



News **BULLETIN**

Produced by and for members of the Servas community

Blue Camel's Adventure





BULLETIN

Produced by and for members of the Servas community.

Blue Camel’s Taiwan Travel Tale3
Biking in Italy / USA National Meet: Oct.194
Swiss Pentecost5
Peace School Summer Camp7
Canadians in Action9
Climate Emergency, UN Reps in New York12
Canada on Fire: Climate Change?14
Brazil Youth Peace Essay15
Electronic Vote of SI GA16
SI at HospEx Summit 202117
New Key People18
Remembering: Ewa, Judith, Judy, Maria22

Ewa



Judith



Judy



Maria



Blue Camel and Servas Taiwan

By Mei Wang National Sec, Taiwan

Servas Taiwan organized our first international online meeting on June 19, 2021.

Our member, Blue Camel, shared her travel story with the 50 Mandarin-speaking attendees from Taiwan, China, Malaysia and Singapore. Inviting international Servas members to our meetings, during this pandemic, lets more Servas members exchange their thoughts while we cannot travel.

Blue Camel has been to 60+ countries. She told us her fabulous travel story. From office lady to backpacker, from world to home; recently, she fell in love with a small remote Taiwan island, Kinmen (pronounced Jinmen, meaning “golden gate”).

You can follow her steps throughout the world:
(In Mandarin) BlueCamel – walk the world.
藍駱駝-行世界 | Facebook ;
(In Mandarin) radio program –
藍駱駝 – 青年轉動全球電台訪談 (主題:
走遍世界沙漠) - YouTube

The captivating shades of blue in Chefchaouen, Morocco, and the simple yet resilient camel led to the birth of my pseudo name: Blue Camel.



Blue Camel (right);
a more common camel, left.
— • —

Below: 6 of the 50 Mandarin-speaking attendees from Taiwan, China, Malaysia and Singapore.
• • •



Biking in Italy 2021

29/30/31/July and 1 August, 2021

Servas Italy is going to hold an international bicycle meeting, discovering: the Fluvial Park, the Stura Valley, and the Occitan Region of Cuneo, Piedmont in Italy.

The *River Park Gesso and Stura* is a protected natural area and wetland of 5500 hectares. It is of particular interest in bird life. The Park has several routes for hiking or cycling. It winds all around the city of Cuneo, Piedmont, Italy, at the confluence of two rivers.

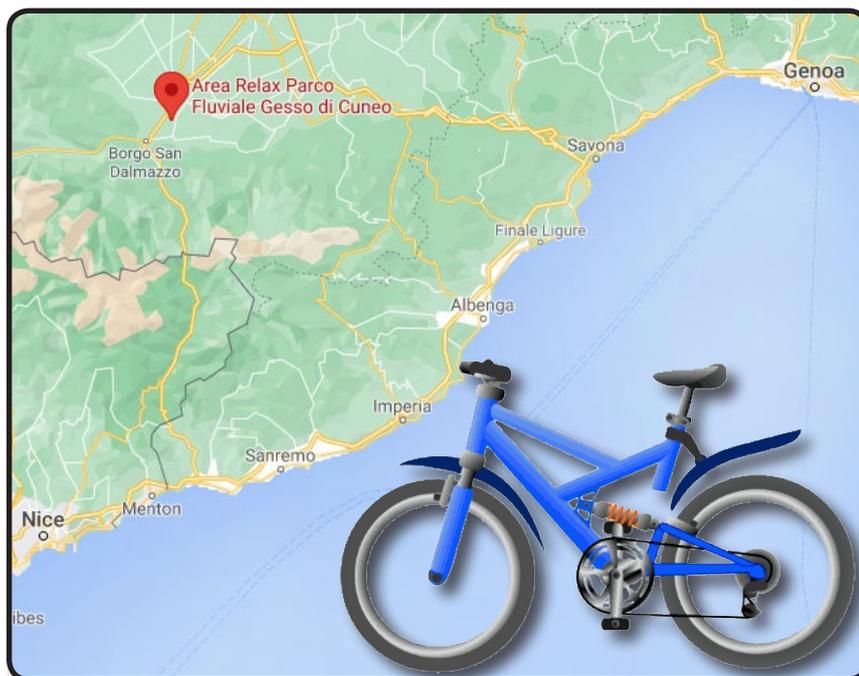
The Stura Valley and the Cozie Alps are crossed by the Stura River that flows from Maddalena Lake at an altitude of almost 2000 meters. From Colle della Maddalena you cross the French border and reach the Ubaye Valley.

We will ride along the valley until Vinadio town, with its Albertine Fort, and to an artificial lake where we can swim. The Meeting will host 30 participants, who will stay in the Camping of Cuneo.

Due to the pandemic, all precautions must be taken, and participants are requested to follow the directives of their local health authorities.

Contact italy@servas.org for more information.

• • •



Come to the 2021 USA National Conference: Oct.29

by Mary Lee Behar



Bring the whole family! (Special rates for youth 18 and under.)

Enjoy a movie night, dancing, spooky Servas stories, an art exhibit on the theme of peace representing the work of children from 110 countries, a team-building low-ropes obstacle course in the forest, canoeing, tai chi/qi gong, all-you-can-eat meals, on-site housing for two nights, guided nature walks, free raffles and wonderful talks about travel, conservation, forgiveness, racial justice, and what's new with Servas, set in the tranquility of the forest and Lake Hazel.

To see the program and reserve your spot, spot: [CLICK HERE](#). (usservas.org)

[See the most up-to-date program here.](#)

If you have any questions, write: mary.behar@usservas.org.

• • •



Pfingsttreffen, the Swiss Pentecost



By Gudrun Baumgartner, Servas Germany



Due to Covid-19, last year's Pentecost meeting with nearly 60 international participants had shrunk to a very small group.

The event was rescheduled to this year. Despite complex entry and exit regulations for Servas members from abroad, 29 Swiss, one German and Billy found their way to the event at Emme Lodge.

Friday after lunch the organizers met for final preparations, and in the evening, a group of seven people was already on board. We got in the mood for the weekend with pizza and wine, remembering past meetings and playing cards.

From noon on, the other participants arrived, moved into their rooms and off we went to the local museum, for which an exciting tour was organized.

At 5 p.m. we met for the traditional Apéro, with self-baked and self-bought delicacies, then moved on to dinner.

Thanks to Patrick and Elisabeth! After dinner Guido and Christoph played the clarinet: the good mood couldn't be topped.

On Sunday there were activities suiting every taste: E-bikers set out on the Herz route, others joined a shorter hike with Billy or made themselves comfortable in the lodge and assisted the kitchen team. Most of us took the bus to Lü-derenalp and hiked to Napf and Mettlenalp.

We had a picnic in the sun and enjoyed the great view after reaching the Napf.

Monday was departure day. Some of us went straight home, others made a trip to Kambly, went for a little tour by e-bike or a walk along the Ilfis, before heading home.

Many thanks to the organization team of Helen, Elisabeth and Fritz and the chef Patrick! And to all participants who shared their openness and good mood.

We're looking forward to next year – Pentecost '22 (June 4th-6th) is already added to many calendars.

• • •



14TH SERVAS PEACE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

By Mehmet Ateş Servas Peace School Coordinator

14. Servas Peace School
14. Servas Barış Okulu
EKİNCİ KÖYÜ, Antakya, Turkey

Face to face & Online

SERVAS PEACE SCHOOL ANTAKYA TURKEY 2021

Come volunteer for Children and enjoy the diversity with us.
July 10-18 th, 2021

mehsevi@hotmail.com servaspeaceschool servaspeaceschool

Face to Face & Online

Come to Antakya, Turkey. Share your background with children.

Stay with local families. Meet cultures and make friends. July 10-18th, 2021

Peace school short movie <https://youtu.be/mEHnA94qKZQ>

Fill out the form to volunteer at this event in our village. Please follow the details on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/95345139652>

All volunteers need to prove that they are (COVID) vaccinated twice, to able to join the face-to-face school (not online, of course).

—Mehmet Ateş Coordinator

Volunteer application form, send to mehsevi@hotmail.com:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1gDT0vigdzuCvpJYcTsVULBsUbA6Zfc2EUG9bF0-rVcpCGw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Servas Peace School aims to bring the variety of the world to villages, develop feelings of peace in children, provide conditions for volunteers to

learn local culture and experience different ways of living on Earth.

Servas Peace School also aims to train local children and people and help them become world citizens and Servas members. That is the value that makes Servas Peace School sustainable.

How does Servas Peace School work?

- Servas Peace School has no fixed curriculum or programme. The background of the volunteers defines the programme.

- No budget or a manager needed in this school. The volunteers take decisions altogether.

- Servas Peace School happens every summer. The duration of the school differs (from 1 week to 3 weeks).

- Local and international Servas (also non-Servas) members come to the village and teach their topics to local children in a workshop style mostly outdoor (in forests, gardens, yards, streets, etc.). In this school it is believed that every person (farmers, workers, artists, teachers, etc.) has something to teach and needs to learn.

- Use of technological tools in the workshops is not encouraged.

- Volunteers sponsor themselves to travel (however, they can apply for support if they need).

- Volunteers can join the event for one day or the whole Peace School period. Local assistants help them with workshops and translation with local people (if needed).

- Local families host volunteers for 3-4 days and provide food for them. They attend cultural and social activities in the area. The idea derives from the fact that when you live with a family you share a lot, face your prejudice if you have, exchange background and usually become friends.

- Volunteers do workshops in the mornings and evenings. They have free time during the day. They usually spend time with locals and enjoy cultural activities.

- Volunteers can come to the village with their own children.

- Servas Peace Choir is formed with children and they learn to sing songs in local languages and in the languages of the volunteers.

- City, village, nature tours are organized for the volunteers.

- At the end of the school period, a Servas Peace Party is organized with the local people and children present their products and skills.

• • •



Canadians in Action: Their Stories

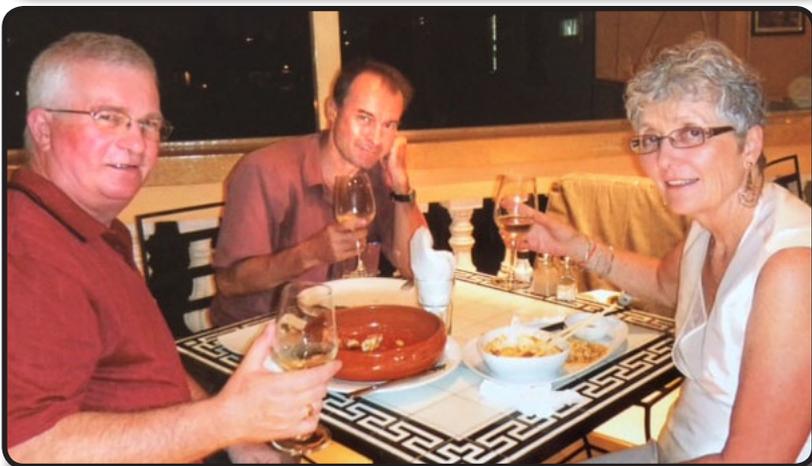


Wonderful Experiences by Canadian member, Beth Quesnel

Beth and Bob from British Columbia had some wonderful experiences with Servas Day Hosts. Don't forget this Servas option. Here they are on three different trips to: Dubai, Cambodia and Israel.

Below: 2008, Dubai, UAE: our host invited us to a banquet his company was organizing at a golf course. Beth (centre) with the golf club.

Bottom: 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - Birthday Supper for Beth at "Foreign Correspondents Club" with Host Mauritania (centre) Bob (left) and Beth.



Below right: 2017, Jerusalem, Israel. Day Hosts, Lesley and Meir showed us sights such as this beautiful Monument to Tolerance. Later they shared a Shabbat meal with us in their home.

• • •



Canadians Many Meetings

By Sylvia Krogh

Before Covid, I hosted annual potlucks for Servas hosts and travellers in these Canadian cities: Edmonton in October and in Victoria in March. After eating delicious potluck food, all attendees shared their recent Servas travels or hosting experiences. This is a photo of a typical turnout for our host meetings.



Costa Rican Napoleon Escobar’s friendship with Servas Canada

Canadians benefit tremendously by being able to enjoy generous hosts in many countries.

In the past, Servas countries had to print their own hosts lists and distribute them worldwide. Countries with few travellers [thus low income] did not always have the funds to do this. Servas Canada [with high traveller income] printed many host books for them.

My husband, Alan and I were going to Costa Rica in 1995 and brought the Costa Rica host books to the Costa Rica peace secretary Napoleon Escobar.



He and his wife escorted us to many events, and we had wonderful meals in their home, making our trip so memorable.

In 2001, my cousin, Birk and his wife, Karen, from western Canada were spending their honeymoon in Costa Rica. While there Karen was taken to a hospital. I phoned Napoleon who quickly came to the hospital and acted as translator. Karen survived. Napoleon attended the Servas International conference in Thailand in 2001, where he assisted in Spanish-English translation.

Napoleon became aware of “scytheworks.com” who made and gave away scythes to assist people in developing countries. Servas travellers, Elizabeth and Chips of Edmonton, agreed to take some scythes in their suitcases to Costa Rica. And despite fears about carrying “weapons” across borders, they did and as a result, formed a friendship with Napoleon.

This is just an example of the great contacts and friendships that exist because of Servas.

Written by Sylvia Krogh of Edmonton who was on the Servas Canada board for 17 years, and now is the Northern Alberta Host Coordinator and Interviewer. Assistance from Servas hosts Napoleon Escobar and Chips Reid.



Editor’s Note: One bitterly cold February day, years ago, I went for a walk near my Toronto home. I decided after 20 minutes of freezing that I’d had enough of Canada’s winter. An hour later I booked a last-minute flight and phoned the Costa Rican Nat Sec whom I knew from Servas conferences. Two days later she greeted me at the San Jose airport. Isn’t Servas great? Canadians have a great respect for the people of this highly literate, democratic, peaceful country.

• • •



Climate Emergency

By Jeanne Devine, Brita Schmitz,
and SI representatives to the UN in New York City

June 5 is World Environment Day, designated by the UN to encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is a day to raise awareness on environmental issues emerging from marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming.

“The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win”. —UN Secretary-General António Guterres



What is happening? Climate change is the warming of the earth.

What is causing it? An increase in greenhouse gases (GHC) from burning fossil fuels - coal, oil, petroleum, and natural gas:

- 82% Carbon dioxide – from cars, buildings, power plants
- 10% Methane from natural gas, petroleum industry
- 5% Nitrous oxide from agricultural practices plus, a loss of trees reducing the absorption of CO₂.¹

War and preparation for war are also major contributors to the climate crisis through wasted resources and environmental damage. Military aircraft,

for example, consume ¼ of the world’s jet fuel! ² Global military expenditures of \$2 trillion, including \$105 billion on nuclear weapons, could better be used for climate change mitigation.³

Consequences? A huge increase in natural disasters

From 2000-2019, there were 7348 reported natural disasters:

44% floods, 28% storms, 8% earthquakes, 6% extreme temperatures, 5% landslides, 5% droughts, 3% wildfire.

1 million deaths and 3 trillion USD damage. (90% of these disasters are classified as weather- and climate-related, costing the world 520 billion USD each year).⁴

Who is Impacted? All of us!!! Increased temperatures, rising sea levels, forest fires, storms, and desertification impact gender equality, poverty, hunger, loss of biodiversity, food and water insecurity and migration.

In every area, women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Over 258 million migrants around the world now live outside their country of birth, most due to climate disruption.

Climate change is a major threat to international peace and security. It leads to political unrest, violence, and mass migrations.

It is time for action! The Climate Crisis is endangering life itself! Governments, businesses, civil society, youth, and academia must work together. We have the technology and resources to create a green future in which suffering is diminished, equality is honored, and we can be in harmony with nature.

What Servas members can do about climate change:

Get informed. See partial list at bottom.

Spend time in parks and natural terrain – appreciate the planet we live in.

Become energy conscious: consume less, recycle, reuse, eliminate plastics, use energy-efficient appliances.

Become transportation savvy: walk, use public transportation, buy electric vehicles where possible.

Eat natural food: locally grown, less meat and dairy, avoid pesticides and herbicides.

Get involved: Communicate with your local, regional, and national officials – ask for their plan to reduce carbon. Join local committees and organizations working for climate change.

Footnotes and resources for more information:

1: www.IPCC.ch: the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

2. [A Global Security System: An Alternative to War](#), 5th Edition, World Beyond War

3: www.ICAN.org: International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons

4: UNDRR Report ((UN office on Disaster Risk Reduction); [The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019](#))

Take actions with international organizations working for a greener world:

www.350.org / www.Greenpeace.org / www.unep.org UN Environment Program

Donate your time: International organizations and look for local resources in your area.

World Wide Organization of Organic Farmers, WWOOF.org; volunteer, free room/board, learn about organic farming.

Volunteers for Peace, vfp.org, 3000 projects in the world; nominal charge for room/board.

• • •





Canada on Fire: Climate Change?

Compiled by Michael Johnson, SINB editor

July 1: Canada Day: A deadly fire that started on June 30 destroyed a village in Western Canada [British Columbia, B.C.].

More than 1,000 people living around Lytton, B.C., northeast of Vancouver, were forced to leave with little notice on June 29, 2021. With the loss of “most homes” and structures in the village, including an ambulance station and the police station, about 90 per cent of the village is gone.

Residents had seconds to leave.



Lytton, B.C., broke the record for the **hottest temperature in Canada** for three straight days, peaking at 49.6 C on June 29, just a day before the fire began, sparked by a braking train.

49.6 C is almost 4.6 C higher than the previously highest temperature ever recorded in Canada: 45 C in 1937.

“Global warming – we are living it already – it’s not the future, it’s here.”

With 300 active wildfires across B.C., Meteorologist for Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natalie Hasell, said: “Global warming – we are living it already – it’s not the future, it’s here.”

The B.C. coroner’s office said the death toll from the heat wave was in the hundreds.

...

Environmental Peace and the New Normal

By Júlia Renata Mesquita de Brito



This is the winning essay in the High School / Private School category of Servas Brazil's writing contest for Brazilian youth this past year. The theme of this writing contest was "Environment and Peace: What do they have to do with me?" Servas Canada provided funding for the prize awarded to Júlia for her essay.



Environment and Peace: What do they have to do with me?

With the arrival of COVID-19, we changed our lives to avoid infection. These changes have impacted the relationship between humans and the environment, and have disturbed the national peace.

Covid-19 has established a "new normal", with many people now wearing masks and working from home. With the reduction of motor vehicles and with closed industries and commercial establishments, there has been a considerable decrease in polluting gases, contributing to cleaner air.

The coronavirus is a great destabilizer of world peace, causing inequality in Brazil, as the rich get richer and those with a lower income get poorer. Another consequence is the increase in unemployment, making life even more difficult for many Brazilians.

Therefore, there is a great need for an equitable income distribution in the country so that there is a better quality of life for the less favoured. As well, due to the pandemic, there is greater ecological awareness helping to maintain peace in the world.

...

SI member groups in Pioneering Electronic General Assembly Vote

By Jonny Sågänger, President, Servas International

During June, July and August, SI Exco is executing a digital Extraordinary Servas International General Assembly (E-SIGA 2021). This is the first time a SI General Assembly decision will be executed electronically.

The E-SIGA 2021 initiative has support in the SI Statutes (2018) and was approved by a double majority of the Servas International (SI) member groups in the May 2021 SI Distant Vote. The voting will be about one single item:

- A SI Exco motion about amendments to the Servas International (SI) Statutes (2018) to allow for SI to formally register as an international non-governmental organisation (iNGO) and association in Switzerland with a registration number.

Such a registration has been the goal for SI for a long time.

A distant vote in November 2011 authorized SI Exco to seek a suitable country in which to formally register SI.

The initiative to formally register SI with a registration number was decided and partly financed by SI GA 2015, with additional funding from SI GA 2018.

SI Exco is executing the E-SIGA 2021 with an electronic voting process based on the SI Distant Vote system that was introduced in SI's statutes in 2006 and has been developed and used since then. This means that E-SIGA will be performed through an asynchronous web and email based distant voting where all eligible SI member groups are invited to participate.

The SI Distant Vote Administrator Chris Patterson of Servas New Zealand is working in cooperation with SI Exco as expert and administrative support.



SI member groups are now preparing:

1. To choose a person who will be registered as the voting delegate for your member group for E-SIGA 2021. This should be completed before July 21.

2. To participate in the live (Zoom) information meetings that will be held in July. See more details below.

3. To vote Yes, No or Abstain to SI Exco's motion which you will receive. Voting will take place via email August 1 – 15.

Important dates:

July (various dates): Information meetings on Zoom for member groups in

- a) East Asia and the Pacific (English)
- b) Africa and Europe (English)
- c) Americas (South America, Central America and North America) (English and Spanish/Portuguese).

The times and dates for these Zoom meetings will be announced in an upcoming Mail out to the SI member groups.

July 21: Delegate information should be received by DVA.

August 1–15: Voting takes place via email.

August 17: Voting result will be announced.

• • •

SI represented at HospEx Summit 2021

By Jonny Sågänger, President, Servas International



Photo: Servas International's president Jonny Sågänger participated at the HospEx Summit 2021 to present Servas and to discuss possible cooperation with other non-profit hospitality organisations.

On May 8 I participated in a digital meeting where a large number of non-profit organisations with hospital exchange programs were represented.

The purpose of the meeting – which was called HospEx Summit 2021 – was to initiate and inspire future dialogue amongst the existing HospEx networks, which are run by non-profit organisations and are easily accessible.

I had the opportunity to present the history of Servas and our organisation's current activities. After a number of similar presentations there was a panel discussion in which I also participated.

One idea that was discussed by the communities around the virtual table was the possibility to create a HospEx ecosystem where the participating organisations share experiences, knowledge and resources.

There were others in deep talks about tech and community, and afterwards, everyone discussed robustly for hours.

These were the items on the agenda for the meeting:

- Intro to the HospEx Platforms.
- Paywalls: A Blessing or a Curse?
- Building a HospEx EcoSystem: Does it Make Sense?
- Tech Talk: How to Improve Networks Together?
- Facilitating Community in Difficult Times: An Open Discussion

The entire agenda and video recordings from the HospEx Summit 2021 can be found on this web link:

<https://hospexsummit.org/>

In total, the HospEx Summit lasted 3.5 hours with another 4 hours continuing into discussions.

Couch Surfing, which is a commercial organisation run as a company, had been invited to the HospEx Summit in May. However, the organisers of the summit did not get any answer to the invitation.

The organizers of the HospEx Summit in May are planning to organize a second one.

• • •

Servas New key Persons 2021

SERVAS BANGLADESH



The Annual Meeting of Servas Bangladesh took place in March. There are some changes in the National Committee.

Actual board members:

Mohd Rezaul Karim, National Secretary

Faridul Hasan Shuvo, National Host List Coordinator

Golam Rabbani Hiru, National Peace Secretary

Hasan Kamrul, National Treasurer

Outgoing board members: Miam Taimur Hussein (Bony) and Md Ekram Ullah



Mohd Rezaul Karim, Faridul Hasan Shuvo, Golam Rabbany Hiru, Hasan Kamrul.

SERVAS JAPAN



Since April 1st there are changes in the board of Servas Japan

Actual board members:

Suwako Nagata, National Secretary

Nobuko Kawamura, National Secretary Deputy

Hideaki Yoshioka, ServasOnline Administrator

Motonobu Takeyama, National Host List Coordinator [no photo]

Yukiko Namariyama, Youth and Families Contact

Shinobu Nakazaki, ServasOnline Administrator

Outgoing board member: National Secretary Tomoko Hirai



S. Nagata, N. Kawamura, H. Yoshioka, Y. Namariyama, S. Nakazaki

SERVAS AUSTRALIA



Servas Australia had a Virtual AGM on April 10th, a good virtual turnout with 20 members online. New keyworkers have been elected.

Actual board members:

Craig Melrose, President

Norma Nicholson, National Secretary

Chloe Mason, National Peace Secretary.

Paul Nielsen, Membership Officer/ IT Coordinator

Geoff Sheldon, Newsletter Editor.

Outgoing board members:

President Derek Curnow and National Secretary Lauren Gordon.

- 7 Norma Nicholson - New National Secretary
- 8 Jane Hamilton - Tas Host Coordinator
- 9 Colin Finger - Vic Travel Officer, Linda Finger - Member, Lauren Gordon - Outgoing National Secretary
- 10 Chloe Mason - Peace Secretary
- 11 Liana Taylor - New SA Travel Officer
- 12 Craig Melrose - New President - Outgoing NSW Travel Officer/Host Coordinator, Peter Hough - New NSW Travel Officer
- 13 Peter Williams - Member
- 14 Michael Noske - SA Host Coordinator (shared with Jen Richardson not present)
- 15 Daniel Ben-Sefer - Web Master
- 16 Sonja Preston - Tas Travel Officer

Note: Please submit portraits, cropped and well lit. We can't see faces well in such online shots:

Screen Capture from the Servas Australia AGM (Zoom Meeting). Left to right, top to bottom:

- 1 Derek Curnow - Outgoing President
- 2 Paul Nielsen - Membership Officer
- 3 Peter Lee - Treasurer
- 4 Tina Cinzio - Member
- 5 Gill Bust - New QL Host Coordinator
- 6 Allan Mitchell - NT Host Coordinator & Travel Officer



SERVAS KAZAKHSTAN



Servas Kazakhstan is glad to welcome back Yerlan Suleimen, a former active Servas member who lived some years out of the country and became now a key person for Servas Kazakhstan

Actual board members:

Karlygash Ichshanova, National Secretary / Yerlan Suleimen, National Deputy
Arailym Mazhit, National Treasurer / Robert Aigarakova, National Peace Secretary

Karlygash Ichshanova, Yerlan Suleimen, Arailym Mazhit, Robert Aigarakova



SERVAS BRAZIL



Due to the untimely death of Maria do Socorro, National Deputy, the board of Servas Brazil has been reorganized.

Actual board members:

From left to right:

Neuma Augusta Dantas e Silva, National Secretary
Severina Santana, National Deputy
Marcos Goursand, National Peace Secretary
Raphael Marcelino, Youth & Family Contact



Brazil Board
members continued.

From left to right:



Luciléa Silva, National Treasurer
 Terezinha (Tere) de Paula, Host list Coordinator
 Yara Silva, ServasOnline Administrator
 Conceição Goreth Santos, Coordinator of Making Connections
 Anna Cecilia Galvao, Coordinator of Communication

SERVAS BRITAIN



The Virtual AGM of Servas Britain was held in June. New members joined the National Committee. See the screen shot of a recent Servas Britain meeting.

Actual board members:

- Barbara Forbes, joint National Secretary, internal affairs
- Carlos Dabezies, joint National Secretary, external affairs
- Picot Cassidy, National Treasurer
- Rachael Clayburn, Traveler Secretary
- David Ashby, Traveler Secretary
- Alison Newbery, Regions Coordinator

Outgoing board members: National Secretary Ruth Allen, Peace Secretary Carol Allen, Travel Secretary Vicki Edmunds and National Main Contact Mike Atkinson.



— • —
 To all outgoing board members: THANK YOU, Servas is grateful for the work you have realized. A special thought for the commitment of Maria do Socorro, her death is a big loss for Servas Brazil.

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to the newly elected en re-elected members of the board in a lot of countries. We wish you good luck and we thank you sincerely for your contribution and involvement.

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

• • •

Remembering

We remember four wonderful women, members from around the globe.

Our friend, Ewa Dzierzawska (April 25, 1950 – June 12, 2021)



By Servas Poland

Our dearest Ewa... So many memories, so much work, ideas, fun shared over so many years. So many meetings, trips, and parties. So many friends. In the course of her life she has touched the lives of so many people. Whoever met her was immediately drawn to her warmth and kindness, amused by her wicked sense of humour, her ability to laugh first and foremost at herself.

Ewa embodied the ideas of Servas - enthusiastic, open, welcoming, curious and friendly. Dependable, ready to help, caring, funny and relaxed.

She became a member of Servas Poland in 1981, when it was an underground organisation in the then still communist Poland. She participated in establishing it as a legal association in 1991. Since then, she had played a leading role in running and expanding Servas Poland - as its leader, inviting other people to cooperate with her, inspiring them to get involved, then as a board member and a mentor, supporting the younger generations. For over a decade she had also been part of Servas International Development Committee, reaching out to countries and Servas groups in different parts of the world. She was a key person in organising international meetings and a GA in Poland (Olsztynek, Tylicz, Piaski) as well as gatherings in other countries, especially east of the Polish border.

In her professional life Ewa was a wonderful, dedicated and well-liked English teacher. We were amazed at how well she fit in all areas of her busy life, professional, family and Servas. Her family's home was always open to visitors from all over the world, she was a cherished guest wherever she went.

We feel blessed that we have known her and could call her our friend.

—Servas Poland. — • —

Here are some of the many loving words of appreciation, sorrow and gratitude from us whose paths crossed Ewa's gentle and caring existence. Forever in our hearts!

— • —

A heartfelt memory for our dear Ewa Dzierzawska, with true gratitude for her spirit of friendship, for her generous dedication to Servas Poland and Servas International for so many years where she gathered many friends.

Peace to you Ewa, you will always be in our heart !

Marisa Contini (Servas Uruguay)

— • —

It was with great sadness that we learned of Ewa Dzierżawska's passing after a long illness. Ewa was the true embodiment of friendship, sympathy, companionship, positive spirit and willpower. She was the person we all turned to, for matters related to the development of our Association, creation of new groups/countries, funding of activities, and much more. She had the true Servas spirit and took on every task with a smile.

Ewa was known in all four corners of the world, either those Servas members who had met her in person at many events that she attended, or who contacted her by email or social media, and always got an answer from her. We will miss her warm smile and her gentle voice. But, we are sure she smiles on us from above.

We, at SI ExCo, wish to offer our deepest condolences to Ewa's family and friends, and to Servas Poland.

—SI ExCo: Jonny, Carla, Kiat, Jim, Radha, Paige, Paul



— • —

Ewa kept the curiosity and enthusiasm of a child and never hesitated to try unfamiliar things with an open mind. We will cherish her memory forever. Your shining smile will always stay with us! —Junghee, Servas South Korea.

— • —

Ewa was a good friend of mine. I am honored and blessed to have known Ewa. —Карлыгаш Ищанова, NS of Servas Kazakhstan

— • —

Ewa's work for peace, women's engagement and the improvement of the world attest to her good character. —Neuma Dantas, NS Servas Brazil

— • —

I recall Ewa's resilience, her joy of life. May her soul be biking, exploring the other world. May her soul continue dancing in company with other good souls. —Helga Merkelbach, Servas Germany

— • —

Ewa came to participate in Servas SEA Meeting 2015 in Yogya. All my members feel sad of her passing. —Amin Sudarto, NS Servas Indonesia

— • —

Our dearest friend Ewa was one of the friendliest and most open people, with a wonderful sense of humour, always seeing the best side of everybody. Her home was always open and welcoming, hundreds enjoyed her and her family's hospitality. —Arnoud Philippo, Servas Spain and Administrator of Servas International "closed" Facebook Group.

— • —

Thinking of Ewa's family and all of you in Servas Poland at this hard time. A great loss of a wonderful person. —Lauren Gordon, Servas Australia.

— • —

Ewa you always showed so much energy, happiness, warmth and sympathy with everybody. You were one whom we could always trust and who never said no. —Carla Kristensen, Servas Portugal and SI Vice President

— • —

I was working with Ewa many times to help new Servas Groups on ServasOnLine. She was a very nice person – she will be missed but not forgotten.

—Joseph Lestang, Servas France & SOL

— • —

A lovely, kind and true person.

—Raffaella Rota, Servas Italy and convenor of SI Youth & Families Committee

— • —

Best wishes for a deep peace.

—Michel Sanz, NS Servas Cuba

— • —

Ewa: I had the great joy of meeting you in Japan after a Servas Assembly. Thank you for all your beautiful gestures in life. —Luis Carlos Neiva, Servas Spain

— • —

Melody and I hope that you will be in peace. I will always think very fondly of you. You are a great soul.

—Sermin Utku, Servas Turkey

— • —

For 40 years, Ewa has been a good Servas friend. We both joined in 1981 and got involved quickly. I saw her enthusiasm and warmth at each of the seven SI conferences I attended.

—Michael Johnson, SINB editor.

— • —

Ewa [left] with her son Janek. Right is Joanna Mozga, the National Secretary of Servas Poland. All three have been very active in the organisation for years.

• • •



Judith Rivadeneira Morales (April 1947-April 2021)

former National Secretary Servas Peru

Our good friend Judith Rivadeneira passed away after contracting the **Covid-19 virus**.

Judith lived in Lima, Peru and has been Deputy and National Secretary in Servas Peru 2007-2010. She participated at the 'Encuentro Latinoamericano' in Villa de Leyva in Colombia in 2009 and was present at SICOGA 2009 in Mar del Plata in Argentina. Building a peaceful and better world was Judith's big dream.

It was such a great pleasure to meet Judith every time we visited our family in Peru. We feel very sad for this big loss. Un gran abrazo.

—Rita Dessauvage, Belgium

Right:

Judith Rivadeneira past National Secretary of Servas Peru.



Below:

In Lima, from left: Judith, Ana, Rita, Luc enjoying life.

• • •



Judy Shotten, Servas Israel. 1924 - 2020

We don't begin to have room to list the praise and achievements of Judy, but here are a few excerpts from two sources.

— • —

Judy has been an active member since the birth of Servas Israel. She was the coordinator for the Jerusalem area for many years. Judy was active in Servas International contributing to the development of Servas in other countries.

She was a peace and people lover, always willing to share her abode and her experiences with visitors from near and afar.
—Claudia, Servas Israel Nat Sec.

<https://ccw.org.il/en/ccw-founding-mother-judy-shotten-1924-2020/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovpw6gcsLTs>

— • —

Judy was born and raised in Winnipeg, Canada in a very Zionist family. She came to Israel in 1949. As a social worker, she helped create many institutions in Israel such as the first mental health clinic in the country and the first psychology clinic at Hebrew University.

In 1986, she joined the collective of women who founded CCW, Israel's pioneering feminist therapy clinic, and remained a precious member of the organization until her passing. Being one of Israel's first licensed sex therapists, Judy was a true feminist, a trail-blazer and a pioneer in mental health and sexual health, helping countless women.

• • •



Maria do Socorro Aragão Alves

Servas Brazil Vice President, (01/01/1954 – 05/03/2021)

Dear Maria do Socorro Aragão, National Deputy of Servas Brasil, will remain alive in our hearts through her friendly way. She was committed to noble causes. We admired her persistence in defending her principles, her solidarity, companionship and empathy with others.

We appreciate the greetings of the Latin American secretaries and the SI Executive Committee

—Neuma Dantas, Servas Brazil National Secretary

María do Socorro hosted members of Servas Uruguay with affection, hospitality and always smiling. Our heartfelt tribute to her Servas spirit.

—Daniela Duarte, Servas Uruguay

• • •



SERVAS, A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WITHIN VIRTUAL REACH

Discover the Servas community here on the world wide web:

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

The SI News is sent in digital format to all National Secretaries and Key international People. **We encourage them to distribute it widely.** It is a quarterly publication containing articles of interest such as communications from SI ExCo, stories of Servas experiences, articles about Peace, Servas and the UN.

—By Carla Cristensen (SI VP) & Jonny Sågänger (SI President)

ABOUT THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

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

Editors & Newsletter Coordinators:

Michael Johnson, Editor & Graphic Design

Picot Cassidy, Servas Britain

Itzcóatl (Jorge) Rendon, Mexico

Translators: Isabelle Girard, Lilly Kerekes

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

Email: newsletter@servas.org

We encourage Servas key people around the world to forward this bulletin to individual members. Feel free to quote this bulletin but please mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.

SI EXCO 2018—2022

PRESIDENT:

Jonny Sägänger president@servas.org

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Carla Kristensen vicepresident@servas.org

TREASURER:

Radha B. Radhakrishna treasurer@servas.org

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Kiat Yun Tan generalsecretary@servas.org

MEMBERSHIP & TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY:

Jim Leask & Paul Nielsen mts@servas.org

PEACE SECRETARY:

Paige LaCombe peacesecretary@servas.org



ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, supporting an international network of hosts and travellers. Our network aims to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by offering opportunities for personal contacts between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.