



Servas Monthly News



November 2005

Web members

Many Servas members own a computer and regularly access the internet. Of these many use email as their main form of communication, more than phone or letter writing. For this form of communication there is the strong argument that it is cheaper and quicker than either the phone or letter writing. It can even be more accessible. 10 years ago I was having trouble contacting colleagues in Malawi for a joint project we were doing. So I cautiously got myself onto the internet and the problems were solved. More recently a friend trekking in the mountains in Nepal, feeling that he was away from contact with the world in general, turned round to see he was by an internet cafe. So how does this affect Servas?

Some countries are now offering their members the opportunity of 'web-membership'. This means that those who choose this option will get their communications on line rather than by post. Denmark is one country going this route and says that currently they have about 30 web-members although they do expect this to increase as more people move in this direction. This provides the advantage of faster communications in that internet is generally quicker than the post. It is also quicker to type something and send it on-line than to print it out, put it in an envelope and take it to the post box. Another advantage is cost. Sending an item electronically costs a minimal amount and can be sent to many people at the same time. Sending the same item by post can become quite expensive.

So the questions:

Which other countries are already offering a web-member option?

How effective do they find it both as a means of communication and financially?

Which countries are thinking about offering a web-member option and would like to be linked to a country already doing it for help?

Your answers would be gratefully received so that we can help those who are looking at the possibilities of web-members.

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..... and from a Chinese proverb:

With money you can buy ...

- ... a house, but not a home
- ... a clock, but not time
- ... a bed, but not sleep
- ... a book, but not knowledge
- ... a doctor, but not good health
- ... a position, but not respect
- ... blood, but not life

I look forward to someone reconstructing this for Servas. (I received this from a pilot who had then added a reconstruction of it for aviation)

Contact

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

The postal address is:
Jane Giffould, SI Monthly News Editor
20 Weavers Row, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JX
England.

In Requiem - Joseph Girard

Joseph GIRARD, founder of Servas-France, died October 31st 2005. He was 87.



Joseph was a modest man. He has been working in a tailor's during 42 years in a small town. He was deported because he had refused the compulsory work in Germany during the war. He liked trees and photographs, but most of all he loved people and that's why we have come to salute and thank him.

Joseph, thank you for creating in France, just after the war the movement Servas whose aim is to build peace through people to people meetings within an international network of hosts and travellers.

At first you wrote the list by hand under the suspicious eyes of the authorities of the time. A list of people ? What for ? You thought, as we still think today, that meeting and sharing daily life with other people could create solid links and become steps towards peace.

Thanks to your initiative the movement has developed and it is on behalf of 1300 members that we are with you today.

We'll always keep you in our hearts.

Jacqueline Spaak French national secretary

The Vancouver meeting

Clarification: In the September 2005 newsletter, there are articles describing Servas activities in August 2005 in Vancouver, Canada. There was, in fact, only one meeting held, and both articles are describing the same event.

*Penny Pattison
NS, Servas Canada*

(Apologies for the confusion on this point. Ed.)

Condolences to Jordan

Dear Sir,

I write to express my sincere sympathy and condolence on last Wednesday, November 9, 2005 attack in Jordan, which more sixty people lost their lives. I think if everybody should be concerned with one another's problems the world would be a better place for us. In fact, I was highly touched by this sad news again. We are only praying better days to come. Have a nice days. Yours faithfully.

Kofi Koumako, National Secretary, Servas TOGO.

Election comment from Togo

HELLO. EVERYBODY,

TODAY, I WISH WHOM IS VERY IMPORTANT TO SERVAS INTERNATIONAL TO HAVE THE OBSERVERS IN ALL CONTINENTS TO CHECK THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRIES.

IN PEACE.

KOFFI KOUMAKO, NATIONAL SECRETARY, SERVAS TOGO

Servas Britain

Website address changes

Servas Britain has changed its website and its email contact to a more manageable format.

The website is now: www.servasbritain.org
and the email address is: info@servasbritain.org

It is planned to update and make changes to the website in the New Year.

Languages

Language is an important tool of communication. When we understand each other we are more likely to be peaceful. Think of the problems that have arisen just by the wrong interpretation of what someone is trying to say.

In this section the aim is to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language will be English, hence any non-English words and phrases must be accompanied by the English translation of them.

In the long run it would be good to be able to publish a booklet of useful words and phrases in a range of languages for Servas hosts and travellers.

	Zero	Zéro
	One	<i>Un, Une</i>
	Two	<i>Deux</i>
	Three	<i>Trois</i>
	Four	<i>Quatre</i>
	Five	<i>Cinq</i>
	Six	<i>Six</i>
	Seven	<i>Sept</i>
	Eight	<i>Huit</i>
	Nine	<i>Neuf</i>
	Ten	<i>Dix</i>
	Twenty	<i>Vingt</i>
	Thirty	<i>Trente</i>
	Forty	<i>Quarante</i>
	Fifty	<i>Cinquante</i>
	Sixty	<i>Soixante</i>
	Seventy	<i>Soixante-dix</i>
	Eighty	<i>Quatre-vingts</i>
	Ninety	<i>Quatre-vingt-dix</i>
	Hundred	<i>Cent</i>
	Thousand	<i>Mille</i>
	Do you eat meat?	<i>Mangez-vous de la viande ?</i>
	Where do you live?	<i>Où habitez vous?</i>
	This is my sister	<i>Voici ma soeur</i>
	This is my brother	<i>Voici mon frère</i>
	This is my mother	<i>Voici ma mère</i>
	This is my father	<i>Voici mon père</i>
	This is my son	<i>Voici mon fils</i>
	This is my daughter	<i>Voici ma fille</i>
	What music do you like?	<i>Quelle musique aimez-vous?</i>
	Have you visited the town?	<i>Avez-vous visité la ville?</i>
	Where are the shops?	<i>Où sont les magasins?</i>
	Is there a market?	<i>Est-ce qu'il y a un marché?</i>
	Thank you for your help.	<i>Je vous remercie de votre aide.</i>

Our <i>Corrected</i> language is	
Hello	<i>Bonjour</i>
How are you	<i>Comment allez vous?/Ça va?</i>
Goodbye	<i>Au revoir</i>
Be seeing you	<i>À bientôt</i>
Have a safe journey	<i>Bon voyage</i>
Best wishes to your family	<i>Mes amitiés à votre famille / Saluez votre famille de ma part</i>
Do come again	<i>N'hésitez pas à revenir / Revenez me voir</i>
Please	<i>S'il vous plaît</i>
Thank you	<i>Merci</i>
That's nothing	<i>Ce n'est rien</i>
Where is the toilet?	<i>Où est la toilette?</i>
Left	<i>À gauche</i>
Right	<i>À droite</i>
Straight on	<i>Tout droit</i>
Behind you	<i>Derrière vous</i>
Where do I sleep	<i>Où est-ce que je dors?</i>
I am vegetarian	<i>Je suis végétarien</i>
Where is the nearest telephone?	<i>Où est le téléphone le plus près?</i>

SERVAS JAPAN IN SPRING

After three years of Japanese studies, I decided to follow the wave of sakura cherry blossom which sweeps the main island in the spring and stay with Servas hosts. What a choice in the Servas book! There was a traditional sock-maker and a sushi-bar owner, a sunflower farmer who loves fire-flies... Should I go to Kyoto just to meet the etiquette teacher? In the end, the regional coordinator chose seven hosts along the sakura front.

At first, I was a guest in my teacher's family in Nagoya. It was fantastic but I was relentlessly entertained at great cost. Although her mother had just recovered from cancer, she would not let me help at all and would fall asleep on the floor exhausted as I watched her, guilt ridden. Servas was a relaxing contrast.

My Japanese experience was full of surprises. I am now convinced there really are Shinto Gods inside every craggy stone and gnarled tree. In the spring, the world turns a magical pink, awash with petals. I had to abandon many received ideas: no overcrowding or minimalism in the countryside, houses were huge, kitchens indescribably cluttered and home-cooked food was fantastic. I visited a centre for stroke victims, fed cows and moved boxes of rice-shoots into a poly-tunnel. I stayed in a Tenri monastery in a stunning fishing village. It was election time and a famous wrestler was running for MP, claiming he'd sit in Parliament with his face-paint on.

I had plenty of time to cycle around temples and walk in the mountains. My hosts spoke enough English and the occasional 'tourist schedule' was welcome because I could at last pay my share. I saw magnificent temples and castles but Japanese history is cruel. So, lovelier than any gilded shrine built with money stolen from the starving are memories of fun times with families around a low heated quilt-covered table or sitting in a steamy rock pool with three generations of women, under the rain. Travelling with Servas is a privilege. It is also the only way to discover Japan.

Michèle O'Connell, England

Italy, Sentierinsieme, July 2005

And so returning from Italy where I was at the 'Sentierinsieme' meeting in the Alps..... What a fantastic experience!

Once again I could appreciate the spirit of Servas. We were many people, from different countries, talking different languages, of different ages, each with our own professions or jobs which would not generally bring us together in everyday life.....

And, in spite of this there was this mutual foundation, this humanistic spirit, which was shared

Truly, a magical meeting, where one could remember that it is possible to give real values to life.

Cécile Broche, Belgium/Luxemburg

Australians in Belgium

Dear Rita,

Doug and I have just returned from our visit in among other places, Belgium. We would like to say a big thank you to you for your assistance.

The time we spent with Roos and Jo was wonderful. We enjoyed ourselves immensely.

They are such friendly, warm-hearted helpful people. While Roos was recuperating from her knee operation and I might say looking after children and preparing meals Jo showed us his special parts of Bruges during the morning, then Lieve, also a host, showed us the touristic places in the afternoon and put us on to the correct bus to go home.

We spent most of the Sunday by ourselves in Bruges and Leuven and Servaes and Wivine met us at the station late in the afternoon. They took us home for dinner and to spend the night. Servaes drove us to the airport the following morning. We can't tell how much we appreciated that as it was raining that morning.

We want you to be aware of the appreciation we feel for your assistance, also that of Roos and Jo, Lieve and Servaes and Wivine.

If you have any of your lovely friendly folk wanting to visit Brisbane please be sure to give them our email address for them to contact us.

If we are in town we will be happy to look after them.

In Friendship and Peace,

Doug and Mae Harding, Australia

Country Reports

Servas Peru Celebrates



On 10 October 2005 Servas Peru celebrated the 56th Anniversary of Servas. They seem to be enjoying it.

Peace activity Montevideo, Uruguay

Nov 24th, 2005

After a visit to a Public School for visually impaired children as part of a B'nai B'rith group, I dreamt of revisiting the children and the teachers. I offered the headmistress to go and tell them a story. And that is how it all began.

The fact that Marisa Contini and Carolina Balestra (Peace Secretary, Servas Uruguay) accepted to work with me as a "team" encouraged me even more. They immediately understood that this proposal fitted into our shared idea of peace building, that it was intended to be a small contribution to the community at large and that we would be fulfilling our aim by bringing some happiness, entertainment and change into the school routine.

We gathered several times to prepare "Arthur's travels on the magic carpet". and little by little the story took shape. We started making a list of "objects" to take along so as to make the story more interactive, such as musical instruments easy to handle, CDs, & music tapes, pizza and Swiss chocolate.

Finally, the set day came. Children and teachers were waiting in the gym for us. The story began to unravel. One evening, Arthur was too hot to be able to fall asleep. He tossed and turned in his bed. So, he fumbled on the floor and could feel a soft carpet to lie on. Next thing Arthur knew was that his carpet was flying with him on top out of the window of his house.

All the children had to help blow hard so that Arthur's magic carpet could fly across the Atlantic and land in Italy. (The smell and taste of pizza reminded everyone that Arthur was in Italy). He heard people greeting each other, Ciao, ciao bambina...Then, the bells of churches tolled, the tarantela

was heard, sung, and clapped. From the piazza, Arthur could hear a train station. As he wanted to have new experiences, he got himself a ticket and a whistling train took him over the Alps into Switzerland (everyone whistled too) where high up in the mountains the cowbells were heard....Cows, milk of course, milk, some brown cocoa powder and the miraculous taste of chocolate filled us with pleasure until the cuckoo clocks sounded.

Soon enough, Arthur was homesick, so we had to blow him back home again. But, very likely, we did not blow hard enough, because Arthur first landed in Brazil on a hot, humid Carnival day. The music sounded...samba was in the air. Then, Arthur had to freshen up at one of the beautiful Brazilian beaches. Luckily a big, huge wave finally took him back home. Before going to sleep, he wondered: "was I really travelling? did I experience the marvels of getting to know other people, other places, other cultures, other customs? or was it all a dream?" Arthur could not answer that question....but again, he heard the sound of music: "Este es mi país" (this is my country), a well-known song by Rada. And he was happy, safe again back home....after all, there is pizza, and chocolate, and churchbells in Uruguay too. Only the cowbells....oh well! some other day, some other time, another dream.....

At the end: warm applause full of appreciation. But, the best was when the children came up and asked to be kissed and hugged goodbye...spontaneous, heartfelt, a true caress for us, who had started out without knowing what we would find upon knocking on their door!

Anita Kalbermann (Urugua y)

Comments

Phone Ideas

Dear Servas key people,
Everyone likes to save money, so here are some tips about low phone rates. These work in most of Canada, and likely apply in other countries but with different details. Ask around and you might save a lot. Exco already uses Skype and Servas Canada saves a lot on conference calls with "linking."

Good luck

*AC S. Pacific,
Michael Johnson,*

Skype:

Downloadable free software, to allow you to use the computer [with a microphone and speakers] to talk to anyone who has Skype. Also you can use it to PHONE people via THEIR phone, for a low price. But the computer-to-computer talking is free. Usually the quality is better than phone lines, but not always. But hey, it's free. What's the catch? You must have Windows 2000, XP, etc., it won't work on Win 98. <http://www.skype.com/>

Phone Cards:

Some are as low as 2c to some countries. I like Gold, Goldline and Ci-Ci, which allows calls for about 5c a minute to many countries and have no hidden fees. In some stores, especially Toronto's Chinatown, they sell for 85% of listed price. Watch out for others that may have monthly fees, connection fees [\$2/call or more], higher rates than stated, etc. Most cards cost much more to call cell phones, or if you USE a pay phone.

Conference Phone Call:

One inexpensive way to make long conference calls without using special Bell reserved phone lines, is to LINK people. This works for Bell customers in Ontario, it may be available to you also.

Let's assume 5 persons want to talk. A calls B, asks B to wait, then A clicks "flash" or "link" on his phone.

If your phone doesn't have this, depress the receiver for a half second. A gets a dial tone. Then A dials * 71, gets another dial tone, and A dials C. When C answers, A says "Wait" and clicks "flash" again. Now A, B and C talk together. Now B and C each repeat the steps to call D and E respectively, using the same "flash", * 71, dial, "flash" routine.

Now 5 persons are talking and all you pay are any long distance charges. Plus there is about \$1 charge PER USE of * 71.

Cheap Bell Plan

Bell Canada won't tell you about this PLAN: First Rate Worldwide, which gives you 5c/minute calls to USA and Canada 24/7. Call 310-BELL and insist on it. There is a \$3 monthly network charge, but most other plans have ADDITIONAL charges.

from Michael Johnson: unexpected@sympatico.ca

58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference

**Our challenge: Voices for Peace,
Partnership and Renewal
New York, UN Headquarter**

The 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled *Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships, Renewal*, provided the forum for a dynamic and diverse gathering of civil society representatives one week before the Sept Summit of World Leaders. More than 2,000 NGO representatives and other civil society partners came to New York on 7– 9 September 2005 to underscore their support for the work of the Organization in its 60th year, especially its efforts to eradicate poverty, promote human rights and enhance collective human security through deeper partnerships with civil society.

The agenda revolves around three inextricable goals: promotion of peace and security, development human rights. The agenda calls for action through renewal and reforms.

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, the largest gathering of World Leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a global partnership to reduce poverty, improve health, promote peace, human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

The Millennium Development Goals are :

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

There are also basic human rights – the rights of each person to health, education, shelter and security as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Throughout the three-day Conference, participants had multiple opportunities to dialogue, to voice their views, expand their networks and interact with Member States. In addition to seven plenary sessions there were 30 Midday NGO Interactive Workshops.

During the conference "US Servas" and "Servas International" members active participated in all Plenary sessions and workshops, like: "Peace building and Community Well-Being: The Importance of Media Collaboration and strategies"; "Dialogue on Human Rights Council"; "Voices for Peace: Violence against Women – A Violation of Human Rights and Dignity" Mary Jane Mikuriya, Noema Chaplin, Patrice Samara and Gary Sealey discussed how our positive experience and practices of "Peace through cross-cultural understanding" provides opportunities among people of diverse cultures in the cause of world peace, goodwill and understanding. Together we create effective partnerships for development best values of humanity and promote the triumph of the human spirit today and tomorrow for the future generations.

Noema Chaplin, Member of the Planning Committee

Extraordinary
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2006

eGA2006 Update No. 6

As you have previously been advised :
the 2006 Extraordinary General Assembly
is to be convened at:

the Park Hotel, Strada Statale
156 dei Monti Lepini 25 - 04017 Latina, Italy

commencing: Sunday 2nd April 2006
finishing: Saturday 8th April 2006.

Latina: 35 minute train ride south from Rome
with frequent services throughout the day.

The Park Hotel is located approximately 12
kilometres from the Latina Rail Station
eGA Logistics Team (Servas Italy) will be
arranging a shuttle service between the Rail
Station and the Park Hotel for those arriving on
Sunday 2nd April and departing again on
Saturday 8th April 2006.

More details about this at a later date.

Conference registrations will **only** be
processed by the Reservation Department of
the Park Hotel, Latina. A Registration
Application form together with a Funding
Application form (and criteria for funding) is
now available for downloading from the Main
Page of Exco's website at www.servas.org/siexco
As advised earlier, travel funding will only be
made available to those participants who meet
the criteria laid down.

The registration fee for the conference is:

Euro 270 per person in a two/three share room
or Euro 330 per person for single room.

All rooms at the Park Hotel are air-conditioned.

The eGA registration fee includes:

Evening meal on Sunday 2nd April 2006
Breakfast, midday meal and evening meal
plus morning and afternoon tea/coffee
 3rd – 7th April 2006

Breakfast, morning tea/coffee break and
midday meal on Saturday 8th April 2006

Accommodation for six nights
from arrival on Sunday 2nd April 2006

The eGA registration fee does NOT include:

Drinks

(except for the morning/afternoon tea/coffee
breaks and those provided with meals)

Telephone calls

Extra meals

Other personal items

Management of the Park Hotel have kindly
offered a rate of Euro 45 per person per day
(full board) in a two/three share room and Euro
55 per person per day (full board) for single
room occupancy prior to/and after the
conference dates. All participants are asked to
arrive at the Park Hotel no later than the
check-in date of Sunday 2nd April 2006.

The closing date for receiving agenda items for
eGA2006 was 2nd October 2005. Exco is now
busy collating more than 100 agenda items
received from a total of 15 countries.

As I mentioned in an earlier eGA2006 Update,
I am still being asked the question "when will
the next General Assembly take place after
eGA 2006?"

The Servas International Statutes 'IV General
Assembly item No. 2' states "*The General
Assembly shall meet at regular intervals as
decided by each General Assembly.*"

Therefore, I would ask those participants
attending the eGA 2006 (who have the
authority to vote) to please discuss this issue
with your National Board/Executive now and
come to Italy prepared to discuss and vote on
when the next General Assembly is to be
convened.

Exco will keep you fully informed regarding the
planned eGA 2006 with regular 'Updates' such
as this one. You can also log on to our Exco
website yourself at www.servas.org/siexco

In peace and friendship

Geoff Maltby
President – Servas International

SERVAS YOUTH

Kind regards to all of you. The Monthly News has shown us that it is useful for the organisation with a strong impact on our Servas community. For me personally and for Servas Youth particularly this was a powerful way of diffusion. PATAGONIA'06 was announced to the world through this Servas publication.

PATAGONIA'06 is no more a weird word to us and we hope it is not to any of you. All the Servas family at an international level knows that in the third week of next January will take place the first international youth meeting in the southern hemisphere. It promises to be the biggest ever.

I have made contact personally with a lot of national secretaries, young Servas members, and those interested in the youth topic. The consequence of these contacts, one by one, is that today we can say we will have delegates from around 20 countries. You could see the list on our web site youth.Servas.org, and then you will have an excuse to visit it!

In Bariloche we will be Servas getting together from all around the globe. To me, Pablo Chufeni, it is not a minor pride to say that PATAGONIA'06 will have presence from every continent. Europe, Oceania, Asia, Africa and all the Americas. I insist it is not a minor pride.

People that will arrive with the goal of imparting their opinion, their wish of take a stand in Servas. People that, I do not have any doubt will help to convert Servas Youth into a more dynamic impulse and stronger inside Servas.

I can testify the importance that these kind of events are. It is not tourism, it is not social, it is not to get some fun, to take pictures or be on holidays. It is not just that. All these happen and It is great because they increase the real objective of these meetings. Move us, transform us, help us to remember the infinite pleasure of the task that we have in front in Servas, and how key is this task.

It is in these meetings when the projects take shape, when we can put a face to that e-mail address that we see so often in our mail box, and that improves a lot the ways of communication and more then nothing the perspective of action. The action, as a

concept, is my axis in Servas, and the one that I want to give to Servas Youth. We have in front a huge human network ready to help and provide its amazing resources to do very concrete actions. People around the world have arranged to offer their time, energy, skills, and their force to this noble task. Develop the inter-cultural respect and build a new and peaceful culture.

Servas Youth want to offer the space of PATAGONIA'06 to link us with other organisations with perspectives and objectives compatible with ours. We will run workshops of some of the NGOs that work on social development and multiculturalism. FALE (Brazil), Development Youth Council (Bangladesh), Ecoclubes (Argentina), Panafrican Youth Congress (Senegal) and we are working with some others to invite them and build a bridge with them.

The agenda of the meeting is completely dedicated to the development of Servas issues: Group integration, to celebrate our cultural diversity, to design new programs and projects oriented to the youth area, focus on increasing the growth of the youth area of our organisation so that they can contribute in actuality to the major functions of our world.

Promote new active local groups, promote international actions, promote the interaction inside each region or country, and for that a young perspective and energy is vital. The distinction between that person young of age and of that one of spirit is clear for all of us, we look for this young energy, the energy that creates programs, projects, actions! Servas Youth and PATAGONIA'06 look for these people to move them, to use their support to grow in Servas.

I am personally working in another program for Servas Youth but at this stage our first issue and worry is the conference in Bariloche. Focus on this is necessary if we want to make a hit. And we want it. A jump into the Servas Youth's future.

Please remember that you will be more than welcome and that your presence will be absolutely important to us. No other could give us your opinion.

Mi mas fuerte y sincero abrazo a todos ustedes
Pablo Chufeni
Coordinator International of Servas Youth