

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

First Half-year 1983

No. 18

The more things change the more they stay the same

In writing of the leaders of Renaissance Florence, his contemporaries, Machiavelli commented:

"There is nothing more soul-destroying than to see the different party chiefs pretending to put liberty before their party interests and, while their actions prove that they are sworn enemies of liberty, their popular and oligarchical governments grow oppressive in the name of preserving liberty. The reward which they hope to reap by defeating their enemies is not the glory of delivering the state from her adversaries, but rather the pleasure of vengeance and the eventual enslavement of their own country. No sooner have they usurped their authority than they indulge in all manner of extreme injustice, cruelties and violence; this gives rise to laws and regulations whose whole objective, heedless of public good, is the furtherance of private gain; these give rise to wars, treaties, and alliances, which are undertaken to satisfy the ends of a few grasping individuals and certainly not to make their state the more glorious.



Niccolò Machiavelli
Florentine Historian and Political
Commentator (1469-1527)

reign elsewhere, I would reply that your Republic is more unlovely than any other because her laws and regulations are never established as they should be in a free state, but only by the whim of those who have ousted their rivals."

Machiavelli could very well have written those words in 1983, so little true progress has mankind achieved in the intervening five hundred years. How many more centuries before the emergence of fraternal and cooperative societies?

Rosalind Schama Editor

Servas International Conference

The next S.I. conference will take place at Nahariyah, Israel, from Tuesday, 5th April to Sunday, 10th April, 1983. Further information is obtainable from Denise Waech, S.I. Assistant General Secretary, Ceresstr. 23, CH-8008 Zurich, Switzerland.

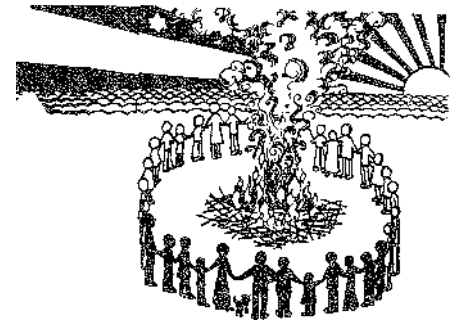


Jerusalem

Activities with the United Nations

March through August, 1982

The UN Special Session on Disarmament II was our priority. More than thirty *Servas* members (including at least twelve non-Americans) attended one or more of the official UN Sessions and/or parallel meetings of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's). New York *Servas* also hosted many



other NGO delegates, such as Brigadier Michael Harbottle, leader of *Generals for Peace*. Several of us, as volunteers for the Disarmament Information Bureau, strengthened our cooperation with other groups. Our work was highly recognized, and S.I. was one of the organizations selected by the Secretary-General for a reception necessarily limited to those organizations contributing the most to disarmament and peace.

Edith Neece, our regular representative to the NGO Disarmament Committee and to UNISPACE, reports as follows:

"The UN Special Session on Disarmament II came to a grinding halt on Saturday evening, July 10th. Very little was accomplished by the delegates representing the nations of the world. The political will to achieve even a modicum of success was contravened by the fighting and squabbling among the nations. Big nations and small nations chose to be irritable and intractable. A few delegates made laudable proposals to get the august body out of a sinking morass.

Delegates from Mexico, Sweden, India and Ireland introduced draft resolutions calling for a nuclear 'freeze'. The Mexican-Swedish proposal was congruent with the Nuclear Weapons Freeze movement in the USA. The Indian proposal included all five nuclear powers and the Irish proposal vaguely called on the USA and USSR to agree to a moratorium on further introduction of nuclear weapons. None succeeded in becoming a General Assembly resolution.

Now, if you say that these disorders also

Other disappointments include: (1) failure to achieve a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, an idea that has been considered since the 1960s to follow the partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963; (2) a Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament (CPD) to provide timetables and creative ways to commence the disarming of nations was sent back to the Committee on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva with instructions to present a revised version to the General Assembly in 1983; (3) a treaty to make nuclear weapons illegal was hardly considered; (4) chemical and radiological war was touched on, but much is necessary to control these dehumanizing weapons. In the wake of such a disappointing Special Session, there is a need for citizens everywhere to become aware of the strategic arms that will foster greater insecurity in the world as nations' war machines become more accurate and computerized. This puts the world on a 'hair-trigger' alert system, increasing opportunities for nuclear war by accident."

In Geneva, Janine Hall attends the UN Committee on Disarmament (CD). There is also endless dissent within the Disarmament Centre. Similarly to repeated comments during SSD II, the Belgian Ambassador said: "Now it is up to you NGO's". Discouraging as much of the foregoing may be, I (Reva) am contacting international leaders who facilitated our growing NGO disarmament collaboration and hope that each *Servas* branch can participate in such cooperative efforts within their own countries.

Unispace. Edith Neece also reports: "This past year I have been working on the NGO Committee on the Peaceful Development of Outer Space. This prepared for a conference in Vienna 9th-21st August. The following comments are the result of my work with this Committee.

Since 'verification' is an essential part of the proposal to freeze the nuclear arms race, I wish to express concern about what is happening in outer space. Both the USA and USSR are developing and deploying weapons of war in the new 'high frontier'. One of the first achievements being pursued by both countries is the establishment of anti-satellite satellites (A-SAT). The purpose of an A-SAT satellite is to destroy reconnaissance and monitoring satellites, which in essence would negate 'verification'.

There is dialogue in Congress to have a US proposal to establish a joint peace-keeping satellite with the Soviet Union. In the mid-70s the USA and USSR co-operated in the joint space project Apollo/Soyuz. It certainly would be a

more positive approach than one of destruction."

At UNISPACE '82 in Vienna, three *Servas* members were registered. On 11th August Kurt Schmidt wrote: "We had an introductory meeting, not too well attended, on Sunday afternoon. I heard some lectures about space and the Third World. The NGOs had their own programme and were not at the official Conference. I will send more details after the Conference."

Development. (From report by representative Dr. Hermann Buttenwieser.) "Since I am, for reasons of time, only a member of the *Committee as a Whole*, I could attend only various meetings with speeches by UN leaders, briefing and enlightening us about some of the complicated activities dealing with development and the international meetings since the Vienna Conference, which I attended for *Servas* in 1979.

The preparatory report for the next international meeting contained a long list of suggestions for NGO activities. I can hope only that some of the suggestions may lead to better conditions in the Third World as soon as possible, since time is of the essence.

The workshop on US Media Coverage of the Third World was also filled with difficulties and problems for all concerned.

Activities of the various sub-committees of the *Committee as a Whole* have seemed elusive thus far, but are vital, since some of them seem related to transnational corporations, including the military complex.

An additional *Servas* representative is needed for these specialized committees to promote progress in our troubled world while also promoting the fine goals of *Servas*:"

Decade for Women (from report by representative, Lydia Tabor.) "One-half of the world's people are women. They perform two-thirds of the world's work, but they earn only 10% of the world's revenue and they possess only 100th of the world's property. That is reason enough for women of the more privileged countries to help improve the under-privileged women's lot.

The *Decade for Women* is doing this mainly in the field of health, education and development through sharing information acquired from all over the world with those women who have little or no access to information and methods of how to improve their life and status. The creation of goodwill in the developing countries is work for peace. The fact that the *Decade* meetings are attended not only by local NGOs but also by international guests, people of integrity and devotion to social work, makes them even more valuable and educational."

Committee on Ageing (from report by representative, Henriette Lund.) "The Committee closed its year's sessions on 10th June, 1982. Programmes had concentrated on plans for the World Assembly on Ageing at Vienna, 20th July-6th August, 1982. The Assembly is one of the most important and humanitarian of all the UN Conferences, it was declared, because everyone is personally involved in the process of ageing and the majority of us will live to become aged. This is the age of the ageing.

In the Committee planning, great attention was given to the home care of the elderly, who should be encouraged to live as normally as possible within their own familiar surroundings and should be encouraged and enabled to assist in determining their own way of living. They should be helped to play a creative role in the community and their artistry encouraged. They are valuable resources. To be involved with the ageing population of the world is to recognize the expertise of life, which has no equal. The ageing transcend all boundaries because they are human. They are genuinely concerned with the well-being of all people and nations. To emphasize the place of youth in the programme for the aged, plans were approved for the planting of trees around the world by the ageing and youth as a dramatic, visually effective means to continue the impact of the World Assembly on Ageing. This would symbolize the circle of life - the planting of one generation for the planting of future generations. This may include exchange of trees among different countries.

Youth and youth employment were discussed in relation to the elderly. The training of persons of all ages to help older people was considered. Never before have so many people in the earlier ages been helped to meet the older years. It is the well-being of all humanity that is involved in our work."

In Vienna, *Servas* was represented at the World Assembly on Ageing by Gerda Madl. We await that report and the implications for *Servas*.

(We hope our wonderful representative, Henriette Lund, will forgive us for an error that slipped into SIN 16 when we unwittingly lopped ten years off her great age. It was given as 85, whereas we now learn that she had her 95th birthday early in October, 1982. I am sure all members would eagerly offer their congratulations and thank her for the marvellous way she continues to prove, as our representative, that advancement in years need not bar one from continued participation in active life.

Rosalind Schama.)

Committee on Youth. As representative, Clarence Jackson had to miss many meetings, Reva generally substituted. Clarence faced difficulties in getting time off from his paid employment but it is hoped that the situation may improve.

This Committee continued focussing much attention on its by-laws; its successful application for membership in CONGO; efforts to plan programmes with the Ageing; and preparing programmes for SSD II. I concentrated my major efforts on the latter, although many of my suggestions were rejected.

For reasons too complicated for this report, the Youth Committee's major programme for SSD II was boycotted by many groups. Partisanship appeared to be a major factor. There is some indication that this Youth Committee in New York has a poor relationship with its counterpart in Geneva.

Because the young have such a vital role in *Servas* and in the future of our world, we propose:

1. Attempting regular participation by *Servas* in the Youth Committees of both New York and Geneva to see if we can help facilitate cooperation between the two NGO Committees.
2. Encouraging joint activities of the Ageing and Youth Committees.
3. Stimulating the Youth Committee's continued focus on the implications of the arms race and disarmament.
4. In view of the Youth Committees being formed in many countries in preparation for International Youth Year (1985), we suggest that insofar as possible, *Servas* establish liaison with such national Committees where they exist.

Human Rights. As our representative on this NGO Committee had many schedule conflicts, Reva also attended many of the meetings, which were focussed primarily on developments within the General Assembly and Committee efforts to promote increased action by the Assembly regarding human rights issues. Perhaps the greatest achievement of all was the Assembly's ultimate adoption of the *Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief*. This had been largely drafted by the NGO Committee, which will also have a role in promoting its implementation.

Our major participation in this Committee was demonstrated when our suggestion was given first priority during the 15th General Assembly of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC (13th-16th September). We had called attention to the role of military industries in promoting military dictatorships, the resulting restriction of human rights, and the need to make *Peace* a human right. In view of the fact that this Committee appears to be more

interested than most other NGO Committees in the influence of military industries on governments, we must somehow find a way to increase our participation.

Summary. To fulfil our potential in stimulating NGOs, it is obvious that we need more *Servas* representatives. Although one could suggest better selection of priorities, it is difficult to predict which NGO committee will be most receptive to our initiatives. We also know that some representatives have expertise which is more appropriate for one committee than another. Our expenses are essentially the same regardless of the number of representatives or committees in which we participate. Your reactions to the dilemma regarding priorities will be appreciated. It may be possible to recruit more representatives, depending upon your opinions.

Reva King

*Peace Secretary and NGO
Representative at the Economic &
Social Council, UN*

Ten Years of *Servas*

Ten years membership in *Servas*, ten years of *Servas* experience and friendships made in many countries the world over.

Various attempts to make a trip to the USA ended unsuccessfully. I had in mind not just a sightseeing tour but to get to know human beings, especially in their family environment. I had fixed on the date in July, 1971 and arranged a flight, which wasn't easy for me in those days when, as a conscientious objector, I was serving in a workcamp near Braunschweig. An additional problem was silence from *Servas* Germany, caused by a change of officers at that time, and so I didn't receive a US host list until a couple of days before my departure. But dear Reva King, to whom I had written beforehand, came to my rescue and helped to find me a host family. That family gave me a convincing and positive impression of *Servas*, and for that I am grateful to them. After a far too short trip I was, and still am in contact with that family, other members, and of course with Reva.

It was Reva who asked me, two years later, to help build up *Servas* in its blank spot, the Near East. At that time I was a UN volunteer in an FAO food and nutrition project in the Arab Republic of Yemen. After a time I succeeded in finding some interested people, including some of the local population, to run *Servas* after I left. However, at the present there is silence in the Yemen, unlike Egypt, where, together with Neithard Petry, I had more success, and it has kept going. For a while we had hosts

in Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia as well. Still alive are *Servas* in Kuwait (a Brit-

ish host), the occupied West Bank (Jericho), Cyprus and Turkey. *Servas* was also founded in Israel, thanks to the inspiration of *Oliva*, of which our dear member Benjamin Jeremias was the prime mover.

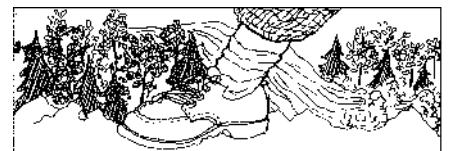
In 1974 I was elected to the Executive Committee and became Peace Secretary. I also became interviewer for the Hanover area, and in 1975 became a host in my own home.

I travel only by, with and for *Servas* within Germany, and in 1977 visited Great Britain with my parents and sister. This was a great experience for them and they learnt much of value, especially as it was their first *Servas* journey. We were particularly grateful to the families in a small town near Edinburgh, to the Cox family on the Isle of Wight and the Palos in London, whose outstanding hospitality we so much enjoyed. The Highlands of Scotland and London, with its many interesting churches and historical riches interested the whole family. A highlight of the trip was a wonderful meeting of *Servas* members from London and the South-East of England.

Since then I have re-visited Great Britain in the company of my girl-friend and another couple. We concentrated on London and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, its great scenery and wonderful people. Despite fewer hosts in the outlying regions, we had a superb journey and stayed with both old and new *Servas* friends. The same can be said for journeys in France (Paris and the South-West) and to Zurich. I have since travelled to Denmark, to England and France again, to the United States, Egypt, and within Germany.

Now, more than ten years with *Servas* have passed, but not my activities, interest and belief in its ideas and aims. Meanwhile, I have become a member of other peace organizations and groups promoting relations with the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. I shall go on working and recruiting people - both friends and strangers - into *Servas* in order to continue its existence and its contribution to the everlasting peace of mankind. *Let's go actively into the next ten years with *Servas*.*

*Hans-Werner Emrich
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Federal Republic of Germany*



family had been included in the 1982 Indian Host List. Surprisingly, I have not received a copy of the Host List, which prevents me from making contact with other Indian hosts and travellers and thus strengthening the movement by closer cooperation with one another. (Hopefully, this omission has now been repaired and the Host List supplied by our Indian Secretary, Harivallabh Parikh. *Ed.*)

My views about disarmament are firmly based on Gandhi's philosophy. Arms are not the medium for building universal friendship but one which encourages fears for their safety in all peoples.

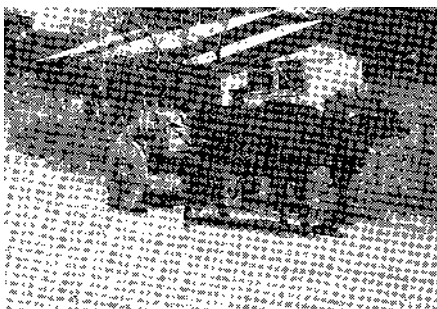
*Narendra J. Kapadia
Block No. 92/548
Vijaynagar, Ahmedabad-13
Gujarat, India*

Servas in Central America

Last winter I spent my time travelling in Central America, visiting *Servas* hosts and house-sitting for the Costa Rica *Servas* Secretary. *Servas* development in Central America has been very good, thanks to some hard-working representatives. There are hosts in Belize, Guatamala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, plus twelve Caribbean Islands. I hope to have over one hundred hosts on the 1983 List. Next winter I expect to visit most of the twelve Caribbean Islands where we have hosts, among them Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Barbados, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Trinidad, and Curacao. I am now trying to establish contacts with peace-minded people in Cuba.

In Costa Rica I have come to know a fine group of people in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (see S.I.N. No.17). A project which they share with the Quakers there is the University for Peace. It needs moral and financial support and also a clearer sense of what it is to be and to do when it comes into existence.

*Kay Lazarus
Servas International Coordinator
11 John Street, New York
N. Y 10038, USA*



A typical scene in rural Costa Rica

University for Peace Moves Beyond the Talk Phase

The University Council, appointed in accordance with the International Agreement approved by the UN General Assembly and signed by twenty-two nations, was formally inaugurated in the Costa Rican National Theatre on 6th March, 1982. The Council is expected to number twenty-five, including the Rector and student representatives when appointments are complete.

Among those present at the first session were representatives of UNESCO, the UN Institute for Training and Research, the UN University in Japan, and the UN itself. With consideration for the University's mandate to educate to foster peace, the Council agreed upon structure, organization and relations with the host country. All decisions of the Council were made by *consensus*.

An Executive Committee was appointed with President Rodrigo Carazo of the host country as President, Sida Marjanovic (Yugoslavia), the only woman present, as Vice-President, and Victor Uriquidi (Mexico).

The proposed site for the University is in a wild area only about 25 kms from San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. It is a tract of virgin forest donated to the Government of Costa Rica for such a university by the original owner. It is expected that much of the natural beauty will be preserved and enjoyed. Some construction is underway.

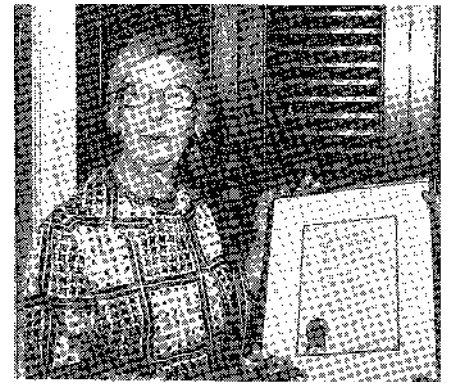
For information and the submission of ideas about the future of the University write to: President Rodrigo Carazo, Apto 199, Escazu, Costa Rica. Donations, however small, towards the funds may be sent to: The University for Peace Account, c/o The Chemical Bank, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA.

The foregoing was extracted from *Critical Advocate*, a Newsletter for the University for Peace, published in Harrisburg, PA, USA.

Henrietta Lund's Secret of Eternal Youth

It was on one of those balmy days last December we visited *Servas's* 95-year volunteer and host, Henrietta Lund, not so much to interview her for this article (we were given copious material on her life's work), but because we were eager to meet this remarkable woman.

With a firm handshake she welcomed us into her twenty-first floor Lower East-side New York apartment over-looking the East River and led us out on to a balcony high above the warehouses, docks and chimneys.



Henrietta Lund receiving Distinguished Citizen Award in New York, 1978

"Every day a different boat pulls in!" she exclaimed, as the sun broke through the clouds over Brooklyn Bridge, and after viewing the city from all her windows, we settled down to talk. As she spoke, shafts of sunlight played across her lively face and short white hair encircled by a colourful hand-woven band. A small woman, full of vitality and un-bent with age, she told us about her lifelong need to be useful. And, indeed, if there ever has been a useful life, it is hers.

These days she teaches "instant" English to Chinese immigrants and foreign scholars in general at New York University as a volunteer for the English-Speaking Union, hosts *Servas* visitors, does family counselling at a settlement house, sells UNICEF cards and represents *Servas* at the United Nations Committee on the Ageing. Her duties are to encourage *Servas* travellers to study and discuss developments regarding ageing in various countries; to help improve attitudes between youth and the ageing through attempts to understand their differences and also recognize areas of mutual concern; to help older people keep up with technical fields by encouraging young people ir-various parts of the world to correspond with their older counterparts; and to prepare and publish profiles describing older people.

We remarked that we consider her well qualified indeed to influence the young. "Young!" she laughed, "Every-body is young compared to me. You know, people want me to speak these days just because I'm so *old*." We firmly and sincerely contradicted her.

"I'm beginning to slow down and I don't like it," she said, with a shake of her head.

She then began to reminisce, attributing her energy and enthusiasm in helping people to her almost perfect lifelong health.

She is of Danish lineage, her father having been owner and editor of the *Luck Enterprise*, in Luck, Wisconsin. From him she learned how to write news stories, set type and sell ads, her

tuition at Macalister College in Minnesota paid for by ads to her father's newspaper. She graduated from Macalister in 1910 with one of the first social work degrees in the country. Showing us her doctoral hood and a beautiful glass mug given her by the College, she told us about her recent trip back to Macalister where she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree after seventy-three years. As a student at Macalister, she said she learned to understand something about justice, freedom and peace in the world and how to use that knowledge.

After leaving College she began her long social service career with the Minneapolis family welfare agency and served with the Red Cross on relief and rehabilitation teams in floods, fires and tornadoes. Later, she headed Lutheran Church efforts to resettle European refugees after World War II and the Hungarian Revolution. Still later the UN awarded her the prestigious Peace Medallion for serving at the UN for fifteen years as non-governmental observer for the Lutheran World Federation.

Over tea and some marvellous chocolate cookies she told us about her work with Blackfoot Indians as consultant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, showing us some of their rugs and a fine piece of beadwork she said was a saddlebag. She examined our silver pin from Mexico, relating to us that she had once owned a house outside Mexico City where people from everywhere had been her guests. At one time, she told us, she was director of North Dakota's State Children's Bureau. Then in 1933 she moved to New York to head Staten Island's Social Services Department, later becoming welfare services consultant to the National Lutheran Council. In 1949 she was loaned for a year to the Lutheran World Federation to direct refugee services in Austria.

Working with church missions, Henrietta Lund made six extended trips to Arctic regions, the last at the age of 94, to develop talents and leadership abilities among the Eskimos. This resulted in two books, *The Arctic Children of God* and *Of Eskimos and Missionaries*.

At 89 she marched in front of the office of the South African Consulate to protest against the violation of human rights there and in other countries.

"I'm not very religious," she said, "I just want to be useful." And it seemed to us that perhaps she is the most profoundly religious person we have ever met. A "doer", not a philosopher, with a gift for long friendships, her dignity and warmth and aliveness at ninety-five are an inspiration. And yes, we spoke of death. "Oh," she said lightly, "I don't have much more time here, but I

stopped worrying about it a long time ago. What I don't like is slowing down."

Living alone at her advanced age and a bit unsteady on her feet, she has been robbed at gun and knife-point but seems quite unafraid. "I take things as they come," she said.

As she showed us her mother's set of Danish brass pots arranged skillfully on a wall, we asked her what she considered the secret of her long and active life. She stopped to think for a moment. "Being useful," she concluded.

Ruth Parsons Servas host, New York City

Adult Education Courses in Denmark 1983

The International People's College, founded by the late Dr. Peter Manniche (Danish Sponsor of *Servas International*) in 1921, is to hold two Summer Courses for International Understanding this year. The first, entitled *Adult Education in a Learning Society*, will take place from 24th July to 7th August, and the second, *Education for Peace*, will run from 7th-12th August. *Servas* Denmark has donated about \$1,000 - towards financial support for participants from developing countries and East Europe. The fees are moderate and, when applying, *Servas* members should refer to their membership. Write to *Den Internationale Hojskole, DK-3000 Helsingor, Denmark*, to obtain the programme and application form.

Servas France

Janine Hall, our representative at the Geneva Disarmament Commission, recently organized a *Servas* party in her home Feigeres at Sr. Julien-en-Genevois, close to the Swiss border. As can be seen from the photograph taken by Janine, a professional photographer, the *Servas* members and their families were having a delightful evening. Janine has a beautiful home in an idyllic spot and is a warm and welcoming host, as I know very well, having visited her myself.

You may feel that there is nothing remarkable about a *Servas* party, but not everybody appreciates the notion that it is up to any host, anywhere, to arrange small informal get-togethers, be it at the level of a large city, a small town, a region, or, as the Germans and Danes have done, across the borders of two countries (see SIN Nos. 14 & 16). Such small gatherings can take the form of a lunch, an afternoon teaparty, or an outing or hiking party, every participant contributing food and drink.

National secretaries are usually overworked, thus such local initiatives should be encouraged. They create a rich exchange of views, a new awareness of the oneness of the Organization, and provide an opportunity for the analysis of similar problems and experiences, besides offering very satisfying and warm

social occasions.

Rosalind Schama Editor



Do not be afraid of enemies - at worst they can kill you.

Do not be afraid of friends - at worst they can betray you.

Be afraid of the indifferent ones, for they do not kill and they do not betray, but it is only with their silent consent that murder and treason are at work on our Earth



For Non Members: What is Servas about anyway?

"With every true friendship we build more firmly the foundation on which the peace of the whole world rests." -

M. K. Gandhi.

Servas is an international co-operative system of travellers and volunteer hosts, established to help build world peace, good will, and understanding by providing opportunities for contacts between persons of different cultures and backgrounds.

Hosts (mostly individuals and families, plus some community groups) provide information about themselves for listing in a national host directory. Approved *Servas* travellers choose the hosts they wish to write to, or telephone, about possible visits (usually two nights), to share life in the hosts' homes and communities.

Servas charges travellers a small fee. No money changes hands between travellers and hosts. (Ideas, we hope, pass freely between them.)

Servas is nonprofit, interracial, and interfaith. It has consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organization with ECOSOC in the United Nations.

The Jews of Kaifeng

Recently in *The Jerusalem Post* in articles on the ancient Jewish community at Kaifeng some significant facts were omitted. The most important work on the Kaifeng Jewish community is *The Survival of the Chinese Jews* by Ronald David Leslie, Leiden, 1972. It far surpasses in scholarship and thoroughness the better known book by Charles William White, *The Chinese Jews*. I went to China in the summer of 1978 to find out more about them, but could not visit Kaifeng. I know three people who did visit Kaifeng to meet the Jews. One of them, Marc-Daniel Margulies, I met in Nanking the day after he had been to the city. He wanted to do three things: see the place where the synagogue had stood until about 1850; see the stone with a well-known Chinese-Jewish inscription dating from 1489; and meet the Jews. The three local guides he met refused to help him attain his objectives in spite of his strong protests. They did not, however, deny the existence of these Jews. So in 1978 there were still Jews there, or, as the definition of who and what is a Jew is beyond most of us, there were Chinese people of Jewish origin! In 1976 a Chinese friend of mine, Hwang Tsu-Yii, visited Kaifeng, his

native city. He had left China in 1937 and this was his first visit since then. When he had told me the first time we met that he was from Kaifeng, I immediately asked him, "What do you know about the Jews?". He smiled and answered, "When I was young I knew that the people in one street were different, and when I was older I learnt that they were Jews." On his visit to Kaifeng he first asked about them at the local branch of the Government Tourist Office. They knew nothing about the Jews. A local taxi-driver, however, on hearing the name of the street, replied immediately, "The people who live there are Moslems." Chinese very often cannot distinguish between Jews, Moslems, and, for that matter, Christians! My friend and the taxi-driver could not, however, find the street.

The third person who had visited Kaifeng was an elderly man I met in West Berlin. He had been a refugee in China during World War II and had gone to Kaifeng in 1946 to meet the Jews. He had found them and talked to them. There were about nine of them, all very poor. He asked them, "What does being a Jew mean to you?" "We believe in *Ti*," they replied. *Ti* is a Chinese word for God. My informant, Herr Riegel, went on to Shanghai a few

days later, and there he received a large parcel of documents posted to him from Kaifeng. He took it to a Rabbi in Shanghai but in spite of enquiries to appropriate organizations and persons, he was unable to find out whether the papers ever reached a competent researcher.

Are there some Kaifeng Jews in India? Well, there is a group in Manipur near the Burmese border who claim descent from these Jews and officially call themselves "Jews of North East India". I have been in touch with their leader, and they have asked to be sent prayer shawls (*talissim*) and prayer straps (*tefillin*). I first read about them in an article on the Jews in India in *The Jerusalem Post* in 1976. Again, the Jewishness and Chineseness is a question to be left to experts, but as part of Chinese-Jewish tradition they seem to me to be well worth our attention!

In 1981 I visited India but was unable to reach Manipur. In Delhi, however, I met an Indian Jewish architect who during a visit to Manipur, contacted the "Jews of North-East India". He had some doubts about their beginnings, but what had impressed him most were two folksongs about their origins.

Theodor Katz
Servas Host
Sweden

SERVAS INDIA

Sooryakant Parikh, a Servas host in Ahmedabad, has, as a consequence of hosting Servas travellers for between four and five years, made the following suggestions for improving relationship between guests and hosts:

1. Travellers should send their hosts in advance a copy of their letter of introduction;
2. A list of three-star hotels should be supplied to travelers before they set out from their own countries for India;
3. Travellers should write to the Secretary for Servas India, Harivallabh Parikh, at Anand Niketan Ashram beforehand, giving the tentative dates of their journeys so that he may advise them of hosts' availability and travel routes.

JOIN, DONATE.

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All editorial & information enquiries to:

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Yeovil, Somerset, England.

Editor's farewell

This is the last editino of SIN thati I shall edit. I have enjoed every minute an thank all who have contributed, very warmly.

Rosalind

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