



Project: International Servas Week

Connecting **SERVAS**: making connections with the world

WHAT?: Celebrate Servas once a year, the week of 21st September.

HOW?: Take part in global action to show ourselves to the world and so reinforce our values as an organisation.

IMPACT?: As Servas members make new connections among ourselves and with others who share common ground with Servas.

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PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK

Report of the activities: 17TH TO 26TH SEPTEMBER 2016

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1. Innovation Group: Project Presentation

Name and theme: Connecting SERVAS: making connections with the world

Aim of the project:

What? Celebrate Servas once a year, during the week of 21st September.

How? Take part in global action to show ourselves to the world and so reinforce our values as an organisation.

Impact: As Servas members make new connections between us and with others who share common ground with Servas.

Annual Date: the week of 21st September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values such as: Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, and Understanding.

First Time of the Project: the week from Saturday 17th to Sunday 26th September 2016

How can we contribute to this International Servas Week?

Making Connections: Servas members reaching out to connect with those in the organisation and those not.

During the Servas week we could organise activities in our neighbourhood, region or country to promote new connections with each other and with others outside of Servas. These activities could be related to Servas values such as: **Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, Understanding.**

The emphasis is on it being a creative process, each group deciding the activity that is best for them and so choosing how they will celebrate being members of Servas.

Some suggestions to make connections:

- With our neighbours and friends not in Servas.
- With other Servas members nearby.
- With different cultures as well as our own within our community.
- With our environment.
- With Servas national groups across nearby borders.
- Through our language, showing others how to improve communication.
- With other organizations
- And a big etcetera.

More ideas:

- Linking with others in our community from different backgrounds.

- Connecting with organisations that share common ground with Servas.
- Organising exchange visits between Servas groups in countries further away.
- Spreading the values of Peace, Solidarity Service, Hospitality, Understanding through your activities.

Some ideas about activities that national or local Servas groups could organize:

- A shared dinner with other Servas members, meetings in your area, cultural activities together...
- Invite another organization to speak about their projects, to collaborate in some solidarity event, to share voluntary work with another organization...
- Invite other Servas members to explore your environment or your city, do a walk or trek or a bike ride together...
- Plant a tree together...
- Organize a meeting with your neighbouring national group.
- Organize a workshop about peace, languages, Esperanto, communication...
- Organize activities about peace education in a school, storytelling for children, competition about pictures, drawings, videos, films...
- Publicise outside of Servas, eg via a local newspaper article/ TV , a display in libraries/community centres, ...
- Any event that promotes contact with people both within and outside of Servas.

Practicalities

Email contact: innovation@servas.org

The Innovation Group: initiated by Aneris Cao (Servas Chile), María Fernanda Vomero (Servas Brazil), Susana Martínez Duro (Servas Spain), Christina Buynova (Servas Russia) and Michael Wechsler (Servas Norway).

Promoters of the project: organisers of a workshop during SICOGA 2015 in New Zealand 2015, together with others who attended and facilitated the discussions.

This group is intended to put into action the ideas debated during the workshop.

2. Reports from countries that accomplished this project

Here you will find the reports that we received in different formats and languages. It is possible that other countries celebrated this week but we don't have their reports. There are some countries that expressed their willingness to be involved but we didn't receive their outcome afterwards. We expect to have more countries participating this year.

2.1. SERVAS BRAZIL

COMEMORAÇÕES PELA SEMANA INTERNACIONAL DO SERVAS

Atendendo à proposta do Servas Internacional, através do Innovation Group, para comemorar a primeira edição do projeto Semana Internacional do Servas com o propósito de difundir os valores do Servas através de conexões individuais e coletivas, o Servas Brasil realizou diversos encontros.

A série de atividades iniciou com alguns servianos gaúchos e uma catarinense se reunindo em Porto Alegre, no estado do Rio Grande do Sul, sul do Brasil, no feriado de 07 de Setembro na casa da anfitriã Rita.

Informes sobre o Servas, boas conversas e vontade de se reunir novamente com maior número de participantes para desenvolver o Servas na região marcaram esse encontro.



O Servas do estado de Minas Gerais, região Sudeste do Brasil, realizou seu encontro nos dias 16, 17 e 18 de setembro em Divinópolis na casa do anfitrião Juvenil Oliveira. Durante todos esses dias foram momentos marcados por muita amizade, dinâmicas e reflexões sobre a paz, relato sobre a experiência de Isabela Campos, representante do Servas Jovem, durante o SICOGA, bem como discussão de propostas para desenvolver o Servas no Estado. No domingo o grupo de servianos realizou caminhada ecológica com o Projeto Gene, momento em que foram plantadas mudas de árvores.





Servianos de São Paulo, conjuntamente com amigos e familiares reuniram-se no dia 17 de setembro para uma caminhada ao Pico do Jaraguá. Os participantes relataram que foi um sábado muito especial em que puderam desfrutar momentos junto à natureza fazendo conexões de amizade e troca de informações entre servianos e demais participantes. Os organizadores ficaram felizes em ouvir que deveriam ser programados mais eventos desse gênero.



Durante a semana houve nova reunião de servianos paulistas e a visitante Alvany Santiago, membro de Petrolina, nordeste do Brasil. Dessa vez em casa da anfitriã Maristela, onde o cardápio foi pizza e bebida para todos os gostos, além muita música boa.



No dia 17 servianos de Petrolina, cidade distante a 800 kms de Recife, capital do estado de Pernambuco, nordeste do Brasil, e outros amigos reuniram-se em casa da anfitriã Alvany Santiago. O encontro foi marcado por informações sobre o Servas, discussões sobre a paz e a amizade e relatos sobre experiências pessoais de vida e viagem. O grupo tem a intenção de organizar novas atividades relacionadas ao tema paz, amizade e meio ambiente.

O primeiro evento combinado durante o encontro já aconteceu no dia 04 de outubro quando jovens Servas participaram de atividades em comemoração ao aniversário do rio São Francisco.



Seguindo com a programação relativa à data, o Servas Pernambuco participou no dia 21 de setembro de uma atividade organizada pelo Grupo de Dança Circular da cidade de Olinda, em comemoração ao Dia Mundial da Paz.

Dias 23 e 24 de setembro o Servas Pernambuco realizou seu encontro regional nas cidades de Olinda e Recife, com a participação de duas servianas dos estados do Ceará e Paraíba. A programação cultural desse encontro foi acompanhar a seresta no Sítio Histórico de Olinda e no sábado, dia 24, almoço em um restaurante de comida típica nordestina, em Recife.

A reunião de trabalho ocorreu na casa da anfitriã Luciléa Cisneiro, oportunidade em que foram passados esclarecimentos sobre o funcionamento do Servas para as convidadas presentes. Além disso, houve discussões sobre a pauta apresentada com informes gerais sobre o Servas Brasil.



Os estados do sul do Brasil também deram sua contribuição para comemorar a Semana Internacional do Servas. Servianos dos estados do Paraná, Santa Catarina e Rio Grande do Sul estiveram reunidos nos dias 24 e 25 em casa da anfitriã Dorly Schutz em Blumenau, no estado de Santa Catarina..

As discussões versaram sobre questões apresentadas no Panorama do Servas Brasil. Durante a reunião foi mostrado o novo website do Servas Internacional, seguido de sugestões de como poderia ser melhorada a comunicação na mídia e entre o comitê gestor e membros do Servas Brasil além de outros pontos relevantes a serem desenvolvidos pelo Servas Brasil.

Um momento muito especial foi a apresentação da viagem de Everton e Lisa do Servas PR, que durante o ano de 2015 viajaram por diversos países da Oceania, Ásia e Europa, tendo fantásticos encontros com membros Servas.



Conclusão:

A avaliação da comemoração da primeira edição da Semana Internacional do Servas no Brasil é bastante positiva. As discussões centrais foram norteadas pela necessidade de desenvolver o Servas Brasil nos diversos estados e regiões do nosso imenso país marcado pela diversidade cultural de seus habitantes.

O Comitê Gestor de Transição e a Comissão de Paz do Servas Brasil agradecem a todos que de alguma forma contribuíram para a realização desses eventos. Oxalá que em 2017, esse movimento seja replicado amplamente em todo país, fortalecendo os laços de amizades entre servianos e o **Servas como um todo**.

2.2. SERVAS CHILE

INTRODUCTION:

Servas Chile celebrated the World Peace Day and the Servas International Week during the week of September 17 to 26 with several activities in different cities across the country. Following we report about these activities, in addition to the Youth Meeting held in August and the National Meeting celebrated in October, which are part of the ideals of SERVAS.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE CELEBRATION IN TALCA, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2016

The dialogue in this new world peace network was held on September 24th in Talca and 17 people attended. This dialogue begun with:

- Individual introductions, because most of them did not know each other, who came from areas such as education (teachers and students), theater, yoga, from home, engineering, law, psychology, etc.
- The motivation included a document and a map of the main wars happening around the world where almost 5 million people have died and two countries are dealing with civil wars and war conflicts with neighboring countries. The document also shows our American continent and the armed conflicts in Mexico, Colombia (it will soon be solved after a four-year peace process and 52 years of the guerrilla movement), and Peru with 640,000 deaths. In addition, it appears a Nitrogen bomb threat from North Korea that represents a global risk.
- In Chile, we have problems regarding the indigenous groups mapuche and rapa-nui, the border with Bolivia, and about discrimination because of the arrival of immigrants (as in many places all around the world), etc.
- The initial question to begin with the dialogue was: What can we do to contribute to Peace?

In summary, after the debate, most of the opinions focused on pointing out that the only thing to do in order to solve the problems discussed in the debate was **to contribute from oneself and our own actions towards our close and daily environment**. Usually, there is a physical distance between us and most of the conflicts, we do not know much about them, and we believe that violence is not the way to solve problems in this century.

They also pointed out some gestures and attitudes that can be promoted, increased, and developed by each one of us and within our families and friends, in order to enjoy a peaceful coexistence among people: to love and caress, to accept our differences, to tolerate, to share what we have, to promote happiness, smiles and hugs, to listen more than talk, to sing. They also mentioned concepts such as hospitality, generosity, to know each other, to open our homes, not to judge, to bless, to help the needy, to generate inner harmony, kindness, empathy, honesty, truth, gathering with others, to create networks, to look at the other's eyes, humility, etc.

On the other hand, they talked about social gestures and/or activities that promote, according to the participants, a contribution to people developments and equilibrium. At the same time, these actions help to promote peace in the world: the first and most important action is education and lead by example at home and school practicing these values mentioned above. At the same time, it is necessary to raise awareness about Peace, create and listen to music, practice yoga, promote spirituality, street mobilization for acceptance and peace, take care of nature, love all living creatures, read about self-help topics in groups, create ideas, practice bio-dance, theater, clowns; create networks and dialogue within groups.

After this conversation, we took some pictures and had dinner; we played the guitar and made new friends. We also proposed some ideas: to get together again and get to know more each other while enjoying a *curanto* (a typical Chilean dish) in order to work for Peace from our hearts!

Julia Ortiz Alvarez
Peace Secretary

Servas Chile

The following is the photographic record of the activity:



SERVAS INTERNATIONAL WEEK CELEBRATION:

This celebration included an activity for the Peace Day mentioned above, as well as meetings in Valparaiso and Santiago. This Project included the following objectives:

a. Servas V Region: we celebrated Servas holding a meeting with the United Kingdom region members and guests.

In this meeting we met and got to know Servas members from the Region. We shared about the values that brought us into Servas, such as Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, Tolerance, etc. At the same time, we shared with two members from Servas United Kingdom who were visiting us: Eva and Sebastian. We invited them to our national meeting in Talca to enjoy the hospitality of Servas Chile.

We also talked about the activities held at the regional and international level, encouraging the assistants to participate more and to invite new friends to Servas.

Finally, we discussed about different activities to celebrate the Servas International Week next year. It would be interesting to clean the beach to raise awareness about the environment and the need to live in peace with it.

We want to thank again Paz and her family for opening their home for this Peace celebration (our host name in Spanish coincide with the Spanish word for “peace”) and the Servas International Week.

The following is the photographic record of the activity:





Aneris Cao
Lists Coordinator
Servas Chile

b. We also celebrated Servas International Week in Santiago

As part of the planned activities, we invited potential new Servas members through our Servas Youth Coordinator, Luis Pizarro. He organized a small gathering at his home to talk about Servas values and the history of our organization.

The following is the photographic record of the activity:



Servas Youth celebrating in Santiago

2.3. SERVAS BANGLADESH

Mail received with pictures of the activity for International Servas Week:

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Servas Bangladesh.

As per instruction of Mr. Rezaul Karim, National Secretary of Servas Bangladesh

I am sending herewith an attach file of few activities photo of international servas week observed by servas Bangladesh.

For your information on this occasion servas Bangladesh distributed educational materials among 300 poor night school student and donated some necessary medicine to the health camp for slum poor people.

Best regards.

Ekram Ullah

coordinator

Servas Bangladesh





2.4. SERVAs THAILAND

*** THAILAND'S EARLY START IN INTERNATIONAL SERVAs WEEK

Servas Thailand got off to an early start with International Servas week, visiting the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon on the first day, September 17. They took clothes, books, toys and money for migrant kids whose parents came to Thailand to seek better economic opportunities. Many of the parents end up being taken advantage of in their new country. Later in the afternoon, the Servas Thailand group visited temples and enjoyed the sea view in Samut Sakhon, Thailand's seafood capital.

Servas Thailand was one of the first member groups to publicize their activities during Servas International week on social media like Facebook. The event takes place during the week around 21 September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values such as peace, solidarity, service, hospitality and understanding.



Choosing letters for a group activity at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in Thailand.



Servas Thailand members on a visit to migrant children at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in September 2016. The Servas volunteers in the picture are, from left to right, Kiattikul T-mongkol (Lek), Areewan Tokrasae (Wan) and Soonthariya Rongrongmuang (Nan).



The Servas volunteers Rachada Arpornsilp (Tarn), Nadtaya Prakongsub (Aoy) Wansiri Rongrongmuang (Topsi) and Penpak Krergmatukorn (Pern) entertain migrant children at the LifePrep Foundation in Samut Sakhon during the international Servas week in September 2016.

2.5. SERVAS GUATEMALA

Mail recibido com información de las atividades realizadas por la Semana Internacional de Servas:

Queridos Amigos:

Compartimos con ustedes algunas de las fotos que fueron tomadas durante nuestra visita a la Granja de Macadamia "Valhalla", cerca de Ciudad Vieja de Antigua Guatemala, dirigida por Larry y Emilia Gottschamer socios desde hace mucho tiempo de Servas Guatemala, tuvimos muchas dificultades para llegar debito a la lluvia y el trailer que estaba accidentado en la carretera, pero con buena voluntad todos llegamos bien.

Después de un recorrido por la granja para aprender sobre el cultivo y comercializacion de la Macadamia, degustamos nueces de macadamia y con chocolates, demostracion de el aceite y cremas hechas de macadamia, nos explicaron que Valhalla mantiene un proyecto de ayuda a comunicades de escasos recursos proveyendolos de arbolitos de macadamia para su cultivo.

Posteriormente, fuimos servidos con una refacción de Panqueque de Macadamia con Chocolate, cortesía de Servas Guatemala para los socios, amigos y acompañantes, al final compramos galletas y arbolitos de macadamia para llevar a casa..

El lugar es muy interesante, educativo y de natural belleza.

Agradecemos a todos los asistentes, que dieron realce al evento con su presencia..

Un Cordial Saludo, En Paz.. Servas Guatemala.

Jose Roberto Montes, Secretario Nacional.









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