

Servas INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 1 - June/July 2014

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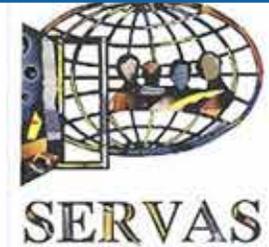
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The Many Faces of Servas.
Now is the time to be more united ...and stronger.
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<http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/Pakistan>



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Editor's Corner

By Terry Squire Stone
newsletter@servas.org



Wow, what a thrill packed issue we have for you this time!

The venue for the next Servas International General Assembly has been announced (page 8), there's a very encouraging update on the new Servas website (page 7) and we have a look at our new Servas logo (page 5)!

Servas countries have been busy with all kinds of events and members are reporting in on their many adventures around the world. Peace and friendship are on the rise.

This issue took a lot longer to put together than anticipated. We thought it was going to be an April/May edition, but pulling in all the details put it to June/July. I encourage those with ideas, articles, pictures, jokes, etc. to start submitting things now so that we can be pre-prepared for the next issue.

I do have one problem though, and that is that the newsletter is not getting to all Servas members.

We send an announcement to all national secretaries, but since we don't have access to all members' emails, we have to rely on the national secretaries to forward the information to their members. Maybe emails are going to spam/trash or maybe they are blocked. Since YOU get the newsletter, could you please help spread the word and check with your Servas friends to see if they are being included in the mailing? We here at Newsletter Central would appreciate any help you can give us.

And lastly, after being a very active host for many years, I am going to travel England/Scotland for the summer, alone, and will be writing my first Servas Travel Story when I get back. (This is also a shameless hint to any Servas members in these countries who would like to host me, to contact me!)

Three cheers to all who worked so hard to get this issue out!

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*Servas Turkey Presents the 6th Annual "Live With Us, Share With Us" Children's Program.
See page 13*

UPCOMING SERVAS MEETINGS & EVENTS

SUMMER 2014

INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN GREAT BRITAIN

June 16 - 23
Dalesbridge Centre in the Yorkshire Dales, Great Britain

This joint venture between Servas International and Servas Britain will be a chance for Servas friends, old and new, to enjoy time together whilst also thinking about where we go next as an organisation. In the year before the next international GA it will be an informal meeting with no motions, votes or decisions. Instead there will be time and space to explore and debate important issues about the future of Servas.

Not everyone who is interested in contributing will be able to come so we plan an on-site internet link to include a wider group in our discussions.

To be discussed:

- What makes Servas special?
- What projects would promote Servas as having 'added value' as an organisation?
- How are SOL and the new website looking following their expected launch in 2014?
- What still needs to be done?
- What issues would benefit from imaginative and workable proposals at the next GA?

More information here: <http://bit.ly/1oaa5EX>

6TH ANNUAL SERVAS LIVE WITH US, SHARE WITH US CHILDREN PROGRAM

July 6-16, 2014 Ekinci in Antakya, Turkey
[contact: flytoisrael@yahoo.com](mailto:flytoisrael@yahoo.com)

SERVAS YOUTH MEETING KYRGYZSTAN

July 27 - August 2, 2014

A very special gathering for the first time in Central Asia! An opportunity to further Servas Youth development and empowerment in a beautiful and undiscovered part of the world. Servas members and prospective members from the region will be able to get involved and experience Servas values, spirit and atmosphere.

Sponsor A Guest

If your national organization is willing to fund a person/people from the area please contact us right away for details so we can plan accordingly.

Please, find more details here: <http://bit.ly/1lmSX05>

Ewa, Andrzej, Janek, Asia, Christina

Email: youth@servas.pl

Visit our web site for more information:

<http://servas.pl/kyrgyzstan/>

EXPERIENCE CULTURE, LANGUAGE & VOLUNTEERING IN ISRAEL

July-August-September 2014

contact: israel@servas.org

DECEMBER 2014

CHRISTMAS IN ISRAEL WITH SERVAS

December 22-29, 2014
contact: israel@servas.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA2015)

Saturday October 10th – Friday 16th 2015
Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Email your questions about SIGA to:

Jonny Säggänger - president@servas.org

Ann Greenhough - vicepresident@servas.org

Email meeting & events announcements in .txt or .doc format to: newsletter@servas.org

United We Are Stronger

By Jonny Sångänger
President, Servas International
president@servas.org



“There are few things more powerful than people united.”

-Vironika Tugaleva, “The Love Mindset”

It can be argued that Servas, as a federation of national member groups, has been at a significant disadvantage compared to other groups which also have goals such as a more tolerant and peaceful world and that offer a hospitality program. I would argue that the Servas federative and democratic structure is one of our biggest assets. The core of the matter is that democratic movements gain momentum in a slow pace, but when it reaches a critical mass of peoples energy and motivation it can move mountains.

In order to strengthen the Servas movement our federation needs a more defined global identity. A new website, a strong vision and mission backed up by a common logo design (See pages 5 & 6) are features that will create a sense of belonging, which will unify our movement.

The creation of these basic elements with a global scope has been the aim of Servas International board, SI Exco, since we were elected at the most recent General Assembly 2012 (SIGA2012). The basis of our actions can be found in several of the SIGA2012 decisions*.

Servas Web Presence

With the new website and communication system Servas members around the world will, in due time, be able to communicate and interact via their computers thanks to the IT platform that is being developed in the project with the working name ServasOnline (SOL).

SI Exco's goal is to deliver SOL to the members before or – at the latest – at the next general assembly, SIGA2015, in October in New Zealand.

2015 Servas International General Assembly

It is my dream that our democratic energy will characterize the SIGA 2015. It will take place in New Zealand and the participation seems at this point to be high from many parts of Asia, but low from some other parts of the world. The cost of travelling to New Zealand will, without doubt, be steep for many who would like to go to this exciting meeting (See page 8). I prefer to see this as a stimulating challenge rather than an obstacle. It's my ambition that this will be the most democratic SIGA so far in the history of the organization, thanks to the use of Internet based participation.

EXCO Report

What else have the SI Exco members done since we were elected, you may wonder. In the status report for the period August 2012 - December 2013 you can read about some of the work that has been done by SI Exco, as well as other Servas committees and officers, who have dedicated time and energy as volunteers to maintain and develop Servas as an organization fit for the challenges of the contemporary world.

Email to president@servas.org to request a copy of the 2013 Status Report. It will also be made available soon on the Internet.

Host List News

In our federation of member groups there are many activities. For Servas Germany the 20th of May was a milestone date. On that day Servas Germany announced they would make their host list available on the web using an encryption technique that secures personal data from illegitimate use. The decision is significant, since Servas Germany is one of the largest member groups defined by the number of hosts, and it was also one of the last entities within Servas to battle with the question whether or not to make the host list digitally available on Internet.

Follow us on Twitter

Last but not least, you can follow the development of Servas on these two twitter pages:

- <https://twitter.com/ServasI> (the official Servas International twitter website)
- <https://twitter.com/Servaspresident> (the president's website)

*Decisions passed at SIGA2012:

- EXC-011 Web Designer: To authorize SI EXCO to recruit a web designer to create a unified design standard for all Servas International web sites (including servas.org, siexo.org, [ServasOnline](http://ServasOnline.org) and servasyouth.org).
 - CAN-001 Visioning and SWE-003 Servas Future Group combined into a Servas Planning Group, SPG, that will, among other things, determine a common understanding of current beliefs regarding Servas' vision, mission, principles, policies and practices; and d) gather other information that may be useful in establishing a comprehensive understanding of where we are, at present, as an organization.
 - SWI-001 Modernizing: It is important to take big steps towards modernizing Servas into the electronic future, e.g. Servas App for smart phones and to make Online/electronic availability of host lists. It would moreover be useful to make the various Servas web sites offer the same information about the core values and aims of Servas and to encourage the sharing of web site technology, to enable groups with limited resources to develop their own web sites.
-

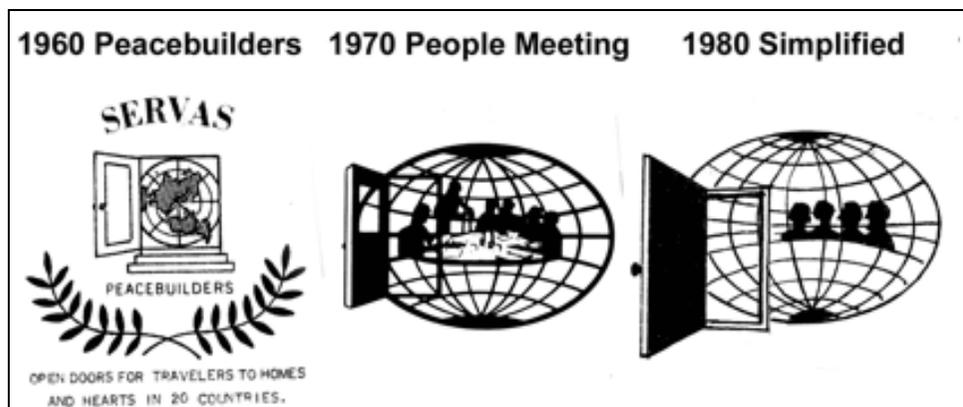
“A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.”

A New Logo For A Stronger Servas Federation

By Jonny Sågänger, President, Servas International

(With special thanks to Michael Johnson, Canada Newsletter editor, for providing background material about the history of the Servas logo)

Past and present logos used by Servas International



This idiomatic expression can be well applied to the current situation for Servas International. The phrase demonstrates the importance of teamwork and that everyone's working together at equal levels towards a common goal*.

At the moment the temporary website on our Internet domain servas.org is one of the weakest links in the Servas movement. Another weak point is the fragmented identity.

Servas Switzerland pointed this weakness out in a motion that was passed with 46 votes for and 0 against at the SI General Assembly 2012.

Moreover, it would be useful to make the various Servas web sites offer the same information about the core values and aims of Servas and to encourage the sharing of web site technology, to enable groups with limited resources to develop their own web sites.

In searching for the name "Servas" in Facebook there are over 100 fan pages with "Servas" in the name. There are also more than 100 Facebook discussion groups with "Servas" in the title.

A Google web search brings up over 4.5 million results.

A Bing web search brings up almost 400,000 results.

The point is that it becomes very difficult for someone who is not already part of the Servas family to distinguish an actual Servas member country or group from one with a similar name that may have nothing to do with Servas International.

A strong identifying feature such as a common logo design can help make that clear.

At this point well over 20 different Servas logos – accompanied with many different slogans – are being used around the world. On the front page of this newsletter you can find a collection of the myriad of logos.

Beside the country specific and innovative logos, quite a few people associate Servas with the image of a stylized globe and an open door. That logo has its origins in the 1960's – or even earlier – when the main elements were a door to a globe "north pole" map plus a laurel wreath and the text "Servas Peacebuilders – open doors for travelers to homes and hearts in 20 countries". This concept evolved into a group of six meeting at a table, possibly representing six continents. Over time the group of people was reduced to four and the table disappeared. The logo has then been simplified and redesigned over time but the basic ingredients; the open door, a globe and four people, have remained. This logo has been used frequently by SI Exco and SI officers in different committees and associated groups. Some think our logo looks like fish in a net, other see four people behind bars. Many people have questioned why the logo doesn't contain any element of peace, for example a dove — a symbol of peace and the core target and basis for all activities in Servas.

SI Exco is well aware of the fact that changing a logo is both a practical and emotional issue. For some people the Servas logo is "sacred" materia.

SI Exco has come to the conclusion that the integrated chain of member groups and countries can be strengthened with a common logo design. Therefore a new logo design, which was recommended and approved by SI Exco at a meeting in March this year, is presented on the next page.

SERVAS LOGO - continued on page 6

SERVAS LOGO

Continued from page 5

Presenting the New Servas International logo

The basic logo contains doves to symbolize peace and the name Servas International.

The addition of the 5 dots represent the 5 inhabited continents as recognized by the Olympic organization.

The basic elements can be used by individual member groups and countries together with country specific features that will be provided for in a "logo-kit".

The national board of Servas Canada has already decided to start using the new logo on their website. Servas Sweden is discussing whether or not to replace their existing logo with the new one.

It's Exco's hope that more member groups will follow suit, for maximum exposure and impact when the new international website will be launched before the general assembly in New Zealand in 2015.

Would you like to be a piloting country for the new SI logo?

Please express your interest in an email to president@servas.org.

**Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, encompassing an international network of hosts and travellers. The purpose of the network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. (Servas International Statutes 2012)*



The new Servas logo can be used in many different layout and color variations. Below are just a few examples.



Some examples of how the Servas Logo could be used with country names.

ABOUT THE NEW SERVAS LOGO

The current Servas logo was created many years ago. Over time several Servas member countries have abandoned that logo for designs of their own. Today over 20 designs represent the image of Servas presenting an overall lack of visual unity and an inconsistency throughout the organization.

A logo is a visual representation that helps define the personality of a non-governmental organization, movement, company or other organized bodies. It should look professional, present the proper image of the organization, and should be unique and memorable. A logo should be a unifying element that sets an organization apart and lets it stand out from others that are similar.

With a new Servas web site on the horizon there is no better time to re-establish Servas' position as a global, non-profit organization with a long tradition of promoting a more peaceful world using hospitality exchange as it's core feature.

ABOUT THE DESIGN

This proposed new Servas Logo was developed over several months by two very experienced designers who are also Servas Members. Many designs from similar and competing organizations, as well as the many designs developed by Servas member countries, were reviewed for reference and, of course, the current goals for the future of Servas were considered.

What's the image all about? Is it hands? Is it doves? Well, it's both and it's all in how viewer wants to see it. Doves, of course, are symbolic of peace and the grasping hands suggest meeting, greeting, friendship, and the forming of new relationships. It's a symbol that's both unique and memorable.

The logotype for SERVAS is a modified version of Bodega. It was selected for it's simplicity, clean lines and it's feeling of strength without being overbearing.

The five dots represent the five inhabited continents - similar to the rings of the Olympic symbol.

Why orange? Orange is generally considered a warm and joyful color. In Western cultures orange is thought of as "welcoming", "affordable", and a sign of "harvest". In Eastern cultures orange is a sign of "happiness", "spirituality". In India orange is a "sacred" color. Orange can also convey positive connotations such as "wisdom", "energy" and "playfulness". The right color balance was critical. Too red and it's becomes strong and dynamic. Too yellow and it appears soft and passive.

Why green? Green, very much a color of nature, represents "new birth", "spring", "growth", something to which we think all Servas members can relate.

It is hoped that members will accept this new design but most of all our member countries are encouraged to begin thinking about working together for a more unified visual identity for Servas. We believe the future of Servas depends on it.

PLEASE NOTE: The new Servas logo will be made available in a variety of file formats, layout options and sizes. Information and download details will be provided soon to all Servas National Secretaries.

Servas Website Development Update

By Jonny Sägänger,
Servas International President
& ServasOnline Project Sponsor

FACTS ABOUT THE SERVASONLINE PROJECT

Investment in the new servas.org website will be partly financed with the so-called ServasOnline Levy, which is money that has been collected from Servas member groups according to a decision made at the Servas International General Assembly in Argentina in 2009 (SIGA2009). Alternative economic resources for SOL have been allocated in the SI budget for the three year period until 2015 at the next SI General Assembly.

The SIGA2015 is EXCO's formal deadline to have completed the high priority SOL project, according to the SIGA2012 decisions. EXCO is convinced that the new website actually needs to be finished sooner in order to prevent loss of existing members and to keep recruitment of new members on an acceptable level. But it's our responsibility as SI's International Board to be both visionary and realistic.

If the new website will be finished and launched earlier than 2015 it will be considered an unexpected but very, very happy and longed for happening.

Work on the ServasOnline (SOL) project to develop a new Servas International website is progressing. The main activity for the moment is the procurement process to find suitable vendors to supply the services needed to build the new website.

Since my last report (SI News Nov/Dec 2013) there have been several major developments:

- During the autumn of 2013 Servas National Secretaries around the world were sent a Request for Information document (RFI). Those RFIs were then forwarded to qualified web design/development companies and freelance consultants.
- The SOL team – more formally The SOL Steering Committee Management Team (SOL SCMT)* – then evaluated 13 respondents - each from a different country - who offered their services. Of those, 10 were sent a "Request For Proposal" (RFP) where the applicant could describe how they planned to fulfill Servas International's needs for web design and development.
- Seven RFPs were returned. Elaborate analysis and evaluation was conducted, references confirmed and questions answered. The SOL Team obtained a better understanding of each proposal and found all applicants to be competitive with pricing, performance, quality and project management skills.
- Several applicants were selected for more in-dept scrutiny. All are considered

able to guarantee solid professional work standards and are positioned in a price range to give Servas, as a non profit organization, maximum value for the money to be invested in this important development project.

- Recently the SOL team entered into contract negotiations with several applicants. Once all questions have been answered to the satisfaction of the Servas International Board a decision will be made and SI Exco will sign the necessary agreements.
- In parallel with the procurement process the SOL team has worked on the establishment of various website support functions. This includes a search for volunteers to work on both the start-up phase and continuing day-to-day website operations.
- During the last six months SOL SCMT has strengthened its communication channels and other ties with the SI Internet and Communications Team (SI ICT) as well as with the Dolphin Team. Key people in these teams are Mark Hahn and Michael Silbert, both from Canada (SI ICT), and Rita Dessauvage from Belgium and Pablo Colangelo from Argentina (Dolphin). Matthew Pashkovkiy (Russia) is currently the webmaster of the intermediary web page www.servas.org.
- SOL SCMT has also intensified the search for a webmaster who will be in charge of the content for servas.org. Servas ExCo is also looking for

people who can work together with the webmaster to assist in the administration of the new website from around the world.

Once agreements have been made and contracts signed for the design and development of the new website our next steps will be as follows:

- Find traveler and host stories, documentations on ongoing projects and activities to be published on the new website so that it will attract both prospective and current members. We ask members to send their best stories and photos to the webmaster. You can start right now! Send your texts and photos to add_to_website@servas.org.
- Migration of minutes, statutes and other existing documents from the old servas.org website to the new one.
- Present a static mock-up (not interactive) version of the new website to Servas members for review. This will happen when the graphic design and some basic website functionality will be ready.

The SOL Steering Committee Management Team (SOL SCMT) consists of the Servas members Matthew Pashkovkiy (Russia), Frederic Morizot and Bernard Andrieu (both from France) and project sponsor, Jonny Sägänger (Sweden).

If you have questions about the RFI and other things related to the SOL project feel free to contact Matthew Pashkovkiy, ServasOnline Project Manager, by sending an email to mathew.pashkovsky@gmail.com

Come Down Under To SIGA2015

By Marijke Batenburg, National Secretary NZ and GANZ team

Aotearoa New Zealand wishes to offer a warm welcome to all who will attend the next Servas International General Assembly 2015. We were delighted to be selected by EXCO to host the 30th Servas International conference. The conference location is 2 hours drive to the south of Auckland a few kilometres from a country town Matamata. This town is in the centre of productive dairy farming country, close to beautiful bush clad Kaimai ranges and hot pools – in fact there is a hot pool available for participants at the conference venue Totara Springs <http://www.totarasprings.org.nz/>. Matamata gained some fame for being the home of Hobbiton – the little village made for the film Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Why October?

There were several aspects considered. The season of the year, the cost of flights, and the availability of conference centres. Typically the GA has been held in the European summer July-August however that is the height of the NZ winter. The NZ summer is December



Totara Springs Christian Centre

SIGA 2015

Saturday, October 10 – Friday 16, 2015
Aotearoa, New Zealand

– March and coming at that time was unlikely to work for those in the northern hemisphere. February is very busy with Chinese New Year. Easter is a high travel season and it left the shoulder season (low cost for airfares) of October as the best time to consider.

In New Zealand October is the middle of spring and day temperatures will average at 14.2 celsius or 57.6 fahrenheit. It is normally a time of settled weather before the heat of summer and after the cool of the winter. We may look small on a world map but New Zealand is as diverse as many continents rolled into one. Some of you may wish to travel before and some after the GA. If you wish to explore more about your visit to New Zealand we recommend this website <http://www.newzealand.com/int>

A little about us.

New Zealand is a small country, similar in size to Great Britain or Japan. With a population of only four and half million people it's also gloriously uncrowded. New Zealanders are informally known as Kiwis. Approximately 69% are of European descent, 14.6% are indigenous Māori, 9.2% Asian and 6.9% non-Māori Pacific Islanders. Geographically, over three-quarters of the population live in the North Island, with one-third of the total population living in Auckland. The other main cities of Wellington, Christchurch Dunedin and Hamilton are where the majority of the remaining Kiwis dwell.

Planning

A core group of committed NZ Servas hosts have begun the planning for this General Assembly. We are working very closely with members of SI EXCO, the Servas International board who facilitate this gathering. The host country provides the location for meeting, the welcome and the closing. A time line is emerging and it is hoped that all the information needed for you to plan your visit and attendance at the General assembly will be available by November 2014.

Servas New Zealand is upgrading its website to be a source of information by July-August 2014 in order to give participants time to plan their journey. Registrations will be available in early 2015.

Questions regarding the GA 2015 can be emailed to SIGA2015info@servas.org

Your journey has begun with this announcement.

Look for regular updates in SI news, as well as on social media sites such as Facebook. It is appropriate that we gradually introduce you to words and phrases of the Maori language so today I sign off simply with "arohanui" – "Aroha" which means love or sympathy or compassion, and :nui" means big. So we send much love to all those in the Servas family.

*Ehara taku toa
i te toa takitahi,
engari he toa takitini ke
My strength does not come
from me alone
but also from others.*

**New Zealand
Chosen For
Servas International
General Assembly!**
— October 2015 —
(See President's Message page 3)
Stay tuned for more details
in SINews!

Servas Argentina & Uruguay Meet

By Ana Manghi, Argentina NS
info@anamanghi.com
and
Dinorah Sanz, Uruguay NS



Each day should be “The Day for Peace”. On the weekend of September 21 and 22 a group of 10 members of Servas Uruguay met with more than 25 Argentinian members in Buenos Aires.

On Saturday, our activities were guided by Delta Terra, an institution that works for the appreciation and preservation of natural resources of the ecosystem in the Tigre river’s delta.

In one of the islands of the delta, we had lunch and took a guided walk to appreciate the biodiversity of species in that territory.

Around the fireplace of the institutional Center, one of our members oriented to thinking and recognizing with mind, body and heart, the immensity of the meaning and the need to build peace in and around us.

At the end, some members highlighted some top Servas experiences.

Sunday 22, we met in Parque Lezama for picnic. In the afternoon we took a guided tour in the Ethnographic Museum. Based on the native cultures of the

Argentinian territory, this tour helped us to understand habits, needs, resources and evolution of pre-Columbian populations.

Spontaneous initiatives motivated by the wish of Hosts and Visitors to share every minute, were a Tango night, a visit to San Telmo’s street market, a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church, and more.

Farewell phrases like “we have to do this again” or “next time it should be in Uruguay” are a good sample of the spirit prevailing in the meeting.

Servas Argentina and Uruguay have set the goal to meet regularly. Our aim is not only to strengthen relations at a personal level but most important, to reinforce Servas.



THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

By Robert Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy
and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really
about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I marked the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

College Students Adopt Servas USA As Business Class Project

By Tracy Jordan French,
United States Servas Administrator
admin@usservas.org

In Fall 2013, four college students chose to work with our nonprofit organization as their Small Business Consulting class project. The students visited our office on multiple occasions, researched hospitality exchange programs via the internet, and conducted a member survey. The students agreed to share their experience with Servas International.

Hello Servas International!

We had a great semester taking the class "Small Business Consulting" which is part of the business entrepreneurship education series here at Humboldt State University (HSU), in Arcata, California [walking distance from the U.S. Servas national office]. We are all seniors and have had to complete business prerequisites just to take the course. The class was a bit more challenging than other business classes. It was definitely not a "sit, observe, and listen-to-lecture"

type of class. It was very hands-on through conducting our own research, thinking of marketing strategies, and after examining the business needs of U.S. Servas, we believe we have shared new ideas with Servas for continued success in the future.

We completed a Business Plan and presented to U.S. Servas in December 2013 at HSU in an effort to improve U.S. Servas membership, especially in the younger traveler demographic.

As far as our recommendations for U.S. Servas, the top ones are:

- A revamping of the web site, which includes making it more user-friendly, visually appealing and embedding it with key words so Google searches can pick up on the website and have it ranked higher on web site searches. We also encourage online profiles of hosts and travelers for interests, hobbies, pet allergies, etc.
- Youth outreach by partnering with local universities (especially the cultural/international language departments) and speaking with students about U.S. Servas. Many university students are simply not aware that Servas exists. Host and

Traveler Servas volunteers can speak for 10-20 minutes in a classroom about the program and how great it is. If this happens across the U.S., and the world, younger memberships will likely increase!

A recommendation to Servas International from the survey results:

- Please encourage your hosts to promptly communicate with travelers when receiving a host request. Many U.S. Servas survey takers had some disappointment in using Servas abroad when numerous hosts did not respond to U.S. travelers in regards to hosting.
- We worked throughout the semester on the Plan and had some great meetings working with staff and local U.S. Servas Board members. We definitely encourage Servas International member countries to approach their nearest university business department to see if they have a entrepreneurship program and if the universities would be interested in participating in a project similar to this. It would be mutually beneficial since the Servas organization would receive an in-depth marketing and strategic analysis by the business students (country specific), and the students would have a hands-on experience deepening their business learning beyond what lectures can provide.



The students made a formal presentation to U.S. Servas representatives in front of their classmates and instructor. Left to right: Daryl Chinn (past President of US Servas board), Phyllis Chinn (Board member), Joe McManus (HSU student), Amy Scolari (Office Manager), Chris Hapgood (HSU student), Tracy Jordan French (Administrator), Carissa Cooper (HSU student) and Andrew Dietz (HSU student).

Welcome To Umeå

European Capital of Culture 2014

By Inger Mossberg,
Servas host and board member, Servas Sweden

This year Umeå, Sweden is one of the two European Capitals of Culture. If you enjoy music, theater and art, or if you just want to experience the white summer nights in the northern part of Europe your choice should be a trip to Umeå. We are many Servas hosts in Umeå just looking forward to seeing you here!

The Council of the European Union has appointed Umeå European Capital of Culture 2014. The EU's aim with capitals of culture is to reflect cultural diversity, increase exchange and awaken interest in Europe's cultural wealth. The first Capital of Culture, in 1985, was Athens. Today two capitals are appointed every year and for 2014 Umeå and Riga has been appointed.

Umeå was appointed thanks to a desire to make Umeå and northern Sweden more visible in Europe and to use culture as a driving force in regional development. The focus is on Umeå but several other places in the region are also involved. The program for Umeå's year as European Capital of Culture is divided into eight seasons, according to the Sami calendar. The Sami are the EU's only



indigenous people and Umeå is part of Sápmi, the Land of the Sami.

Hundreds of events in the form of festivals, theatrical performances, opera, literature, film, art, crafts, sport and much more will take place during 2014. Here are some of my suggestions:

Take part in the Midsummer celebration at our outdoor museum rising a maypole and listen to music. Or listen to A Choral Midsummer Light's dream. During Midsummer week the Umeå International Choir Festival will fill Umeå with music and song (June 17 – June 21).

Join the Midnight Light Tango Festival (June 26 – June 30).

Go to an island outside Umeå, Holmön, and listen to the Holmön Song Festival (June 25 – June 27).

In July Sweden has vacation, but you can enjoy the nature. You could rent a bike and take a ride along the river to a sculptural park, a café and Arboretum norr, a tree park at the riverside with plenty of different



trees from the northern hemisphere. Or you could go by bus 70 km and visit the Moose farm, pat the moose calves and try the moose cheese.

In August Umeå will be filled with folk music and song again. A national and a Scandinavian get-together of folk instrumentalists will take place and also the customary Folk music and song festival. (Aug 4 – Aug 10)

There are still some tickets to be found if you would like to see a great opera. NorrlandsOperan and the dramatic art collective La Fura Dels Baus are creating a monumental outdoor performance of Richard Strauss' one-act opera. (Aug 16, 19, 21 and 23) <http://umea2014.se/en/event/elektra/>

In September there is Organ festival and in October Chamber Music festival and a lot of other events.

Have a look at the whole program at www.umea2014.se/en/

If you haven't visited northern Sweden yet, 2014 is a good year to do it! Our Servas hosts in Umeå and other parts in Sweden are looking forward to seeing you!



UMEÅ - THE CITY OF BIRCHES

Umeå is situated in the province of Västerbotten in northern Sweden and has approximately 118,000 inhabitants. The city has many open-air recreation areas and nature is never far away. In the area around Umeå are beaches, lakes, forest areas and jogging tracks, and in winter skiing tracks and ski slopes. People in Umeå often cycle because distances are short and there are cycle paths almost everywhere.

Much of Umeå was destroyed by fire in 1888. When the city was rebuilt, birches were planted along the streets to prevent any fires from spreading. That is why Umeå is called the City of Birches.

RICH CULTURAL LIFE

Umeå University is one of Sweden's largest with students, teachers and researchers from all over the world. The large number of students means that the average age in Umeå is low. On the banks of the Umeå River lies the Arts Campus with cutting-edge education programs in design, art and architecture. It is also home to Bildmuseet, a leading museum of contemporary art.

Umeå has a rich cultural life with theatres, museums and music venues, for example Norrlandsoperan. Many international cultural festivals are held every year and the many cultural societies are very active. The city has a great many bands and several of them have achieved international success.

More information about Umeå: www.visitumea.se/en

HOW TO GET TO UMEÅ FROM STOCKHOLM:

1 hour by plane from Stockholm Arlanda (ARN) or Stockholm Bromma (BMA)

9-10 hours by bus: www.swebus.se/SwebusExpress.com/

7 – 8 hours by day train, 9 hours by night train: www.sj.se/start/startpage/index.form?!=en

Interrail Sweden pass: www.interrail.eu/interrail-passes/one-country-pass/sweden



Servas In-depth Longer Stay Experience Program

How We Can Travel, Learn, and Share Local Projects

Presented by Danielle Serres

As Servas International Peace Secretary, I was very interested to learn about the experiences in Malawi, as genuine peace activities, and this is what Demelza, SYLE coordinator for Servas Malawi, Africa, explained:

"When I first got to Malawi I started this peace NGO there called MWAI and then I came across a local NGO - AYISE and we amalgamated and employed our first program manager - Obert Khowa. He brought the MWAIU program along - its drive was short term peace projects. When he died after falling into a diabetic coma at 37years old I always wanted to commemorate his achievements and had this idea of some peace sign in his name. Then for 5 years the director of AYISE, Marcel (now a Servas member) and I kept mulling this idea of a mosaic at the NGO centre over. I had been collecting tiles by then and had quite a collection stuffing up my garden shed. Then when Nadine and Georg committed to come over to Malawi,



I thought this is it - I am going to do this peace mosaic. I blew the dust off my file and started getting the site ready and negotiating with volunteers. In the end the whole work camp went really well. I was supposed to have started a new teaching job - but I delayed it so I could be with Nadine and Georg and see the week long project through. The whole program went well and we achieved more than I hoped for, completing a mosaic on the wall and one on the outside of AYISE

too. Obviously the local Malawian AYISE volunteers were also enthused because within 5 months a second phase of peace mosaic building had blossomed 2kms away at the Bangwe Youth Centre. This 2nd project involving volunteers from Wales coming up with their own design and ideas. It's become quite famous in the area - as there is nothing quite like it around! I hope you can see the mosaics in this picture. If you are ever in Malawi you better come see them - they are BIG and they are locally made and they are GREAT!!!"

The peace garden at AYISE started off looking like this...



But ended up like the photo here. We are still to put 2 benches in with funds donated by our SYLE volunteers Nadine & Georg. Thanks!

FOREVER YOUNG! INTERNATIONAL SERVAS PROGRAMME

Quotes from SYLE Volunteers Georg & Nadine's report

Sunday 18th August - Saturday 14th Sep 2013
USA to Blantyre, Malawi, Africa

We came across Servas Malawi last year while reading an article in the Servas International newsletter. When we decided to go on our world tour and spend 3 months in Africa – we kept in mind Malawi for a longer stay if there was a possibility to volunteer on projects.



PEACE MOSAIC AND PEACE GARDEN (AYISE)

The goal was to design and lay out 1 floor and 1 wall mosaic inside the compound of the AYISE offices to create an area of peace and meditation. Why? To communicate the message of peace to the visitors of AYISE and create an area where staff and "volunteers in residence" can relax their souls.

We joined forces with volunteers from AYISE and Servas to transfer the selected designs to the surface and created 1 wall and 1 floor mosaic in the area of the peace garden as well as 1 wall mosaic as AYISE on the outside of the enclosure next to the gate.

We understand and acknowledge our cultural differences and feel richer in human experiences. Thanks to Demelza for putting this program together and for convincing the host families to host us. We leave Malawi with a sense of accomplishment. We hope the experience was valuable to all.

BANGWE YOUTH CENTRE CARRIES THE PEACE MESSAGE FORWARD

After we completed the first mosaic with Nadine and Georg, the AYISE volunteers were really enthused to keep 'mosaic-ing'. A new project was conceived to build a second peace mosaic at the Bangwe youth Centre. The local volunteers gained a lot of new skills were keen to do another mosaic and so when a group of volunteers from Wales said they wanted to come over to Malawi, AYISE thought 'oh great' we will use their presence as a catalyst to make a second peace mosaic. Some of our Servas Malawi members came to the work site to help on the mosaic in their spare time to as a supportive gesture towards AYISE. So a NEW peace mosaic to rival the first was completed late last year as a collaborative project between Malawian and volunteers from Wales.

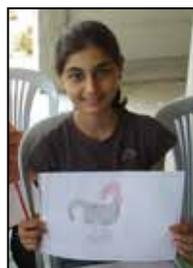
A great peace message of 'hope'!



6th Annual Servas Live With Us Share With Us Children Program

July 6-16, 2014
Ekinci in Antakya, Turkey

By Ismail Tezcan
Servas Turkey National Secretary
flytoismail@yahoo.com



In 2014, in Turkey, we will continue our traditional children program for the 6th year. This is an annual volunteer event of Servas Turkey organized by Servas Turkey member Mr. Mehmet Ates. I would like to share the programme details with you.

Our programme Coordinator is Mr. Mehmet Ates who is a member of Servas Turkey & also he was our Peace Secretary between 2011 & 2014. We hope that this programme will be a good opportunity for those who want to participate & experience volunteer activities in Turkey.

Following is the message of Mr. Mehmet Ates about this programme;

Come Live with Us Share with Us...

I am so excited and happy to announce that we are going to hold the 6th Servas Live with us Share with Us Children Programme in my village, Ekinci in Antakya, Turkey. Within this project we ask Servas people to come and volunteer in the village (Teach kids in an informal way anything they know), stay with parents and exchange experiences also with local people. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming and ready to hug the volunteers.

The children and the parents are already asking for this event like every year and want to know who is coming this year. We planted seeds of Servas with children (70 kids with their parents) back in 2009 and now asking you to come and water these seeds next July (6th-16th, 2014)

Wanna share your experience and knowledge with kids? Then come and live with us ...

Please do visit the links below first to see the broad frame of the event

Any questions are welcome...

Spread this news please...

Mehmet Ates
mehmettates@yahoo.com
Servas Member
Programme Coordinator
Antakya-TURKEY

Links:

1. FACEBOOK. Here you can see what we have done for 5 years. With photos and activities. www.facebook.com/groups/95345139652/?ref=ts In case it doesn't work search on facebook as "Live with us share with us"
To become friends with me find me on this email: mehsevi@hotmail.com Communication would be faster.
2. Read the story of last wonderful experience (2013) with the kids, local people and volunteers...
<http://atesnaar.blogspot.com.tr/2013/08/whats-servas-servas-founded-in-1949-is.html>
wish everyone inner peace to achieve peace out...



Servas & Human Rights at The UN

By Danielle Serres, Servas International Peace Secretary



(from left to right) : Lorette Dubout (Servas France), Magnus Adams (Servas Germany) and Catherine Burer-Lehmann (Servas Switzerland)

Our UN representatives have again been quite active early this year in Geneva. Magnus Adams, SI Peace Secretary assistant, despite his new job in Germany, was able to come to Geneva and join Catherine Burer-Lehmann (SI UN main representative in Geneva), and Lorette Dubout (Servas France) recently appointed as SI UN additional representative (see photo). On March 12, 2014, the three of them had a very fruitful meeting there, on the occasion of the Human Rights Council 24th Session, and were able to distribute a written statement (below).

During their meeting, our representatives discussed the possibility of organizing an event in Geneva in September 2014, during the Human Rights Council 26th Session, to which the broad Servas community would be invited. It would certainly strengthen Servas International visibility, and provide opportunities to link with other many NGOs active there. This would happen probably around September 21st, International Peace Day. More details will follow !

Servas International Statement to the UN Human Rights Council

Danielle Serres, Servas International Peace Secretary

peacesecretary@servas.org • www.servas.org

Servas International (SI), run by volunteers in more than 100 countries over the world, is a non-governmental, international peace federation of national Servas groups. SI was founded in 1949 as a peace movement and works towards the development of understanding, tolerance and world peace. The efficiency of our work has been recognized by the United Nations. So SI received consultative status to the ECOSOC in 1973.

Peace in relations both between and within societies is essential for progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and for sustainable development. We are convinced that SI is able to play a key-role in the next ten years!

Servas International positions itself as a peace organization first and foremost with the simple premise that bringing together people from different cultures and backgrounds promotes understanding. With our programs, bringing together thousands of people each year, we aim

to contribute in a concrete way to the ongoing process of sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. This is one of the many ways to improve social cohesion and build peaceful societies. The opportunity to make a personal connection with someone from a different culture and social classes can build and strengthen intercultural understanding and reduce prejudices and intolerance.

Particularly for young people this is a great opportunity to stay in another family and in another country, discovering another way of life and realizing that tolerance is a value that makes our life more colorful.

Servas International welcomes all kind of efforts taken by the international community helping people to get to know the unknown neighbor. This is the way we can spread our wish to global peace. Servas International promotes non violent thinking, and aims to build peace in harmony with the environment. In all our meetings, at the local, regional, national and international levels, as well as « transborder » meetings, we exchange ideas and organize activities for the development of global understanding and to create a more just and peaceful society.

NEW FACES IN SERVAS

NEW NATIONAL PEACE SECRETARY IN VENEZUELA

By Victor Gutierrez, National Secretary Servas Venezuela

It is a pleasure to inform the volunteering of YAMELLYS SANCHEZ as the new PEACE SECRETARY of Servas Venezuela, named in this position after the approval by the national group. Yamellys is taking the vacancy of Fanny Bello who also occupied the position of National Secretary for about ten years. Fanny was our first NS and did an extraordinary contribution to the strengthening of Servas in our country, thanks to her, Servas is today a consolidate organization in Venezuela. Currently, she is living in the USA as a political exiled.

Yamellys is a teacher and has been involved in every kind of activity of Servas Venezuela. She lives in Chiguará, a beautiful small Andean town, located in the Merida State, where her home has become a must stop for every Servas traveler who visits the Venezuelan Andean region and of course for her kindness she has made many Servas friends who she had visited as a Venezuelan Servas Traveler in Latin America and Europe.

Best wishes for Yamellys in her new responsibility as our Peace Secretary, and in this sense we appreciate all collaboration to her from the Servas Family.

YAMELLYS SÁNCHEZ IN HER OWN WORDS

My name is Yamellys Sánchez de Uzcátegui, 41, and I live in Chiguará, Mérida State, in Venezuela. Chiguará is characterized by its red roofs and sloping streets, holding in its sunrises a soft and rich coffee aroma. Working as a teacher, loving nature in its entire splendor, happy to feel useful, to learn something new every day, to have a family, to understand life is only a moment and has always something to offer me, providing me with challenges, joys, dreams, tasks, experiences...

Grateful for the trust Servas – Venezuela offers me, I am fully ready to contribute to building peace, acknowledging this as our organization main goal, so that every day there are more human beings able to live together, understanding differences in others and that there is room for all of us in our world. May at every moment more doors open to tolerance, respect, harmony and the need in every human being to communicate, meet, support each other and serve anyone that requires it.



Yamellys in the theme park called La Venezuela de Antier, with a representation of Venezuelan indigenous population.

Dear Servas Friends

One week passed – so fast. The Christmas with Servas In Israel event on 22-29 December 2013 is over, and it left all of us with a taste of wanting more.

More than 40 Servas friends, from all over the world, were hosted by Israeli hosts in 3 areas – Galilee, Center (Sharon and Tel-Aviv) and Jerusalem.

Guests and hosts traveled together in the hosts' cars and joined guided tours in Christian sites in Galilee and Jerusalem.

A welcome meeting in Haifa opened the event and a farewell meeting closed it in Jerusalem.

An atmosphere of intimacy and openness has emerged - friends wanted to talk and get to know each other – Servas spirit at its best.

We wish to thank all of you for participating, for being patient with our logistics mistakes, for rushing you from place to place, from host to host.

We wanted to share with you our country and hosts. It has been a great experience for us, a true pilot, which we hope to improve (if we do it again) and share with all Servas countries around the world.

Thanks to Servas Israel organizers and helpers, and there were many.

TODA VELEHITRAOT
(thanks and see you again)

Watch the news on our website:
<http://israel.servas.org/?CategoryID=187>
LIKE and Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Israel/318802998214263?ref=hl>

See you
Happy New Year
Claudia Sagi
Servas Israel N. S



Experience Culture, Language & Volunteering in Israel — Summer 2014 —

July-August-September 2014

contact: israel@servas.org

Christmas 2014 in Israel with Servas

December 22-29, 2014

contact: israel@servas.org

The Story of Jews, Jesus and Jerusalem

Shalom All Dear Friends!

By Sonali & Yogesh, Pune, India



Israel has always fascinated us, we have always heard a lot about this tiny country from my parents who had visited it earlier, and also the impression we had from all books and news articles about how this desert country was a leading agricultural producer too! And when the opportunity popped up from Servas, we just could not resist it!

Our journey could not have begun without the help and support from Claudia and her team... They have been phenomenal in their help to organize this giant event. Planning the itinerary and raking up host families, corresponding with each and everyone from the silliest of doubts to addressing all issues – we got solutions at the blink of an eyelid!

There are always two ways to travel – one as a regular traveler through a travel agent probably, and the other is a Servas traveler. And it's a world of a difference – something that only a Servas member can tell. From the moment we stepped in this unknown land, we were at home. Each of our host families were like our own families, helping and caring about us to no end. Every day as we stepped out we felt like school kids going off to school with motherly guidance, instructions and also a tiffin box!! Sometimes they spoil us with local junk food too.

What we learnt from each of them is unsurpassed. They shared their life, their experiences, they shared practically the key towards what makes Israel such a wonderful country to be in, against all odds. We had loads of doubts – from the religion, to the demography, their origins, hostile neighborhood conditions... to their positive outlook towards life...! We were very impressed and fascinated the way people have come from all over the world and actually revived their ancient language – Hebrew. Coming from India I knew I was seeing a nation just as old as mine – but having formed in 1948, Israel

has truly gone places! And we could see it in their lives. It was immensely inspiring. When we visited the holocaust museum, I could not hold back tears and my respect for all Israelis hit sky high. What grit and determination to rise from ashes like a phoenix bird!

And all this, I know, was possible only because of Servas. We visited several places, we met several people, and the personal touch when we visited a synagogue or a kibbutz was overwhelming. We literally backtracked the footsteps of Jesus as we visited Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem... and in 10 days I have learnt more than any number of books or TV documentaries I have ever encountered.

Servas also makes you a better person end of the day. People with open minds and who have seen the world, who have big hearts to give room to strangers not just in their homes but in their lives – it is unbeatable.

Thanks to Servas we did not just travel in Israel, we went on a humanitarian pilgrimage – a pilgrimage beyond all religious boundaries! The only way to show this gratitude is to imbibe all qualities that they have taught us.

Toda Raba till we meet again!



Danube Canoe Trip for Peace

By Giuseppe Rapisada, Servas Italy

Giuseppe Rapisada is a great traveler. It is not an exaggeration to say this and I certainly do not need mincing words to describe a man who has visit more than 67 countries on all continents, entering into inaccessible places and adventurous, and coming in contact with the most diverse populations and cultures.



THE PLAN

Sicilian from Belpasso (Catania), Giuseppe hung the tie to the nail, after working for 13 years in the Manager of a multinational pharmaceutical company, and from there he dedicated the last 10 years of his life traveling around the world. 10 years of travel which will be celebrating whit some big travel projects, this is the first; a journey-shipping enterprise to sail the entire Danube River in a canoe, crossing 10 countries, 2.600 km in the water, for 80 days. Giuseppe will start from Ingolstadt in Germany, and will pass through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine until you get to Sfântu Gheorghe in Romania.

A project that brings with it, as well as sporty and adventurous undertaking, noble ideals ecological, pacifist, social, humanitarian, scientific and promoting the excellence of our territory.

PURPOSES OF THIS TRAVEL ADVENTURE

Adventure Sport: Navigate, with a canoe, the all 2,520 km of the Danube River, from Ingolstadt (Germany) to Sf Gheorghe Black Sea (Romania).

Ecologist: Recharge electronic equipment by solar panels;

Sleep in a tent: Make known the project "Saved Rosia Montana"; Raising awareness of the ecological problems school students who collaborate with my project.

Scientific: Do analyze by a Chemistry school from Catania, samples of water collect throughout the course of the entire Danube.

Pacifist: Preparing a message of peace to bring in all these 10 countries, to enrich with contributions of the populations of the crossed countries; Try to create Servas in Serbia.

Social and Humanitarian: Approach and disseminate the knowledge of the culture of the peoples of the Danube; Cooperate with cultural and sports associations, especially foreign association of people with disabilities.

Promotional: Promote the Sicilian excellence: Touristic, Crafts, Agricultural and food.

He wanted to sail from the North Sea to the Black Sea, first across the Rhine and then, in the Black Forest, go into the Danube and from there continue to the Black Sea. There are cruise ships that, although not sail from the Sea of north to

the Black Sea, will provide navigation for long stretches in these rivers. Giuseppe during his travels, visited both the port of Rotterdam and Constance. Just in the port of Constanta boarded a cruise ship for American tourists. The cruise is definitely not the type of journey that is fitting to his person, he prefers something much more real and adventurous. He prayed several times a friend of his, who works in the port of Constanta, to provide him a " pass " on any merchant ship, which, going across the Danube, arrivals up in Germany, but nothing. He also tried to ask other friends Romanian sailors, but to no avail. Was at this point that he decided to sail across the Danube with a canoe. His interest is, not to visit the already know capitals of Europe, wet to the Danube, but just the river itself, can to navigate near the water level, as allows you to do a canoe. He documented,

saw the daily stages, places where to stay overnight on board the river with his tent.

Giuseppe is not a canoeist, but just a traveler, who for this travel will move by a canoe.

We can visit the Giuseppe's blog at www.pipporapisarda.wordpress.com and we can contribute to its purpose pacifist sending:

- answers to the question "What is Peace?"
- drawings by free technique on the theme "draws the Peace."

Giuseppe would like to write your Peace sentence to is tent, and collect your sentence and drawing to a book, to present to European Parliament, who was Nobel for the Peace in year 2013.

One of the 10 countries that Giuseppe will cross is Ucraina, which just in this period need Peace.





Eight Month European Caravan Tour

Romanian family of five visits 15 countries and 27 Servas hosts

By Bogdan Ionescu, Servas Romania
bogdan_ionescu75@yahoo.com



A young family with three beautiful children, we left home and monotony quiet sedentary living on a caravan adventurous trip through Europe. In eight months and 28000 km we visited 15 countries and dozens of cities and we came home more tolerant, more patient, wiser, with more friends and memories that will keep us warm for the rest of our life.

Who are we?

Nicoleta, a creative children's clothes designer, the brand LluTesa is already well known among mothers possessing children under six years in Romania, Bogdan, interior designer and art director, passionate about everything that is handmade, film and theater, we have 3 wonderful children which give us the strength to accept and move on almost any challenge. Lilu (6 years) already has skills as a dancer, climber and some heroics, Tesa (4 years) is evident budding ballerina and sometimes when is anger, tip the balance towards truck drivers professions. Nicolas (16 luni) - passionate about... Mommy.

Beginning

Documentation lasted a year. And when he was ready, we did not hesitate a moment to get in the car and hit the road. "That was something that was gave to us, something new to me was a peace

of mind, fulfillment, I felt that it had to be" is entrusted Nicoleta. The main reason for the trip was changing. I wanted to clear our minds, to discover new things about the world, but mostly about us. "Before starting our life was filled with ups and downs. At one point, a coffee, a friend of mine, a psychologist by profession, told me that when you enter a vicious circle and you're unhappy with what you do, you not have to try variations on the same subject, it will not change anything. We were told to go and the way we can show the any sign. I had a bunch of signs, were linked one after the other in perfect balance. If we break a piece from the car or mobile home by the end of the day surely something extraordinary will happen to offset the drawback"

We wanted to know new people, unique experiences, to share our way of living and learning in the lives of others. We stayed at 27 Servas hosts families throughout our journey route and so this goal was achieved.

For us it was even more beautiful and rich experience as, to our surprise, everyone knew the difference between roma people and romanians, so spending time together were extremely positive. Some people even asked us to visit them in our way back to home or necessarily in



the coming years.

We had many ad-hoc presentations about Romania in countries we passed through presentations after which many of the people we met expressed their intention to come next years in Romania.

We had surprises "Funny".... I was in a camp in Germany near Cologne and lady at the reception asked me date of birth, nationality and then handed me sheet to signed, at which I start laughing. It had nationality - Romanian, country of origin - Uruguay. I say amused but slightly indignant that Romania is much closer and more beautiful than I know of Uruguay could easily come to visit. Miss obviously embarrassed apologizes, trying to blame the computer...

We were asked by Holland if we found it difficult to get a visa for them... and generally when you ask most foreigners I know about Romania, responded... Dracula and gypsies. I worked hard but pleasant, with those whom I met, almost 200 people from 15 countries visited, we present and beautiful part of the country. We all wondered then at the

CARAVAN TOUR - continued on page 19

Launch of the Servas International Youth Fund is scheduled for the international meeting in the UK in June 2014 with an appeal for donations from both national groups and individual

Servas members. It is the first step towards a permanent trust fund that will also be able to benefit from member's bequests and sponsorship from organizations outside of Servas.

The Youth Fund will be a worldwide initiative to widen opportunities for young people in Servas wherever they live. It will open up the possibility for young Servas members to be given support to join in international Servas activities. The emphasis will be on helping those young people active in Servas who have limited resources of their own.

An international support group has been set up to develop the fund. Let us know if you are interested in joining. So far the Americas, Africa and parts of Asia are under-represented.

We have already received our first pledge of a generous donation from a national group and look forward to hearing from other countries able to support the fund, as well as from members who would like to make a personal donation.

The remit for the fund comes from a decision at the 2009 SI General Assembly following successful Youth Awards to four young people at the 2007 Servas Youth meeting in Britain. It will be managed

NEW! Servas International Youth Fund

initially by Servas Britain pending research into how best to set up a permanent trust fund in the UK or elsewhere.

If we receive sufficient donations

it is hoped that the first grants can be made to young people to attend the SI General Assembly in New Zealand in October 2015. Any eligible young Servas member will be encouraged to apply for a grant. Further information about eligibility and applying to the fund will be circulated later in 2014.

The priority will be to support active young members who would otherwise not be able to participate in an international meeting. Reflecting the spirit of Bob Lutweiler's vision of Servas as a peace organization young people will also be encouraged to explore opportunities opened up through the Servas network, focused on 'work, study, travel'.

A small advisory group representative of Servas regions worldwide will consider applications to the fund and decide on the allocation of grants according to the resources available. We will work towards developing criteria for awarding grants which are both open and fair and reflect the rich diversity within Servas.

For more detailed information about the youth fund and about how to make a donation contact:

Ann Greenhough, SI vice president
anngreenhough1@gmail.com

CARAVAN TOUR

Continued from page 18

end of the presentation - What does your government and we do not find this part? At which answers leave me... But how changing stand us in politicians, we have made the. In the next two years we will have about 30 new friends who want to visit.

We met many travellers but especially in Holland we were at the annual meeting of Dutch Globetrotters invited by a Servas host and where we participated at a contest with travel presentations in front of 90 experienced travellers with a material about Romania and our journey, material that won us second prize. I wrote an article about this moment in our blog. (www.viatapeindelete.com/servim-patria/).

Every day was a challenge, almost every day was different, we slowly created several routines, few, it is true, because this was the reason we left... to escape the routine, but the remaining ones were about waking up in the morning, pack, road and route planning, and the rest was freestyle and it worked great. We learn (relearn) to listen to our senses, to charge ourselves with positive energy, to seek and maintain a balance in everything we do.

The biggest challenge was to harmonize our desires, to harmonize as a family and to find a new path in life, a healthier way closer to the values that really matter. We succeeded in large part, we realized where we are wrong, what we have to do, the process continues but overall we consider it's a success.

Other challenges, technical, logistics were insignificant, we got over all that we wanted it and we knew we could get through.

Portugal reminded us a little of Romania, with life in the country, with

little streets where our caravan, however small, difficult sneak, with old ladies sitting in front of the house telling some stories. We enjoyed very much cobbled streets, ornamental fences and walls covered with the famous "azulejos" - colorful mosaic pieces ceramic veneers. Houses inspire elegance, like a miniature palace.

We visited Porto and Lisbon, two great cities but we love our visit in Sintra, hidden in the shadow of the mountains in a beautiful natural park, a true jewel of Portugal. We spent a whole day there and we wanted more...

Wonderful host and our guide was Carla, whom we thank very much for openness, for support, ideas, routes and places to visit. Unfortunately the return to the country, in Slovenia our laptop was stolen and we lost almost all photos from Portugal, but we are still gladly ... it's a sign that we need to go back and make another ones ☺

Each country has its beauty but as we established tourist looked leisurely life can wholeheartedly recommend this approach only involves traveling to the country, in places where people are more friendly, more welcoming, more communicative, more open and more willing to live leisurely. I do not think that we ever resorting to the services of travel agents eager to sell us "unique beauty" for us and... another millions of tourists.

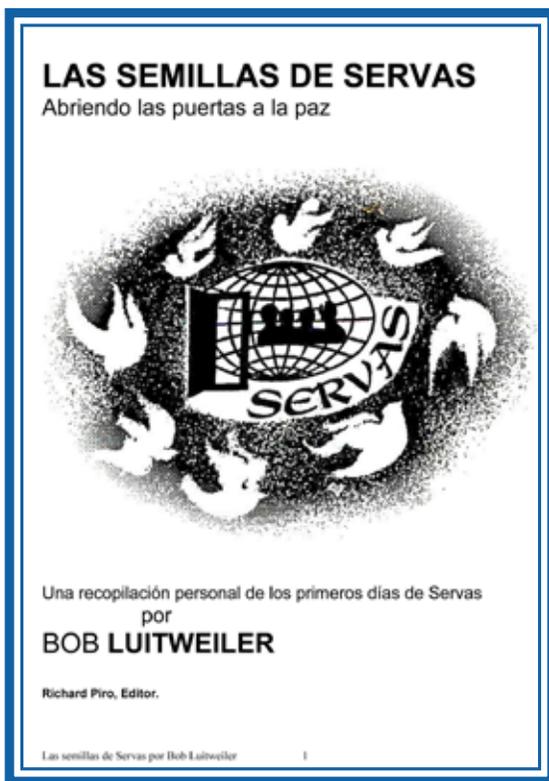
We want to look beautiful in the simple things from nature, in people, and we found it, and part is due to Servas community. Thank you!



The Beginning Of Servas Through Its Founder's Eyes

A Tribute To A Visionary Man

By Pablo Colangelo



It is a pleasure to present The Seeds of Servas (Las Semillas de Servas) book in Memory of Bob Luitweiler, on its first edition in Spanish language, after more than a decade since its first edition in English, edited by Richard Piro, 1999 (US Servas) for the Servas 50th Anniversary National USA Servas Conference that took place in San Francisco, CA.

I was willing to see this book in Spanish since the day I found it on the internet and I heard that the book was also available in Italian and French. It is now, 11 years after that, I'd decided to start a personal project to make it true and have it finally done. So I look for a group of committed translators all around, some of them which are Servas members from different countries and some others non Servas members which were interested and liked the idea so they decided to cooperate on a very committed and professional way with the project.

This 2013, 1st edition in Spanish will definitely contribute to all Servas and non Servas Members in Latin-America, Spain and to the rest of Spanish speaking persons around the globe to let them get a direct approach to Bob Luitweiler's ideas and to focus Servas on the goals towards peace and friendship.

Thank you Mary Jane Mikuriya (US Servas), Servas International and the Volunteer Team

Willing that it will be a valuable contribution to Servas and hoping that many will be following the idea to do something for our fellows: <http://es.scribd.com/pablocolangelo/collections>

Translations Volunteers (left to right): Ana Soler Pla (Spain), Milena Páez (Argentina), Pablo Colángelo (Argentina), Cecilia Sierra Thompson (Argentina), Federico Lahm (Argentina), Pablo Buniak (Mexico)
Absent from photo: María Laura Besio (Argentina), Natalia Chiapetta (Argentina), Magali Molina (Argentina), Emanuel Moreno (Argentina), Haydee Porras (Argentina), Federico Zemborain (France)

About The 1st Edition In English 1999 Edited Richard Piro

By Mary Jane Mikuriya

Bob had sent Richard 32 versions of the beginnings of Servas. Richard was to write up the beginnings of Servas as a handout for those coming to the conference. We invited Bob to come visit San Francisco for the final editing and to bring photos. Bob came and stayed with me. Richard is a gourmet cook and presentation was important to him. When we arrived at Richard's Victorian apartment, we were seated at a table with several versions Bob's recollections printed out. I asked Bob to pick one version to work on. So together bob and I reviewed very word while being served elegant delicious breakfast and lunch. As soon as a page was finished, Richard would come by and whisk away the approved page and type it up. Richard was a fast typist and editor of publications so the slow part was keeping Bob pampered with delicious treats and on task. By the end of the day, Richard had Bob's story that Richard titled 'Seeds of Servas', added the few photos that Bob had brought from Bellingham Washington and published what you see on the web. It almost didn't happen.



Servas Continues to Grow On The World Wide Web



To the right is a current listing of Servas-related web and social networking sites. If we've missed your country's web site, social networking site or other online link please send an email to "newsletter@servas.org" and we'll be sure to add it next time.

Please note that there are two "official" Facebook discussion groups: "Servas International", a members-only group, and "SERVAS", an open discussion group.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED: SERVAS EDITORS/Writers

Servas International is seeking editors/writers for stories & articles to be published in SI News, on the new servas.org website currently in development and on SI's official Facebook page. Knowledge of English, Spanish and other languages required. Translation ability a plus. Experience with writing and editing text for publication is preferred. Email your CV to president@servas.org with cc to newsletter@servas.org.

HELP WANTED: SERVAS ASST. TREASURER

Responsibilities include assisting current Servas Treasurer Miroslaw Wasilewski with some of the many tasks associated with the job with the possible opportunity to succeed him as treasurer after 2015. Email your CV to treasurer@servas.org, with cc to president@servas.org

Email your classified ad in .txt or .doc format to: newsletter@servas.org

SERVAS SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WEB SITES

- **SERVAS INTERNATIONAL**
FB (page): www.facebook.com/Servas.International
FB (members): www.facebook.com/groups/2519241851
FB (open): www.facebook.com/groups/servas
Twitter: twitter.com/ServasI (Servas International)
twitter.com/Servaspresident (Servas President)
Web: www.servas.org
- **SERVAS YOUTH**
FB (page): www.facebook.com/servasyouth
FB (group): www.facebook.com/groups/31004490866
Web: www.servasyouth.org
- **SERVAS YOUTH ESPAÑA**
FB: www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Youth-España/107873695946821
- **SERVAS YOUTH PERU**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasYouthPeru
Web: www.servasyouth.org
- **SERVAS ARGENTINA**
FB: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/629327650426841>
Web: <http://argentina.servas.org>
- **SERVAS YOUTH ARGENTINA**
FB: www.facebook.com/groups/136739839825106
- **SERVAS AUSTRALIA**
FB: www.facebook.com/servas.australia.1
Web: www.servas.org.au
- **SERVAS AUSTRIA**
Web: www.austria.servas.org
- **SERVAS BRAZIL**
FB (page): www.facebook.com/ServasBrasil
FB (group): www.facebook.com/groups/servasbrasil
Web: www.servasbrasil.org.br
Blog: servasbrasilis.blogspot.com.br
- **SERVAS BELGIUM & LUXEMBURG**
Web: www.belgium.servas.org
- **SERVAS BRITAIN**
FB: www.facebook.com/servas.britain
Web: www.servasbritain.org
- **SERVAS CANADA**
FB: www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Canada
Web: www.canada.servas.org
- **SERVAS COLUMBIA**
Web: www.columbia-servas.org
- **SERVAS COSTA RICA**
FB: www.facebook.com/servascostarica
- **SERVAS CZECH REPUBLIC**
Web: www.servas.cz
- **SERVAS DENMARK**
FB: www.facebook.com/groups/servasdenmark
Web: www.servas.dk
- **SERVAS EGYPT**
FB: www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Egypt/195657580637097
- **SERVAS ESTONIA**
Web: www.emmk.ee/janc/servas
- **SERVAS FINLAND**
FB: www.facebook.com/servasfinland
Web: www.finland/servas.org
- **SERVAS FRANCE**
Web: www.servas-france.org
- **SERVAS GERMANY**
Web: www.servas.de
- **SERVAS GREECE**
FB Page: www.facebook.com/ServasGreece
Web: www.greece-servas.org
- **SERVAS HUNGARY**
Web: www.hungary.servas.org
- **SERVAS INDIA**
Web: www.servasbharat.org
- **SERVAS INDONESIA**
Web: www.servasindonesia.wordpress.com
- **SERVAS IRAN**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasIran
- **SERVAS ISRAEL**
FB: www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Israel/318802998214263
Web: www.israel.servas.org
- **SERVAS ITALY**
FB: www.facebook.com/servas.italia
Web: www.servas.it
- **SERVAS JAPAN**
Web: www.servas-japan.org
- **SERVAS JORDAN**
FB: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/Servas.Jordan>
Web: www.joy-or-above.com/support-groups/servas-jordan/
- **SERVAS KAZAKHSTAN**
Web: www.servas-kazakhstan.narod.ru/
- **SERVAS KENYA**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Kenya/
- **SERVAS KOREA**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasKorea
Web: www.servas.or.kr
- **SERVAS KOSOVO**
FB: www.facebook.com/KosovaServas
- **SERVAS MADAGASCAR**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Madagascar/
- **SERVAS MALAWI**
FB: www.facebook.com/servas.malawi
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Malawi
- **SERVAS MAURITIUS**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Mauritius
- **SERVAS MEXICO**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasMexico
Web: www.mexico.servas.org
- **SERVAS NETHERLANDS**
FB: www.facebook.com/groups/357680234308014
Web: www.servas-nederland.nl
- **SERVAS NEW ZEALAND**
Web: www.servas.org.nz
- **SERVAS NORWAY**
Web: norway.servas.org
- **SERVAS PAKISTAN**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasPakistan
Web: [/pages.intnet.mu/servas/Pakistan](http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/Pakistan)
- **SERVAS POLAND**
FB: www.facebook.com/servaspl
Web: www.servas.pl
- **SERVAS PORTUGAL**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasPortugal
Web: www.servasemportugal.blogspot.pt
- **SERVAS RUSSIA**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasRussia
Web: www.servasrussia.ru/
- **SERVAS SAMOA**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Samoa
- **SERVAS SOUTH AFRICA**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/SouthAfrica
- **SERVAS SOUTH KOREA**
Web: www.servas.or.kr/
- **SERVAS SPAIN**
Web: www.servas.es
- **SERVAS SWEDEN**
FB: www.facebook.com/Servas.Sweden
Web: www.servas.se
- **SERVAS SWITZERLAND**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasSwitzerland
Web: www.servas.ch
- **SERVAS TAIWAN**
FB: www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Taiwan/130195033703178
Web: <http://www.servastaiwan.org/>
- **SERVAS THAILAND**
FB: www.facebook.com/servasthailandfanpage
- **SERVAS TURKEY**
FB Page - www.facebook.com/servas.turkey
Web - www.servasturkiye.org
- **SERVAS UNITED STATES**
FB Page: www.facebook.com/us.servas
Web: www.usservas.org
- **SERVAS URUGUAY**
Web: www.uruguay.servas.org/
- **SERVAS VIETNAM**
FB: www.facebook.com/ServasVietnam
Web: servasvietnam.blogspot.com
- **SERVAS ZAMBIA**
Web: www.pages.intnet.mu/servas/Zambia

MORE SERVAS COUNTRY WEBS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL WEB SITE: WWW.SERVAS.ORG

OTHER SERVAS-RELATED LINKS

- **SERVAS TRAVEL**
FB: www.facebook.com/groups/12708295429
- **RICK STEVES' EUROPE ARCHIVES**
ricksteves.com/graffiti/archives/servas.htm
- **SERVAS ON WIKIPEDIA**
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servas

A 'Golden Rule' For Travelers & Hosts

By Alice Diamond,
Servas USA Complaints Committee

Now that the summer season is approaching, with an increase in visits, this is an excellent time for a friendly reminder. There is a reason why almost all faith traditions have an "ethic of reciprocity" that requires each person to engage with others fully aware of the two-way nature of every relationship. So the next time you are either a host or a traveler remember the Golden Rule, however you feel most comfortable in expressing it.

Which brings me to the number one "annoyance" we hear from travelers... that they have written to many hosts and no one has responded. We can understand that because of very busy schedules, hosts may feel a bit overwhelmed at times. But consider how the Servas traveler feels, not wanting to write to new hosts before hearing from those already contacted?

Here is a list of tips for both sides of this mutual encounter that I have found lead to greater success in arranging Servas visits.

Look them over so that the next time you are trying to arrange a Servas visit, or have the opportunity to be part of a traveler's fond memories of your country, you'll think about the Golden Rule and do the right thing.



IF STRANGERS MEET

By E. E. Cummings

If strangers meet

life begins-

not poor not rich

(only aware)

kind neither

nor cruel

(only complete)

i not not you

not possible;

only truthful

-truthfully, once

if strangers(who

deep our most are

selves)touch:

forever

(and so to dark)



Tips For A Better Travel & Hosting Experience

TIPS FOR THE TRAVELER

- Always put the word "Servas" in the Subject Line of your e-mail.
- Individualize your letter to indicate why you would like to meet this Servas host(s). Sure, a blanket request is easier, but it is far less likely to result in a positive response, since the host can usually spot it and automatically takes him or herself off the hook by assuming that "someone else will have already agreed."
- If you commonly have trouble with people saying they never received your international e-mails, it may be that your e-mail server is on a "black-list." You can see if any specific mail server is on these lists at www.mxtoolbox.com/blacklists.aspx by entering its IP address. Having just one spammer on the mail server you use can cause your mail to die in transit. It sounds unfair, but you can be punished merely for the company you unknowingly keep. If need be, try getting an e-mail address on any of the major providers such as Yahoo or Gmail or AOL. They will check to see if your server is blacklisted, and you can try to switch servers.
- Attach a copy of your scanned LOI to provide additional information. (This does not replace the requirement of bringing and showing your original LOI if a visit is arranged, but will provide supplementary information about you that may "click" with the host and demonstrate shared interests.)
- Remember that not everyone in every country stays as "glued" to their e-mail traffic as you may do. Some hosts take vacations without their iPads or computers, and most European vacations are far longer than that of the average American! Since we Americans like to go traveling when our hosts travel also, problems connecting are not too surprising. Aahh, how this can contribute to your study of cultural diversity!
- If you don't receive responses through e-mail, try calling. Many people list mobile phone numbers in the directories, and even if on vacation, may just have their phone with them. How marvelous to find that, while out-of-town now, they will be ready to greet you on the dates you would like to schedule a visit. Whereas international phone calls used to be very expensive to make, I now have a phone card which allows calls to most destinations for less than five cents per minute,

and Skype to a landline is probably even less. (But remember if you leave a message, don't expect your host to bear the cost of a long distance call in return; they may not know about cheaper options and the costs may sound daunting. Better to leave your e-mail address and ask them to write with a convenient time for you to connect.)

- If visiting a popular travel destination, try a visit with a host who may not be in the very center of the metropolitan area and thus gets fewer requests. Particularly if you are visiting a location with good public transportation, this may not be a big inconvenience.
- And finally, plan ahead and contact hosts early. If you put forth the effort and are patient, you may just be making a new friend for life.

TIPS FOR THE HOST

- If you are using a spam filter in e-mail, check that spam folder at least weekly for requests for visits that have landed there because your system does not recognize the address. Yes, spam filters are a blessing so that you don't get 100 notices of on-line pharmacies each week, but I always find there are a few legitimate pieces of mail within the 100 or so real spams I get weekly. When this happens, be sure to follow the procedures to add that contact to your list of acceptable addresses. (Often this merely entails clicking on the name and choosing "add to contacts.")
- If your e-mail provider has the ability to add identifier words that assure a given piece of mail is directed to you, be sure to add the word "Servas" and/or "Visit." Not all e-mail providers have this capability, but if they do, it is usually called a "White List." Recognize that this only affects junk detection. It won't have any effect on messages your mail server won't accept in the first place since they are from a black-listed provider.
- If you receive an unusually high number of hosting requests (as it seems to be during Spring Break in San Diego) consider creating a Word Document that simply says: "As much as I would like to host you, I am not available for the days you requested. Wishing you a lovely visit to San Diego." When a request is received, simply click "Reply" and copy in the two sentences from the document.

TYPES OF ARTICLES APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLICATION IN SI NEWS

Global calendar items • Articles, opinion pieces, travel stories with a Servas theme • Letters to the Editor • Short quotes regarding peace/Servas • Servas travel experiences, peace projects • Web sites of interest to Servas members • Questions about Servas

TIPS ON SUBMITTING STORIES TO SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SERVAS NEWS is an INTERNATIONAL newsletter. Events or announcements of interest only to an individual country's members will not be accepted for publication. Also, long reports, such as technical and financial data, should be posted on the Servas web site. Send material by email to: add_to_website@servas.org.

1. Assume the reader is new to SERVAS and knows nothing about your story. Include the Who, Why, What, Where and When in the first paragraph. Remember, you're writing a STORY or presenting INFORMATION not an sending an email or letter to a friend.
2. Give your story a HEADLINE and, if possible, a SUBHEAD, that gives the reader an idea of what is being presented.

TO TRAVEL IS TO
DISCOVER THAT
EVERYONE IS WRONG
ABOUT OTHER
COUNTRIES.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

3. Include your name, Servas title (if any), country and email immediately following the subhead.
4. Make your article engaging and interesting, and pertinent to a global audience.
5. Avoid abbreviations so your message is clear.
6. Keep articles to one page (500 words) if possible.
7. Spell check and proof your story, twice. We will not edit your copy unless there are space limitations.
8. Look at this or previous issues of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS for examples of story format and structure.

If you have any questions send E-mail to: newsletter@servas.org

REMEMBER: What you write is what we'll post. Please thoroughly proof your article/letter before submitting it.

IMPORTANT TECHNICAL TIPS

- Prepare your story in a text application such as Microsoft Word, TextEdit. Save file as .doc, .rtf or .txt format and attach to e-mail. (If it is not possible to use a text application software you can write your story in the body of an e-mail).
- Avoid fancy text formatting and do not double-space after a sentence, or add a space before a comma. Remember, a computer is not a typewriter.
- Attach photos to e-mail in .jpg format. **DO NOT PLACE PHOTOS INTO THE TEXT DOCUMENT.** Use file names that match your story (i.e., "STYLE-meeting_01.jpg").
- Photo captions (if any) should be keyed to the photos (photo A, photo B, etc.) and listed at the end of your story as lines of text.
- Include Country/Article Headline in the subject header of ALL e-mails relating to the story.

Translate Servas International News Into Your Country's Language

We have received several requests for help with translating the newsletter into different languages. We want SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS to be accessible to as many members as possible, so, to help toward achieving that goal, we are making current issues of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS available to any Servas member country who would like to convert an issue into their native language.



SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS is produced using Adobe InDesign CC v9.1 for Macintosh. A press-ready, packaged file will contain all the fonts, photos and linked graphics used in the current issue along with the complete InDesign file. You should have either a Mac or Windows version of Adobe InDesign CC v9.1 or better to open the file but if you have an older version just let us know. Some fonts may not convert properly from Mac to Windows so some adjustments might be necessary after opening the file in Windows.

If you do not have Adobe InDesign and want to produce a version of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS using another software application you can still make use of the images and graphics contained in the packaged file and use a PDF copy of the current issue as a design and production template or a guide to rebuild your copy of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS. Experience with the preferred software and producing publications or other materials is highly recommended.

To receive a complete, press-ready packaged file, your country's Servas National Secretary should send a request by email to newsletter@servas.org. Instructions on where and how to obtain the file will be furnished at that time.