

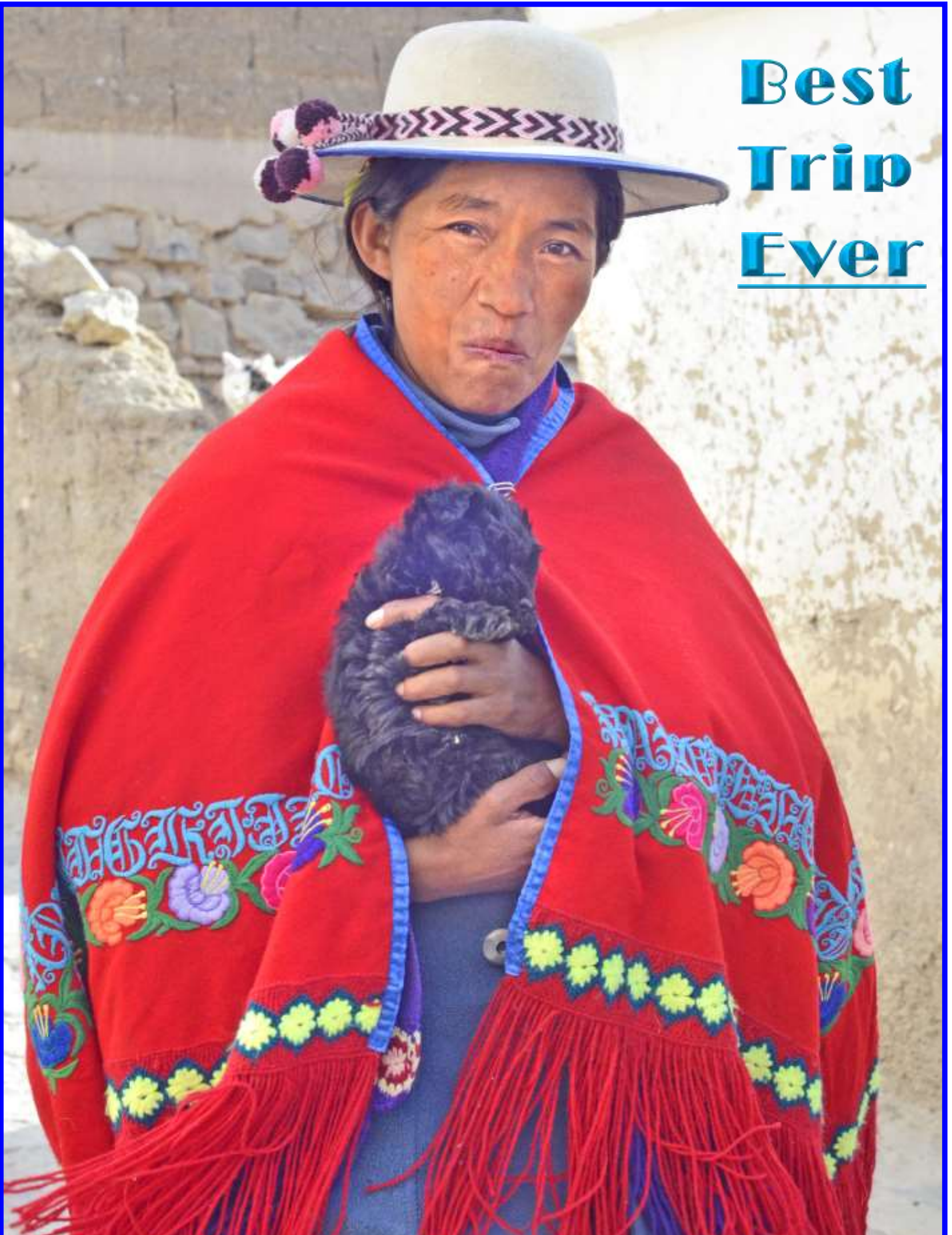


News Bulletin

Vol.27 • No.4 • 2022

Produced by and for members of the Servas community

**Best
Trip
Ever**





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Hello. Are you there?

How do you find hosts and how do travellers find you? Email, text, Facebook, phone, Whatsapp?

What's the best way?

Let's find out. Are you a member of Couchsurfers, BeWelcome, etc.?

Please tell me about it, include your age, country, and name if you wish.

I will publish your story. Thank you.

Your editor, Michael Johnson

newsletter@servas.org

...

Photo above: Local women dressed in traditional Indian dress for the SICOGA 2022 opening ceremony procession.

Cover photo: A woman with her dog in Caspalá, Argentina, wearing a rebozo (fabric with typical local embroidery). See story on page 15.

Photo below: Thanks to the members who sent us photos.

...

The 37th "Pathways Together" will take place in Piedmont (Italy) 7 - 13 July 2023: more details will soon be on www.servas.org.

For more information email piemonte@servas.it.

...



SICOGA 2022



Editor's Note: Photo: Opening day SICOGA ceremonial procession. Here are some conference highlights. First Radha, the new SI President, gives his view. Then Jonny, now General Secretary, tells more.

An Ode to SICOGA2022

By Radha Radhakrishna, SI President

SICOGA2022 was held at the Asia Plateau campus, Pan-chgani, India, a 68-acre (27.5-hectare) property nestled in a regenerated forest, in the shadow of a flat tabletop mountain. It provided a wonderful venue for the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA). The opening ceremony, with Indian-style celebrations and dances, heralded a triumphantly successful meeting where more than 130 members from 39 countries participated.

During the meeting there were animated discussions on climate change, promoting peace during armed conflict, the status of women, and



travelling as a way of reducing prejudices. We agreed that peace among humans requires us to take care of our planet.

We went on many nature walks, much needed to work off all the weight we gained from the wonderful meals served during the conference. We even “talked shop” – speaking, for example, about Version 2 of Servas.org.

The best part of SICOGA 2022 were the intangibles that everyone experienced: the camaraderie, the cultural fusion, and the wonderful Indian hospitality that we enjoyed. The outstanding energy it generated when we do things together was also a high point. It showcased what Servas does best. SICOGA 2022 will stay in our hearts for a very long time.

■ ■ ■

Key Decisions at SIGA

By Jonny Sångänger, SI General Secretary



Photo: Jonny (left) and Radha.

Delegates attending, both physically present and remotely, met during the Servas International General Assembly 2022 (SIGA) that took place in Panchgani, India, November 25–26. We made collective decisions there about the organization's future. We re-elected or newly elected many officers for the coming mandate period.

SIGA is Servas International's highest decision-making body and it's modelled after the United Nations' General Assembly: one nation, one vote.

Voting delegates from the 33 Servas International (mostly nation based*) Member Groups (SI MGs) were physically present. **Note: Most SI Member Groups are nation based, but there are exceptions, for example the member group Belgium/Luxemburg consists of members from those two countries.*

The number of delegates who participated digitally varied during the General Assembly. Some were very far away geographically, a few were just in another room at the SIGA venue due to Covid isolation precautions.



Photo: Canada's delegate, Nancy had to isolate, but thankfully she could participate each day, virtually.



SIGA 2022 approved a motion (SIGA22MOT01) with implications for the SI Statutes (2021), which, following the general assembly's decision, have now been amended. The amendment will reflect that the Servas peace mission now is based on a broadened fundamental principle: the belief in the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of all human beings **as**

well as the conviction that respect and care of the environment are a foundation for a more peaceful world.

Formally Servas had its entire focus on human beings. Now, with the SIGA decision and change of the statutes, Servas' key values are caring for both people and the planet.

The motion was approved with 34 votes, while one member group voted against and two abstained from voting.

SIGA also approved an annual SI financial budget for 2023–2025, or until the next SIGA. The budgeted yearly expense is CHF 86 000 (CHF, Swiss franc, is SI's currency, since SI is registered in Switzerland).

The **Approved Annual Budget for 2023-25** is shown in the chart on this page.

The plan is that income and expense will balance perfectly since the amount the nations pay will be adjusted so that SI Exco collects CHF 86,000 each year from the SI Member Groups.

With approximately 15,000 Servas members worldwide, this would work out to CHF 5.73 per member on average. The average amount will be adjusted based on HDI (which is applied according to a formula approved by the 2021 May DV).

Description	Amount (CHF)
Youth Meetings	4,000
Regional Meetings	4,000
Exco meetings and expenses	2,000
UN Projects	4,000
Peace Projects	2,000
IT Maintenance Expenses	12,000
Other operating expenses	5,000
Technology build expenses	24,000
GA expense Provision	25,000
Special Projects	4,000
Total Payments	<u>86,000</u>

It is anticipated that the amount payable by each country will be between CHF 2.73 and 7.73 per member though some low HDI countries will be exempted. The amount payable by each non-exempted country will be set at the rate per member for that country multiplied by the number of its members

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistic developed by the United Nations to measure various countries' levels of social and economic development.

The human-earth motion and the one about the SI long term budget created a lot of discussions before the delegates reached the final decisions.



The outgoing SI Exco presented recommendations for priorities for incoming SI Exco during the mandate period 2022/23-2025, including budget implications. (SIGA22PROP_7).

The recommendations are about the following subjects:

- Execute SIGA 2022 decisions.
- Adopt Servas.Org System 2.0
- Make sure the new Servas website becomes attractive to members and non-members, suitably functional and stimulates action to promote a more peaceful world.

Photo:

Several Servas ladies put on a sari during the conference.

Photo:

On the last day of the conference, Canada's delegate, Nancy, with white mask, tested negative for Covid and attended SICOGA.

- Complete transition of ALL individual members' data to Servas.Org. Servas.Org should be the one and only Servas membership management system.
- Manage retirement of Key Dolphin which includes adding a Key Person Management System in Servas.Org.



Growth was hampered during the pandemic when economic activity had a downturn, and the world came to a near full stop in 2020. It is starting to pick up now, and we would like to see our membership increase at a faster rate.

- SICOGA. Continue to develop SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) into an event that: promotes the growth of the networks

- Continue to study the feasibility of an online payment system in Servas.org and make a decision to implement it.

- Peace building. Stimulate peace activities on both a global and national level by promoting both virtual and physical in-person meetings. Use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) selected by Servas and the representation at United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna as main fundamentals. SI Exco should recognize that the main responsibility for peace building activities rests with the SI Member Groups and SI committees and teams. SI Exco and SI are mainly enablers, not organizing forces.

- Growth. Prioritize that Servas grows the organization by recruiting more members both young and old. SI Exco should also explore possibilities for SI to find new sources of income from alternative to the membership fees. Servas

between individual Servas members, and can be achieved with a minimum of ecological footprint and release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere.

Photo:
Dressed in traditional Indian clothing, from left, are some outgoing key people stepping down from the following positions: SI Treasurer Radha Radhakrishna, SI General Secretary Kiat Y Tan, SI Peace Secretary Paige LaCombe and SI Membership & Technology Secretary Jim Leask.



Motions and Elections

Below is a summary of other SIGA 2022 decisions made about motions and election results.

- Code of ethics and behaviour (SIGA22-D-018).

All country/groups are bound by the SI Code of Ethics and Behaviour. All members of the country/group are expected to agree to this policy as a fundamental requirement for membership in Servas. The *Code of ethics and behaviour* document will be worked on by the Subject Working Group and presented for approval to the General Assembly through a distant vote in May 2023

- Standardized and universal LOI (SIGA22-D-019).

The model for the Letter of Introduction (LOI), available on www.servas.org in each member's profile, should be adopted fully and universally by all Servas groups/countries. Once filled out by the traveller-member, the LOI (Letter of Introduction) will be approved by the country's Traveller Officer, whose name and contact details will appear on the LOI. The LOI is validated by the Servas Group/country in which the traveler is a member. The Traveler Officer will ensure that the member has completed all the steps to be a full member before receiving the LOI.

The LOI, valid for a maximum of one year, is limited to the period of validity of the traveller's membership to a specific Servas group/country. The traveller is responsible for the accuracy and updating of all the information contained in the LOI.

- SI Conflict and Resolution Committee (SI CRC) re-established (SIGA22-D-021).

The Servas International Conflict Resolution Committee (SI CRC) members should be elected by the Servas International General Assembly, not nominated by SI Exco.

The SI CRC should consist of five members, elected for total independence and autonomy of its work goal. The current job description for SI CRC should be updated and approved by SI ExCo 2022-2025, no later than March 31, 2023.

- SI Nominations committee – not an appointed team (SIGA22-D-014). Servas International Nominations Committee (SI NC) should be a group that is elected by Servas International General Assembly (SIGA). The committee should replace the current SI Nominations Team (SI NT) which is appointed by the Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco). Details about the number of members of the SI Nominations Committee (SI NC), how and when member of SI NC will be elected etc. will be decided by an upcoming SI Distant Vote (SI DV).

- Next SIGA will be in about 3 years (SIGA22-D-022)

- SI Member Group's status. Approve membership revision and voting rights. Membership revision and voting rights were approved. (SIGA22-D-006)

Servas Pakistan to be reinstated as member of SI. (SIGA22-D-007)

The following countries lost their membership status: Honduras, Nigeria, Slovenia, Sierra Leone, Peru, Greece, Kazakhstan.

(SIGA22-D-008)

- Approval of SIGA 2022 minutes (SIGA22-D-032).

The SIGA 2022 minutes were approved as correct records.

Elected for the period 2022/23-2025 are:

SI Exco, SI's global board

SI President (SI P): Radha Radhakrishna – USA. Radha Radhakrishna replaces Jonny Sångänger – Sweden.

SI Vice President (SI VP): Carla Kristensen – Portugal. Carla Kristensen was re-elected.

SI General Secretary (SI GS): Jonny Sångänger – Sweden. Jonny Sångänger replaces Kiat Y Tan.

SI Treasurer (SI T): Suresh Jain – India. Suresh Jain replaces Radha Radhakrishna.

SI Peace Secretary (SI PS): Francisco Salomón Luna Aburto – Mexico. Francisco Salomón replaces Paige LaCombe – USA.

SI Membership and Technology Secretary (SI MTS): Paul Nielsen – Australia. Paul Nielsen replaces Jim Leask – Canada.

SI Distant Vote Administrator (SI DVA): Craig Melrose – Australia. Craig Melrose replaces Chris Patterson – New Zealand.

SI Internal Audit Committee (SI iAC): Yukiko Namariyama – Japan, Gulsen Elyak – Turkey, Ana Rita Gama – Portugal. Outgoing SI iAC members: Rick Wolfe – USA, Phyllis Chinn – USA.

SI Development Committee (SI DC): Pamela Yang – Taiwan, Evren Özkan –

Turkey, Neuma Dantas – Brazil, Jamie Robertson – Britain, Bhudeb Chakravarti – India.

Outgoing members of the Development Committee: Fidèle Rutayisire – Rwanda, Wolfgang Stapelfeldt – Germany, Janek Dzierzawski – Poland and Leandro Hoyos – Colombia.

SI Youth and Families Committee (SI YFC) Elected: Raffaella Rota – Italy, Elena Olivera Begué – Spain, Bogdan Ionescu – Romania, Mehmet Ateş – Turkey, Hiren Goradia – India. Outgoing SI YFC members: Susana Martinez and Mar Ferré – Spain, Natasha Noreen – Italy, Aneris Cao – Chile.

The **decisions** and the **minutes** can be found in full detail on servas.org:

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

All the SIGA 2022 items have a serial event number and a decision number.

■ ■ ■

Photo: The outgoing SI Exco was dressed in turbans, spectacular traditional headgear, by knowledgeable local collaborators.

In the picture are from left: Radha Radhakrishna, Paige LaCombe, Kiat Y Tan, Jim Leask, Jonny Sångänger, Carla Kristensen and Paul Nielsen.

Photo: Manish Jain

NOTE: *Thank you* Manish for sending many photos to the SINB.



SICOGA in Photos

Right: The beautiful logo of the meeting.

Middle: Key people taking a front seat.

Bottom: Impressive Korean acrobatic dancers.



Thanks to many who sent in their photos including Manish, Jim and others.
Top: The historic first: a virtual vote. President Radha, left, helps the voters.
Middle: In-person voting took place with “paddles” showing voter’s country.
Middle: In-person voting took place with “paddles” showing voter’s country.



Women in Servas

Women were well represented in all aspects of SICOGA, participating in every event and forming part of committees and the group



Everyone is important in Servas

SI Exco 2023-25, from left:

1. Mr. Francisco Salomón Luna Aburto, Servas Mexico, Peace Secretary
2. Mr. Suresh Jain, Servas India, Treasurer
3. Mr. Radha Radhakrishna, Servas USA, President
4. Mr. Jonny Sångänger, Servas Sweden, General Secretary
5. Ms. Carla Kristensen, Servas Portugal, Vice-President
6. Mr. Jim Leask, Servas Canada, Co-Membership and Technology Secretary
7. Mr. Paul Nielson, Servas Australia, Membership and Technology Secretary.



Every person at the conference contributed and participated.



Many new friends were made and some “old friends” reunited.



A Newsletter inside a Newsletter

During the Servas conference a newsletter was produced almost every day. Congratulations to that wonderful editorial team. You may read every issue online at: <https://www.servas.org/en/newsletters-bulletins> . ■ ■ ■

SICOGA NEWS 2022

No: 5 | 26th November, 2022

News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)



TRENDING TODAY

- Election Results
- How many languages do you speak? Meet Rachana Mahajan!
- Indian traditions and colourful clothes
- First win of the day
- Mysterious photo revealed! Did you guess it right?



Smiling previous and new Exco members.

Photo: Manish Jain

Election Results!

The new Exco and committee members have been elected! Radha Radhkrishna (previous treasurer) was elected as the new Servas International President. All 37 delegates with voting rights trusted him with the role. Carla Kristensen stays as Vice president. The rest of the Exco positions are the following:

- Treasurer: Jain Suresh Sohanlal
- General Secretary: Jonny Sāgānger
- Peace Secretary: Francisco Salomón Luna Aburto
- Membership and Technology Secretary: Paul Nielsen

Following that, Craig Melrose was elected as Distant Vote Administrator and the committees have been fully filled.

- Development Committee: Pamela Yang, Neuma Dantas, Jamie Robertson, Bhudeb Chakravarti and Evren Özkan.

- Youth and Families Committee: Bogdan Ionescu, Elena Olivera Begué, Mehmet Ateş, Raffaella Rota and Hiren Goradia.

- Internal Audit Committee: Yukiko Namariyama, Gulsen Elyak and Ana Rita Gama.

During the Sicoga "Closing ceremony" there was a session called "Show of appreciation" where the invaluable work of a large number of Servas International volunteers names were put in the limelight by SI Exco and other key persons behind SICOGA 2022.

Steps to find the results of the election:

1. Go to [servas.org](https://www.servas.org)
2. Go to "Community".
3. Go to "International Conferences".
4. Go to "Sicoga 2022".
5. Go to "Assembly".
6. Go to "Elections".
7. Follow the link under "documentation" title.

Otherwise, follow this link: <https://servas.org/en/nominations-and-elections>

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed over the last 4 years to this amazing project of Servas.

Good luck to all the new volunteers!

Elena Olivera Begué

Servas Argentina Annual Trip 2022

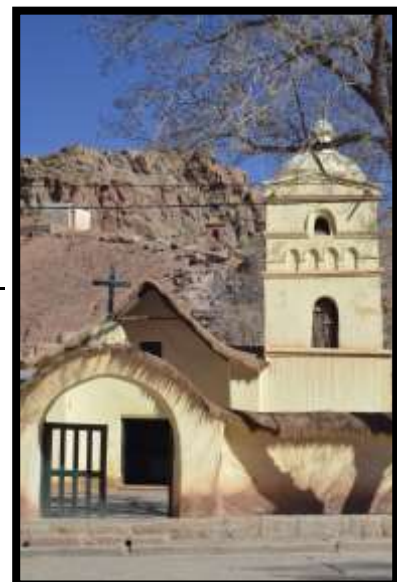


— La Puna

**By Ana Manghi,
Servas Argentina**

Best Trip Ever.

For Servas
Argentina I've
been organizing
an annual trip for
13 years,



choosing places that are hard to visit if you travel on your own. We hire transportation, arrange guides, hotels or cabins, and we provide some meals. This year we organized a two-week trip to La Puna, in the Jujuy province. Jujuy is in the northwest of our country and is the highest province, up on a plateau with towering mountain peaks of 5,000 metres.

We stayed in small towns of indigenous people. The accommodation was very basic, and the meals were traditional ones made from local recipes. We shared many activities with these communities, like learning how to prepare typical tortillas or eating a special dish called Pachamanca, made of vegetables and meat cooked for hours in a hole



in the ground. At a festival with typical dancers in traditional dress, there were live sheep taking part in the festivities. Out in the desert, we explored lagoons. We saw how women do their weaving with their looms, and we took an embroidery class. Since August is the month dedicated to Pachamama, an ancient Earth Mother figure, we celebrated the traditional ritual of the Pachamama many times. We did and learned a lot.

This trip was something unique because we travelled to places that are not touristy and where people received us with love and dedication. This was a trip in which we didn't stay at any Servas houses



because there aren't any in those locations.

These towns are small. Some people are born there and then emigrate to the big cities, but most of them live there all their lives, raising llamas and working in the fields. They live with little money, but they are very attached to their place and their traditions. There were some difficulties, like altitude sickness, but we had so many wonderful experiences that made everything worthwhile.

This was the best Servas trip we ever had. I'm very grateful to all the



people in our group and to the universe for making everything fall into place so we could have an amazing trip.

“Meals were traditional ones made from local recipes.”



Come to the Netherlands: April 2023



Servas Netherlands invites you for a **two-day-program, 14 – 16 April 2023**, with many activities:

- a visit to the city of Groningen with its impressive architecture.
- a guided boat trip along the canals of this popular student-town.
- visit the market and discover the town on your own.
- visit Veenhuizen, the largest Colony of Benevolence, founded in 1829 as a social experiment. The Colony became a World Heritage site in 2021. Discover its history and visit the attractive buildings, the museum, and the beautiful scenery in a guided tour.

You will stay and dine at the home of a Servas host in Groningen, Friesland, or Drenthe.

More information, click:
<https://servas.org/en/news/servas-netherlands-event-april-2023>

■ ■ ■



Servas Multi-Town Meeting

(Oostende, Belgium, June 3-5, 2022)

By Frits Stuurman, Utrecht, Netherlands



Margreet and Frits

A Little History

The first meeting in what was later referred to as a “multi-town meeting” was in Strasbourg in 1998. Margreet and I joined for the first time in the year 2000 in Frankfurt. In our opinion such a meeting was great, and that is why we have now met more than twenty times in one of our towns.

We had a long weekend staying overnight with Servas hosts. We did “tourist things”, had pleasant evenings with lots of singing and meals together, and enjoyed everyone’s dishes at our potluck meal.

Since then, we’ve enjoyed Utrecht in 2001, and later Trier, Mainz and Leuven. The pandemic spoiled meeting in 2020 and 2021.

In 2022 the Belgian coastal town of Oostende (Ostend) inspired us and offered a very agreeable 22nd multi-town meeting. In the future, Servas friends from Utrecht will try and create the sequel for 2023.



Ostend, Pentecost Weekend, 3-5 June 2022

Friday

We began in Ostend’s “Vredestraat” (Peace Street), so suitable for a Servas meeting. All through conversations of “happy to see you again” people took only small portions because there were so many delicious things to try. Michaël Goethals cordially welcomed us and told us about the coming days.



Saturday

The first morning we visited the Mu.ZEE, an appealing museum that everyone liked.

In the evening we visited individual hosts who offered us a cosy dinner and a chance to exchange lots of Servas experiences.

Sunday

The next day was Pentecost and we started in the James Ensor house. In the paintings of this famous Ostend artist, masks play an important role.

In the afternoon we had a guided walk in the village of Middelkerke.

We ended in De Klisse with a farewell dinner the Belgian way: Belgian beers, cheeses and waffles with strawberries



and whipped cream. Frits thanked all the organizers. In 2023 our Utrecht friends will put together an interesting program, I'm sure.

Photos

At the James Ensor house: masks and Ensor's self-portrait (photo by Frits Stuurman)

Group of walkers in Middelkerke (photo by Josee Heuts)



Water is a Human Right !

Preparatory Meetings for the UN 2023 Water Conference, Oct. 24 2022

**By Jeanne Devine,
Servas International Representative
to the UN-NY, US Servas**

Entering a UN meeting you are surrounded by people advocating collaboration, equality, and a desire to make the world better for all. It is an environment that builds trust and inclusiveness to solve complex problems. The Preparatory Meetings (October 24-25-, 2022) for the UN 2023 Water Conference were such an experience. Different viewpoints were sought; political differences between countries ignored; languages transposed from English, Russian, Chinese, French, and Arabic through automatic devices.

Water is a global unifying issue we must address. We face the loss of diversity in our rivers and oceans, degradation of our soils, floods and droughts. Water is a human right of 8 billion people. Csaba Korosi [photo],

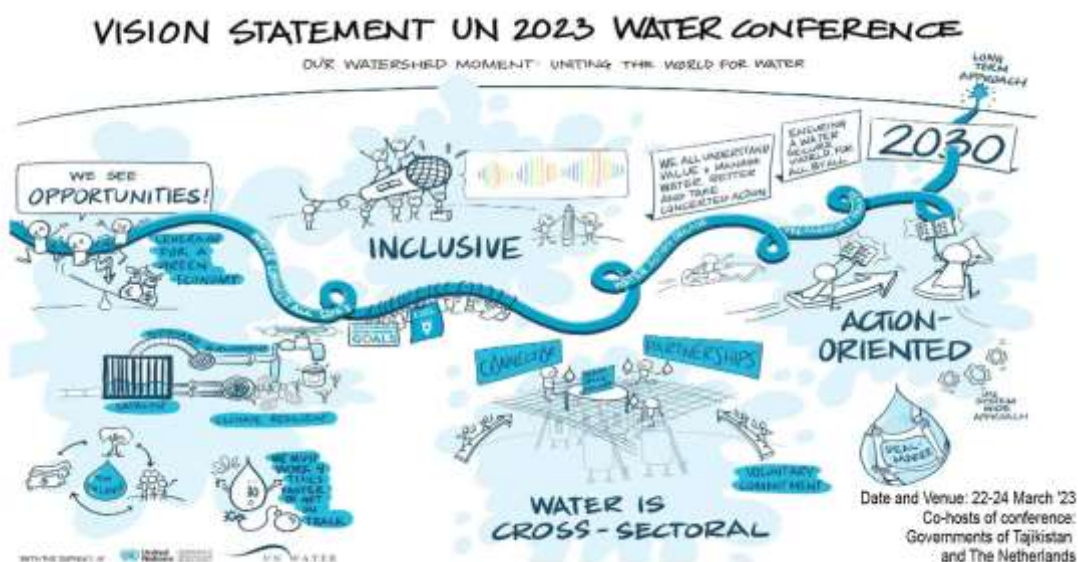
President of the General Assembly, opened the meetings with this statement:

“It is time to transform from reactive water management to proactive, science-based solutions to the water crisis.”

The hybrid meetings were attended by 1,200 people: with 41% of them representing NGOs, like Servas International. Others represented scientists, academia, businesses and UN member countries.

Participants offered ideas and action items concerning proposed themes about water that will be addressed in the UN 2023 Water Conference, next March. The Conference wants to create science-based data, develop techniques to include young and old, address financial and economic implications and human rights. Interested in learning more? Click: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/final_water_consultation_report_19_oct.pdf.

Interested in taking action? Talk with other Servas members about water issues in their communities/countries and



The Female Nomad

By Norbert Kühne,



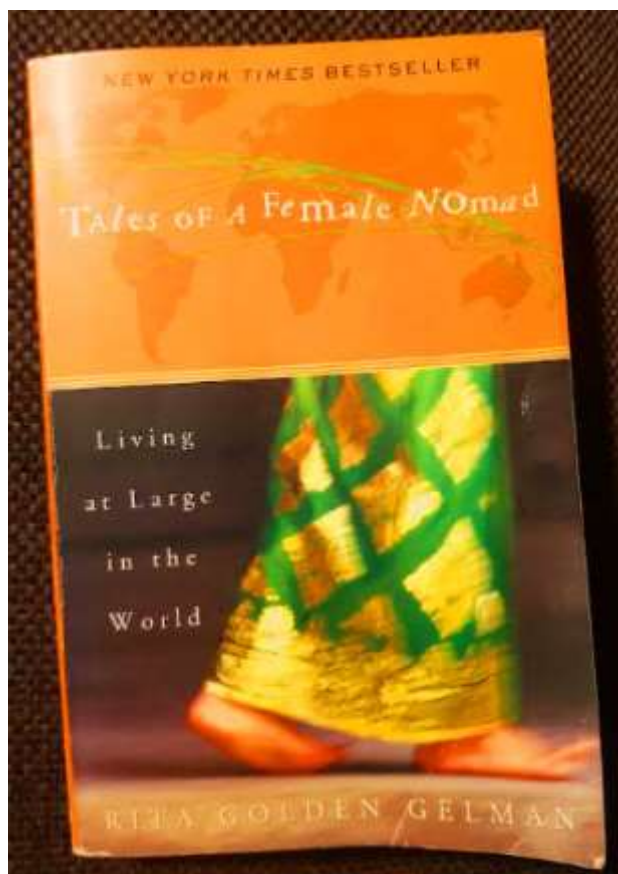
Servas coordinator and interviewer in The Netherlands

When I interview people interested in Servas I always ask how they heard about Servas.

One couple said that they learned about Servas while reading a 2001 book, *Tales of a Female Nomad*, by American Rita Golden Gelman.

The Dutch couple was inspired by the Servas spirit, visited our website and made an appointment for a meeting. We had a very nice conversation and it resulted in two new members.

Afterwards I contacted Rita and she authorized me to share some pages of the book. She wrote:



"The more people who join Servas the better."

Here is an excerpt from the author's web page: <http://www.ritagoldengelman.com/>

I am a Modern-day Nomad.

I have no permanent address, no possessions except the ones I carry... People are my passion. Unlike a traditional nomad, when I go somewhere, I settle in with the locals long enough to share the minutes of their days, to know the seasons of their lives, and to be trusted with their secrets. I have lived with people in thatched huts, slept in their gilded palaces, and worshipped with them at godly ceremonies and dens of black magic. I have also cooked with women on fires all over the world.



Women Travelling Alone

By **Alvany Santiago** and **Carla Kristensen** (right)

From SICOGA Newsletter #6 (soon to be released).

Women Travelling Alone was a SICOGA 2022 workshop, held on November 25. It was presented by SI Vice-President Carla Kristensen, Raffaella Rota, and Susana Martinez Duro, Youth & Families Committee, and Alvany Santiago, who is an assistant to the SI VP.

The purpose of this workshop was to shed light on whether there is any increased danger when they decide to travel on their own, considering that women have been subjected to different kinds of gender-based discrimination, throughout the years. Do some women not dare to face the challenge of travelling alone?

In some countries it is still an exception to see a woman travelling on her own, and we know that some women tell lies and say they are waiting for their husbands or friends, to avoid sensitive questions or harassment.

Is it more dangerous? Is it better than travelling with a companion? Is it different for a woman to travel alone and stay with hosts who are Servas members?

We wanted to know that, so this project started a couple of months before the final presentation at the SICOGA. First, we sent questions to some women from different Servas groups and asked them to record a video with their testimonies. The testimonies



came from different parts of the world. We collected those videos and sent them to Luis Miguel Avendaño (Spain) who kindly made the final editing and production.

Before the screening, the four authors of this project introduced the video, explaining the process of compiling the testimonies and now they made the video. They also expressed a deep

appreciation for all the passionate testimonies received. During the screening of the video *Women Travelling Alone*, there was an emotional atmosphere in the room. And when the screening was over, some women came to us saying that they, too, would like to give their testimony and asked whether there would be a sequel. The answer is: Yes, there will be a sequel and many more stories will be told.

The video of *Women Travelling Alone* (with Servas) is available:

[Servas International - Women Travelling Alone \(part 1\) | 2022 - YouTube](#)



Malawi Youth Creates Long Stays



By Demelza Benbow

Some Servas countries have Long Stay programs, but our daughter Lèmorah, age 20, arranged her own trip in five continents. She is not just a dreamer, she gets things done.

Lèmorah was stressed to the hilt. She wanted to apply to university, but where and to do what? She was in Scotland doing a one-year Residential Outdoor Pursuit Instructors course. Covid-19 was raging. She missed home and no one had come to see her graduate; it was very demoralising.

She started university in environmental studies in Swansea, Wales, Britain. As an international student, this was using up her parents' savings fast. It was frustrating that after travelling so far, the course was only online. Lèmorah felt homesick, confused and disconnected. After seven weeks she dropped out and started working in a seniors' home, accepting every shift that came her way. She began saving but after four months she **had** to come home. In Malawi she slept, fretted and deliberated. Travel seemed very expensive and hard. "Limit yourself to one area of the world," her mom said.



Photos Lèmorah:

At rest.

Even vacuuming can be fun.

Sewing up a head cut in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Working at a children's summer camp, shows her boss where Malawi is.

Lèmorah's Mexican Servas host family holding the Malawian flag.

Next page:

With her Red Cross colleagues.

First view of the Grand Canyon in USA.

Lèmorah discovered and joined *WorkAway*— a program which gives food and a place to stay in exchange for



6-8 hours work a day...and then she saw a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) job at a language school in Brazil.

She applied, got accepted, then soon after broke her collarbone while cycling too fast down a hill. Full of painkillers, she flew to Sao Paulo.

What was she doing there? She enjoyed teaching, the Rio Carnival, hiking in Chile, working in a rainforest, stitching up the cuts of partying men with the Red Cross in Mexico, and being a camp leader in USA. She got bolder and more fearless day by day!

Later, she took a "time-out" with the best and most generous of USA Servas hosts... one even paid for a rental car to the Grand Canyon.

Lèmorah met a Spanish girl who joined Servas to travel with her. They sailed on a vomit-inducing boat around Hawaii, painted a bathroom in Fiji and today our daughter Lèmorah is in Sydney, Australia working in a great gay bar and part-time as a receptionist in a hostel. Spirits lifted (possibly a little too high), she's now in a totally different place in life.

It sounds random but she planned well and enjoyed Servas hosts who eased her homesickness. *WorkAway* gave her friendship, food, focus, a bed while she was giving to whatever country she was in. Lèmorah made travel possible on a tiny budget.



And as for future studies and travels? She is considering Indonesia, medicine, and teaching.

Editor's Note: *Demelza is the National Secretary of Servas Malawi and very active in Servas and other altruistic pursuits. She has attended many SICOGA meetings.*

*SICOGA took a lot of pages in this issue, but you can expect more articles from **Malawi and Zimbabwe** members in our next issue.*





Long Stay in Hot Springs:

Bike, Kayak, Scuba
By Russell and Irina Thomas in Hot Springs, Arkansas, USA

We would like to a host Servas youth (ages 18-30) for a two- to three-week period, February through May 2023. You'll have a private room in a house staying with us, Russell & Irina and our two cats. Our 17-year-old son comes home on weekends. Bicycle available for transportation.

Hot Springs is a small tourist city with a convenient local airline connection to Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport; also bus and train nearby. The area is known for its thermal springs, Hot Springs National Park, beautiful nature, world-class mountain biking and live horse racing. Explore the city by foot or by bicycle, hike National Park trails, experience swamp, white-water, or river kayaking, or obtain scuba certification. Various volunteer opportunities available.



Check out: www.hotsprings.org
and www.nps.gov/hosp.
Contact hosts at:
irina_abuyeva@hotmail.com

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Hosts Meet Again

As Covid restrictions ease in some areas, Servas hosts met in western Canada after three years of “distancing”.

In Edmonton, Alberta, Servas members were so happy to meet for the annual Servas local gathering at Sylvia Krogh’s condominium on October 8, 2022. As usual, the food was great at our potluck meal. Although there



has not been a lot of travelling due to Covid, Servas hosts really appreciated the opportunity to reconnect and share travel stories.

Photos: Hosts happy to meet again.

Editor’s Note:

Regional Coordinators in Canada,



Key People

New Key People in Britain, Malawi, Nepal, Venezuela

Here are the latest changes of 2022 in boards of Servas Groups.

SERVAS VENEZUELA

Servas Venezuela has restructured. Due to the situation of the country, many members have left the country. Servas Venezuela aims to attract new members. We wish them good luck.

Board of Servas Venezuela

National Secretary: Victor Gutierrez
National Deputy : Asirahibira Baloa
National Peace Secretary: Fathima Perales
National Youth Contact: Alejandro Benavides
National Host List Coordinator: Victor Gutierrez Veliz

Outgoing board member : Yamellys Sanchez (Peace Secrteray)

SERVAS BRITAIN

Board of Servas Britain

(Since AGM, May 2022)
Joint National Secretaries :
Alison Newbery and Carlos Dabezies
Joint National Peace Secretaries :
Jaime Robertson and Nikki Dearn
National Membership Secretary:
David Ashby
National Travel Secretary :
Rachael Clayburn

Outgoing board members:
Barbara Forbes (Joint Nat. Secretary).
Picot Cassidy (Treasurer) retires after the SB AGM, midway through 2023.



Servas Britain.

Photos from top:
Alison Newbery,
Carlos Dabezies,
Jaime Robertson.
Nikki Dearn,
David Ashby,
Rachael Clayburn

New Key People continued

SERVAS NEPAL

New Executive Board Nepal (August 2022)

National Secretary : Dinesh Tripathi (photo)

National Peace Secretary : Raj Kumar Gurung

National Host List Coordinator : Ashok Manandhar

National Host List Coordinator : Tak B Tamang

National Treasurer : Birendra Raj Hada

National Youth Coordinator : Paras Shrestha

Deputy Peace Secretary : Azad Tamrakar D

Deputy Treasurer : Prakash Bajracharya

Other Board Members :

Ms.Sharada Acharya

Ms.Pampha Shrestha

Ms Tika Katuwa; Amrit Dhakak

Outgoing board members : Shiva Shresta (NS), Ramesh Ghimire (HLC), Babu Ram Rasei (Treasurer)



We might be far apart but the warmth of the holidays and the joy of the upcoming year will tune our hearts together!

Have a Prosperous New Year!

Rita Dessauvage

Dolphin team, Member of Servas Belgium

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SERVAS MALAWI

Committee Members of Servas Malawi

National Secretary and Newsletter Editor : Jacqueline Lloyd

National Peace Secretary : Nina Kapezi

National Host List Coordinator, Mentor and Support : Demelza Benbow

National Deputy : Sarah Samanyika

National Treasurer : Soyapi Chitembeya

Social Events Organiser : Francis Mijiga

Syle Coordinator : Hannah Scutt

Youth Juniors and Facebook : Jack Lloyd

Youth Seniors : Tayezzi Chinthu and Lemorah Benbow

Zomba Coordinator : Fatima Karim:

Lilongwe Coordinator : Silverio Kamwendo



Great Photos

Having been a professional photographer early in my career, I really appreciate when I get great photos from members.

I normally spend a few hours correcting photos each issue. Because I got wonderful images from members this issue, I spent much less time. This shot of Exco from Manish Jain is a perfect example. Exco names appear on page 13.

Please send me your fabulous photos and articles or notices. Thank you.

— SINB editor, Michael Johnson,
newsletter@servas.org



ABOUT THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

The SINB is a newsletter produced by and for the Servas community.

Editor and Graphic Designer: Michael Johnson

Proofreader: Picot Cassidy

Translators: Isabelle Girard, Lilly Kerekes

Please send your news for the SI News Bulletin to: newsletter@servas.org

We encourage Servas key people around the world to forward this bulletin to all members. Feel free to quote us but please mention the source.

SI EXCO 2022 - 2025

President: Radha Radhakrishna president@servas.org

Vice-President: Carla Kristensen vicepresident@servas.org

Treasurer: Suresh Jain treasurer@servas.org

General Secretary: Jonny Sångänger generalsecretary@servas.org

Membership & Technology Secretary: Paul Nielsen mts@servas.org

Peace Secretary: Francisco Salomón Luna Aburto 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.

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