



News BULLETIN

Produced by and for members of the Servas community

Hike, Bike, Raft, Camp, Cook, Art & SYLE



Helping Hands





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Susana, of Servas Spain, encourages members to support world peace.

Please save the dates 22 to 28 November 2022 to attend SICOGA in India. Read more about it on page 22.

SINB, the SI newsletter, published 4 times a year, contains articles from our members about Servas exchanges, peace, and the UN. It is sent in digital format to all National Secretaries, Main Contacts and international Key Persons. We ask them to distribute it widely. —Carla Cristensen (SI VP) & Jonny Sågänger (SI President)

President's Message

By Jonny Sågänger, SI President

What can I do?

When the Ukraine conflict began on February 24 and refugees started to leave the horrors of war, many Servas members around the world asked themselves:

What is the role of a peace and hospitality organisation like Servas in a situation like this? What can I, as an individual member, do to support the innocent, suffering people?

The questions have been asked many times before, during other armed conflicts, violent political repression, and natural disasters. It has given many of us the nagging feeling of frustration of being just observers of human tragedies unfolding in front of our eyes.

This time, with the extensive media coverage worldwide, it was different. The devastating outbreak in Ukraine created an unprecedented, unified reaction from much of the Servas community. The chain reaction in our organization after February 24 didn't follow a plan or a strategy, but so far it has turned out to work well.

The main components of the Servas members' action were:

- Find out about the situation for each individual Servas members in Ukraine.
- Offer support to Servas members, their families and friends who have been forced to leave their country as refugees.

Thanks to intensive networking via email, text messages via mobile phones, and other communication channels, a

number of concrete arrangements were made to receive Servas members as a first landing spot, before they are offered a more permanent place to stay and hopefully in the future can return to Ukraine.



The networking has also resulted in the gathering of information about the current situation for our members inside Ukraine.

These are of course extraordinary times, but extraordinary times require extraordinary measures.

Servas now has a draft plan for action that we can develop and use in future situations when members of our community are at risk. Let's hope we won't need to use it.

One comment from a Servas member in Slovakia stuck in my mind.

"Hello Jonny,

We are considering helping people from Ukraine in any way... No matter if they are Servas or not."

So, with this comment in mind, should Servas become an organisation where the members open their homes also to non-members? There have been initiatives by Servas Britain and Scotland (featured in previous SI News Bulletins) and it's definitely within the

philosophy and values of Servas.

Servas' core activity is still our hospitality program of homestays for members and all the peace promoting activities going on around the world (read more about all the activities in the SI Annual Reports here:

<https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/administration>

We must keep in mind that Servas doesn't have the competence, the resources, and the aim to do the work that is many times better performed by the established relief organisations like UNHCR, Red Cross, Red Crescent, Magen David Adom, Save the Children, UNICEF, to mention just a few.

Servas should not compete with these established organizations on the ground in conflict areas in our ambition to relieve people of their sufferings. There's a risk we cause more problems than we solve, by appearing on the spot and starting to compete for scarce resources like food, gasoline and other utilities.

Should Servas International start collecting money for a fund that can be used to support the people who are suffering in Ukraine?

I would say no, not at this point of time with the current focus of our activities.

I urge everybody who wants to, to donate money to established organisations to financially support people who are hurt by natural disaster and live in areas of armed conflict like Yemen and Central African Republic for example.

It's an opinion I base on what I hear and read in the mass media and – maybe most importantly – what I have heard directly from some Servas members in countries

that have been exposed to different kinds of disasters.

Let the professionals handle their areas of expertise and let's unite in Servas around what we do best.

We now know that there's a moral and practical preparedness in our network to support members in crisis.

We will need to evaluate what we could have done better, I'm sure there's plenty, and what can be developed.

We can discuss ways to develop the concept of a support network for refugees around the world. Let's do this before and during the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA).

We urge you to save the dates 22 to 28 November 2022 to attend SICOGA in India. Read more about it on page 22. I hope to see you there, either virtually or in person.

All the best,

Jonny

President, Servas International

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Covid-19 Policy Reminder

SI's global board SI Exco last year approved a COVID-19 Host and Travel Policy for Servas members around the world, while local and regional governmental restrictions and safety concerns may still apply. Please find the entire policy here: <https://servas.org/en/news/covid-19-host-and-travel-policy-servas>

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Servas Helps in Europe

By Sergiy

Hello dear Servas members!
As the National Secretary of Servas Ukraine (a member since 2012), I was asked by many members:

What is happening in Ukraine now?

February 24, 2022 radically changed our lives in Ukraine.

Servas members continue to help save the lives of our people.

People from different countries offered their homes to refugees, and I started checking on our own members.

I'll tell you two stories, united by one word—**Servas**.

Olena

Olena managed to leave Ukraine before February 24 and with the help of volunteers crossed the Romanian border.

While she was traveling to Austria, I contacted Servas to request help.

When Olena arrived at a Swiss railway station, she was welcomed and adopted by Helen (Servas Switzerland).

Olena also stayed one week with Swiss Servas member Ursula. Olena, Helen and Ursula all agreed to share these photos.

It all worked out very fast and well. Olena arrived at Ursula's place after registration, etc. Servas—what a great organization, showing that it works when really needed.

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Photos from the top:

- Olena greeted by Helen from Servas Switzerland at Swiss train station.
- Olena registers at a refugee centre.
- Olena hosted by Swiss Servas host Ursula for one week.



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Denis

My son Denis was helped by a Servas family in Slovakia.

When we learned about the hostilities in Ukraine, we decided to send our son abroad.

Not having any relatives outside the country, Denis left for the border with Slovakia—helped by volunteers from both the Ukrainian and Slovak sides. Two days later Denis got to Slovakia. During his trip, I was able to contact Servas representatives in Slovakia and Martina’s and Peter’s family agreed to accommodate him. They helped to settle Denis and registered him at a Slovak school, for which I am very thankful.



Photos: Sergiy and his son Denis talk about Ukraine at a 2015 Servas meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Denis (far right) with Martina’s and Peter’s family (Slovakia) – March 2022.



How can Servas members help?

Servas has always been distinguished for giving great hospitality and support of different people from all over the world.

Now most of the members of Servas Ukraine whom I contacted are already safe. But there are many refugees from Ukraine whom we can help.

Each country has its own volunteer centres; through them you can find out the latest information on refugees.

I believe in common sense and hope that peace will be restored. After all, this is what everyone needs.

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Photo and text from a public website:

This 19-year-old Ukrainian mother lives in a train wagon in a subway station with her newborn son.

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Servas members join peace march in Italy.

Helping Hands in Europe

We all need help from others at some point in our lives. Sometimes it's a simple favour, or it may be life-altering. For the safety of our members worldwide I used only first names or no names here. I received these photos while this generous couple was on the road. —Michael, editor.



Adam and Sylvia were relaxing at home in Spain when they saw on their TV what was happening in Ukraine. They spoke with a member of the group **Together for Life**. Volunteering at this organization was Susana, a former national secretary of Servas Spain, who suggested that this couple join Servas so they could have a place to stay on the way.

So they rented a 9-passenger van and drove to a train station in Poland near the Ukraine border where they took six people to another city in Poland. In that city they dropped off the six, and picked up seven more Ukrainians and drove them to Spain where

they had a place to stay. On the way back to Spain the nine people stayed with Servas hosts in both Germany and France. In a few days this couple plans to fly to Warsaw and rent another van and continue their work.

They explained that these Ukrainians were at first in shock but after staying with Servas hosts they were calmer and started to enjoy life again. Bravo for Servas. A big thank you to Adam and Sylvia, who agreed to letting us use their names and photos. Good luck on your next trip.

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100 Volunteers Needed!

We need many volunteers in Servas International!

Our volunteers keep Servas going, including those on the Servas International board – SI Exco – which has a President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Peace Secretary and Membership & Technology Secretary.

When you are logged on to servas.org you may read more about those [Job Descriptions](https://servas.org/en/nominations-and-elections) on <https://servas.org/en/nominations-and-elections>



NEEDS YOU!

About 100 volunteers are needed for many jobs in Servas International! The recruitment of candidates for positions has started.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Read the e-mail message 'Volunteers needed' with more information

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS E-MAIL?

Send us a message at nominations@servas.org

Servas International Nominations Team

Why we need volunteers now?

Normally the volunteers work three years. They are elected at the Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) or appointed by SI Exco. Because of Covid-19 the next SIGA is in November 2022, four years since the last one.

How can you become a volunteer?

Want to be a candidate? Fill in the [Candidate Form](#)

How do you recommend a candidate?

Recommend a candidate by filling the [Support Form](#)

When are candidates elected or appointed?

About 20 candidates will be **elected** by delegates (national secretaries) in November at the SIGA 2022. About 80 candidates will be **appointed** by SI Exco. This is an ongoing process (see [Job Descriptions](#))

How will the election take place?

At the SIGA 2022 the election will be online: a transparent, open, and democratic procedure. All members will be able to follow the procedure and see all the candidates and their supporters.

Why volunteer for Servas?

- **Good feelings** from long-lasting friendships with people around the world.
- **Improvement** in your communication skills.
- **Contributing** to building friendship around the world.

The deadline to apply as a candidate? 14 Nov 2022

For **elected** positions send the [Candidate Form](#) and [Support Form](#) no later than **14 Nov 2022**.

Candidates for **appointed** positions are requested to put themselves forward with only a [Candidate Form](#) as soon as possible.

Best regards,

Arnoud, Dianne, Norma and Sus
 Servas International Nominations Team
nominations@servas.org

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Photos from top:
 • Arnoud Philippo, Spain,
 • Dianne Ortega, Costa Rica,
 • Norma Nicholson, Australia,
 • Susanne Thestrup, Denmark (convenor).
nominations@servas.org

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SERVAS BY BIKE 2022

Three-Country-Corner 23-26 June 2022
Lusatian Mountains (Czech Republic)



Servas By Bike invites you to explore scenic countryside along the border of the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland. This place is known as **Three-Country-Corner**, an area where borders are not walls but **historical bridges** through cultures and natural treasures.

Enjoy the Servas feeling ! Come and ride with us!

The **Lusatian Highlands** are known for the beauty of the landscape, with dense forests, volcanic hills, amazing sandstone formations, plus picturesque towns and villages with unique wooden architecture.

The Lusatian Mountains are a cultural landscape formed by people over the centuries. The highest peak of the Lusatian Mountains is Luž with an altitude of 793 metres.

Program

The activity will be mostly in the open air, out in nature. Cycling trips on Friday and Saturday will be in two groups: routes of about 40 km and 60 km, hilly, with some off-roading (unpaved roads, more info to follow). A guided walking trip will be possible on Saturday.



WHEN: 23-26 June 2022 (3 nights, Thursday-Sunday).

HOW MANY: maximum of 35 participants in shared rooms.

ACCOMMODATION: 13 rooms available in one building for 36 people at the hostel: Česká hospoda - <http://www.ceska-hospoda.cz/> in - Heřmanice 116 471 25 Jablonné v Podještědí (Czech Rep) with breakfast and evening meal.

MEETING FEES: for 1 person for 3 nights (incl. breakfasts and dinners) CZK 2000/person/3 nights = about 85 Euros /person.

There will be some additional costs for evening entertainment to be collected at the time.

BIKE RENTAL (Not included).

REGISTRATION BY 10 APRIL 2022

– Limited places – After registration, we shall confirm if you have a place (or not). Only after confirmation, you will be asked to transfer the money to the hostel. PAYMENT BY 30 APRIL 2022 after our confirmation.

The meeting is organized in compliance with Covid-19 regulations.

This is our suggestion for 40 km in the Czech Republic. There is a choice of many routes out and back, and the point marked ‘finish’ is where you start a half-hour walk up an old volcano. There’s a lake halfway up where you can swim. The longer trip will take a more circular route.

For one of the half days (Thursday or Sunday), we could visit the Three Country Corner and the lake at Hradek nad Nisou. Cycling both ways is 36 km (about 3 hours).

For a shorter trip (11km) there is a nearby volcanic hill to walk up (reached by bike):

Other tourist attractions in the area:

- <https://www.saechsische-schweiz.de/en.html>
- <https://www.visitczechrepublic.com/en-US/618ed40b-7749-4ce4-8165-917442e5c789/place/p-lusatian-mountains-protected-landscape-area>
- <https://www.visitczechrepublic.com/en-US/4df02bf0-8a98-437e-9838-134d24dbd23e/place/c-bohemian-switzerland-national-park>
- <https://www.schloesserland-sachsen.de/en/palaces-castles-and-gardens/oybin-castle-and-monastery/>
- <https://www.zamek-frydlant.cz/en>

The Promoter Servas Group:

- Poland (Marietta Milewska, Tony Moul, Michal Olczak)
- Czech Republic (Vera Fruhafova, Pavel Sroubek)
- Germany (Conni Geisendorf, Siggli)
- Italy (Raffaella Rota, Gaia Morzenti, Ester Poma)

If interested contact Raffaella: rota.raffaella2022@gmail.com

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Dear Servas Artists!



By Lenka Katila



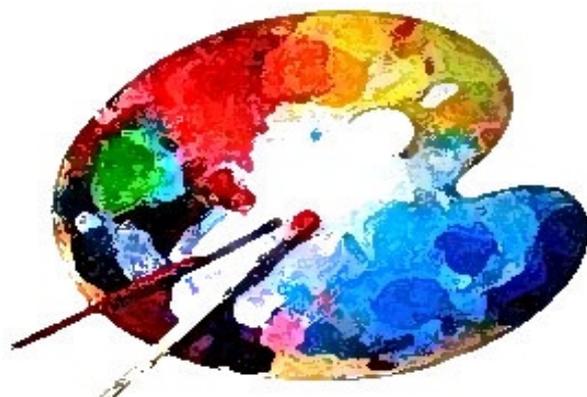
Servas **Sweden** invites you to apply for the Servas Art Workshop “Come and Create!” in Uppsala, Sweden, 12-19 of June 2022.

During this week we invite 12 artists to come and live with Servas hosts in Uppsala and at the same time to join us in a creative workshop of creating through recycling. This is inspired by Servas environmental activities and a worldwide pursuit of sustainable development.

We also offer historical and artistic sightseeing of Uppsala and of course, get together dinners and meetings. There will be the opportunity to take part in interesting workshops, visit a glass-blower studio, and see some local artists and handicrafts.

We have the use of a studio in the Cultural Center of Gottsunda where we can, at the end of the week, exhibit our created art for the public.

The organizers of the meeting will arrange three dinner parties, art material and fees in museums.



Each participant receives a free bus pass for the whole week on the local traffic network. What you choose for lunch will be additional.

The cost for participants for the whole week is 3000 SEK.

Please carefully confirm requirements for entry to Sweden, especially due to the Covid-19. We can send you these when you apply. We keep safety rules and hygienic measures during the workshop.

The participants will be accepted in order of incoming application. All visitors must have a current Servas Letter of Introduction (LOI).

On behalf of the organization committee, Lenka Katila, Servas Art Workshop

coordinator and Eva Hartman-Juhlin, National Secretary, Servas Sweden.

You may get an application from, and later submit it to, Lenka Katila: lenkav@yahoo.com.

Our back-up person is Swedish National Secretary Eva Hartman-Juhlin evahj56@hotmail.com.

Photos: Lenka [left] and Eva.

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Other Hospitality Groups: BeWelcome and Hospitality Exchange

I am Fatima and I've been with **BeWelcome** since May 2020. I live in Hamburg/ Germany but have a second home in Beirut/Lebanon.

Hospitality Exchange has been part of my life for many years but I also swap time and used goods. My youngest sister first introduced me to **Hospitality Exchange**. At that time I couldn't imagine to stay overnight with strangers or receiving strangers in my house, but I found out that there were activities and I started to take part in them. After a while I began organizing activities, and sometimes



with others. The biggest event was a hike in the holy Qannoubine valley near Bsharri, Lebanon, with 35 participants.

When I hosted for the first time some years ago, it was a great experience. I usually host during the time I live in Lebanon – which is rare nowadays because of the Covid travel restrictions. But I miss it.

Being a host helped me to overcome my hesitation to be a guest – and one or two years later I did a solo trip and was a guest myself.

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Servas members of Piedmont (Italy) are inviting you to:

“SERVAS IN WATER”

May 27-29, 2022 - River Stura - Cuneo, Italy



Cost: about 50 euros.

Dinner at the Village or in Cuneo.

Sunday 29 May: excursion to the mountains around Cuneo (with a visit to waterfalls or lakes) or day at the thermal baths.

Board and lodging costs will be finalized later according to the number of pre-registrations.

EU Digital

Covid Certificate is required www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/homeNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english.

Covid-19 host and travel policy for Servas applies: <https://servas.org/en/news/covid-19-host-and-travel-policy-servas>.

Pre-registration by April 10, 2022, by filling out the following form:

<https://forms.gle/ZgbqFf6JhXDp34nm8>.

We can accept up to a maximum of 30 registrations. In case of a higher number of requests we will give priority to Servas members and among them we'll follow chronological order of submission of the form.

For more info: piedmonte@servas.it

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Target: to meet other people while having fun in sports.

Accommodation: stay with Servas members (to be contacted individually) or B&B.

Suitable for everyone, young and old, in complete safety because we will be assisted by certified trainers. It is not necessary to be able to swim.

Rough program

Friday 27 May: welcome and accommodation; aperitif together and organizational notes.

Saturday 28 May: transfer to Valle Stura by own means or by bus at Stura River Village Rafting. Rafting experience, including: swimming pool, hot showers, full equipment, third party insurance, duration 2-3 hours about 6-8 km of river, shuttle back to the cars.

SUMMER Youth & Family CAMP

WE DO BELIEVE IN PEACE !



23-29 August 2022

Catania, on the west coast of Sicily near the Mount Etna Volcano.

In this difficult time of international conflicts, we offer this camp as an opportunity to live a multi-cultural experience, to discuss the subject of peace and solidarity and the ways to be peace builders in our daily life.

So, be ready to share with us a nature experience, with an eco-friendly style, in a self-catering Italian rural house or camping, and discover new cultures with international friends

Come and feel the taste of this Servas camp!

Some workshops and activities:

- visiting the Etna Volcano Natural Park (Nature around us)
- swimming in the warm Mediterranean Sea
- share ideas on how to be Servas during/ after the pandemic, during/after conflicts (experiences, projects for future)
- Servas Peace School: a proposal to

prevent conflicts

- climate change and sustainable lifestyle, what can Servas do?
- cooking and tasting traditional dishes from different countries
- food production and distribution (Fair Trade, conscious consumption, Solidarity Buying Group-Gas)
- Workshop on ways to reduce food waste and eco-footprints
- meetings with local and national sustainable associations
- learning new ways of dancing and traditional music
- having A LOT of FUN !

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Where: Puntalazzo, Sicily (Catania airport)

When: From Tuesday 23 to Monday 29 August 2022

How many places: 60 in shared rooms and tents

COST:

Standard Camp fee: 210 euros

Children from 0 to 4 years old: free

Special price for children 4-12 years old: 147 euros



Special price for youngsters (13-25 years old): 178 euros

What is covered by the costs: 6 nights, food, basic insurance, activities

Photo: our last Servas camp:

Servas Youth Eco-camp Lake Garda (Italy, September 2021)

Register by May 15, 2022 at this link:

<https://forms.gle/Pjz3Ge5hUWfVXy4j6>

This will be an active camp of: hiking, walking, games, brainstorming, music, dance, tidying-up, cooking.

Bring your skills and share them!

Especially dedicated to youth and family, open to all ages.

The preliminary agenda will follow soon.

For more info, contact Staff team:

servascamp@gmail.com

servasgiovani@gmail.com

rota.raffaella2022@gmail.com

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Servas Youth Language Experience SYLE 2022

We gave details of the Servas Youth Language Experience for 2022 in our last SINB issue. It is for members 18 to 30 years old to stay with Servas families or with a single member.

From 1 to 4 weeks in different Servas families. There may still be time to apply for:

TOWN FESTIVAL – BERGAMO PROVINCE – Italy

Do you want to help in managing a town festival? Traditional food, fun and music. Together with a group of volunteers (youngsters and adults) you can help cooking or as waiter/waitress, or in games and activities.

When? 1-10 September 2022

If interested please email:

servasgiovani@gmail.com

rota.raffaella2022@gmail.com.

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***COVID UPDATE* Malawi Borders are OPEN**

Min mask/Covid. 2300 deaths in 2 years. We are safe.



Malawi SYLE Experience Could 'MALAWI' be for YOU?

Length: 4-6 weeks

Stay with National Sec. 2 days (settle in).

→ **Week 1. Stay 2 nights @ 3-4 Blantyre hosts.**

hosts will:- a) Take you to work with them for a day. b) Orientate you to taking minibuses etc.

c) Help you study + speak Chichewa.
d) Take you to other places.

→ **Week 2 and 3: Stay with 2 hosts a week each while doing volunteer work.**

- Stay 1 week with 1 host & 1 week with a 2nd while completing voluntary work with an allocated NGO.

- Work may include: photography-make booklet

- Nursery + Primary school. Make mosaic/mural

- Blood Donor Board

- Garage Workshop.

- IT- Assistant create NGO

Evenings:

- Study, cook, chat + write report.

- Monday: Choir 7-9pm.

- Sunday: Ultimate Frisbee



→ **Week 4: 1 week of self-funded travel** at a lake or around Malawi & back for debriefing with Nat Sec.

Requirements: YOU MUST:

- ✓ Be a model Servas traveller
- ✓ give Powerpoint about your life, and your country
- ✓ **Be Vaccinated**
- ✓ Buy/pay your return air ticket
- ✓ have travel insurance
- ✓ Be +18-80yrs
- ✓ Pay \$28 for 4 chichewa lessons
- ✓ Pay \$100 SYLE fee
- ✓ Covid health Insurance
- ✓ Pocket money

- ✓ Communicate in English
- ✓ \$ to buy own lunches + local buses
- ✓ \$ to shop & cook a dinner once a week for your 'long-stay' hosts
- ✓ Have an updated L.O.I.
- ✓ Funds to travel a last week around Malawi.

- Meet you at the airport/bring home. *Give you Servas Malawi membership + T-shirt + ID and
- An item of up to \$50 for YOU to donate to the NGO that you volunteer with that you think they NEED.
- Food for your welcome + goodbye Servas Social meeting.

CONTACT: Nat. Sec. Email: demelzabenbow@gmail.com
 WhatsApp +265 999 482 983.
 SYLE Support
Jacqueline13@hotmail.com +265 997 376 475 ... +265 993 920 386
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Servas ALBANIA Begins

By Viola Balla

When Servas Albania was developed and I was only 16 years old, an advertisement with the Servas website showed up. Both scared and excited I decided to apply. I had a few interviews/ emails with Rita Dessauvage and Ewa Dzierzawska; the process was smooth and went well. Then Gerti Pishtari decided to join.

Photos from top: Viola Balla, her mum Thelleza, Gerti Pishtari, traditional Albanian clothing.

So, it was the two of us planting this little tree called Servas Albania hoping it would grow healthy and develop further. We had our first traveler a few years ago, who stayed at my grandparents' house for two days. Since then, we had a few more travelers.

What have we done so far? With Gerti's help, together we added the new members on the Servas International website, updated their data and made sure the locations were precise and easy to find. Arnoud Philippo helped with this.

In 2017 William D Souza sent us our first 10 stamps. All the way from India to Albania.

Incredible, isn't it? How a group of devoted volunteers could make all of this happen.

Another person who has been a great support is my mother,

Thelleza. She has been the 'behind the scenes' secret helper. Without her none of that would have been possible.

Growing up, I realized how important meeting people, traveling and hosting is. It changes you as a person and you learn to be more tolerant and peaceful.

What I wish for 2022 is to have more Albanian citizens learn more about Servas International and all those wonderful opportunities it offers.

Our country has a lot of potential with kind people,



beautiful nature and landscapes. Transportation is getting better, and more trees are being planted. All we need are people who appreciate this way of life.

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USA Servas Events

Movie Lovers

If you like chatting with other Servas members in English, and watching films, please contact Fred Carpenter sail1942@gmail.com who screens interesting movies on Saturday nights. It is preceded and followed by chat sessions. Start time varies.

“The End of War: Waging Peace To Save Humanity” —Podcast



This month, we explore how we might end war. Listen to Corbett’s podcast interview with Captain Paul K. Chappell and then talk with us.

Join us April 24, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 pm EDT. That’s New York City time.

“The End of War: Waging Peace To Save Humanity”—US Servas Podcast Series

About this event

In today’s struggle to stop war, terrorism, and other global problems, West Point graduate Paul K. Chappell offers new and practical solutions. He shares his own personal struggles with childhood trauma, racism, rage, and military training. Chappell explores the anatomy of war and peace, giving strategies, tactics, and leadership principles to resolve inner and outer conflict. Chappell explains from a military perspective how Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. were strategic, brilliant, and courageous warriors who advanced a more effective method than

waging war for providing national and global security.

Paul Chappell shares how to become active citizens with the skills and strength to defeat injustice and end all war. Find out more at:

[Link to the podcast interview with Captain Paul K. Chappell](#)

You may also want to read this 2021 interview with Paul K. Chappell: [Recent magazine interview with Paul K. Chappell](#)

Photo: author Paul K. Chappell.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-end-of-war-waging-peace-to-save-humanity-us-servas-podcast-series-tickets-293984394237?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

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The Gift of Servas: the Host-Traveler Exchange

By Yosi, Peace & Justice Secretary, USA Servas

We can only see about 2.3% of the light on the electromagnetic spectrum. We can only hear a small fraction of all possible sound frequencies. We are surrounded by Wi-Fi, cell phone signals, and radio waves that we can’t see or hear. We can’t even imagine how much we miss.

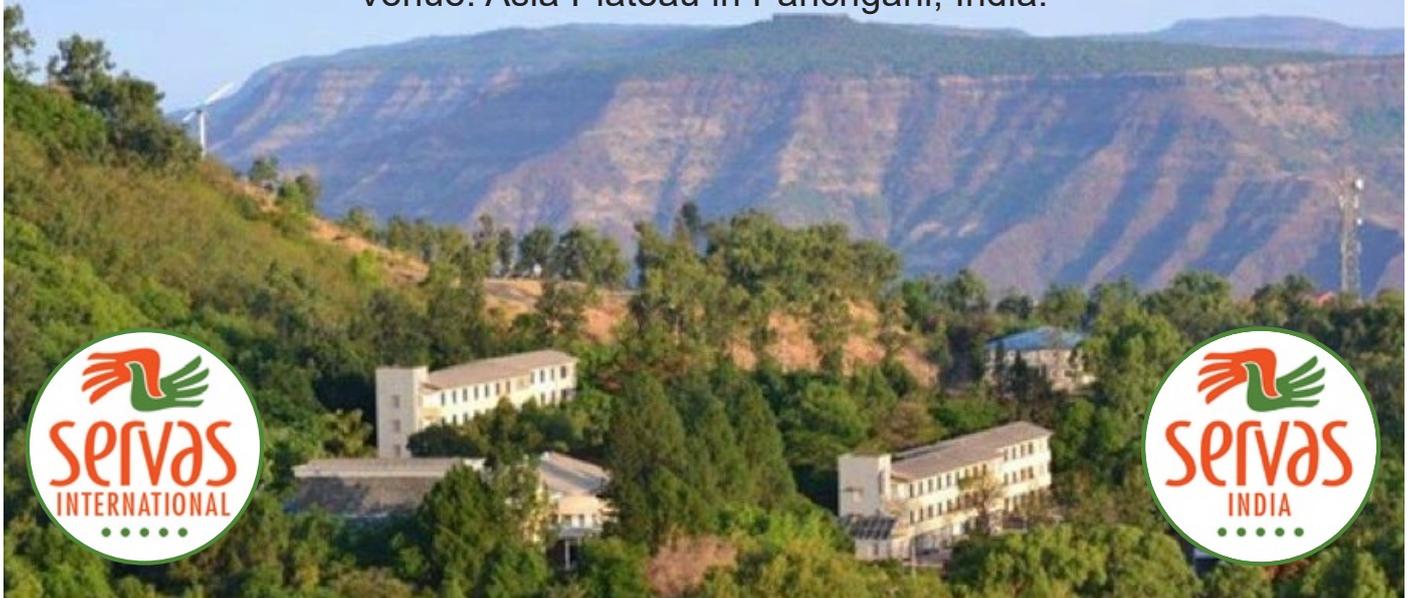


Servas interactions help us reflect more clearly on our own reality and get beyond our mental programming. We can expand our consciousness. This is the gift of Servas.

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Come to the 32nd SI Conference

22–28 November 2022, 32nd SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA)
Venue: Asia Plateau in Panchgani, India.



By Jonny Sågänger, SI President

Dear Servas members worldwide,

Want to be revitalized with inspiring energy and positive actions? With world problems raging, our peace and hospitality organization is more relevant than ever.

SI Exco – the global board of Servas International – and Servas India are planning the Servas International Conference and General Assembly 2022 (SICOGA 2022).

We urge you to save the dates 22 to 28 November 2022 and make plans to attend SICOGA in the state of Maharashtra in India.

We hope you will take this opportunity to prepare yourself for this important and joyful meeting in India.

We look forward to meeting you there!

Jonny Sågänger, SI President president@servas.org

On behalf of: SI Exco, Servas India,

SICOGA 2022 Conference and Program Committees,
plus SICOGA 2022 Conference Managers: Kiat Y Tan, SI
General Secretary generalsecretary@servas.org and Carla
Kristensen, SI Vice President vicepresident@servas.org .



SICOGA registration will open on a dedicated website soon. An alerting announcement will be sent then.

Conference theme: Servas growth for a more peaceful world

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1. SICOGA 2022 Status Report

Dates: November 22–28 2022

Venue: Asia Plateau – MRA Center Panchgani.

Plan: to host 130 to 200 participants at the venue during the conference.

On March 20 SI Exco decided that the participation fee for SICOGA 2022 will be \$720 USD. This is the same fee as the SICOGA 2018.

The current plan is to make part of the conference available with extensive digital/virtual access for all Servas members around the world.

We're also planning the conference online coverage via social media and to document it for the future. SICOGA 2018 was documented with a daily newsletter, a social media wall and through other communications channels. People who would like to help with the documentation of the conference are encouraged to send an application to express interest to president@servas.org.

SI Exco and Servas India are

hoping to welcome a large number of participants at SICOGA 2022 both in person as well as virtually.

We invite you to check out the:
SICOGA 2018 (Photo of attendees.)
<https://servas.org/sicoga2018/index.php>

2. The venue:

Asia Plateau is located in the western hills of India overlooking the Krishna Valley in the Indian state of Maharashtra, 100 km from Pune. The 27-hectare campus is situated at an altitude of 1,300 metres. It is advisable to bring some warm clothing and walking shoes. Pune is the nearest railway station and airport. Frequent buses and taxis are available from Pune to Panchgani. Direct buses are also available from Mumbai to Panchgani.





A leading Indian newspaper called Asia Plateau “a beacon of hope”.

Read more about Asia Plateau MRA Center Panchgani and the conference centre here: <https://in.iofc.org/AsiaPlateau>

3. Minimizing the ecological footprint of SICOGA 2022

SI Exco will make steps to minimise the ecological footprint of the event and to raise the awareness about the impact of travel and tourism.

Some of the concrete actions have been the use of digital conference documents when possible instead of printed material, reduced use of disposables and vegetarian meals on at least one of the conference days.

4. Conference programme (preliminary)

One of the core activities during the conference is the SI General Assembly (SIGA).

There is also a programme with workshops, discussion groups and



training sessions on a wide range of topics where all the conference participants will be able to contribute to the debate about the future of Servas.

Topics may include:

- an action plan: Servas to reach more people around the globe.

How to make Servas grow

- Servas role in times of armed conflict, for example Ukraine.

- Climate change: how Servas contributes – positive and negative.

- Workshop. Around the Belgian report Servas: Getting Involved As Locals In Tourism

- Workshop: SWOT analysis (Servas Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis).

- Women travelling with Servas.

Servas as a safe alternative

- How to make a Servas member feel welcome.

- “Travelling for Peace as a way to break down prejudices”

- UN Representation, Commission on the Status of Women, Human Rights.

- Young people in Servas / Families

- What’s new in Servas? Virtual events and new experiences

- Virtual Travel
- Social activities (preliminary)
- Yoga
- Everybody is encouraged to make presentations, perform dances, singing – anything that makes audiences appreciate the cultural attributes they bring from their own country and culture – every contribution is appreciated and welcome!

Tell us how to make the fun and informal part of the conference rich and enjoyable. Send your ideas to SI Vice President Carla Kristensen vicepresident@servas.org and Kiat Y Tan generalsecretary@servas.org.

Please write in the subject line:
SICOGA 2022: Program, social & fun activities

5. Servas democracy – SI General Assembly

The Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) of National Servas Member Groups is the business part of SICOGA.

SIGA 2022 will take place on November 25–26.

During the SIGA sessions voting delegates from National Servas Member Groups will make decisions about the running and financing of Servas International as well as the planning for the future direction of the organisation. SI officers and committees will also be elected and appointed for the next mandate period, which usually is three years.

Everyone attending the conference will be able to observe these sessions as observers, but only the delegates from the

National Servas Member Groups will be able speak and vote.

For information about motions and voting, please check the website <https://servas.org/en/international-conferences> under the heading *SICOGA 2022*:

#SIGA2022mailout2 - SI member group SIGA & motions preparations
[MOTION FORM FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022](#)
[SHORT GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING A MOTION FOR SIGA 2022](#)

[SI Member Group SIGA 2022 Preparations](#)

All motions will be organized into subject working groups (SWGs). There will be a volunteer coordinator for each of these SWGs, and any Servas member is welcome to join in discussions of these motions in the months leading up to the SIGA.

6. Call for nominations

The SI Nominations Team, (SI NT), is calling for nominations for the next SI Exco, SI committees and other positions to be elected at SIGA 2022. Please send your proposals to nominations@servas.org.

7. Visa requirements

If you're making plans to attend SICOGA 2022 please check as soon as possible which visa requirements there are between your home country and India. Apply for a visa as early as possible to avoid time-consuming and expensive last minute solutions.

SI Exco and Servas India look forward to meeting you in India in November!

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Jews, Muslims, Christians, met in Israel



By Claudia



On 12 March 2022, on a rainy, cold day, over 40 members of Servas Israel met in Abu Ghosh, an Arab-Israeli village near Jerusalem, to get to know each other and the place.

We were hosted at **Hinam**—the Center for Social Tolerance, where we heard about their goals and projects, and listened to Amitai, our host, playing and singing a Yemeni /

Arab poetic song.

He accompanied us to the Crusader church and the Benedictine monastery, where Tova told a story about the place and its history, and Shlomi played the recorded singing of Brother Olivier, inside the halls with the special resonance. Ruthi joined the initiative with a song from Mass, and Meir with some Hebrew songs.

Next, we visited the home of Samer, a Muslim woman from the village, who



shared her life and decisions for independence and personal freedom.

Back at the Hinam Centre, Yaffa shared with us Servas experiences in Finland, related to the visit to the monastery. We ate a meal together with delicacies that everyone brought, and sat down our annual General Assembly.

The activity report and the financial report, and audit report were presented. It was an interesting and exciting day, with hopes for more meetings this year.

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The members of Servas Israel are all thinking of the residents of Ukraine, and members of Servas Ukraine in particular, along with people suffering in other countries. We greatly appreciate all Servas members in the countries bordering Ukraine, and beyond, who came to help.

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Cultural News

By Editor Michael Johnson



Tell us about your culture. Please send news from your area to:
Michael at newsletter@servas.org

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Photos: Refugees from four continents who cook, care & work for, and love their families are often helped by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. The UNHCR has bases in 135 countries, helping displaced people, giving them hope for a brighter future.

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NEW KEY PEOPLE

SERVAS IRAN

SI MEMBER GROUP IRAN held its first General Assembly on 2 January 2022. All members were invited via email to join the online Skype meeting. About 20 people participated at the General Assembly.

On the agenda:

- Finalize the rules of procedure
- Election of a new management team.

Elected members of the new team are:

- Hamed Ghassemian, National Secretary
- Amir Hosein Asadi, National Deputy
- Parisa Nazapoor, National Treasurer
- Neda Rahmani, Alternative Executive board member

The new board appreciates that the experienced members Hosein Sarafranz and Zahra Karimi are willing to help for ServasOnline and for Peace activities.



Hamed G



Amir A



Parisa N



Neda R



Hosein S



Zahra K

SERVAS KOREA

In February 2022 SI Member Group Korea elected a New Board of Servas Korea:

- Song Sangkee, National Secretary
- Yun Youngbom, Vice National Secretary
- Kim Kyuok, National Peace Secretary
- Kim Kwangsook, National Treasurer
- Lee Joungjoo, Webmaster/ServasOnline Administrator
- Lim Jaeyoung, Youth Coordinator
- An Jiyoung, Newsletter Editor
- Kim Junga, Administrator
- Lee Jaekyung, Auditor
- Kim Namhee, Auditor

Board of Servas Korea:



Song Sangkee



Yun Youngbom



Kim Kyuok



Kim Kwangsook

Photos continue next page...



Korean members, from top:
Lee Jounghoo, Lim Jaeyoung,
An Jiyoung, Kim Junga,
Lee Jaekyung, Kim Namhee.

More people are involved
in Servas Korea such as
'Advisers' and many 'Regional
coordinators'.

Outgoing key persons:
Bjunghun Lee, Chaeun Lim,
Hyonsuk Chong, & Yunja Choi.



Servas Representation at United Nations (UN)

Since 1973 Servas
International (SI) has consultative
status as an international non-
governmental organisation,
iNGO, with the Economic and
Social Council (ECOSOC) at the
United Nations. The consultative
status makes it possible for SI to
be active at the premises of the
United Nations in New York City in
the USA, Geneva in Switzerland
and Vienna in Austria.

This is the entire group
of Servas International
representatives at the UN:
New York City: Jeanne Devine
(USA), Kent Macaulay (Canada),
Gopal Rajan (USA) and Alison
Telsey (USA)

Geneva: Daniela Dönges
(Germany), René Steimer
(Switzerland), Helga Merkelbach
(Germany), Béatrice Castera
(France), Danielle Serres
(France), and Dr. Hamsavahini
(Hamsa) Singh of Servas India,



is now the SI Coordinator to the
United Nations. Hamsa oversees
all of SI's connection with the UN
across all three UN locations where
SI has Representatives (New York,
Vienna, and Geneva).

Vienna: Angelika Hofmann
(Austria)

Individual presentations of the
representatives and their photos are
on the Servas website:

[https://servas.org/en/Servas-and-
the-UnitedNations](https://servas.org/en/Servas-and-the-UnitedNations)

Thanks to the outgoing
board members for their work.
Congratulations and a warm
welcome to the newly elected,
reelected and appointed key
persons.

We wish them all good luck and
we thank them sincerely for their
contribution and involvement.

—Warm Servas regards,
Rita Dessauvage,
Convenor SI Dolphin Team
Member Servas Belgium &
Luxemburg.

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Covid-19 Policy Reminder

Last year SI's global board,
SI ExCo, approved a COVID-19
Host and Travel Policy for Servas
members around the world, while
local and regional governmental
restrictions and safety concerns
may still apply. Please find the
entire policy here:

[https://servas.org/en/news/covid-
19-host-and-travel-policy-servas](https://servas.org/en/news/covid-19-host-and-travel-policy-servas)

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SERVAS, A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WITHIN VIRTUAL REACH

Discover the Servas community here on the world wide web:

Social Media	Location / Site	Administered by:
Servas International	https://servas.org	Servas International
National Groups	See “Servas Websites” at https://servas.org	Servas International
Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/Servas.International/	Jonny Sägänger, Carla Kristensen
Facebook group “Servas International” (members only)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/	Arnoud Philippo, Paige LaCombe, Mr. Hiren Goradia
Servas group “Travelling for Peace”	https://www.facebook.com/groups/servas/	Jonny Sägänger, Carla Kristensen, Park Jae Kwoang
Servas Peace Page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/ServasPeacePage/	Paige LaCombe, Danielle Serres, Raleigh LaCombe Tomlinson, Francisco Salomón
Instagram	Ex: servasturkiye, servasmexico, servaspeaceschool, servasbritain, servaschile, servasbrasil, servaspeace, servas_australia, servasgiovani, servas_italia, servasiran, servasportugal, servasfrance, servasyouth, servas_youth_in_africa, and many more	Many Servas groups or teams
Twitter		
SI President on twitter.com	https://twitter.com/servaspresident?lang=en	SI President
@ServasI	https://twitter.com/servasi?lang=en	Servas Britain Regional Co-ordinator, Area N (Yorkshire)
SI News Bulletin	https://servas.org/en/newsletters-bulletins	SI President and the SI Media & Communication Team
Servas Confluence	A digital co-working and cooperation platform for internal Servas volunteers.	SI Tech Team and SI ExCo

ABOUT THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

The Servas International News Bulletin (SINB) is a newsletter made by and for the members of our Servas community. It contains a brief report about current issues and decisions.

Editor & Graphic Designer:
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What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Please let us know.
Email: newsletter@servas.org

You may quote us but please mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.

SI ExCo 2018—2022

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ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Servas International is a global, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national member groups, supporting a worldwide network of hosts and travellers.

Our network aims to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by offering opportunities for personal contacts between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.