



Servas Monthly News 26



September 2007

International Days of

We have had a couple of these international days recently. There was Peace on 21 September, and, as I belatedly write this on 2 October, it is to do with Non-violence. Coming up soon, on 17 October the day is related to Poverty. Do we actually pay any attention to these designated days? Do they mean anything, do they ride over our heads, do they get laughed at as being another ploy by the government? Do they get ignored completely because they do not have a public holiday attached? If they had a public holiday attached would they attract any more attention than an excuse not to work? Or are they there as a reminder that perhaps we should be reviewing our lives, how we live them and how we treat others?

Welcome to

Cameroon & Congo Brazzaville

Last month the News section contained details on Congo Brazzaville as a new member and we welcome them. This month Cameroon has joined the Servas community. Due to lack of space the details will be in the next issue of Servas Monthly News, October 2007. It is good when new countries join us and share our international friendship and support. We now have the challenge of finding out more about these countries. Then we can help educate other people and so remove negative attitudes. Note that Peace and Positive both begin and end with the same letters (in English at any rate!)

Spam

When I was a child Spam was a type of tinned meat that I used to call 'pink meat' It was a favourite of mine, even preferred to the chicken or turkey at Christmas time.

Nowadays it is not a favourite as it has other meanings on the internet. Please be careful what you open. I tend to delete items that I do not recognise. Hence the need to use Servas in the subject headings. However I have had spam that has come from the newsletter email address. Please let me know if this has happened to you.

www.servasbritain.org

Please note that this is the web site for Servas Britain. We closed the u-net site more than a year ago. It has been confirmed with them that they have removed it from their site. However it is still on Google. Hence why people keep getting it although it does not exist. Please make sure you go for www.servasbritain.org .

Book Reviewers

Is there anyone out there who would like to be involved in book reviews. For the moment it must be someone whose first language is English. Other languages should come later.

We have been provisionally offered a book called *The Great Peacemakers* for review.

Please contact the editor if you are interested in helping.

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

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Get together in London, England

The venue is **Pontefract Castle.**

This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.

The nearest Underground Station is
Bond Street.

Date: First Monday in every month.

Time: 6.30 onwards.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

South American Servas Meeting

from Oct 13 until Oct 18, 2007,

at the triple border area
Argentina/Paraguay/Brazil.

An invitation is being e-mailed to all South American Servas members, and the meeting agenda will be planned in a way to attract regular Servas members, as well as South American key people. The official language of the meeting will be Spanish.

The meeting is planned to happen in 2 parts:

- **Part 1: in Eldorado (province of Misiones),
Argentina (Oct 13 – 16)**

- **Part 2: Ciudad del Este, Paraguay (Oct 17 – 18)**

During Part 1, from Oct 13 until 15, the South American meeting will happen together with Servas Argentina National Meeting. For these days, Servas Argentina is organizing 2 days for discussions and 1 day for a local excursion and co-fraternization. On Oct 16th we are planning to cover Servas International topics (focused on the South American national groups needs).

During Part 2, from Oct 17 until 18, the meeting will happen at Ciudad del Este, Paraguay (120 km from Eldorado, bordering the Argentinean town of Iguazu and the Brazilian town of Foz do Iguacu), and will happen together with Servas Paraguay National Meeting. Some Paraguayan Servas members are helping us in organizing the event at Ciudad del Este. During these 2 days we will be discussing topics related to the development of Servas Paraguay and to the development of Servas at the triple border area. We will also discuss the needs and developmental work of the South American national groups that will be present at the meeting.

Deadline for registration: 31 August 2007

Sentierinsieme - Pathway Together - Route de l'Amitié - Miteinander unterwegs

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

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

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

François Marseille

26, rue Pierre Curie 26000 Valence - France

Or (easier!) send an e-mail to

francoismarseille@free.fr

For Information You can phone :

In German : Sabine Joertz 33 3 88 60 32 66

In Italian : Joëlle Chappuis 33 4 50 22 13 82

In French : François Marseille 33 4 75 56 13 67

In English : By email :

Myriam Michel myriam.michel3@hotmail.fr

Meeting place in Paris, France

The venue is: **Le Vieux Châtelet**

This is in: 1 place du Châtelet, 75001 Paris

The nearest metro is:

Châtelet

Date: Second Tuesday of month

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Join with others in Lyon, France

The venue is: Grand Café de la Soierie

This is in: 1 place des Tapis, Lyon

Date: First Thursday of the month

Time: 8 pm

Languages - Israeli

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 have 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 the Servas hosts and travellers.

Our **twenty second** language is Israeli
Thank you to Nirit Harel who did this at Dalesbridge

Zero	<i>E'fes</i>
One	<i>E;chad</i>
Two	<i>shtaim</i>
Three	<i>sha'losh</i>
Four	<i>Ar'ba</i>
Five	<i>Cha'mesh</i>
Six	<i>Shesh</i>
Seven	<i>Sheva</i>
Eight	<i>SHmone</i>
Nine	<i>Tesha</i>
Ten	<i>Eser</i>
Twenty	<i>Es'rim</i>
Thirty	<i>Shol'shim</i>
Forty	<i>Ar'ba'im</i>
Fifty	<i>Cha'mi'shim</i>
Sixty	<i>Shishim</i>
Seventy	<i>Shivim</i>
Eighty	<i>Shmonim</i>
Ninety	<i>Tishim</i>
Hundred	<i>Mea</i>
Thousand	<i>E'lef</i>
Do you eat meat?	<i>Ha'im ata ochel ba'sar?</i>
Where do you live?	<i>Efo ata gar?</i>
This is my sister	<i>Zot achoti</i>
This is my brother	<i>Ze achi</i>
This is my mother	<i>Zot imi</i>
This is my father	<i>Ze avi</i>
This is my son	<i>Ze bni</i>
This is my daughter	<i>Zot biti</i>
What music do you like?	<i>Ese musica ata o'hev?</i>
Have you visited the town?	<i>Haim bekarta ba'ir?</i>
Where are the shops?	<i>E'fo ha'chanu yot'</i>
Is there a market?	<i>Haim yesh shuk?</i>
Thank you for your help.	<i>To'da</i>

Peace	<i>Sha'lom</i>
Hello	<i>Sha'lom</i>
How are you	<i>Ma shlom'cha</i>
Goodbye	<i>Sha'lom le'hit'ra'ot</i>
Be seeing you	<i>Le'hit'ra'ot</i>
Have a safe journey	<i>Ne'si'a to'va</i>
Best wishes to your family.	<i>Meitav ha'bra'chot</i>
	<i>la'misn'pacha</i>
Do come again	<i>Bo shuv</i>
Please	<i>Be'va'ka'sha</i>
Thank you	<i>To'da</i>
That's nothing	<i>Shum da'var</i>
Where is the toilet?	<i>Efo ha'she'ru'tim</i>
Left	<i>Smol</i>
Right	<i>Yamin</i>
Straight on	<i>Ya'shar</i>
Behind you	<i>Me'a'chor</i>
Where do I sleep	<i>Efo ani ya'shen</i>
I am vegetarian	<i>Ani tsim'cho'ni</i>
Where is the nearest telephone?	<i>Efo ha'te'le'hone</i>
	<i>ha'ka'rov?</i>

Host and Travel Reports

Trip to British Columbia and Alberta, Canada 2007.

It was the first time I had to organize a journey including stays with Servas hosts. I sent a dozen e-mails to addresses where I had planned to pass, 2 weeks prior to departure (on July 7th). I got a dozen replies, most of them enthusiastic!

I phoned to confirm our arrival, and our first hosts were there at the bus depot in Victoria – Vancouver island- to meet us!

My partner and I could enjoy 3 stays in 3 weeks, with hosts not only friendly, available and trusty, but also extraordinary in the sense we could meet other very interesting and welcoming people thanks to them! There was a 90 year old retired photographer on Hornby Island to whom we paid a short visit, a famous 80 year old naturalist on Gabriola Island who taught us all he knew about migrating species, there was a 45 year old teacher in Denver who amazed us with her “School of Excellence “

visit.... I think the opportunity to get to know this wonderful country from the inside, thanks to deep conversations with committed people, was unique and unforgettable. My partner (Servas host for ages) was delighted to witness my fresh enthusiasm and joy in sharing these moments together.

Pascale Delaisse, Brussels, Servas Host, Belgium.

A visit to Uzbekistan

I was in Uzbekistan this summer for two weeks and I had a great time there. And a lot for that were the meetings with Servas people who really know what is a traveler. I had no problem to contact them via Internet and almost all replied to me offering their hospitality. Special thanks to Anatoly, the national coordinator who arranged even invitation letter through the tourist agency of his friend. And family Kozimov hosted me for two days in Samarakand on their farm. It was really joy to see their way of life. Anatoly organized also the visit in the National Museum where was at this time the collection of Peace museum which president is Anatoly. I am really grateful to Zulfia and Eugenio in Taschkent who hosted me on the beginning and the end of my tour...It was really fine to meet such a people. I really hope that they come once to Slovenia and I will have to opportunity to show them my country.

Teo,

'French Impressions'

At the end of last year I undertook a cycling trip from my doorstep in Somerset to Portsmouth, then from St Malo in France down to the Dordogne. This is the first cycling holiday I have ever taken, and the first time I have travelled with Servas. It was a fantastic experience. Here are extracts from my diary:

3/9/06 Warm welcome from first host Marilyn. Family photos proliferate.

4/9/06 Poole harbour boat trip. Marilyn secretly films her companions from the other boat-side./ Marilyn has three rings per ear. She is full of mirth./ Dirty pub garden below mist-shrouded Corfe Castle.

8/9/06 Off the ferry at St Malo. Masts. Space. Breeze. Promise.

19/9/06 Breakfast with first French host Mireille. There was little common language but enough understanding, helped by constant smiling./ Traditional Breton music on the Onkyo stereo as Bernard tells of 'Fest Noz', traditional nights of food, music and dancing which are currently enjoying a revival in Brittany.

21/9/06 Friendly morning faces at the campsite. Cycling inland, almost-clear sky with vicious warm winds...tough-going...slow...in the distance the massive wind-turbines are still.

30/9/06 In a Cantonese restaurant, asking for a spoon in French and sign language...the spoon was tucked under the bowl.

7/10/06 At another Servas host's just north of Nantes.. the twenty-five year-old daughter is impatient for her parents to leave the house...her boyfriend, who patiently translates for me, has a hangover...amicable goodbyes.

6/11/06

Contemplating the wisdom in staying still, hacking at Dordogne ground with a pick-axe...

Matt Lepley, Britain

Blogging and Travel

I noticed over 860 references to Servas on the English blogs referenced by Technorati on the servas.org website and over 3000 blog references in all languages totaled together. <http://technorati.com/search/Servas?language=en&authority=n>

Last week alone, according to Google, 70 new blogs referenced Servas.

Only a few Servas vids show up on YouTube; one of them demonstrates a Malaysian family lesson to a presumed Servas traveler from North America, on how to fold and wear a Sarong: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8823468651080766357&q=servas&total=46&start=0&num=10&so=0&type=search&plindex=1x>

Gary Sealey

Country Reports 1 - Belgium & Luxemburg

Servas Belgium & Luxemburg

Feedback Walk & Picnic 23 September 2007

Theme of the day: "I want to know you better"

What could you expect more than sunny weather when you organize a walk and a **picknick**?

Of course...you hope that many members will participate...

And we feel happy!

70 members of our national group came to the beautiful region of Ecaussinnes to walk and to enjoy each other. Most of us were very surprised of the beauty of this rather unknown and not touristy region of Wallonia, francophone part of Belgium, south of Brussels.

French, Flemish, English, it's of no importance in what language you are expressing yourself on our meetings, Servas members understand each other even without words!

We talked about the Servas Youth Event and promoted the Youth CD, we informed the members about Host Dolphin that we just joined, we discussed the trends in Servas International, we tried to find some channels to make Servas more widely known, we....we...we....

After the get together more members will visit other members of the own country. Remembering the theme of the day "I want to know you better" we made a list with the names of the persons who really want that other members visit them. We started with this idea last year and the feedback was very positive and what's good has to be continued!

These kind of simple events bring people together in a very easy way and almost without costs, I only can recommend it.

Thanks to the Peace Group for the organization and a special thank to Monique and Jean-Pierre of Ecaussinnes who did it with their whole heart!

All of you are invited to visit us!

Rita Dessauvage, National Secretary Belgium & Luxemburg



And here are those 70 members enjoying getting to know each other rather better.

Country Reports 2 - Nicaragua, Britain, Congo B, Ghana

Servas in Nicaragua

Hello to you all. I want to share with you the work of a personal friend. Stefan Baschel, from Servas Germany who is now volunteering in Nicaragua and re-organizing the National Group there. I am proud of him and I will keep supporting him and his work. Take a look and think about what you can do to help Servas grow.

Thanks a lot to Roberto Jimenez from Servas Mexico who has done the translation.

Un abrazo fuerte.

Pablo Chufeni. Servas Youth International Coordinator.

Dear friends,

First of all, I want to thank you so much for your active presence at the Servas meeting that was held on August 12th 2007. I am very thankful for the great help from Norma and Elieth, who came from Costa Rica and also to the authorities from La Esperanzita that facilitated their place for us to sleep very well and to eat deliciously.

I congratulate you for being engaged and having an open mind in order to contribute for World Peace. It seemed to me a success and a good experience for all of us and for many other people who had not met before or who just met there and became friends, so they were able to exchange experiences.

This effect must not disappear now. We should keep on thinking and working together to fortify SERVAS in Nicaragua and I am convinced that this group that we have got now, either local or national, could be able to work very well in the future.

With those pleasant results, I am going to meet with Karen Paladino (the Nica-German from Ometepe), Nahum from San Marcos and Mr. Tom Baez from Jinotepe on September 7th to talk about the next steps.

Before that session I would like to summon another local small meeting with the participation of you all for:

- 1) listing the hosts who want but they aren't enrolled yet,
- 2) choosing the local Coordinator of New Guinea.

I am hoping for your continuous participation!

Kindly wishes, Stefan

Stefan Baschel, Nicaragua

Congo-Brazzaville

Here is a picture of Titan Serge, the National Secretary of Congo-Brazzaville. We welcome his country as part of Servas - see July/August issue of Servas Monthly News for more detail.



Britain/England/Scotland/Wales/ United Kingdom/UK?

What is in a name?

Queries and discussion have been continuing about the name **Servas Britain** as on the Servas Britain website www.servasbritain.org. People have commented that they are looking for Servas England, Servas Scotland, Servas Wales, Servas UK, Servas United Kingdom. However none of these exist. The reason is historical and geographical.

United Kingdom refers to Great Britain and Northern Ireland as from 1922. Great Britain refers to England, Scotland and Wales. Britain comes from the Celtic word Brython which refers to Celts in Wales, Cornwall and Breton (in France).

In Servas, Northern Ireland is together with Eire, this is geographically more sensible. England, Scotland and Wales are together. Hence **Servas Britain**. Many years ago Servas Britain was known as Servas England, Scotland and Wales. However this was too much of a mouthful, so it was shortened to Servas Britain which makes more sense and is easy to say.

In Ghana.....

people become like family once you like them or they are your friends. So you would say this is my sister or brother or cousin or father or auntie or uncle. When pressed to show what the relationship is, you would then say something like this "o she is my very good friend but we are even closer than if related by blood."

Once this is said, that seals it for you. Every one in that house or community adopts you because you are Yawa's cousin or aunties and if you are Yawa's cousin then you must be alright and if you are alright, then we all accept you. End of story!

Brace yourself everyone else reading this. The day you arrive in Ghana and I say to my friends and acquaintances that 'o meet my auntie or my cousin or my sister, you would have more friends and acquaintances than you ever may have had within minutes of landing at an airport.

Another cultural thing is this. It is difficult for some one to open their home and lives to complete strangers, but once someone they know and trust says someone is ok, then for them this person is ok and accepted. They would spend time and money (does not matter if they do not have enough).

Servas is a beautiful thing. The principles of which should remain the same and not change. However, what's the point of our cultural diversity if we all have to behave in the same ways? Learning and sharing, giving and receiving, fun and laughter, person-to-person contacts, trustworthy and reliable people, safe trips in terms of health and security, wholesome foods and drinks, albeit different...the list is endless. Let us have these in as many shapes and colours as we may find.

Yawa Sellaisse Ababio (female), N.S. Servas Ghana.

Servas at the UN, Comments

Sent in by Gary Sealey.

Conley joins effort to address climate change

Shelley Nelson *The Daily Telegram*
Published Friday, September 14, 2007

When worldwide representatives gathered in New York last week seeking solutions to global climate change, a Lake Nebagamon woman was among the estimated 2,500 delegates from more than 80 countries.

Jan Conley, a retired Superior schoolteacher, was among those selected to attend the 60th annual DPI/NGO Conference at United Nations headquarters. The focus was how global climate change affects us all.

Conley, a member of the international traveler's organization Servas, was one of five U.S. delegates to represent the organization, which promotes international peace and understanding.

"I sent my name in, and I thought I'm not going to be chosen because there's biologists, there's chemists — this organization has hundreds...thousands of people, and certainly they have more scientific credentials than I do," she said. Conley highlighted the work she was doing on global climate change grants and was selected.

"I was very surprised actually," she said.

The conference ran Sept. 5-7 at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Citing evidence that global warming was real, mostly man made and with the potential to devastate the planet, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told representatives of nongovernmental organizations that tackling climate change required a truly global effort.

"Most of the world's countries were represented," Conley said.

Under the direction of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Conley said, the U.N. is taking the lead on global climate change, believing it's a problem individual nations cannot solve on their own. It has assembled a panel of 125 top scientists to try to foster a move to an international protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty on climate change that mandates limits on emissions to reduce greenhouse gases, expires in 2012, and Conley said the conference focused on the next protocol.

"What their science is telling them is that we don't have a lot of time to get this right," Conley said. "... There needs to be a radical change in consciousness and behavior."

During the conference, delegates adopted a resolution outlining a 12-month action plan to foster collaboration for sustainable practices to reduce peoples' "carbon footprint" on the world.

"A lot of the action on this is coming from the bottom rather than the top," Conley said. "There's lots of environmental groups and individual actions."

She said 656 cities, including New York, are committing to a plan to create sustainable communities. New York has 127 funded proposals in the effort to make the city the first large sustainable city in the world.

Conley said while what scientists had to report about global climate change and its impact on the world is "scary," but it's heartening and hopeful to see so many people globally coming together in the search for solutions.

"On an individual level, I think there's lots of things we can do," Conley said. "The main thing is when you're going to make a choice, stop and think about it ... For example, if you're going to take your car somewhere, could you walk? Is it two blocks away? Could you bike? Could you carpool? ... Could you consolidate trips?"

"One simple thing is when you wash your clothes, if you wash in cold (water) you save five pounds of carbon dioxide. And if you line dry, you save the same."

UN and a birthday

On this my birthday, September 19th, I want to tell you that I found the United Nations to be a remarkable place, versatile and capable of making changes [considering its size & operating in a rapidly changing world], and still able to do some good in the world. Our conference is a testament to that. I left with a renewed sense of hope in the United Nations.

Marian E. Voetberg

Blogging and the UN

Hi, Servas is getting increasing media exposure on blogs.

I wanted to check, before making an effort to start a blog for Servas observers at the UN in NYC next week.

<http://servasun.wordpress.com/2007/09/02/hello-world/>

Gary Sealey

Peace

Servas, peace, and volunteering

Being a Servas traveler is an amazing, effective way of learning more about a local culture than one can glean on a trip where we are staying in hotels and meeting only people who are employed in the tourist industry.

If you are ready to take it up a notch and to experience an even deeper sense of belonging - not to mention building peace via international friendships - then consider the possibility of being a volunteer overseas.

If you are an American citizen, you are eligible to be a Peace Corps Volunteer. This organization asks for a commitment of twenty-seven months, which includes three months of training in the country of placement, followed by two years of service. (For details, see the website www.peacecorps.gov.) I was a volunteer in Mauritania, West Africa from 2003-2005. I joined at the age of 56. The Peace Corps reports that about 5% of its Volunteers are over the age of 50. They are currently involved in an initiative to double that number.

Take a look at the website put up at www.idealists.org. It lists more than 7,000 nonprofit jobs, 11,000 volunteer opportunities, around 70,000 volunteer organizations. These can be overseas and within your own community.

Since my Peace Corps service, I have done two volunteer stints with American Jewish World Service (www.ajws.org). In 2006 I spent two months in India; in 2007, I spent two months in Ghana. In each case, I was drawing on my 34-year teaching career so I could work with teachers to help them improve their instruction, based on the needs of the local organization that had requested a volunteer.

Remuneration for volunteers varies. In the case of the Peace Corps, the volunteer is an agent of the United States government, which pays all travel expenses and gives a monthly living allowance.

For my work with American Jewish World Service, I was reimbursed for my travel expenses to the country where I worked. In India, the school that had requested me provided lodging and three meals a day. In Ghana, I had to pay my own way.

Each organization varies. Many of my friends and relatives were surprised to learn that I had to pay any of my own costs. They asked, "You mean you are giving your own time and you have to pay your own way, too?" Yes, it is true in most (but not all) cases.

By doing this type of work, you have the benefit of a longer stay in your country of service. You see local people daily and have the opportunity to gain deeper insights into their culture and language. You also meet volunteers from other countries - people who are approaching their work much the same way you are, but from their own cultural perspective. I was fascinated to learn about the initiatives - both governmental and private - that sent people abroad from Canada, England, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, and Japan.

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to travel internationally, we know that the world has never seemed the same since that first visit to another country. I heartily encourage you to expand your knowledge, abilities, and sense of self by becoming a volunteer in another culture.

Jay Davidson, San Francisco, CA, USA

(Like Jay I have also done volunteer work, although this was in my younger days. I much appreciated how much I learnt, and like other volunteers just hoped that I had been able to give as much as I had gained. Ed.)

International Day of Peace 21 September 2007

How many Servas people:

- Knew about the International Day of Peace?
- Did something special towards Peace on that day?
- Shared it with others?

The next day at a Servas meeting I found that only one person out of about 12 people knew what I was talking about when I asked them what was special about 21st September. We need to do more work in this area.

I admit that, although having noticed it in my diary, I then forgot about it. I was reminded by an email from Nandee, our International Peace Secretary - thank you Nandee.

So what did I do about it?

That afternoon I had a class of 12 and 13 year old children, that was doing a project on Bullying. First, with a few hints, I got them to work out what special day it was. Then in groups they discussed the relationship between Peace and Bullying. Most groups came up with ideas round the idea that Peace is the opposite to Bullying, Peace is the result of stopping Bullying and so on. I got them to think further than the classroom walls and to consider those countries where the National leaders are behaving like the playground bully - 'if you don't join my gang I will kill you'. I put over to them that unfortunately in the big wide world this playground bullying then does mean people being killed every day. It is not just a game. I hope that I have helped sow some seeds of Peace in the minds of that class.

What did YOU do about it?

Jane Giffould, Britain

October 2, the International Day of Non-Violence

Hopefully this was celebrated by all
Servas members in some way.

Servas Youth & Family Event 07 Dalesbridge, Britain

Two months later...

Pictures on www.servas.be

Did you know ...?

- That the successful Servas Youth & Family Event finished two months ago!
- That 40 participants were between 18 and 33
- That young people still believe in the Servas idea
- That the meeting gave the opportunity to meet the whole world
- That you could have a talk with Ailish & Hannah from Australia, Moses from Uganda, Mary from Malawi, Young from South Korea, Maggie from Venezuela, Rodolfo & Agustin from Mexico, Semmy from Turkey, Pablo from Argentina, Ahmed & Khalid from Egypt, Josh from US, Tapan from India, Sheherazade and Hamouda from Tunisia ...



North Africa with Turkey and South America

- That there were also nice young European girls and boys Fabricio, Joris, Laura, Janek, Miriam, Frederike, Camilla, Nigel, Siri, Laura...
- That we missed Melissa & Manuel Antonio from Peru and Tanveer from Pakistan
- That they couldn't come over because they didn't get a visa
- That Tanveer printed the cover for the youth CD
- That it was amazing how people of all ages were playing, talking, laughing, discussing, eating, sleeping, walking, swimming, caving, singing all together
- That I was happy to meet again Rodolfo and Agustin from Mexico

- That Mary, Semmy, Maggy and Rodolfo got a Travel Award
- That they are very grateful to Dianne from Singapore
- That all of us were touched by the witness of Mary from Malawi
- That we aren't conscious that life can be so hard
- That Moses told us that you could feed many persons in Uganda with £1
- That 'caving' has been a very popular activity
- That SYLE will be organized in many countries
- That we had 'fast' and 'faster' walks
- That our guides and drivers were 'super'
- That the landscape in Yorkshire is marvellous
- That we never saw so many sheep
- That we watched the movie 'An Inconvenient Truth'
- That we had workshops about Fair Trade, responsible tourism, a gap year...
- That a lot of participants made an interesting presentation about their country
- That Joris and I tried to convince people to visit Belgium & Luxemburg
- That trains are very expensive in Britain
- That the weather was not English as we didn't have rain
- That we got nice food
- That we appreciate the British committee for their work
- That we send a big 'Thank you' to Anne Greenhough
- That we are looking forward to the Youth Event 08 in Turkey
- **That you can enjoy a lot of pictures of the Youth Event on the website of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg www.servas.be - link pictures**



See You,

*Rita Dessauvage,
NS Belgium &
Luxemburg*

*with Peter at
Malham cove*

Baking / Cooking corner English Food

We are back home. Laundry done, backpacks back in the closet, a little cleaning and still lots to do.

We do have a suggestion for a "small corner" in the news letter: Part of traveling is tasting food that may be different in taste, color, texture, ingredients or manner of eating. Throughout our trip in England we tasted new food – different types of pies, the traditional fish and chips, Cartmel sticky toffee pudding, oatmeal porridge and others. At the get-together Helen W. and Eileen's baking activity was a great success – the children liked preparing and all of us enjoyed tasting at afternoon teatime.

So our suggestion is a "Baking/Cooking corner" with easy to make recipes. Here is a starter:

Shortbread cookies the children made at the get-together and Guy has already made at home:

150 gr. Flour
100 gr. Butter, soft, room temperature
50 gr. Sugar

Mix the ingredients well together. Create a ball. If the crumbs don't stick together add just a little water. Spread the dough on a plate or smooth surface. Cut out the cookies. Bake in a preheated oven at approx. 180 degrees Celsius, about 10 min. until colour is yellow-brown.

(nb: can also be done in a microwave in about 5 min. Ed.)

Some of the cookies the children baked at the get-together. Guy marked his "star of David" shaped cookie with a small flag.

Enjoy!

Nirit and Guy Harel, Servas Israel

Caving

The big grins say it all

Nirit and Guy Harel, Israel

Impressions

I don't know how to start, as it is really difficult to find the right words to describe how it was at Dalesbridge. I can call it my lifetime experience till now. Being with this number of people from the four corners of the world the six continents, one thing uniting them, SERVAS and it's concepts. That is why I was amazed with how friendly people were. By the end of the week we became real friends that made saying good bye really hard.

We lived together just like one big family sharing every thing, learning from and about each other. You can easily listen to four or five different languages in one small group discussion. That never made us feel that we were strangers or foreigners to each other. From the first day the borders of these different countries, languages and cultures had collapsed making one large family...SERVAS family.

Britain was very different from Egypt. It was so green and cold, especially for that time of the year! But I liked it very much, it such a beautiful country. I enjoyed walking for long walks on the green hills but the activity that I most enjoyed was caving. It was terrific under ground and I am happy that I added such an experience to myself as it was my first time to do it.

It was my first time camping as well and apart from the cold weather for our first night there, it was interesting. I enjoyed letting people try an Egyptian traditional drink during my presentation. I hope people liked both the presentation and the drink. It was such fun to share all these memories with my new friends there.

I am sending my greeting for every one telling them that I miss them all, miss every single thing that we did there. See you all in turkey.

Ahmed Salem, Alexandria - Egypt

Developing a song

How many emotions are there when looking back with the memory to the Dalesbridge Meeting!
How many people, how many smiles.....

When back at home, we are surprised at how photos, a writing, a sketch, help the memory to go back places, to see those people, those moments inside us again. A song can also help. Every product of our imagination is unique and it's the outcome of that context. Moments rare in beauty, like the long-walk in the Gordale Scar, in the Limestone Country.

An insignia at the beginning of the path quoted: *"..every object conspires to produce one of the grandest spectacles in nature. The rocky impeding fearfully over the head of the spectator, seem to threaten his immediate destruction"* (Edward Dayes 1805). There I have found an inspiration. Climbing up the rocks alone, A melody came to my mind; so I started to sing: "the spirit flies over the clouds...". It was already the right spirit to create a meeting-song: **"The Spirit of Servas"**

But this is really a Servas-song first because it has been a collective action of creation. The action of creation of the song is a true example of putting together more proposals in a unique work. Each one can feel it is his own, because it was created with the contribution of everybody: the young Lara, from Italy, proposed to make a song of the meeting, I thought of the initial chords and then together with Magi elaborated and improved the melody, style and interpretation. But the idea that marked a turning point and characterized the whole song, was to ask every participant to write on a sheet his own sensations and impressions about those days together. The most beautiful sentences now are inside the text of the song.

THE SPIRIT OF SERVAS

I've come from far away to find myself here
I feel privileged to be among
Such a wonderful group of people

I feel optimistic about the future of the world
I'm feeling part of so many cultures
I'm feeling part of the world

Chorus:

The spirit of Servas is spreading all over the world

The spirit of Servas is reaching out to the world

Friendship peace, harmony, let's make it the real world

Happiness joy love laughter hope

Chorus:

The spirit of Servas...

We are reaching out to the world.

For this reason a song like this, born in that context, contains in itself the being of mind, captured live, during the meeting, using the whole mentality of the group.

With this song we concluded the meeting of Dalesbridge during the concert of the last evening, and with it we wish the formation of a new big group of young people.

Fabrizio Sforza, Italy

And here, a portrait of one keen participant at Dalesbridge



..... and this one?



Thanks to Semi of Turkey for these pictures



Welcome to the most important Practical Peace we've ever sent.

FIRSTLY...

PEACE.

Take a moment and think about that one little word.

What images come into your mind?

We want you to look at peace from a new perspective.

To mark the [UN Day of Peace](#) (September 21st), be the first to see the new film we've made with our Ambassador Gill Hicks.

[This is what we think peace is.](#)

(Thanks to Paul Neville at Vividas for the technical wizardry.)

[The film is also available to view on Youtube here](#)

We think the film has a powerful message we'd like as many people as possible to see. Please use the forward button at the bottom of this email to spread the word.



SECONDLY...

Today we're relaunching the programme at the very heart of Peace Direct.

In every conflict, amazing people with courage, knowledge and passion are risking their lives to build peace that lasts.

We'd like to introduce them to you...

The Champions Programme

backup for superheroes

NAME: HENRI BURA LADYI

PROJECT: CENTRE RESOLUTION CONFLITS

LOCATION: D.R.CONGO

In the aftermath of a savage war, bitter disputes rage between the militia and the government, between different tribes, and over land and resources. Henri and his team provide expert conflict resolution to a community that trusts and respects them.



[MORE ON HENRI](#)

NAME: ASHIMA KAUL

PROJECT: ATHWAAS

LOCATION: KASHMIR

She finds common ground, cuts through mistrust and suspicion and exposes what unites rather than divides. Ashima and her fearless team bring Kashmiri women together regardless of religion, forging a formidable network of centres where women can meet in safety.



[MORE ON ASHIMA](#)

NAME: THE ESCUELA TEAM

PROJECT: COLECTIVO DE MUJERES PAZIFICAS

LOCATION: CALI, COLOMBIA

In a country ravaged by decades of violent conflict and gross human rights violations, every year the courageous Escuela empower and educate hundreds of women from Cali and the surrounding villages in non-violent resistance.



[MORE ON THE ESCUELA TEAM](#)

Pick the project that inspires you and for £10 a month become their Champion

100% of your money goes directly to the project.

Become part of a peacebuilder's world with regular emails, photos and films from the field.

Know that your support is making one part of the world more peaceful.

[The Peace Direct Champions.](#)

Back up for Superheroes.

Just time to say that Peacedirect.org has relaunched - have a look and get a new perspective on the work we do and the amazing people we support. Thanks to Simon, Dom, Adeola and Paul at Digital Craftsmen - you've done a brilliant job. Have a great month and we'll be back in October.





**You are invited to
Stand up and Speak out
against Poverty and Inequality!**

On October 17th, millions of people from around the world will participate in a global advocacy event to set an official Guinness World Record - the greatest number of people ever to STAND UP against Poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals.

Last year more than 23 million people in 87 countries stood up in what was the largest single coordinated mobilization in the history of the Guinness World Records.

Launched by the Millennium Campaign, STAND UP relies fully on citizen participation in that individuals everywhere organize local and group events around the world using their bodies (rather than their voices) as symbols of advocacy.

The world physically and symbolically "stands up" to communicate their desire to fight poverty and hold governments and leaders accountable for promises to end poverty by 2015.

Get a group of people, come up with your own creative idea for an event, and share it with the world.

On October 17th, 2007, get ready to Stand Up and Speak Out!

www.standagainstopoverty.org

UNA-USA's Council of Organizations wants to alert you to the CHANCE to make a difference in the fight against Global Poverty.

The CHANCE to stand up for an issue that matters to you, like Darfur or Climate Change.
The CHANCE to enter the Guinness book of world records.

The Millennium Campaign of the United Nations is organizing the Stand Up Against Poverty Campaign, which is an effort to get individuals to symbolically show their support for efforts to end poverty by standing up on the same day - October 17. We are urging Council of Organizations members to host events around the country to take action on October 17 and stand up against poverty.

We hope organizers will use this opportunity to "speak out" on behalf of your related priorities – such as for Darfur, against hunger, to fight HIV/AIDS, etc. Host an event for the public, gather your members and have a STAND UP moment during your regular events and meeting, or host a simple dinner for friends to show your support. Events must fall between 9:00 PM GMT on October 16 and 9:00 PM GMT on October 17.

For more information, and to register your event to be counted, please visit www.standagainstopoverty.org and see the formal invitation below.

To learn more about the United Nations or to reach the United Nations Information Center in Washington, please go to www.unicwash.org – or phone 202-331-8670.

US Servas is a member of the organization sponsoring this effort

Mary Jane Mikuriya, USA