



Servas Monthly News 16



October 2006

Events, events, events

There are lots of up coming events next year, as well as the regular gatherings, see p2. There are plenty more going on around the world which are not listed here. It is useful to have events shown here as that indicates to other members that Servas is active in many places.

The events give people a chance to get together, meet other like minds, look to see where Servas is going, make decisions. One of the aims of Servas is bringing people together and so forging a better understanding leading to less fighting and power-mongering and so a more peaceful attitude to life. As we have seen this does not always work. It requires everybody to make a big effort to consider others and to work with others. However we know it can work. The eGA this year in Latina went very well because everybody was making the effort to discuss and work together.

It is useful to share the results of your event so that others can gain from it. They can see what went well and hopefully learn from any mistakes. To quote: "We do not live long enough to make all the mistakes, so it is better to learn from others." Events can be of any size. They can be a big one involving every Servas country such as the eGA. They can be a national one, such as an AGM. They can be a small local one of a few people getting together. Events can be serious discussions or they can be parties, or both together. They can be an outing to visit a place, they can be a group of people with a similar interest. What ever type it would be good to hear about it.

One important event next year is the Youth and Family Event to be held in Yorkshire, England, see pages 8 and 9. It is good that people have started asking about it from all over the world. Take special note that there is a bit of funding for someone to have help with their travel with the Travel Award. There is no harm in asking about it, but be ready to answer some searching questions. Hopefully it will help you to think of your reasons for being a Servas member.

I look forward to receiving Event reports from around the world for the next issue.

An Event:

Annual Potluck and video presentation

On Saturday, October 7, Edith Sommer hosted the annual Servas potluck at a swim club close to her house in Palo Alto. We enjoyed a presentation by Jay Davidson, Servas host, traveler and interviewer from San Francisco, who spoke about his two-year curriculum writing assignment with the Peace Corps in Nouakchott.

Where's THAT?

It's the capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the west coast of northern Africa. The country includes a large part of the Sahara desert. Jay dealt with the unique factors of life in this country (115 degree temperatures, and few of the comforts and diversions available here) with a great degree of adaptability. He answered all our questions about the country and showed a very well made video prepared by the Peace Corps showing all aspects of life in Mauritania. It was highly informative and we all enjoyed it.

Contents: 2006

1. Editorial
2. Meetings
3. Languages - Hindi
4. Travel reports - Israel and Turkey
5. Youth Travel Reports - Mexico
6. Countries - Poland
7. Exco Info
8. Youth and Family Event
9. Youth and Family Event
- 10 - 14. Treasurer's Report

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.

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

Meetings, Get together, Seeing each other

Costa Rica

08 to 13 January 2007

"YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP IN SERVAS CENTRAL AMERICA"

- for Servas leaders and young Servas members from Central America to celebrate specific workshops which focus on two topics:
 - Develop the youth in the area
 - Improve the Servas structure and outreach in the area

For more detail see article on p8, full detail next month.

Contact: pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

Southern Africa Area Meeting

This will be held in
Livingstone, Zambia
August 2007.

International Youth and Family Week 2007 Dalesbridge, Yorkshire, UK see p 9, 10

Provisional arrangements to be firmed up during the next few months.

Dates: Sun 29 July - Sat 04 Aug 2007

Place: Dalesbridge, nr Settle, Yorkshire, England

This will be an opportunity for Youth to meet up, do a range of activities together and explore a beautiful moorland area of Britain. Dalesbridge offers a range of accommodation including bunkhouses and camping.

We hope to see lots of you there.

Contact: dasher1949@aol.com

Get together in London

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.

Servas Monthly Meeting, Belgium

Last TUESDAY of the month in the pub Le Cirio in the centre of Brussels, next to the Bourse/Beurs, 6 to 8 pm.

Hosts, travellers, visitors, friends, everybody can join us and enjoy with us one of the 500 famous Belgian beers!

We invite all Servas members from all over the world to visit Belgium & Luxemburg, two small countries in the heart of Europe which had a lot to offer to all of you.

We want more travellers!

www.visitbelgium.com

www.luxembourg.co.uk

www.belgique-tourisme.net

www.visitbelgium.com

See you,

Rita Dessauvage

National secretary Servas Belgium &

JOIN US FOR SERVAS BRAZIL NIGHT!

BRAZILIAN FOOD, MUSIC, PHOTOS AND STORIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006

ZOCALO 1508 Bancroft St, San Francisco

TO ATTEND, YOU MUST MAKE A RESERVATION.
SEATING IS LIMITED.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Sunday, November 12.

\$10.00 PER PERSON Bring a beverage to share.

We'll enjoy authentic Brazilian dishes including feijoada (a hearty dish made with beans), rice, greens and a typical Brazilian dessert.

Our friends Andre Pereira Neto and his wife Bia, Servas hosts from Sao Paulo, are enthusiastic about sharing some of the pleasures of Brazil with us. They have been living in San Francisco for a year and will soon be returning home, so unfortunately this will also be a farewell dinner for them.

If you have spent time in Brazil and have pictures, souvenirs or stories to share with us, please bring them.

Languages

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

In this section, the aim is to build up a selection of words and phrases to help hosts and travellers communicate with each other and with other people. If you have words or phrases that you find useful then let us know. If you have languages you would like to share then let us know. For the moment the base language will be English. Hence any non-English words and phrases must 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 **fifteenth** language is **Hindi** (but written in the European script) Thank you to Dr Geeta Mehta for the translation.

Zero

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

Twenty

Thirty

Forty

Fifty

Sixty

Seventy

Eighty

Ninety

Hundred

Thousand

Do you eat meat?

Where do you live?

This is my sister

This is my brother

This is my mother

This is my father

This is my son

This is my daughter

What music do you like?

Have you visited the town?

Where are the shops?

Is there a market?

Thank you for your help.

Shunya

Ek

Do

Tin

Char

Pancha

Chha

Saat

Aatha

Nau

Das

Bis

Tis

Chalis

Pachas

Saatha

Satrah

Assi

Nabbe

Sao

Hazar

Aap mansa Khate Hai?

Aap kaha rahate hai"

Yah meri bhah hai.

Yah mera Bhai Hai.

Yah meri mana hai.

Yah mere Pitaji hai.

Yah mera Beta hai.

Yah meri Beti hai.

Aapko konsa Sangit pasand hai?

Aapne shahar dekha liya?

Dukan kahan hai?

Bazar kahan Hai?

Aapke madad ke liya

dhanyavad.

Peace

Shanti

Hello

Namasten.

How are you

Aap Kaise ho?

Goodbye

Chalte hai.

Be seeing you

Phirse milenge.

Have a safe journey

Aapka safar sukhad ho.

Best wishes to your family.

Aapke parivar ke liye

Do come again

*Shubhachha!
Phir se Aaiye*

Please

Krupaya!

Thank you

Dhanyavad!

That's nothing

Thik hai.

Where is the toilet?

Toilet Kaha hai?

Left

Baaya

Right

Dahina

Straight on

Sidha

Behind you

Aapke Piche

Where do I sleep

Mai Kahan Sauyou?

I am vegetarian

Main Shakahari Hoon.

Where is the nearest telephone?

Najdik mein Telephone kahan hai?

Israel and Turkey - part 2

Last month the 12 Servas travellers from India visited Jaffa and Haifa. Now they continue their journey.

As last month, due to space, I have had to cut down on the very interesting descriptive and historical detail. People who would like the complete text are welcome to contact the editor.

1 June 2006

Drive to Tel Dam for a walk in the nature Reserve. Visit the Tel Dan, Via Banias to Kalat Nimrod, the Druze villages, Golan, back to Tiberias Via Capernaum, Tabga. Shavuot eve, accommodation-Galil.

Our host Oma took us to the Bus at 9.30 a.m. where we met the group.

The first halt was at Nature Reserve. It was all forest with cold water Hermon stream. The Hermon spring emerges at the foot of Mount Hermon whose peak is 2814 metres above the sea level. We walked for an hour up the stream. Dalia, our Guide was naming different trees and telling us the stories. Some school children came with their teachers and securities. The children were pleased to see us and were greeting us either with 'Hello' or 'Namaste' Each school had two security persons with guns. We were surprised to see it but they said that it is compulsory to have securities with school children. The children were both Arabs and Jews. After walking for half an hour, there was a small lake, where children were making fun. We had our journey back from there.

We saw the Druze villages from the Bus. Near the entrance of the Crusader gate, there is a large group of Column segments, made out of limestone, granite and marble and apparently originating in Roman Banias. It is a large 11X 7 meter room, with a seven-meter-high ceiling and walls that are two metres thick.

From the top of the Donjon we had a panoramic view of Mt. Hermon, the Golan Heights, the Galilee and the Hula valley.

We reached our host's house about 7.00 p.m. thought it was yet bright light. Our host Anat was waiting for us in a small village of Galil. She welcomed us with herbal tea. We had good talk about what we had seen in Israel and Anat's experiences in India, she came to India in 2002 and went to J. Krishnamurthy's school of Rishivalley. The food there was very spicy and it did not suit her health. She returned to Israel with this experience thinking not to go to India again but after stay of 5-6 days in Israel, she felt as if India was calling her and she desires to come to India once again.

When I offered her Thepla and Khakhras, she asked me- why I did not find such innocent food while in India? She is vegan, so she prepared Pasta and Soya noodles as well as Salad for us. We had free access to computer in her house and then went to sleep. I expressed my desire to see Kibbutz. Anat was grown up in a Kibbutz so we decided the next day.

2nd June 2006. Free day in Amirim.

It is said that Amirim is fully Vegetarian Village. We saw some Indian Vegetarian Restaurants with the name Rishikesh and Mysore. My host Anat was a vegan, no milk products. A peaceful lady staying in a peaceful place of 25 houses.

I expressed my desire to visit Kibbutz. She was brought up in Kibbutz but left Kibbutz, when she was not allowed to keep her child with her. In earlier Kibbutz, all children were kept together and were looked after by a lady given that work.

She drove us to her Kibbutz at 10.00 a.m. On the way she narrated that people in that Kibbutz came from Hungary. She introduced her brother, sister-in-law and their children to us of a Shavuot day which all of them were enjoying. They had no interest in the outer world. Everything for them: food, clothes, houses, relatives, from birth to death, was included in that Kibbutz.

Then we went to the former Druze M.P. Mr. Asaad Asaad. He is a leader of Druze. We talked to him about of Druze people. Anat said that Druzes are very loyal to the country in which they stay. So, one Druze of Israel will fight against another Druze of Jordan or Syria.

Mr. Asad Asad himself brought different dishes of Peaches, Plums, Apples, Melons, Biscuits, Cakes, Juices etc. from the kitchen. But one who was preparing in the kitchen did not meet us. He had been to Zambia for a week, so he had much social work pending for him yet he took out time to meet us.

Anat insisted on showing us the Museum of Druze people. We saw their store Garage room where old vessels, weapons, machines, shoes, games, photos etc. were kept.

We went home. We sat down with my thepla, bread, salad and Pasta which she prepared last night. We were not very hungry after the dishes served at Mr. Asad Asad's place, yet we ate something and went for rest.

We had to go for the festival of Shavuot where the village people were to meet, sing and dance. Anat was very tired and she had to drive us. So we gave up the idea of going to that festival. Though, we had to go for Servas Meeting near that place at 7 p.m. There was also a pot-party of SERVAS Group. We took chickpeas and watermelon.

We reached the meeting place at 7.20 p.m. Other fellow travelers had enjoyed the festival of Shavuot eve and told us that we really should have attended that eve. Slowly people started coming and at 8.p.m. the meeting started. Everybody had to tell his/her name and the qualities which one loves. There were around 30 persons in all. Then the lady Eliana who is practicing meditation, made all of us to meditate in whichever posture we liked. Some of them including Eliana were lying down while meditating. After 20-25 minutes, she got up and played melodious music only using her mouth. It was really a soothing music. We had dinner at about 9.00 p.m. Different vegetarian food from different hosts were delicious, yet our Indian flavour was missing. There were desert and fruits. Anat drove us back at about 10.p.m. and we reached home by 10.30.p.m. we were tired, yet packed up for the next day and went to sleep.

*Dr. Geeta Mehta, Peace secretary, SERVAS India
Continued next month.*

Youth Travel Reports - Mexico

SYLE, France to Mexico

Hello friends. The SYLE (Servas Youth Languages Experience) is growing fast. I asked to one of the travellers of the last edition SYLE'06 "Anaëlle Josse" from Servas France to share her experience. The SYLE'06 was held in Rosario, Argentina; Sao Paulo, Brazil and Mexico DF, Mexico. This program is open to all that members interested. Further info is available on www.servasyouth.org.

Pablo Chufeni

Servas Youth International Coordinator.

My trip in Mexico with SERVAS YOUTH

This summer was exciting and moving for me because of the two big events that took place.

First, I studied very hard, and passed my BAC, a very important exam at the end of high school, with honours!! Then it was my holiday destination: an adventure in Mexico thanks to SERVAS, which was thankfully, much more fun than studying for the BAC.

I did that trip, the one everybody wishes he could do, the one you dream of when you are 18, the one you'll remember all your life, your trip far away from your family, discovering a new universe, a new continent of colours, of smells, of voices, of songs ... But more than anything, discovering new friends, other ways of living, of history and of different cultures. I can't thank SERVAS enough for these three weeks of education and enjoyment.

This trip came out of nowhere, and I decided upon it very quickly, only one month. A youth cancelled, and my parents got an e-mail. This is how I got involved in this amazing trip to Mexico!!

I arrived in Mexico DF the 8th of July. A welcoming group was waiting for me with a sign and some SERVAS t-shirts. I found that touching. Then I discovered a city which shines without limits, until the infinite... I didn't know anything could be so big!!

I spent a few days with Josefina and Samantha who live in a nice flat in Mexico City. It was very nice, and this was also the occasion for me to meet the MAN of the house a little, white, hairy dog who answers to the name of Ares. I visited the huge town of Mexico City and its neighbourhoods. I discover along the road, chicken sold in the street, and a little bus which jumps on the bumps...

Having left Mexico City, and after a 17h bus ride, I arrived at Oaxaca, a coloured city, shining, full of smells There I meet Lucia and her son (a punk, anti-Nazi, skateboarder) Her garden is luxuriant and her house was charming. With them I visited museums, churches and an archaeological site "Monte Alban". I am impressed by these old monuments because of the expertise which was required to build them. I also saw "el Tolle", the tree which has the largest trunk of the world.

My time at Lucia's house with two Brazilian "SERVAS" was pleasant and allowed me to discover a new way of living, a new culture.

With the agreement of my host family, I changed the program a little bit and left to go to Puerto Escondido, the city of the surfers. The temperature and the weather changed radically from the rain I had known in Mexico City. Time is radiant, the beaches are paradise, I stay in a little hotel and share my room with a Belgian and a Swiss that I met in the bus.

After 15h on the bus I arrived at Puebla, or more precisely, a motorway station near Puebla. After a long tour in a taxi, I arrived at the bus station where Claudia was waiting for me. The city is beautiful, the gilded baroque churches are splendid. The religious figures are "coffee with milk", their hair is made of corn. I passed a very, very good moment with Claudia and her family. Javier, her husband, prepares the best "copas" I have ever had!!

Shortly after we went on a small trip to Cuernavaca where I meet the other members of Claudia's family. It is an adorable family with whom I get along very well.

A torrential rain dampened my return to Josefina's home in Mexico City, where I stayed the rest of my trip. Unfortunately, I was sick, so I rested at her home, in an attempt to feel better by the end of the trip. The doctor organized me a very nice "goodbye party" which permitted me to say goodbye to the people I met, but also to meet lots of young SERVAS.

It is with lots of sadness that I left this country which completely enthralled me, and it was with much regret that I left its colours, its odours, its food, except las tortillas of which I am saturated with and can neither see nor smell anymore. Of course, the strongest regrets go towards the marvellous people whom I met. I owe them so much. I keep in touch with several of them, in particular, the young people, some of whom wish to come to France. Doing this trip with and thanks to SERVAS, enabled me to travel "as a big girl" "on the other side of the ocean, reassured, without the fear of arriving in this huge country.

My trip to Mexico with SERVAS permitted me to meet some wonderful people and motivated me to become more engaged in this association. From being a "child" of SERVAS, I passed from the passive state to the active state as a member of SERVAS. I hope to be able to help with the development of the SERVAS Youth Program and to motivate other young people to explore the world in the SERVAS spirit.

Anaëlle Josse, France

Country Reports - Poland and internet

Hello Servas members. I personally asked some friends in the Servas universe to share their stories with the rest of our international group. Here is Ania, the national secretary of Servas Poland and a personal friend. The Polish group, well known as the “Polish Mafia”, a deserving reputation after the GA in Barcelona, is a dynamic and strong group. If you have the chance to go to visit them please go. With a very active youth group, Servas Poland is one of my favorites.

*Pablo Chufeni
Servas Youth International Coordinator.*

Servas Poland on line.

The Internet is the future – this is a phrase we have heard a lot for several years now, in Servas as well. I remember the international meeting in Hungary in 1998 when I first heard it discussed, I hardly knew what was meant, OK, I had been using email by then but not that much either, I still sent and received handwritten letters from my Flemish boyfriend (we both used fountain pens as well).☺

A few years later a new traveller, a young IT enthusiast, offered to create a website for Polish Servas. By then we had realised that it would be a useful source of information, so we gladly accepted. Michał created a website with basic information about what Servas was, its rules and contact information, a nice start, but it was difficult to update and develop, as he moved to Kraków and got quite busy with his career. In spring 2005 we decided that we needed a team to come up with new ideas and to realise them. It was a very successful initiative of up to ten people (a lot of them were on the youth teams in Thailand and/or Barcelona) – we had several brainstorming sessions in pubs or homes, members contributed with texts about our city (Warsaw), some required field trips, like checking out new places to go out to.☺ On the whole, for this initiative the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and, last but not least, COMPUTER SKILLS of our young members were essential.

Anyway, the result is our present website, set up and maintained by Marcin and Paweł, containig, besides rules and contact, information on current events as well as photos, invitations to upcoming meetings, useful tips for travellers. We even received a few texts FROM travellers, who wanted to share their experience of Poland with us. There

is also the forum, which allows free expression on all kinds of issues, not necessarily strictly Servas. This, I have to admit, is slow to develop, we have a few great travel reports but on the discussion side it is rather unimpressive. Any advice what to do about it?

From the administrator: “The most time-consuming activity in the process of creating our homepage was building the logical structure of the website and forum. At our regular meeting in a pub we wrote down and discussed all the pros and cons of our existing webpage. Next we gathered all the different suggestions and ideas how to make it better and easier to use and administer. It was meant to serve as our presentation, invitation for new members and a source of information for interested people, all at the same time. We tried to take into account all the needs and wishes, what we haven’t succeeded in creating were glittering butterflies flying across the page and a big, shiny “I love you!” sign☺ - possibly still to come!

After such fruitful brainstorming sessions we, administrators, commenced our work. Paweł almost instantly finalised all the technical aspects of the undertaking, and within a few days we had a working server, able to report that there is no content to be displayed. So, it took me more than two weeks of intermittent labour to transfer all the scattered ideas into a living structure of our brand new webpage and forum - wrapped in neat and tidy robes.”

Marcin Ostaszewski

The website has definitely made things so much easier on several levels, firstly, when we consider access to information about Servas in Poland - a growing number of people who apply to become members say: “we’ve found you on the Internet and thought it’s such an interesting organisaton.” Here you go, takes care of advertising.☺ Secondly, it saves time for board and interviewers, you only need to check if people remember and understand what they HAVE already read. In one word: SUCCESS!☺

Ania Zakrzewska, NS Poland

PS: Some of it is also in English, so do visit www.servas.pl

Exco Info

Treasurer's report

Ömer, our SI treasurer, has done a fairly comprehensive report on his work. The complete report is attached at the end of this Servas Monthly News.

Servas	International
Treasurer's	Message
20	06
#	1
October	2006
Ömer	Özkan
	Istanbul

Servas Youth and UN

There are many ways in which Servas Youth could participate in a wide range of UN fora.

We have to make the annual appointments of UN representatives, not just at the global centres in NYC, Vienna, and Geneva but also at the regional centres, major programmes and specialized agencies.

We need to renew our relationship with CONGO, and suggest we find ways of extending it through other justice-seeking groups like United Nations Association and Oxfam, etc.

At present, the reporting activity of the expert Servas observers at the UN is infrequent and thin. Some GA members feel they are getting little value and we are missing huge opportunities, to reach out to UN interns, students, peace workers and to build an opportunity for educational travel among Servas travelers.

Similarly, some of the UN expert Servas observers feel GA members are not interested in the UN or in consulting their membership on issues to come before the UN. They get very little input, with almost no input on the development of new institutions like the UN Human Rights Council or other UN agenda matters.

But now, for the past 2 years, we have new and cheap ways of networking around the world, with Skype and other low-cost facilities. It is much easier to establish Working Groups and to link them, than in the past.

Exco Communications

Dear Servas International Project or Committee Leader

We are asking for your help in improving Servas communications. Please check the list below. Each member of EXCO offers personal help to a specific additional Servas Committee to improve liaison and outreach.

We hear national secretaries want more information on Committee work, including the work of the Executive Committee. EXCO has prepared information on the www.servas.org especially in the monthly newsletters, but some national secretaries say they need more.

Please help them, by summarizing your work on a monthly basis. Please also share it with EXCO. We have no wish to interfere. But we want to see how to help, and also how to use the product of your good work. e.g. we can send a joint occasional letter with your news and EXCO news and other news to member groups.

We welcome a convenor of your committee or other representative to attend our meetings, so that we can know and reflect your advice in our workplan and in the Servas budget.

If you are interested, we will give you more information on time and place as plans develop

You can write to all of Exco at siexco@servas.org or write directly to the person listed below who wants especially to help. If your Committee has more than one contact person, please let us know.

We can contact each other by Skype, if you wish?

Which EXCO person can help which Servas Committee or Project

- Audit Committee – **Omer**, Mary Jane, Gary
- Development Fund Committee– **Anna**, Omer, **MJM**
- Statutes and Job Descriptions -- **Pramod**
- Nominations -- **Nandee**
- Exco and Governance -- **Pramod**
- DV – **Gary**, **Omer**
- Host List Group -- **Anna**
- Key list Group-- **Anna**
- Youth Committee – **Omer**, **Mary Jane**
- Conflict Resolution Committee -- **Nandee**
- SI News – **Gary**, **Pramod**
- ICT – **Omer**
- Archivist – **Gary**

Future Possible Committees (the General Assembly at Latina directed the development of a new Board; the structure of SI is incomplete)

- Travelers, Workers -- **Gary**
- Money (decided by GA Thailand) – Mary Jane, Gary
- Volunteer Board –
- Translation Services --

Youth Events

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND '07

July 28th – August 4th 2007

Servas Britain and **Servas Youth** invite you to the next **International Youth and Family event** to be held in Yorkshire in the North of England. Following on from the Youth meeting in Patagonia in January 2006 we hope to make this an annual event.

- An opportunity for all young travellers and hosts (18-30) to get together and to share their Servas experiences
- Also open to other Servas members of any age.
- A special welcome to Servas families with children and teenagers worldwide.
- Under18's welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Dalesbridge Centre near Settle is the venue, set in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park.

There will be a *meeting-up point* in Manchester a few days before the meeting – a chance for the 18-30 group to have a taste of city life before travelling together to Dalesbridge.

ACCOMMODATION

- *Group accommodation* in small bunkhouses.
- *Camping* – for those with their own equipment.
- *Limited Bed & Breakfast* type accommodation at extra cost (for those looking for a little more comfort).

CATERING

- *Full board*
- Evening meals together. Other meals in small groups.
- Part self-catering option for campers.

COSTS

- Not yet finalised – details to follow soon.
- We will aim to keep costs as low as possible.
- Reductions for all young people.
- Families –special rates for family groups.



Part of the campsite at Dalesbridge.

THE PROGRAMME SO FAR..... more to follow :
The focus of the event is for Servas young people and families from around the world to enjoy time together. All with an interest in Youth in Servas are welcome. Let us know if you have ideas or want to make a contribution to the programme.

Activities

- Plenty of activities for all ages and interests nearby.
- Space at the centre for both small and large group activities whatever the weather.
- Parent-led programme for children.
- Specialist outdoor activities for teenagers available on site.

Discussions

- Come and **debate** what Servas has to offer young people and families for the future.
- Meet with members of local **peace** organisations who are building links with Servas.
- Share ideas and concerns about **world issues** and look at what contribution Servas can make to a more peaceful world.

ARRIVING AT DALESBRIDGE

Dalesbridge is situated on the A65 between Settle and Ingleton.

Transport will be provided from nearby *train stations* which are easily accessible from *Leeds* and *Manchester*.

If arriving by *air* it is easier and often cheaper to fly direct to *Manchester* rather than to London. There may also be cheap European flights to other northern airports e.g. Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle.

By *ferry* there is a route from *Rotterdam* or *Zeebrugge* to *Hull*.

BOOKING

We will be open to take bookings from the end of 2006. In the meantime if you would like to register an interest in coming to the event or have any queries or suggestions please contact:

Ann Greenhough
Servas International Youth Team

Email : dasher1949@aol.com

or Tel 00 44 1943 862965

See next page for 'Some other things to think about!'

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENT

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND '07

July 28th - August 4th 2007

SOME OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Help needed

If you are a young person who would like to get involved in planning and running the event let us know:

Ann Greenhough or Pablo Chufeni
dasher1949@aol.com pablochufeni@yahoo.com.ar

Servas International Youth Travel Award

This new Award will be available next year to help one young person come to the Yorkshire '07 event. This will be someone who would otherwise not have the opportunity to travel to Britain.

Applications will be accepted from Servas members worldwide (between ages of 18 and 25 at time of travel).

More information will be available soon about how to apply and about the selection process.

Look on the *Servas Youth website* for details or contact Ann Greenhough (see above).

Young Travellers to Britain

If you are a Servas traveller wanting to meet with other young Servas travellers and hosts when you come to Britain make contact with Laura Asher who is part of the 18-30 network in Servas Britain.

L.L.Asher@newcastle.ac.uk

Links with a Servas Britain host family

Servas Britain host families are keen to meet young travellers both before and after the event in Yorkshire. If you are a young person perhaps coming to Britain for the first time let us know if you would like to be linked with a host family before you arrive. Some may be able to offer a longer stay and help you plan your time during your visit.

Bringing Servas families together

Let us know if you would like to meet a Servas Britain host family who has children or teenagers of a similar age to your own and we will try to match you together before your visit next year.

International Youth Camps in Britain

In the summer months there are many opportunities in Britain for young people (aged 18-25) to join a work camp where they live and work with an international group of young people.

These camps are usually for 2 to 3 weeks and are either on social or environmental projects. There is a small fee to take part otherwise food and accommodation are all provided. Contact us for more details or if you are interested in going on a camp with someone else who will also be coming to the event.



The house at Dalesbridge - a typical old stonebuilt property, built in 1907



Servas	International
Treasurer's	Message
20	06
#	1
October	2006
Ömer	Özkan
	Istanbul



Dear Servas Key People, Who am I?



I am Ömer Özkan, I am Servas International Treasurer.

I was first elected in Barcelona General Assembly in 2004. I nominated myself again in 2006 and was re-elected.

I want to thank you, all the people who supported and encouraged me.

I was born in Marmaris on the south west coast of Turkey. I studied computer Engineering in Ankara and worked for 3 years.

Now I live in Istanbul and have been working in HSBC Bank IT department for 7 years.

I married Evren in 2004 and we had a baby in 2006. Ilke is now 9 months old and her grandmother is helping to look after her.



(From editor: Welcome to our new Servas member who is acting as a very cheerful assistant to the treasurer!)

What are the Treasurer's tasks?

Servas International Statutes say:

4) *The Treasurer shall:*

- a) *keep the financial accounts and records of Servas International and arrange for auditing;*
 - b) *send out invoices and collect money owing to Servas International;*
 - c) *submit an annual financial report to the Executive Committee; and*
 - d) *collect financial information from member groups.*
- In the case of an Assistant Treasurer being elected by the General Assembly or appointed by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer nevertheless carries the final responsibility for the duties of Treasurer.*

Where is the Servas money?

At the end of 2005 we had nearly 200,000 CHF. After the EGA and some Exco expenses in 2006 we now have 106,000 CHF in our Bank account. Also some countries still owe money to Servas International. After those payments the bank account will increase by 75000 CHF. The money is banked in Switzerland at the Credit Suisse bank.

For detail and history of Credit Suisse go to:

Source: www.wikipedia.org



What happened in the EGA LATINA about Finance?

Finance and Budget workshops were moderated by Penny Pattison from Canada.

Here are the brief proposals from Servas Member Countries:

F-01	FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION Motions from Workshop Sessions DAY1-4W & DAY2-2W	
F-01-01	Adopt the financial operating procedures developed in Barcelona	GER-016
F-01-01	Review the Servas International Financial Operating Procedures of March 2005, any amendments and approve the amended document for use as the Servas International Financial Operating Procedures Handbook	USA-004
F-01-02	Have S.I.'s bank account opened in Euro area	FRA-003, ITA-008
F-01-03	No longer have S.I. registered with a private person	FRA-002
F-01-04	Create a Permanent Paid Accountant position	CAN-004
F-01-05	Annual grants to countries with less than 20 members or where no fees are charged	BOT-003
F-01-06	Find & set up new ideas and strategies for S.I. to support itself financially more than just the Servas stamps	EGY-005
F-01-06	Totally rework the financial system to assure the future development of Servas	FRA-010, GER-018

Here are the decisions taken by General Assembly

- **Approved Version 2.0 of the Financial Operating Procedures.**
- people nominated for the position of Servas International Treasurer **must have financial management** or accounting experience.
- If the Servas International Treasurer or Exco believe that the Treasurer cannot meet his/her commitment, **a member of the Audit Committee will take over the role** and step down from the Audit Committee for that year.
- If at any time there is no qualified Servas International Treasurer, then **EXCO may hire and pay a temporary accountant.**
- the General Assembly asked the SI Treasurer in conjunction with the Audit Committee, to research **closing the Swiss bank account and opening accounts in a Euro country**, and proceed accordingly.

- the GA asked the SI Treasurer in conjunction with the Audit Committee to research **Ethical Banks**, identify those to which the SI accounts could be moved, and proceed accordingly.
- **the address** (legal seat) of SI in the Statutes be recorded only as **“Zurich Switzerland”**.
- the GA give EXCO the authority to give **annual grants of up to US \$200** to countries that apply for them. Such countries must provide an activity report.

*for countries who cannot provide receipts or financial documents]
from the Minutes,
France: Would it be fair to ask for a financial report?
≠
Botswana: Not possible in some countries to get receipts for things like email use. Therefore we need to rely on faith.*

- the GA asked Exco to research ways to **restructure SI income** to assure the system is fair and sustainable for all National Groups.
- **GA received the un-audited accounts for 2004** as presented by the SI Treasurer with the accounts labeled as interim un-audited statements of accounts and dated.
- **GA received the report of the SI Treasurer** on the state of the accounts and the auditing of them acknowledging the difficulties encountered and the Action
- **GA endorsed the Treasurer’s Action Plan** to have the Accounts and Auditors Report for 2004 completed by August 31, 2006.

Treasurer’s Action Plan:

- Obtain an updated English Language accounting software to replace the Hungarian version
- Complete the draft financial Statements
- send soft copies for Audit Committee with copies to National Secretaries
- National Secretaries to indicate confirmation of their having received the reports and to make appropriate comments.



- Exco confirm appointment of external auditors
- begin the external audit
- External Audit to send the results to Exco for a distribution to National Secretaries
- “to have the audited accounts and the auditors reports submitted to the member groups for a vote by the first Distant Vote, which will be specified in the distant vote schedule to be prepared by Exco.”
- that there be no **change in the fees** of SI
- That the GA empower **Exco to appoint and pay for an independent auditor.**
- That the GA empower the following members of Exco to **sign on behalf of SI:** Treasurer; President; Vice President; General Secretary.

[two signatures required as per Statute]

The Treasurer’s signature must be one of the two signatures.

- That the GA empower Exco to implement the decisions of this GA as the program of activities of SI until the next GA.
- That the GA adopt the budget as approved in Barcelona, for 2006 and 2007 and including the budget decisions made by the GA in Italy 2006. The 2008 and 2009 budgets will be approved by Distant Vote.

The GA approve for 2006 a budget of 8000 CHF for handling ICT project for the year 2006 and a budget of 12000 CHF for 2006 and 2007 for Youth Project.

What about the Internal Audit?

The Accounting is completed and the Audit Committee is now working on the details of the accounts. As soon as an Internal Audit is completed the External Auditor will start working on the Audit.

Vasudev Pai, appointed as External Auditor, is from India.

What is the financial impact of the EGA?

We planned for 50,000 EURO and the EGA cost approximately 45,000 EURO. Thank you for the good financial management of Servas Italy to Mario Burlando, Anna Flamini and Claudio Pacchiega.

What about Finance of 2006 ?

The newly elected Exco started work. However the General Secretary and the Peace Secretary needed Computers to work properly. They followed the Financial operating procedures and in collaboration with the ICT and Audit Committees their Laptop purchase is approved.

Servas Germany paid their frozen 2003 Stamps

What are the plans for 2007?

We are working to prepare for budget 2008 and 2009. Follow this in the Servas Monthly News Letter which you can access on www.siexco.org.

What about DFC projects ?

I am working in harmony with the Development Fund Committee (DFC).

The DFC is indeed very important especially in relation to projects like the Youth Project.

How can a Servas country can get financial help?

Servas in your country may have so few travellers that there is not enough income to finance your expenditure. If this is so, you may ask for financial help from SI.

Please apply to Development Fund Committee on dfc@servas.org



What is the budget for 2006 and 2007?

The amended budget for 2006/2007 is shown below.

The budget for 2008 and 2009 will be approved by distant vote in 2007 after study. Your help welcome. Please send an e-mail to exco@servas.org to work on this workshop.

Budget amendments in EGA 2006

Amounts are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

	2006	2007	Total
EXCO	15.833	15.833	31.666
AC	8.500	8.500	17.000
UN	500	500	1.000
ICT	4.000	4.000	8.000
other officer	500	500	1.000
auditor	600	600	1.200
printing	13.667	13.667	27.334
committees	5.375	5.375	10.750
projects	1.333	1.333	2.666
GA	73.333	0	73.333
others	3.000	3.000	6.000
Youth Project	6.000	6.000	12.000
DFC account	7500	7500	6.000
Total	132.641	59.308	191.949

What are the rules to use for the budget of a Servas officer?

Please read the Financial Operating procedures which were approved in EGA Latina, 2006 Please put your budget to the Treasurer. Before you spend money on Travel or Projects please get approval from Exco and Treasurer..

- All officers must submit an activity and Financial report annually, otherwise your expenses will not be approved and you are responsible to return advances
- For any doubt please ask the Treasurer, he would be very happy to help you in advance.
- SI pays 75% of the Internet costs

What are the Financial Operating procedures?

The Financial Operating Procedures were prepared by the Audit Committee 2001-2004 with the decisions of GAs and Handbook of Servas. Treasurers and some helpers have worked on it to improve the help for anybody who is using SI finance.

It has been approved by Exco 2004-2006 and run by SI Treasurer base on that motion.

Finally it was approved in the EGA Latina. Please ask Treasurer for a copy.

How can I help Servas International?

Those people are volunteers and they need your help and support.



Ömer Özkan
SI Treasurer

15 October 2006