



# NEWS BULLETIN

FROM THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## SICOGA 2018 IN KOREA “TO CONNECT FOR PEACE”

“Connecting people and cultures for Peace” is the theme for the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, which will take place in the Republic of Korea in October, 2018.

Previous conferences have shown it’s an unforgettable experience to be to be part of such an international event where people from so many nationalities, languages and cultures come together from across the world.



The International Youth Center Youth Hostel is the venue for SICOGA 2018.



Servas Korea has developed the logo for SICOGA 2018 in Seoul. It will be presented together with the Servas International logo on the registration website which is under construction.

SICOGA 2018 is a joint venture organized by Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco) and Servas Korea with the support of the SICOGA 2018 Organising Team.

The venue will be the International Youth Center Youth Hostel located west of the capital Seoul in the Mount Gaehwa area, within easy reach of the city centre and the Incheon International Airport.

There’s also information about the venue in [English here](#) and in [Korean here](#).

The conference will be held from 13th to 20th October, 2018.

A registration website is under construction. The registration website will be found on [servas.org](http://servas.org) where you will find the most up-to-date information about planning for the conference.

*By Jonny Sägänger, President, Servas International  
& Penny Pattison, SI General Secretary*



## SICOGA 2018 ROAD MAP ON FIRM COURSE

SI Exco, Servas Korea and many volunteer key persons are working hard to prepare for the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, which will take place in October, 2018 in South Korea (the Republic of Korea).

This work is carried out as we observe the current tensions on the Korean Peninsula. SI Exco and Servas Korea are well aware of the political challenges in the world today, and are monitoring the situation. We watch and trust that sanity will prevail.

It is not the first time in history that such a tense situation arises. The years 1969, 1994 and 2010 are remembered as years of especially tense moments on the Korean Peninsula. Parties stepped back and crisis were overcome. SI Exco's contingency plan, if the situation should deteriorate, would be to postpone SICOGA 2018. If it – at some point – becomes our belief that the conference should not go ahead, we will notify all Servas National Groups as soon as possible. The current plan is not to look for an alternative host country for SICOGA 2018 at that time, due to human and financial constraints.

*By Jonny Sägänger, President, Servas International & Penny Pattison, SI General Secretary*

## YOUTH TO DISCUSS SERVAS FUTURE

The Servas New Years Eve event of 2017 in Hungary will promote friendships between international youth, over 16 years old. The event involves a multicultural, fun party with activities like free talks, cultural programs, daily saunas, traditional hungarian games and mindblowing parties.

During the event the participants will discuss the following topics in the workshops:

1. The group's views on interview/informative talk as the screening process to become member of Servas.
2. How to improve Servas website servas.org?
3. Cost of Servas membership: Should it be a lower price for young people (under 22)?
4. Servas in 2020: What would we like Servas to be in the year 2020?

The idea is that the participants at the Servas New Year Event of 2017 will give their contributions to the development and modernisation of Servas as an organisation.

Please find more information about the event [here](#).



The Servas Youth New Year Party will take place in Nagyhörcsökpuszta in Hungary from December, 30th to January, 4th 2018.

## TROIKA APPOINTED TO HANDLE SI ECONOMY

Servas International's global board SI Exco has appointed the three volunteers Radha B. Radhakrishna, Gülşen Elyak and Richard Cabassut who will handle Servas financial matters until SICOGA in October 2018.

The financial troika that SI Exco consists of the following appointed persons:

- Radha B. Radhakrishna, who will start as SI Treasurer on January 1, 2018. The current SI Treasurer William D'Souza resigned from his position during the fall and has expressed that he would like to be replaced not later than December 31, 2017.

Radha B. Radhakrishna lives in Connecticut, USA, and has professional experience from financial accounting and

follow-up, budgeting and other strategic tools for economic management. Radha has been a Servas member since 1989 and is engaged in the Servas UN activities at the UN premises in New York City in USA.

- Gülşen Elyak from Turkey has been appointed SICOGA 2018 Financial Coordinator. Gülşen Elyak has professional experience from financial accounting and follow-up,

budgeting and other strategic tools for economic management. She is the National Secretary for Servas Turkey, and she has attended some international Servas events.

- Richard Cabassut has been appointed Assistant SI Treasurer with the specific task to administrate Servas International stamps. Richard Cabassut lives in France and has been a Servas member since 1981. He has attended several European Servas meetings and has also co-organized four European Servas meetings. Richard Cabassut has experience from being treasurer of a civil construction society and as treasurer of an university association supporting national and international meetings.



SI Exco has recruited and appointed the three volunteers Radha B. Radhakrishna, Gülşen Elyak and Richard Cabassut to handle Servas financial matters until SICOGA in October 2018.

## INTERNATIONAL WEEK EXPANDED 2017

In September of this year the Servas Innovation Group launched the annual event called International Servas Week. During the preparations the Innovation Group had received emails from such Servas countries as Burundi, India, Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Chile, Portugal and Vietnam who were preparing, for example, gatherings, regional meetings and Syle programs. They also informed others about Servas bookmarks to share with friends and media interviews about Servas.

The International Servas Week takes place annually around the international Day of Peace on September 21st. The Innovation group received emails from members that want to join the group, as well. The newcomers have been welcomed and will join the work to increase the activities of the Innovation Group.

Texts, photos and other documentation of International Servas Week of 2017 should be sent to [innovation@servas.org](mailto:innovation@servas.org). A report will be produced 2018 about the events 2017.

In this [report](#) you can read about the project and the results from 2016, with reports from Servas Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala and Thailand as well as get inspiration for you own event during the International Servas Week of 2018 in September, or to send to the Innovation Group the results of the 2017 activities to build the mentionned report of this year activities.

### About International Servas Week

The International Servas Week was an idea that was developed during one of the workshops at the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, in New Zealand in 2105. From this workshop was born the Innovation Group, which is intended to put into action these ideas. The International Servas Week is a yearly event that takes place around the international Day of Peace on September 21st. The event celebrates Servas values such as peace, solidarity, service, hospitality and understanding.

## EMMAÜS AND SERVAS – A POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP

Servas International and Emmaüs International representatives met in Paris on October 18, 2017. Our organizations have historic links as well as having much in common in terms of values.

After World War II, Servas founder and conscientious objector, Bob Luitweiler, worked with the Emmaus community while travelling to meet peace builders around the world. Both organizations share common values based on hospitality and solidarity, meeting and acting together, and a belief that peace can only be achieved through mutual understanding and social justice.

At the UN in Geneva, Servas International invited a member of Emmaus - who is also a Servas member - to participate in a panel on Migration (September, 2017) and on Sustainable tourism (March, 2017). In turn in September, 2018, Servas aims to participate in Geneva peace conference organized by Emmaüs in Geneva.

We plan to work on common projects, i.e. Servas Youth Exchange Language and/or SLE (Servas Language Experience) programs and Emmaüs International which is involved in local projects on the ground in various parts of the world.

At the end of the meeting, we were offered a passport cover part of a campaign for Universal Citizenship (see [o-c-u.org](http://o-c-u.org)), and the Emmaüs's archives service has agreed to explore the history of the links between our organizations. Also the Emmaüs website has been added to the list of the websites links on [servas.org](http://servas.org).

*By Danielle Serres, SI Peace Secretary*

## 2018 PEACE CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

Servas International 2018 Peace Calendar is now available for download. The Peace Calendar focuses on peace activities developed by Servas members around the world in 2017. It highlights key UN dates to inspire Servas members to take part in related peace activities in 2018, and in particular during International Servas Week around September 21, Peace Day.

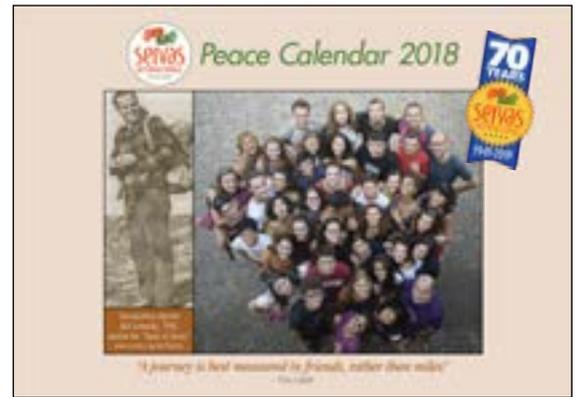
Get your 2018 Servas Peace Calendar [here](#).

In September 2018, we will start the celebrations of Servas 70th anniversary, which will take place in 2019. In 2018 it will be 69 years since the first “Seeds of Servas” were planted by Bob Luitweiler in 1948. A Servas 70 year’s anniversary 1949-2019 logo is already being launched in order to get a kick-start for the celebrations.

**Next calendar:** You are invited to send your contributions for the fourth issue – Peace Calendar 2019 – to [peacesecretary@servas.org](mailto:peacesecretary@servas.org). Please send good quality photos with a text caption to describe the photo.

Thanking you in advance for your contribution!

*By Danielle Serres, SI Peace Secretary*



The Servas International Peace Calendar focuses on peace activities developed by Servas members around the world in 2017.

*“Seeds were planted,  
let’s be good gardeners”*

## PEOPLE: NEW SERVAS MEXICO NATIONAL BOARD

The Servas Mexico association has been renewed after a period of difficulties in the organization. A group of members met in September to explain the situation of Servas Mexico after the period of 2014-2017, where there were problems with unfavorable numbers, loss of members and few activities that would promote the development of the group and the promotion of its main banner, peace.

With the votes of those present and from some votes via e-mail this Servas national board was elected for the period 2017-2020:

Salomón Luna---National Secretary

Ana Paula Jiménez----Deputy

Rosalinda Cazares---Teasury

Patricia Fuentes---Secretary of Peace

Roxana Aguilar---Coordinator of Communication

Fabián Trejo---Coordinador of Servas Online

Jorge Rendón---Mexico City Coordinator

Cynthia Granados---Coordinator of Youth

*By: Itzcóatl Rendón,*

*SI News Bulletin correspondent*



The Servas Mexico national board / Photo by Roxana Aguilar

## PEOPLE: AIGARAKOV, KONOKBAEVA, JONES, GOURMELLET



Gulzat Konokbaeva is the new National Secretary of Servas Kyrgyzstan after Aigul Bakirova.

### **GULZAT KONOKBAEVA, NEW NS SERVAS KYRGYZSTAN**

Gulzat Konokbaeva is the new national secretary of Servas Kyrgyzstan. She was born in 1969. GULZAT Konokbaeva is a teacher of English and German at the Eurasia University and at the Mining Institute. She is doing volunteer work as coordinator of Forum English Language Teachers` Association (FLTA) in Kyrgyzstan.

Gulzat Konokbaeva replaced Aigul Bakirova in the position as national secretary of Servas Kyrgyzstan.

### **ROBERT AIGARAKOV, DEPUTY NS OF SERVAS KAZAKHSTAN**

Robert Aigarakov was elected Deputy National Secretary of Servas Kazakhstan at a members meeting on the 26th of August 2017. He was unanimously elected for the position, according to the minutes from the meeting. Robert Aigarakov speaks English fluently and works for the Department for Safety and Security at the United Nations premises in Almaty in Kazakhstan. The members meeting was supervised by Devendra Singh.



Robert Aigarakov is the new Deputy National Secretary of Servas Kazakhstan.

### **CHRIS JONES**

Chris Jones resigned in September from his position as one of the members of the Servas International Job Descriptions and Statutes Committee. Chris Jones writes in his resignation:

“In no way should my action be viewed as a diminished commitment to Servas International or to Exco or any of the fine individuals presently serving on Exco. My personal opinion is that the present Exco is the best ever and if I can

assist S.I or Exco in any way, I would be pleased to do so.”

Chris Jones has served as organiser and moderator at several Servas International General Assemblies.

### **GUY GOURMELLET**

Guy Gourmellet, a Servas member from Nantes in France, has resigned from his appointed volunteer position as ServasOnline Transition Manager. He started in February, 2017 with the task of being the contact person for Servas National Groups that are moving their members (hosts and or travellers) to the ServasOnline Member system.

## SERVAS 70-YEAR ANNIVERSARY BANNER

The Servas Image and Design Support Team has created a banner for the upcoming Servas 70-year anniversary in 2019. The banner is available in horizontal and vertical design, as shown here, in transparent PNG file format and large image size to serve most needs from web to print. More sizes will be available soon and you can request a banner in a specific size and file format for your needs by contacting the Image and Design Support Team. Direct downloads will be available soon.

Those who would like to receive a banner should send an email request to [servasdesignhelp@servas.com](mailto:servasdesignhelp@servas.com)

Celebrations of the Servas 70th Anniversary will get an early start in the fall 2018 with the International Servas Week around September, 21, then continue during the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2018), as well as during the entire year 2019.

### About the Servas Image and Design Support Team

The Servas International Image and Design Support Team, SIIDST supports Servas Countries with various Servas-related design projects and member-country logos. Find out more here: [siidst.servas.org](http://siidst.servas.org)

## WHAT SI EXCO HAS DECIDED – [FIND OUT HERE](#)

On the Servas International website are minutes from SI Exco meetings:

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

## --- VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED ---

### POSITION: WEBSITE DEVELOPER FOR SI WEBSITE

Servas has started a collaboration platform called ServasOnline. The first release of ServasOnline is now on line ([servas.org](http://servas.org)).

ServasOnline is a multilingual website, regularly publishing news from member countries in four languages. In the members dedicated section of the website, members have access to the database of all members worldwide. Members can select and contact other members from all over the world to meet them during their travels.

The website is built with the Drupal CMS (Content Management System) and mySql.

### Responsibilities:

Servas International is recruiting a website developer for our website, [servas.org](http://servas.org).

As Website Developer (company or individual) you will be responsible for maintenance and enhancements to the ServasOnline website.

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The Servas 1949-2019 70-Year Anniversary Banner is available in PNG file format and can be ordered with an email request to [servasdesignhelp@servas.com](mailto:servasdesignhelp@servas.com)



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You will report to and work in close collaboration with the Servas Application Manager (currently Bernard Andrieu).

### **Your activities will cover:**

- Continuity of operations (24/7) in collaboration with the system manager in charge of the Servas server (ICT Team)
- Corrective maintenance (bug fixes)
- Improvement of the application (major changes are planned as part of a second release) based on change requests from the Servas App Manager
- Alerts, suggestions and recommendations for better use, user-friendliness, technical coding, performance, responsiveness of the website
- Giving assistance to the Servas Web Editor in updating web content
- Preparation of communication and training documents related to the usage of the application usage and to changes, in collaboration with the ServasOnline Team

### **Key Skills:**

- Good communication and training skills
- Fluent English; other languages such as French, Spanish, German are a plus
- Technical skills: Drupal 7, PHP, MySQL, Linux, HTML, CSS, bootstrap, jQuery.

### **Additional Information**

- Communications – mainly in English – through the ServasOnline website, email, phone, video chat, voice call services, the cloud
- You will work on a teleworking basis
- Our estimate is that this job requires a part-time activity
- Experience with NGO is a plus

### **About Servas**

Servas International is a worldwide non-governmental organization which runs a traveller/-host hospitality programme based on values of tolerance between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.

Read more about Servas: [servas.org/](http://servas.org/)

Send your application to Bernard Andrieu, ServasOnline Project Manager by email [berno.andrieu@orange.fr](mailto:berno.andrieu@orange.fr)

### **POSITION: APPLICATION MANAGER FOR SI WEBSITE**

Servas has built a collaboration platform called ServasOnline, which is now up and running. ServasOnline is a multilingual website, regularly publishing news from member countries in four languages.

Servas members have access to the database of all members worldwide. Members can select and contact other members from all over the world to meet them during their travels.

The website is built with the Drupal CMS (Content Management System) and mySql.

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### **Responsibilities:**

- Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to the ServasOnline application.
- You will report to Pablo Colangelo: [servasonlinehlc@gmail.com](mailto:servasonlinehlc@gmail.com)
- Close collaboration with the Webmaster and System manager (Servas International ICT).
- Leading of a Multi-countries User-group with the help of its convenor
- Continuity of operations (24/7)
- Corrective maintenance (bug fixes)
- Enhancements to the application (major changes are planned as part of periodic releases)
- Assistance to the Webmaster in updating web content
- Support the deployment of the application in member countries (including data migration)
- Assistance to members in the use of the application
- Preparation of communication and training documents related to the application usage and to changes

### **Key Skills:**

- Adherence to Servas values
- Good communication and training skills
- Fluent English and other languages such as French, Spanish, German are a plus
- Ability to multitask and good personal organization
- Ability to understand development options on the following technical skills: Drupal 7 (a must), PHP, MySQL, Linux, HTML, CSS, bootstrap, jQuery.

### **Additional Information**

- Communications – mainly in English – by means of ServasOnline website, email, phone, video chat, voice call services, the cloud, etc.
- You will work on a teleworking basis
- Our estimate is that this job will be a part-time activity
- Experience with an NGO is a plus

Send your application to Bernard Andrieu, ServasOnline Project Manager by email [berno.andrieu@orange.fr](mailto:berno.andrieu@orange.fr)

### **POSITION: SI WEBSITE EDITORS**

With increased Servas activity on the new Servas website ([servas.org](http://servas.org)) and on social media, there's also a growing need for editors. A web editor is needed for each language used on the new Servas website. Currently the languages are English, Spanish, French and German.

We're looking for people of all ages, who have basic, medium or well-developed skills in writing and or editing editorial texts as well as handling photos, graphics and other illustrations. It's a plus but not a prerequisite to have experience of editorial work on the web and in a content management system (CMS).

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We're also looking for people with writing, photography and or graphic design skills who can work as Servas editor-correspondents around the world. Working in cooperation with the web editors on [servas.org](http://servas.org) and the editor of the newsletters SI News Bulletin and SI News, you will create and edit editorial content from around the world.

Send your application to [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

Jonny Sångänger, President, Servas International & Managing Web Editor

## **-- SERVAS FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATORS NEEDED --**

Servas International's traffic on the social media channel Facebook is growing, so as soon as possible we need to recruit administrators both for the Servas International Facebook Page and the Servas Travelling for Peace public discussion group.

These are challenging and fulfilling positions for people with the right skills and abilities.

Send your application to Jonny Sångänger, President, Servas International [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

### **POSITION: SERVAS PUBLIC GROUP ADMINISTRATOR**

Servas Travelling for Peace is a public discussion group for people interested in Servas International. You don't have to be a member of Servas. Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas. [facebook.com/groups/servas/](https://facebook.com/groups/servas/)

#### **Servas Facebook Group Administrator responsibilities:**

- Review and approval of new members - includes reviewing answers to membership request questions and review - if necessary - of applicant's Facebook profile for possible spammers.
- Daily monitoring of group posts.
- Watch for inappropriate posts such as sales, advertising, and promotions not related to Servas and Servas core values, pornography, etc.
- Removal of inappropriate posts and deleting/banning members who spam or continue to post inappropriately.

### **POSITION: SI PAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

The official Servas International Facebook Fan Page provides news, stories and information on Servas activities around the world. [facebook.com/Servas.International/](https://facebook.com/Servas.International/)

#### **Servas International Facebook Page Administrator responsibilities:**

- Monitor and reply to Messages and Notifications if possible or notify Servas Exco of the message if no action has been taken within two days..
- Alerts will appear in your FB's left-hand column list of your pages and groups.
- Approve or deny posts and monitor discussions.

## BULLETIN IN SPANISH

You can also read the SI News Bulletin in Spanish on the Servas International website.

Would you like to become a member of the translators team? Email Lilly Kerekes, the coordinator: [spanishcoordinator@servas.org](mailto:spanishcoordinator@servas.org)

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### About Servas International News Bulletin

The Servas International News Bulletin (SI News Bulletin) is a newsletter from Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco), which is the organization's global board. The SI News Bulletin contains a brief report about current issues and decisions.

### Editors & Newsletter Coordinators:

Jonny Sågänger: SI President [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

Ann Greenhough: Vice-President [vicepresident@servas.org](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org)

Picot Cassidy: Servas Britain

Christopher Stone: Servas Greece

Alan Stone: Servas Greece

### What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Let us know.

Email: [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

Servas key people around the world are encouraged to forward the newsletter to individual members in Servas. Feel free to quote this newsletter, but please remember to mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.

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### SI Exco 2016-2018

President: Jonny Sågänger [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)

Vice-President: Ann Greenhough [vicepresident@servas.org](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org)

Treasurer: William D'Souza [treasurer@servas.org](mailto:treasurer@servas.org) (replaced LV Subramanian February, 2017)

General Secretary: Penny Pattison [generalsecretary@servas.org](mailto:generalsecretary@servas.org)

Host List Coordinator: Pablo Colangelo [hostlistcoordinator@servas.org](mailto:hostlistcoordinator@servas.org)

Peace Secretary: Danielle Serres [peacesecretary@servas.org](mailto:peacesecretary@servas.org)

## SERVAS INTERNATIONAL ON THE INTERNET

**Servas International website:** [servas.org/index.php](http://servas.org/index.php)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ServasI?lang=en](https://twitter.com/ServasI?lang=en)

### Facebook:

- **Servas Travelling for Peace Public Discussion Group**

[www.facebook.com/groups/servas/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/servas/)

This public discussion group is for people who are interested in learning more about Servas International. Membership in a recognized Servas Group is not required.

Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas.

Administrators: Alan Stone, Stefan Fagerström, Pablo Colangelo, Jonny Sågänger.

- **Servas International Member's Only Discussion Group**

[www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/)

This closed discussion group is for people who are members of Servas.

Your membership will be verified.

Administrators: Pablo Colangelo, Arnoud Philipppo.

- **Servas International Fan Page** <https://www.facebook.com/Servas.International/>

The official Servas International Facebook Fan Page provides news, stories and information on Servas activities around the world.

Administrators: Alan Stone, Stefan Fagerström, Jonny Sågänger.

Editor: Pablo Colangelo



### About Servas International

Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, supporting an international 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.