



Servas Monthly News 36



July 2008

Peace in the News

Most days I go on the internet to read the news. As I have commented before I find it very depressing as it seems to concentrate on wars, fighting, crime, murder, all the bad points in life. I make an effort to find something good. What I would really like to see is efforts towards peace. During July I found that Sarkozy of France was hoping to bring peace to the Middle East with a Mediterranean Union. The link is given below along with some extracts from the article.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7504214.stm>

Mediterranean union is launched

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has launched a new international body with 43 member nations aimed at ending conflict in the Middle East.

The Union for the Mediterranean will tackle issues such as regional unrest, immigration to pollution.

At the summit's opening in Paris, Mr Sarkozy said its aim was to ensure the region's people could love each other instead of making war.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders earlier expressed optimism about peace talks. Mr Sarkozy urged Middle Eastern countries involved in long-running conflicts to end the deadly spiral of war and violence, as European nations had done by making peace which each other during the 20th Century.

He said the grouping "will build peace in the Mediterranean together, like yesterday we built peace in Europe".

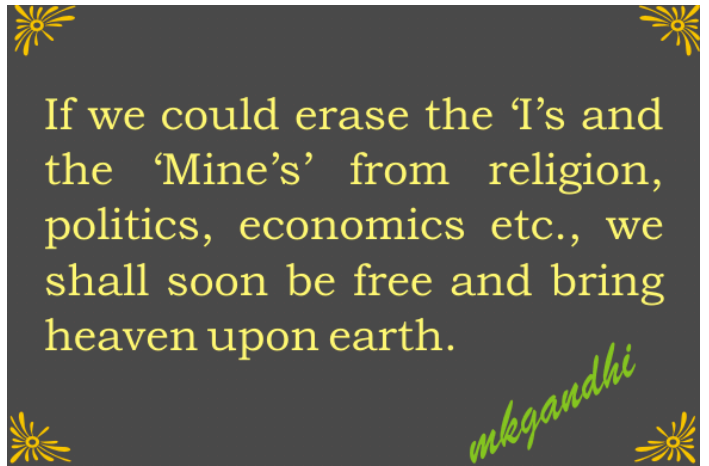
So I ask whether this is just another political gimmick or will something come out of it? Time will tell.

I would be grateful if Servas members could look for Peace related articles in the news and send them to me, preferably by email along with any internet links. Then we can share what is available.

Our next question is 'How can we, as Servas members contribute?'

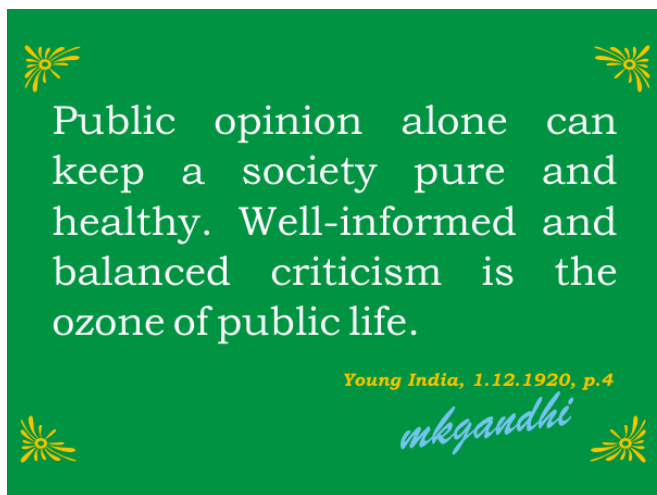
The Summer meeting at Quern was obviously aiming to bring nationalities together. I am assured that it was so good and busy that no one had any time to write.

I gather the Youth Meeting in Istanbul was also good. I hope that next month we will have articles from them.



Contents: 2008

1. Editorial
2. News - Quern
3. Meetings
4. Travellers tales - Alaska, Zimbabwe
5. Travellers tales - Uganda to UK
6. Country tales - 5 towns at Utrecht
7. Servas at UN and Comments
8. Info
9. Peace through meeting others
10. Youth



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.

European Servas Summer Meeting in Quern/Germany

4-9 July 2008

From 4 to 9 July the 6th European Servas Summer Meeting took place in Germany. Over 70 participants from 14 countries met in the northernmost part of Germany close to Flensburg and the Danish border. They came by car, train and even by bike. Settled by Angles, Danes and Frisians the area has a long cultural history and was often the pawn in hegemonial power plays, a destiny it shares with Elsass, Silesia and other European border regions. Consequently, a perfect place for a Servas meeting.

The initiative for a European Servas summer meeting originated in France. In the summer of 1997 Bertrand Balleuil, then European Coordinator, and Gilbert Revault, French national secretary at that time, initiated the first European Servas Summer Meeting in Teplice in Northeastern Bohemia together with Czech Servas friends.

Since then further meetings have taken place in Hungary 1998, England 2000, France 2002, Poland 2003. And finally another meeting in Quern, Germany in 2008. It was organized by Erika and Richard Cabassut from Strasbourg (France) and Margret Klaeser and Herbert Schaefer from Mainz (Germany), an established team that had organized other Servas events including the Summer university in Baerenthal in 2002.

The meeting followed the pattern of the French "Summer University": Participants could offer workshops and activities whether in sports, arts and crafts, music, culture, science or technical fields and were completely free in organizing them as they liked. And very many were prepared to do that! The more than full programme comprised altogether 25 different activities: workshops, lectures, excursions, games, videos, presentations. There was something on offer for all interests and tastes with a balance of fun, entertainment and educational contents. We laughed, sang, and danced a lot, we debated, exchanged ideas, contributed and experimented. Those who had not known the virtues of Servas before, could observe them in action here all day long, even at night in the bar. Not surprisingly, all "university students" passed with grade „excellent". Needless to say that the summer university took place in very attractive surroundings, close to the Baltic Sea and that the venue, Internationaler Jugendhof Scheersberg, offered pleasant accommodation and great food.

Lots more pictures to be found on:
www.servas-summer.eu - choose your favourite.



At the end of the meeting all had the same question: „Where and when will the next European Servas Summer take place?"

Rudolf Dederer, Servas Germany, 17.07.2008



Games at Quern - cats cradle?



Acrylic workshop.

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

International announcements of Servas events

The Servas Joomla website has a community calendar under the heading "Upcoming events".

http://joomla.servas.org/component/option,com_events/Itemid,87/

Some events have been put onto it. As more events are added to it, they can be forwarded to be placed into the calendar.

If you have any events you would like posted, please forward them to Gary Sealey - gary.sealey@gmail.com

COME AND BRING YOUR FAMILY!

SERVAS BAY AREA'S FIRST EAST BAY PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008
11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

ROBERTS PARK, OAKLAND

In the redwood-shaded picnic area named ROBERTS GROVE

Entrance to the park:

Skyline Boulevard, one mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Joaquin Miller Rd.)

For more information visit their web site which has maps, photos and public transit details.

<http://www.ebparks.org/parks/roberts>

Bring food to share and your beverage of choice.

Cost: \$3.00 per person to cover park reservation fees
\$5.00 per car for parking, \$2.00 to bring your dog

RSVP: let us know if you're coming by **August 20**

Invitation from Servas Belgium & Luxembourg

We'll have our yearly **Walk and Picnic**
on: Sunday 7 September 2008
in: the historical city of Oudenaarde, East Flanders,
You are all invited to join us!
contact: belgium@servas.org

Monthly Meeting in Brussels

Venue: Le Cirio in the centre of Brussels,
next to La Bourse/De Beurs
Date: Last Tuesday of the month
Time: 6 pm to 8 pm .
Info belgium@servas.org
You are welcome to join us

'Seoul to London' (the Asia-Europe Inter-Continent) Expedition

* **Period:** March 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010 (for 6 months)
* **Route:** From Seoul through Asia and Europe to London
* **Team:** 20 Servas members(10 Koreans and 10 multinationals)
* **Invitation:** The international Servas members are now being invited to join this expedition.
* **Contact:** Mr. Jong Soo Kim N.S. Servas Korea
servas@korea.com skype: kingofasia2 Cell: 82-16-830-2623
See Servas Monthly News February 2008 for full details.

Get together in London

The venue is **Pontefract Castle.**
This is in Wigmore Street, London W1.
The nearest Underground Station: Bond Street
Date: First Monday in every month.
Time: 6.30 onwards.
Look forward to seeing you all there.

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

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

Servas Britain
01 May - 04 May 2009
Dalesbridge revisited
for
60th Anniversary
Celebrations
and AGM

2009 -
Youth in Oz
MORE INFO:
www.servasyouth.org
CONTACT:
pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

FEA (Far East Asia) AREA MEETING

Hong Kong, September
see page 8 in June issue for details

Belgium & Luxembourg 2009
see p4 of June issue. More detail later.

Travellers Tales - Alaska + Zimbabwe

Alaska with Servas 2008 Belgian Travellers

After six weeks of Alaska experience we're now back home, safe and sound. We enjoyed our long stay in Alaska very much and thank all our Servas hosts; they all welcomed us warmly and made us feel at home.

After the first three weeks of home exchange with a family in Sitka (including the initial ³Inside Passage ride on the state ferry) we took the Fairweather ferry to Juneau and were welcomed by Sharon and Cliff. We stayed in their home next to the ocean and a small river outlet, with marvellous views over the water. In their home we experienced what it means that the Mendenhall glacier is receding. Sharon painted during the years several landscapes that clearly show the different positions of the end of the glacier. In between her paintings was also hanging a painting of Rie Muñoz, of whom we found another painting in the last house we stayed in, that of Marta Cobbs in Anchorage. So that circle has been completed. Sharon introduced us to local community life: a meeting in a coffee shop with some of their friends involved in parish work.

Sharon had recommended us to make a reservation for the Tracy Arm Cruise. Indeed, it was a very fine experience: a friendly captain, who gave us a lot of interesting information and showed us many animals along the ride, such as a black bear and a brown bear. Their dog Goldie was the first Servas dog we met, but not the last: dogs are very popular in Alaska, indeed. We were lucky and happy that all of our hosts dogs were as peaceful as their bosses.

Sharon delivered us to Lauren and Linni. Hikers themselves, they took us on Pioneer trail; that is one of the loveliest hikes we have done not the least because of the abundance of wild flowers in all those different colours.

Moreover it was an exceptionally sunny day. Their dog Kirsta was exhausted after the walk. In their house we witnessed what it means when a very close friend (actually living next door) leaves for as long as a year to take on a job in another country, taking the whole family with her: it was a heart-warming farewell, for us.

Lauren also took us up Mount Roberts (in the tram) and Linni guided us around on the top. Another unique experience was the young bear enjoying flowering catskins high up in a cottonwood tree that we were lucky to be able to watch with them for such a long time at the Mendenhall Visitors Center one evening.

Our last night in Juneau we spent in the house of Nancy and John. They really surprised us with their Belgian beer (and John's exquisite cooking). Here we had the opportunity to talk to their children, two young adults and learn about the situation of young people in a as it seems to us - fairly isolated town like Juneau. We pitied their poor old dog that was ill. The next morning Nancy drove us to the airport, between the early morning breakfast business meeting she happened to have and her normal work in her office.

Our flight, with two stops - in Yakutat and Cordova - was real flightseeing. We left Juneau in some clouds for a flight in open and sunny skies. We enjoyed the sight of the

many icefields and glaciers between Juneau and Anchorage: a real treat!. Even the stewardesses were amazed about the exceptionally clear sight!

In Anchorage we rented a car for the remaining two weeks, so we were more mobile. So we drove to Noel and Steve and felt honoured to be their first Servas guests. I hope we didn't disappoint our hosts! We learned a lot from them about bears and moose. They took us on an evening walk to look for some moose. We were lucky because they knew where to find them, and we were really rather close to one of them. They are such beautiful, impressive animals.

The next morning we took off to Denali. And we are very happy that we have been able to see the Alaska range and Mount Denali in glorious sunshine during the four days we were around there.

After returning to Anchorage we were welcomed by Pat and Ryan. They introduced us to the American (family) way of playing the poker game, but even now the game keeps having many tricks that we do still do not master at all, or perhaps not even know of. They also introduced us to some of their very good friends/colleagues who were happy to invite us one evening and try successfully - some new recipes on us. These people would be equally good hosts as the ones we met and we hope they join Servas.

The next days with Chris we talked a lot about television in Alaska (she works for a cable company), although in her home you might think to be in Scotland: a house where Scottish games and golf are all around. We drove to Seward and had some beautiful days there. With a coupon from Noel we could do the Northwestern Fjord cruise two for one. We are very grateful for that, because travelling in Alaska is truly expensive and if you want to see the glaciers and the coastline you must take cruises on smaller boats.

Our last host was Marta and her four dogs: Sidney, Kay, Summer and Duffy. Here we learned a lot about the natives. Marta is a great fan of Barbara Lavallee and Lavallee's drawings we found another one of Rie Muñoz. Our Alaskan circle was full round.

We want to thank you all lovely people, great hosts. You made it possible for us to travel around in Alaska and to add a lot more through your experience, your ideas and your way of living.

*Josee Heuts & Michael Goethals, Alaska 5 June-17 July08
Servas hosts in Belgium*

Travels in Southern Africa - an extract

My Zimbabwean host, Sue, was very resourceful. A retired teacher, she still gives private English lessons to eke out her pension. There is no doubt that everyone in Zimbabwe, black & white, is suffering real hardship, but as ever it is all relative. I contributed to food & petrol whenever possible, with a mixture of Zim\$ & US\$. We even found a relatively short petrol queue one day, and Sue had managed to buy some petrol coupons. Petrol is often in short supply, not actually rationed, but you have to buy coupons for the petrol, rather than pay for it in cash, as the total amount of notes needed to pay would be impossible to handle. I also travelled around in the local minibuses.

Margaret Seelig, England

Travellers Tales - Uganda to UK

Moses Kigozi's Travel experience in the United Kingdom 2007. Part 2

The houses were built with lime stones over hundred years ago. During our walk, we had to go swimming. There was only one outdoor swimming pool in the area. I was surprised to find the water in the pool warm since the weather was cold compared to Uganda. I had to be



with my sweater all the time which took a bit of getting used to, but fortunately without serious mishaps.

After swimming, we returned to the center and had afternoon tea followed by early evening meal in the dining room. This room was later cleared for entertainment and we danced before going to bed.

I am very thankful to Servas Britain team for the good organization of the "Servas Youth and Family Event". From 28th July to August 4th, we participated in a variety of programs. During the event, it was an opportunity for me to contribute to the programme in the workshops below.

- Health issues in Uganda and Africa, followed by a
- wider discussion on world health.
- An interactive workshop – Communication across Cultures.



- Watching of "An Inconvenient Truth", a film by Al Gore on climate change in the large meeting room followed by discussion on climate change and implication for traveling the world.
- Debate about world wide aid, debt and fair – trade – the balance of resources between rich and poor countries. This is led by a local Oxfam development worker with contribution from me and others.
- Presentation by Jean Seymour about Tourism concern and responsible tourism, followed by discussion about how Servas can offer young travelers a low impact, sustainable and ethical way to see the world.

Every day around 5pm outside the main room, we had youth meetings to discuss youth topics in Servas. Discussions held were on;

- "Servas Youth Dolphine Data Base" to include youth members contact information on line. "Servas Youth Language Experience" (SYLE) the program provides one month for learning a foreign language abroad through the Servas network for travelers between 18/30 years old.
- "Music for Peace CD", the files to burn and create the CD to our Servas groups were available and a donation of five pounds to cover the production costs was expected.
- "Youth Web Site". During the meetings, volunteers from several countries offered to help Servas Youth. Pablo was also to work with them later through e-mail.

I enjoyed a variety of Sports on/off site and pre – dinner games and entertainment. Most of the games were new to me, I liked caving this was provided by the Center's instructors.



We participated in sessions and our group had ten people. It was cold under the ground but the instructor told us during the winter it is warm. A walk in Malham Cove fields was nice.

On 3rd August we gathered in the large meeting room to exchange information and finalized the day's programme. Later in the afternoon we concluded discussions and we had the final Servas youth meeting. We went for the ceremony to receive our awards. Dianne Peterson from Singapore presented the awards. This was a donation from her stepmother's legacy. The final evening party was held.

*To be continued next month.
Moses Kigozi*

Countries - 5 towns meet in Utrecht

Five-Towns-Meeting, Utrecht 9-11 May 2008

Report sent by Belgian participants

Last May we had the opportunity to go to this meeting, organised by Margreet and Frits Stuurman, who hosted us as well.

The five towns are: Frankfurt/Trier (Germany), Strasbourg (France), Basel (Switzerland), Utrecht (The Netherlands) and for the first time this year Leuven (Belgium). Unfortunately no one of Basel could come.

The first evening we spent at our hosts' home talking.



On Saturday we met with the other guests and hosts in the Mennonite Church in Utrecht and enjoyed the lunch, prepared by the Dutch hosts. In the afternoon we had a guided tour in the Aboriginal Museum in

Utrecht and a walk through the beautiful centre of Utrecht. We had dinner in Pannekoekenhuis where most of us chose a different pancake and we afterwards commented if our choice was the best one or not. The day ended on the terrace of the house of Margreet and Frits.



On Sunday morning we prepared a soup with Belgian cheese for the international brunch in Lunetten, another part of Utrecht. It was great fun tasting all different food from four different countries. Some food was expected and could not be missed such as Frankfurter Wurst. Eating and talking in different languages went on till we had to leave for Amersfoort. There we had a tour on the canals and a walk through the picturesque centre. Back in Utrecht we had dinner prepared by the hosts from Utrecht. Afterwards we had a music lesson and a lot of fun.



We decided to organize the Five-Town-Meeting next year in Leuven,

We thank our hosts from Utrecht, Margreet and Frits, for the wonderful stay in their house and the exchange of experiences and the splendid organisation of the weekend. We thank all the hosts from Utrecht for their contribution to the success of this weekend. We thank all the participants for their share.

We hope to welcome you in Leuven, Thursday 30 April – Sunday 3 Mai 2009.

Servas at the UN, Comments

61st DPI/NGO Conference

As a Member of the Planning Committee for 61st DPI/NGO conference (Media subcommittee) I remind about the 61st DPI/NGO conference. I register for this conference to represent United States Servas, Inc.

All participants, including those who already have UN or UNESCO grounds passes, are required to register for the Conference. The registration is available online at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection. The deadline for registration is 1 August 2008 to ensure timely receipt of your confirmation letter and a special invitation to all events. Please note that we must limit the number of participants from any one organization to no more than three persons.

The 61st Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), will be held in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters from Wednesday, 3 September to Friday, 5 September 2008. This is the first time it will take place outside the UN Headquarters in New York. To mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this year's Conference is entitled "Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60" and is being organized in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, UNESCO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of France.

The Conference aims to highlight effective ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to the advancement of human rights at the international, regional, national and local levels, generate greater awareness of human rights issues and strengthen commitments to address them among diverse stakeholders worldwide. In addition to representatives of NGOs, civil society organizations, grassroots constituencies, the UN System and Member States, representatives of the media, academia, the private sector and other institutions will also be present.

The Conference will provide various opportunities to engage participants in sharing experiences and articulating perspectives on how to enhance their activities in the protection and promotion of human rights including roundtable panel discussions and break-out sessions, interactive dialogue, workshops, caucuses and other activities. Background documents and information on the programme will be available on the Conference website.

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

In Peace

Noema Chaplin

Member of the Planning Committee for the 57,58,59,60,61
DPI/NGO conferences Main representative United States
Servas to the United Nations 212-7489696

Great Service Is a Choice

No one can make you serve customers well. Great service is a choice. Years ago, my friend, H, told me a wonderful story about a cab driver that proved this point. He was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing H noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for H. He handed my friend a laminated card and said: "I'm Wally, your driver. While I load your bags in the trunk please read my mission statement."

Taken aback, H read the card. It said: *Wally's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.* This blew H away. Especially as he noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wally said, "Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf." My friend said jokingly, "No, I'd prefer a soft drink." Wally smiled and said, "No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, water and orange juice." Almost stuttering, H said, "I'll take a Diet Coke." Handing him his drink, Wally said, "If you'd like something to read, I have The Wall Street Journal, Time, Sports Illustrated and USA Today."

As they were pulling away, Wally handed my friend another laminated card. "These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio." And as if that weren't enough, Wally told H that he had air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable. Then he advised H of the best route to his destination for that time of day. He let him know that he'd be happy to chat and tell him about the sights or leave him with his own thoughts.

"Tell me, Wally," my amazed friend asked the driver, "have you always served customers like this?" Wally smiled into the rear view mirror. "No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I was complaining like the rest of the cabbies do. Then I heard the personal growth guru, Wayne Dyer, on the radio. He had written a book called You'll See It When You Believe It. Dyer said if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. He said, 'Stop complaining! Differentiate yourself from your competition. Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'"

"That hit me right between the eyes," said Wally. "Dyer was talking about me. I was always quacking and complaining. So I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers unfriendly, and customers unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I put in a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more." "I take it that has paid off for you," H said. "It sure has," Wally replied. "My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. You were lucky to get me today. I don't sit at cabstands anymore. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message on my answering machine. If I can't pick them up myself, I get a reliable cabbie friend to do it and I take a piece of the action."

Wally was phenomenal. He was running a limo service out of a Yellow Cab. I've probably told that story to more than fifty cab drivers over the years, and only two took the idea and ran with it. Whenever I go to their cities, I give them a call. The rest of the drivers quacked like ducks and told me all the reasons they couldn't do any of what I was suggesting.

Wally the Cab Driver made a choice: to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles. How about you?

Servas Calendar

Planning a Servas Event? Celebrating our 60th Servas anniversary?

Let us know! We will add your event to the Upcoming Calendar of Events section of the new public Servas website at www.servas.org

Let us know the date, time, location, if there are fees and how much, and contact person for your event.

You will see other events on the calendar, click on Upcoming Calendar of Events on the left side of the web page. Please ask Interviewers to alert your travelers to this feature.

Renee

Email me at : renee@hotmail.com

The 8 United Nation Millienium Development Goals (MDGs)



What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals –

worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals.

"United Nations Secretary- General

San Francisco

New policy for local gatherings!

Over the past 7 years we have had more than 60 dinners in San Francisco. The response has been great. Getting to know other Servas hosts and travelers and exchanging stories and experiences with them is a great way to meet some nice people, and a lot of us feel more connected to Servas because of these gatherings.

Now we want to EXPAND...we hope for more participation in the East Bay, Marin County and the Peninsula. Do you live in one of those areas? What places do you know of that would be suitable for a Servas group to get together? Your back yard, your favorite park, a church or community center? San Francisco gatherings will continue but may be a bit less frequent. At least once a season we would like to have a dinner, an event, or a picnic in one of the outlying areas and we need people who will take the initiative to make this happen. The San Francisco dinners are usually in the evening during the week; daytime activities on weekends may enable people who have children or long working hours to participate. Give us a hand!

Many thanks to **Lincoln Axe** and **Rusty Brockman** for arranging this event in Roberts Park. Lincoln very kindly scouted around the East Bay to find a good place for us to have our first East Bay picnic; we hope more East Bay activities will follow.

Edith Sommer has had annual Servas gatherings at her home in Palo Alto for years, combining information about Servas international activities with talks by invited speakers and a well attended potluck lunch. Other peninsula events are also encouraged.

So far we have not had an event in Marin County, which has a number of Servas members and some wonderful parks and open spaces; so those possibilities are still to be explored. We'd like a fall event in Marin; can you help?

Previously:

Our last San Francisco event was a pot luck at Zocalo in San Francisco, with lots of tasty dishes and good company. We look forward to a Second Annual Italian Evening in the fall; watch for notices of the date.

Looking forward to seeing a good crowd at the August picnic! Bring family members and friends. This is a good time to introduce someone you know to Servas.

Peace through meeting others

Servas, Hospitality Club and Couchsurfing meeting in BA

On Friday the 20th we meet a large group of young friends. All of them were invited by an English traveler (Vicky) who has lived experiences in each of these social groups. She is a reporter and was recently traveled with Servas in Suriname but she also has traveled in many other places where she had shared moments with open and hospitable people of CS and HC.



The meeting was very emotional because there was a great exchange of information, points of views, experiences and goals. There were many foreigners, from Germany, Russia, Thailand, Venezuela, Ireland, England, and so on. We had distributed information about Servas among the interested people and invited them to participate in our forthcoming meetings and also to be in touch for the near future meetings that we are holding once a month.

We also had Pablo Chufeni's (Int.Youth Coord) visit from Rosario and many other very interesting young people from Servas, CS, but mainly from HC. It was everything very enjoyable and positive despite the high volume of the music.

When I left, nearly 12 in the evening, there still remained some people from Servas but there were already much more CS and HC



members that there were already talking to each other and I couldn't

count them because the place was crowded with young people. It is very interesting to know that there are people doing the same thing as we do in Servas in other NGOs. It is very nice to learn and share with them inviting them to know about us and to know our goals. But also be open to listen them. Servas is a peace organization not just a hosting NGO but we have in common that we are composed of a large human capital which in many cases is wide open, curious and provide much more than accommodation.

We live in the same world, as well as share and socialize! Hopefully will be more meetings like this in which one is constantly learning. They are all invited. The doors are open ...

... the last to enter please leave it open!

Pablo Colangelo, NS Servas Argentina



Youth Meeting Istanbul Numbers

94 people from 25 countries

Country	Toplam
Argentina	2
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Brasil	1
Egypt	2
Finland	2
France	6
Germany	1
Greece	2
India	21
Israel	4
Italy	8
Malaysia	1
Netherlands	1
Poland	4
Singapore	1
South Korea	1
Spain	6
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	21
UAE	1
UK	3
USA	1
Venezuela	1
Total	94

More detail next month

People who took part - Please send me lots of articles - like you did for Dalesbridge last year. Thanks, xixie, danke, tak, merci, aferisto, grazie, gracias, asante,

..... and a quick review

This email is just to make a formal presentation about the conclusion of the latest Servas Youth event and the excellent performance of the local group of Servas Turkey. A complete report will be distributed in time. The logistics, venue, organization, meals, excursions, workshops, but basically the energy and affection provided by the Servas Turkey team was crucial for the meeting. We are absolutely happy about the quality and impact of this meeting. The frame of Servas Turkey was perfect for this Servas Youth event.

Here all my love to them,

Pablo Chufeni

A challenge to Youth for 2009 (and the young at heart!)

Read again the 8 UN Millenium Development Goals which are on page 7.

Now make a table with columns for the goals and then

What I can do personally,

What I can do as a group member,

What I can do as a Servas member,

Who else can I contact and influence.

Then act on your decisions.

Let us know what you have done and plan to do.

The information: **8 UN Millennium Development Goals** is presented because many are not aware that these 8 UN goals exist. Please take time to reflect on them and consider how you can support one of these goals.

The UN will be renovating its UN Headquarters in New York for the next 6 years. The UN Department of Public Information conference for NGOs will be holding its annual conference in Paris rather than NYC this September 2008. Servas is one of the UN NGOs able to attend these UN informational sessions.

Some Servas members, and some national Servas groups might wish to support a Millennium Goal as a 60th Servas Anniversary project. 2009 is also the 60th Anniversary of UN Peace Keeping.

US Servas Board is encouraging partnerships with like minded organizations. Servas International is also encouraging partnerships.

Consider having a gathering, picnic or event in partnership with another organization, inviting a speaker who can discuss one of these goals and who can help develop a local plan of action with meeting attendees. Or have a meeting where the group considers: **What Peace means to me**. As Bob Luitweiler would say *Peace is clearly more than the absence of War.*

As a beginning you might wish to Google **Peace Museums** and see where peace museums exist, why they were founded, the educational materials available and what peace means to the museum, the event or organization. It's fascinating to see the different definitions of peace to different national groups. A Google review would be helpful in developing a point of view on *What Peace means to me*.

For myself, I have set a goal of visiting the Peace Museum in Dayton, Ohio -found on the Google website under Peace Museums - and developing a Tour of Significant San Francisco Peace Sites.

Let's hear what you plan to do for the 60th Servas Anniversary.

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