we had with so many of the Israelis we met in their native land.

This was truly a memorable experience and want to heartily commend Israeli SERVAS for being such fine ambassadors to the world for their country.

*Stan and Marcia Klein, USA and Mexico*

### Reminder, elect an editor

This is to remind you that after 31 August there will be no SI News Editor. Make sure one is nominated and elected at the GA. Ask for details at [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

### Contents: 2009

1. Editorial - Peaceful members, Israel visit
2. GA update - overview
3. Meetings
4. Dream Project, Uruguay to Turkey
5. Country tales - Conference in Congo Brazzaville
6. Caravansaray
7. GA 2009, update on Working Groups
8. Info - Stroke, Carbon Neutral caravan.

### 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. If the email address is not recognised it may get deleted before being read.

# GA 2009 Update

## Updates for Servas national secretaries, newsletter editors, committees, elected Areas and Board.

**Please read this overview of the GA.**

Your registration and payment are due.

Please note your participation is welcome, even if you do not travel to the GA.

The GA has four parts:

1. "Formal GA sessions" for decisions and votes on the future of Servas;
2. "Working Group sessions" prepared by groups starting now, to prepare for motions.
3. Training and orientation, building on the successful "Zero Day" at the last GA, at Latina.
4. Sharing Best Practices, to help national secretaries and others share their successes, and questions on strengthening Servas.

Here is what you need to know -- and please tell your board and delegation:

- a) Approved **Financial Support** to the GA
- b) Status of **Budget**, etc
- c) Appeal for **Nominations**
- d) **Strong response** to Anniversary, new Servas training
- e) The **GA Agenda and Working Groups**
- f) How to get a bedroom at the GA – you full registration form required now!

**a) Financial Support:** EXCO has reviewed funding applications from national secretaries and area coordinators. 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 requests for financial support, and other member country reports. Some do not qualify. It is better for Servas to spend in other ways. Some may be offered small grants if they can use them effectively.

**b) Budget and Audit:** Treasurer LV Subramanian has been updating book keeping. He has taken time to guide and energetically improve Servas in the Financial operating Procedures, a new way of work.

We do see some requirements for more documentation, but have prepared our draft Budget.

This draft Budget will be published or circulated openly. You can improve and make decisions at the GA.

To avoid loss of time, and also to avoid overlap with the GA, we have not arranged for a second Distant Vote. We will report on the DV experience to the GA.

**c) The Nominations Committee** has listed known candidates on the website. It needs more candidates for vacancies. You can encourage 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](mailto:nominations@servas.org)

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

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

These include new Servas Peace 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](http://www.Servas.org)

**e) GA Agenda:** over 80 suggestions were sent 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.
- More information will be coming to you shortly as the AWG work goes ahead. - see page 8.

The members of the Agenda Working Group are:

- Penny Pattison (Convener) [canada@servas.org](mailto:canada@servas.org)
- Pramod Kumar [pramod.servas@gmail.com](mailto:pramod.servas@gmail.com)
- Rami Rafaeli [gilvaron@gmail.com](mailto:gilvaron@gmail.com)
- Eva Meggender [eva.megg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:president@servas.org)

We hear of some concerns about the cost of travel to the GA for remote travelers. The price negotiated by EXCO was the lowest we could find, in the best setting. All payments and costs will be audited.

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.

### **f) How to get a bedroom at the GA**

You must send the Registration Form. (on siexco website). It replaces the pre-registration form used to reserve the hotel. The actual Registration form helps the volunteers assign your room. You cannot sleep in the hotel without it.

There is no other accommodation available nearby. There is no public transit.

Send to [Argentina@servas.org](mailto:Argentina@servas.org) copy: "Phyllis Chinn"  
[Phyllis.Chinn@humboldt.edu](mailto:Phyllis.Chinn@humboldt.edu)

Please also see payment instructions, ask for them if needed..

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

*Gary Sealey, President*

## 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](mailto:newsletter@servas.org) alternately to have it on the main site contact Renée at [reneegendron@hotmail.com](mailto:reneegendron@hotmail.com)

Country	Place	Day/time	Contact
Australia	Mawson Club, Canberra	Third Thursday, alternate months	<a href="mailto:australia@servas.org">australia@servas.org</a>
Australia	The Carringbush, Melbourne	First Weds, alternate months	<a href="mailto:australia@servas.org">australia@servas.org</a>
Belgium	Piazza Italia, Brussels	Last Tues of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:belgium@servas.org">belgium@servas.org</a>
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	<a href="mailto:brazil@servas.org">brazil@servas.org</a>
Britain	Pontefract Castle, London	First Monday of Month, 18.30	<a href="mailto:info@servasbritain.org">info@servasbritain.org</a>
Costa Rica	Gran Via Café, San Jose	Alternate months	<a href="mailto:costarica@servas.org">costarica@servas.org</a>
France	Grand Café de la Soierie, Lyon	First Thurs of month, 20.00	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
France	Le Vieux Chatelet, Paris	Second Tues of month, 19:00	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
Germany	variable Hamburg	Third Tuesday of month, quarterly	<a href="mailto:treffen-hamburg@servas.de">treffen-hamburg@servas.de</a>
Germany	Mainz, variable	First Monday of month, variable	<a href="mailto:treffen-mainz@servas.de">treffen-mainz@servas.de</a>
India	Bangalore	monthly	<a href="mailto:servasindia@gmail.com">servasindia@gmail.com</a>
Mexico	Sahuaro's Coffee Mexico City	First Monday of month, 19:00	<a href="mailto:mexico@servas.org">mexico@servas.org</a>
Portugal	Café d'Alma Lounge, Lisbon	Last Weds of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:portugal@servas.org">portugal@servas.org</a>
Scotland	Elephant House, Edinburgh	Last Thurs of month, 18:00	<a href="mailto:britain@servas.org">britain@servas.org</a>
Spain	A la Gorra, Madrid	First Friday of month, 20:00	<a href="mailto:bbc17926@gmail.com">bbc17926@gmail.com</a>
Spain	Barcelona	Last Friday of month, 20:000	<a href="mailto:cpisabel@gmail.com">cpisabel@gmail.com</a>
USA	San Francisco, variable	variable	<a href="mailto:sfservas@yahoo.com">sfservas@yahoo.com</a>

To find more meetings both regular and occasional go to [www.servas.org](http://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	<a href="mailto:france@servas.org">france@servas.org</a>
Korea	see page 2, Dec 08 for details	See p2, Dec 08 for details	<a href="mailto:korea@servas.org">korea@servas.org</a>
Belgium & Lux	Leuven for All, 5 city meeting	03 May	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>
Italy	Val d'Ossola, for Sentierinsieme	10 - 17 July	<a href="mailto:uslenghi@fauser.it">uslenghi@fauser.it</a>
Belgium & Lux	Transborder cycling, Péruwelz	June	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>
Switzerland	Wintertur, Biel-Bienne	4 July, 12 September	<a href="mailto:switzerland@servas.org">switzerland@servas.org</a>
Denmark	Helsingør (see p 4 for detail)	4 - 8 August	<a href="mailto:info@servas.dk">info@servas.dk</a>
Argentina	Mare del Plata, for GA	5 - 12 September	<a href="mailto:siexco@googlegroups.com">siexco@googlegroups.com</a>
Belgium & Lux	Ardennes, weekend	October	<a href="mailto:jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be">jstiens@etro.vub.ad.be</a>
India	Goa	10 - 16 October	<a href="mailto:india@servas.org">india@servas.org</a>

If your country has a meeting that you would like to add to the list then send the details to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

## A DREAM Project - Uruguay to Turkey

### A DREAM Project on Road Started from Uruguay now in Turkey

Dear All Friends from All around the world;

Today I share a project running right now started from URUGUAY by Uruguayan people.

Hermano, the father of two sons Ismael and Marcio, came to our house 2 days ago and stayed with us. Hermano's father, who was from the Turkish city named Izmir, moved to Argentina then to Uruguay years ago. Their surname is Turkish named SABAH (means morning in English). Ismael is a Turkish name (Ismail). I today see again that we are all same with the real example these wonderful people gave a chance to re-realize.

They have 3 missions:

- 1- To call back all Uruguayan people to their country,
- 2- To tell more about URUGUAY to other countries,
- 3- To say that world is a place of unity, peace and friendship by finishing the world tour in 5 years.

They have one Citroen 1977 and big hearts.

Here in Turkey they wanted to meet with Lugano (Uruguayan national football teams' captain playing in Turkey's biggest football club named Fenerbahce in Ýstanbul) and meet with Citroen Company and meet with Media.

and lots of countries, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Canada, Brazil, USA, Europe, and then Asia, Australia, Africa...

We ( as social entrepreneurs ) a group of people assist them on their way to succeed these 3 meetings;

They met with Lugano, and also met with football players Guiza from Spain, Emre from Turkey, Can from Turkey, Kazým Kazým from England, Roberto Carlos from Brazil, and Alex de Souza from Brazil, Arogones Technical director from Spain...

Citroen meeting was made and they will probably sponsor them. Media has interest on the project and making interviews with them...

We, by this way also wish to share these dream with the people like you.

Here is their website [www.uruguayporelmundo.com](http://www.uruguayporelmundo.com) Below is their picture and their news is on Fenerbahce Sports Clup website

<http://www.fenerbahce.org/fb2008/detay.asp?ContentID=15631>

I wish this project will inspire us for following our dreams although they are big deals....

Thanks for everybody assisting in this project here in Turkey...

With health & peace-- *Sercan Duygan, Turkey*



## Country Reports

### ACTIVITES ORGANISÉ PAR SERVAS CONGO BRAZZAVILLE DANS LE CADRE DE LA CÉLÉBRATION DES 60ANS DE SERVAS INTERNATIONALE (MAY 2009)

### CONGO BRAZZAVILLE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE CELEBRATION OF SERVAS INTERNATIONAL 60 YEARS (MAY 2009)

Signal de départ pour la célébration de 60 ans de Servas International à Brazzaville.

*The starting signal of Servas International 60 year's celebration in Brazzaville*

#### Conférence d'Information Servas 6à Ans : 1949-2009

#### Information Conference, Servas 60 years: 1949-2009

Du Mercredi 13 au Jeudi 14 Mai 2009

*From 13 Wednesday to 14 Thursday May 2009*

Thème : 'Créons les liens pour la paix' : -Servas 60 ans au Service de la paix

-Le Congo en paix, Vit dans la dignité et l'Espoir  
*Theme: 'Connecting for Peace': -Servas 60 years for peace service*

*-Peaceful Congo, Decent Lives, and Hope*

Participations : La série des conférences ont connues la participation des élèves des 4 grands Lycées de Brazza des classes de Terminale, Première et Secondes a savoir :

- Lycées Pierre Savorgnan : 50 élèves
- Lycée de la Révolution : 50 élèves
- Lycée Chaminade : 50 élèves
- Lycée Thomas Sankara : 50 élèves

Participations: The series of the conferences known the participation of 4 main school's peoples of Brazzaville in the Terminal, First and Second levels:

- Lycées Pierre Savorgnan : 50 pupils
- Lycée de la Révolution : 50 pupils
- Lycée Chaminade : 50 pupils
- Lycée Thomas Sankara : 50 pupils

Orateur : 1<sup>er</sup> Orateur, Mr **ONDON titan serge**  
(Sujet exposé : Servas 60 ans au service de la paix)  
*Speaker: 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker, Mr ONDON titan serge*  
(Subject: Servas 60 years of Peace worker)  
(Secrétaire National Servas Congo Brazzaville)  
(National Secretary of Servas Congo Brazzaville)

2<sup>eme</sup> Orateur, (Inviter)  
(Professeur du Lycée)

2<sup>sd</sup> Speaker, (Guest)  
(Teacher in a High School)



Dans la salle à la fin d'une des conférences, les participants avec les deux orateurs du jour  
Au milieu, **ONDON titan serge** et **L'invité**  
*In the room at the end of the conference, the two speakers in the middle of some participants.*

#### Les objectifs de la conférence:

- Commémorer les 60 ans de Servas en Créant un moment d'informer, d'échanger et de la promouvoir la culture de paix à l'intention de la jeunesse lycéenne de Brazzaville ;
- sensibiliser la jeunesse Congolaise aux valeurs fondamentales qui ont prévalu à la création de Servas ;
- Appeler les jeunes congolais à travers les lycéens de Brazzaville à conserver la paix et l'attente entre congolais ;
- Faire connaître Servas auprès de la jeunesse Congolaise comme une opportunité de créer des liens entre les personnes qui peuvent s'aider et aider le Congo dans la paix et l'harmonie entre nos cultures.

#### The Conferences goals:

- To highlight the Servas 60 years in inform, discuss and promote the peace culture for the benefit of the High school youth of Brazzaville;
- To sensitize the Congolese youth to the Servas founding values;
- To call the Congolese youth through the high school peoples of Brazzaville to conserve peace and mutual understanding between Congolese;
- To make know Servas close to the Congolese opinion has an opportunity to connect many people, who can help each other and the Congo in the peace way and mutual cultural understand.

# CARAVANSARAY PROJECT HOUSE

First we shared our Dream with the universe, and then just started from a point...



When I was young I would love to welcome people to my house and share the life with me and my family. It was nearly 20 years ago, and one day I had a close friend whom I met trekking. We recognized that everywhere in the world people can meet and

become friends and collaborate.

At that time something came to our mind and we dreamed about a place where people come together for a purpose and also share life without boundaries, but with love, gratitude, feelings and emotion.

First we shared our Dream with universe, and then just started from a point...

Opened our house in 7 years nearly for 1000 people and now with these people, we take another step to create Caravansaray Project House.

## Let's know more about Caravansaray Project;

In Caravansaray Project you can **be a part of / give assistance to / create / share** an individual project, workshop, seminar or activity See **ACTIONS IN THE PROJECT**

Will be a house and life sharing, where these partners from all around the world can live on a purpose together from every country, every religion and every ethnicity they belong to.

Will be established in a natural place and not so far away from the town

The participants of the project will also **be the partners** of it.

Anyone who is interested in being a part of the project is welcome.

## ACTIONS IN THE CARAVANSARAY PROJECT

### What Can you Do in Caravansaray Project ?

There are 2 core points in Caravansaray Project house.

First one is; giving a hand to a dream together which is Caravansaray Project House itself.

Secondly; use the existence and facilities of Caravansaray Project as a tool to go for a

dream, for your own dream or for shared dreams or even dreams that has already come true by giving a hand.

This is a circle of real life.  
This is the circle of love.  
This is the circle of sharing.  
This is the circle of gratitude.  
This is the circle of emotion.  
This is the circle of feelings.

Entrepreneurs who will be a part of Caravansaray Project can specialize on many subjects as;

- Caravansaray Project Partners are capable to activate lots of enterprises. By that tool, you can find yourself in a house that will find solutions and realistic goals for your dreams to come true.
- You can find out partners from all around the world and work for your project in Caravansaray Project House.
- You as a partner personally have a chance to make others' dreams come true with your help.
- In Caravansaray Project you have a chance to recycle your effort in life for sustainable development.
- Partners all have a chance to share individual life experiences in various ways when they stay in Caravansaray Project House.
- Partners may stay in Caravansaray Project House. All you need to do is just send a request to **be a participant** and share what you can do for the Caravansaray Project House. Then you are welcome to stay and go for a dream.
- Partners shall stay permanently or a long period of time in the Caravansaray Project House, again you just need to share what you can do to **be a participant**
- Partners have a chance to organize Peace Activities, Social Projects, Cultural Projects Seminars , Workshops, Individual Projects, Travels , Work in garden , Do Alternative Healing & Sports in Caravansaray Project House
- Caravansaray Project House will have Technical Equipment (Computer-Fax-Internet- Barcovison etc.), Meeting-Conference room etc., these facilities can be used by partners.
- Every individual project is responsible to find out their helpers.

Sercan DUYGAN, Servas Turkey

# GA 2009 - Update on Working Groups

Dear Servas friends,

We are sending you this letter because you belong to one (or both) of the following groups of people:

- (a) those who have already registered for participation in the General Assembly (GA) in Argentina this September
- (b) National Secretaries and Servas officers

## What is it about?

We ask you to get involved now in preparing for the GA! This will help everyone to make the most of the limited GA time because you can:

- study the items submitted for the agenda in depth together with other interested people
- look at how these items can be turned into motions that can be voted on by the General Assembly
- help shorten the time that has to be spent on discussion during the GA
- through your active participation help prepare the ground for follow-up and actual implementation of the decisions taken about these motions at the GA
- help create a positive and lasting climate of cooperation and involvement across countries and Servas groups to make Servas a dynamic organisation fit for the future

## How can you get involved?

Join one of the Subject Working Groups which have been set up (see the invitation letter of Gary Sealey, President of Servas International, which was sent out to National Secretaries and officers of Servas International recently and which you can also find below).

Please note: You do not have to be a participant at the GA in Argentina to join one of the Subject Working Groups – we hope for the widest possible input from many enthusiastic Servas persons all over the world to get the best results.

The discussions and decisions at the coming GA will concern not only the near future but also the way Servas will develop in the long run. A good part of the GA will be devoted to the question of how the processes and procedures in Servas can be improved and what Servas should look like in the future.

Let's start working on this now so that we are well informed and well prepared!

Please contact us as soon as possible at [siga2009awg@googlegroups.com](mailto:siga2009awg@googlegroups.com) and tell us which SWG you would like to get involved in.

If you know of other Servas people in your national group with an active interest in Servas on an international level, please forward this message to them also and invite them to join a working group.

We hope to have your reply and support within the next few days so the groups can start working soon!

In peace,

*The members of the AWG:  
Penny Pattison (Convener), Pramod Kumar, Eva Meggeneder, Chris Patterson, Rami Rafaeli*

## Memo to all National Secretaries and Officers of Servas International

Please Begin Subject Working Groups Now, to prepare for GA 2009

You and your committees are invited to help prepare for 2009 GA, by joining one or more Subject Working Groups (described below). These groups will prepare for and guide the Servas General Assembly (GA) in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 2009. The Subject Working Groups have been designed to include every agenda item submitted.

If we begin immediately, we will have more time to prepare, and to make best use of the limited GA conference time. Everyone is invited to participate, whether attending the GA or not. By working together now, those who may not be attending the GA will be part of the decision-making process. EXCO has created an Agenda Working Group (AWG) to assist with the preparation of the Agenda, and also to coordinate the Subject Working Groups.

The AWG will help to ensure that:

- Your proposals are discussed at the GA, no item left out
- Subject Working Group members can work together easily
- Subject Working Groups can prepare agenda items for GA decisions

Thanks to the AWG -- the over 80 agenda items submitted by national secretaries and others have been sorted into:

- Four broad subject area headings, Subheadings for each

Now we can begin the work of the Subject Working Groups, to prepare these items for motions for decisions at the GA.

## This is where we need your help, now.

Please look at the subject areas. Identify which interest you.

Send a note to: [siga2009awg@googlegroups.com](mailto:siga2009awg@googlegroups.com) -- please state which Subject Working Group you would like to join. You will then be linked to others with the same interest. Subject Working Groups will use email, SKYPE or other Internet or telephone arrangements.

## Subject Working Groups:

### 1. Hosts and Travellers (Penny coordinating)

- a. Areas
- b. Development
- c. Events
- d. Travellers
- e. Volunteers
- f. Youth

### 2. SI Processes (Pramod coordinating)

- a. Board for SI
- b. Distant Vote
- c. Finances: Audit / Banking / Budget / Stamp Fees / Financial Operating Procedures
- d. GA: GA processes / Membership / Nominations and Elections / Statutes approval / role of Youth
- e. Procedures: Mandatory Operating Procedures / Reports / Registration

### 3. Technology (Rami coordinating)

- a. Host Lists/Dolphin/Whale
- b. On-line Servas
- c. SI News

### 4. Vision of the Future (Eva coordinating)

- a. New approaches / New Projects
- b. Promotion of Servas ideals and Peace
- c. Education
- d. Servas income, Sponsorships and advertising

The AWG is also preparing the **formal agenda** for the GA. The proposed agenda will be published three months before the conference. The GA will vote on the final agenda at the conference. In summary the Conference 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 "Day Zero" at the last GA, at Latina.
- **Sharing Best Practices**, to help national secretaries and others share their successes, issues and questions on strengthening Servas.

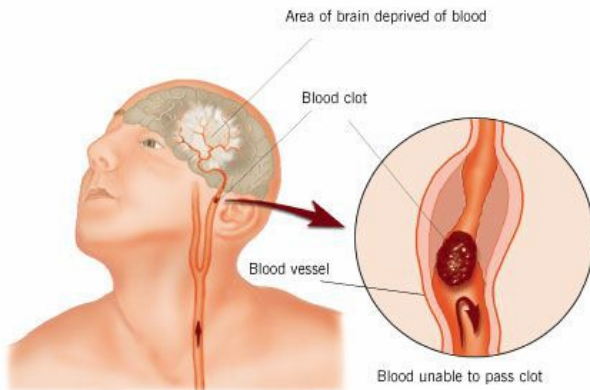
Servas belongs to all of us, and EXCO has confidence that your help will result in a successful General Assembly.

## Info

### An emergency?

What would you do if your host/traveller was suddenly ill? Would you recognise a stroke? This article was sent by Shyamm of Nepal as a reminder that we need to consider the health of those with us.

### INFORMATION EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW...



Blood Clots/Stroke - They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue

**STROKE:** Remember the 1st Three Letters....S.T.R.

My nurse friend sent this and encouraged me to post it and spread the word.  
I agree.

If everyone can remember something this simple, we could save some folks.  
Seriously.

### STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) .she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00 pm Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. they end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

### RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR . Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S \*Ask the individual to SMILE.

T \*Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)  
(i.e. It is sunny out today)

R \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

**New Sign of a Stroke** ----- Stick out Your Tongue

**NOTE:** Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

### Zero Carbon Caravan

The Zero Carbon Caravan which will be aiming for Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009, was given space in our February 2009 Servas Monthly News as being something which would appeal to many Servas members. To keep up to date with it there is their newsletter for which the May 2009 issue is:

<http://www.zerocarboncaravan.net/img/newsletterMay09/ZCC-NewsletterMay09.html>

They have suffered a mishap with one of their forms of transport. Maybe there are some Servas members who could join forces and help. See the request below:

### and to get on the mailing list:

Many thanks to Neil, our webmaster, for setting this up  
We have a mailing list now. You can access it at:

<https://lists.aktivix.org/mailman/listinfo/zerocarboncaravan>

### TO ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED, PARTICULARLY SAILORS

#### Stop press:

We have just heard that the sailing ship the Keewaydin which was due to carry us from England to Belgium on 26 September has sprung a leak and so we urgently need to find a new ship. If you know of anyone who has a sailing ship capable of crossing the North Sea, or anyone who may know someone else who has such a vessel, please pass on this message and ask them to contact me.

Chris Keene, Coordinator, Zero Carbon Caravan  
[www.zerocarboncaravan.net](http://www.zerocarboncaravan.net)