



News BULLETIN

Produced by and for members of the Servas community

Join Us November 22 in India !



Meet new friends at SICOGA in the cool hills of India.



Danish and Italian members make friends and pizza.

Paige tells us the status of women.





News BULLETIN

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Aga Khan
 Palace, Pune, India.
 100 km. from the SICOGA venue.
 Photo by Khushroo Cooper.

Please save the dates 22 to 28 November 2022 to attend the SICOGA in India.

(Servas International Conference and General Assembly)

SINB, the SI newsletter, published 4 times a year, contains articles from our members about Servas exchanges, peace, and the UN. It is sent in digital format to all National Secretaries, Main Contacts and international Key Persons. We ask them to distribute it widely. —Carla Cristensen (SI Vice-President) & Jonny Sägänger (SI President)

Meeting in India

By Jonny Sågänger (SI President)



On November 22–28 2022, India will be the global centre of Servas activities, when members from all over the world meet in person, as well as virtually, at the Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA 2022.

I can promise SICOGA 2022 will offer you seven days of educational, productive and fun meetings with opportunities for personal development, new insights in other cultures and the chance for everyone to find more Servas friends.

How can I make this promise?

Because I participated at such international gatherings in Argentina 2009, Poland 2012, New Zealand 2015 and South Korea 2018. All these meetings are among my dearest memories, thanks to all the great encounters with people, many of whom are now my lifetime friends around the world.

We have discussed our contribution to climate change, realizing that Servas members consume fossil fuels to attend meetings.



Illustration: **Pablo Colangelo**, Servas Falkland Islands.

Fossil fuels are, according to United Nations Climate Action by far the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. See: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

So how can I and our organization, dedicated to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, justify in-person meetings?

There are legitimate reasons for travelling. As well as meeting your family and friends, it's my personal experience that a personal meeting can kickstart a working relationship. Once you've met a new colleague in person, it's much easier to work together.

"In-person meetings provide a sense of intimacy, connection and empathy that is difficult to replicate via video," says Paul Axtell, author of the book *Meetings Matter*.

The pandemic also taught us how extremely useful our information and communication technology (ICT) tools can be... at SICOGA you may register as a virtual participant.

It's the first time in Servas history that we attempt to offer full-fledged digital SICOGA

participation. We're prepared to learn from our mistakes how to enhance future Servas gatherings.

The digitalization of the SICOGA will widen the democratic process, and help the execution and the aftermath of the meeting. We expect increased participation of all individual Servas members in our worldwide community of travel- and peace-loving people.

The impact on nature of those connecting virtually will be much less than those who choose to come to India. But is it right for you? How will **you** participate?

I can wholeheartedly say that I look forward to seeing you either in person or virtually on November 22–28 at SICOGA 2022!

Please find more information about the event by clicking here:

<https://servas.org/en/sicoga2022>

—Jonny Sågänger
President
Servas International



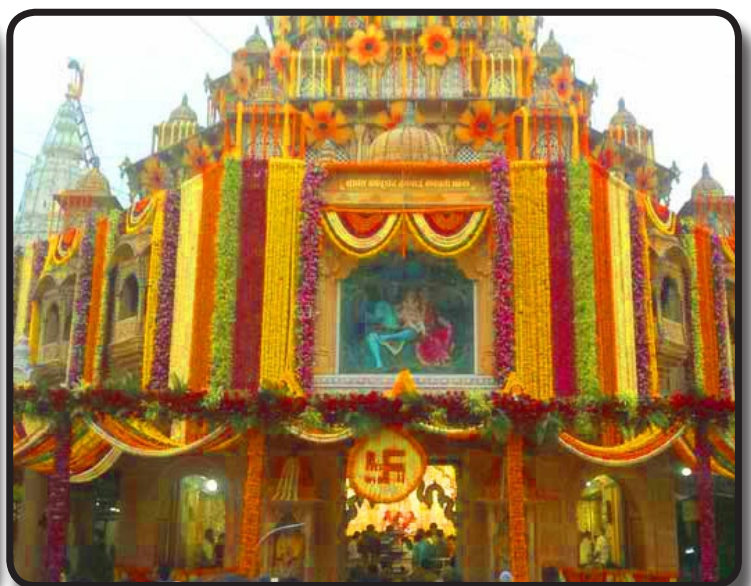
In Pune, 100 km. from the venue, you can explore an array of temples, forts and palaces before or after the conference...

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Volunteers
Needed !

Our volunteers keep Servas going, including those on the Servas International board – SI Exco – which has a President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Peace Secretary and Membership & Technology Secretary.

Read more about those [Job Descriptions](#) and volunteering at this link: <https://servas.org/en/nominations-and-elections/nominations-positions>

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Invitation to SICOGA 2022



32nd Servas International Conference and General Assembly 22 - 28 November 2022

Venue: Centre for Initiatives of Change,
Asia Plateau, Panchgani, India

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Dear Servas members worldwide,

Welcome to the 32nd Servas International Conference and General Assembly (GA), to be known as SICOGA 2022. This is a joint venture organized by Servas International Executive Committee (SI EXCO) and Servas India with the support of the SICOGA 2022 Organizing Team (OT).

Registration is open. As of July 4, 2022, there are already 57 registrations received for the In-Person in India meeting. Please keep in mind that places are limited and SI Exco and Servas India apply the principle “first come, first served”.

There are two ways to take part in the SICOGA 2022 event:

1. **Virtually:** You may join virtually from home or any other place in the world using your computer and an internet connection.

2. **In-Person:** Going to India.

You should have received already the **Guidelines about How to Register** for both from your National Secretary or the Main Contact of your National Servas Group. If not, **please contact them to ask for those guidelines.**

Only Servas members may attend, and registration is required. We invite you to sign up early to reserve your place.

We shall be very happy to have you with us, sharing an enjoyable and challenging week of Servas work, together with social activities and the chance to meet old friends and new from around the world.

The Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) 2022 information can be found at <https://servas.org/sicoga2022>.

We wholeheartedly welcome you to this important meeting. I'm sure we will all have an interesting, rewarding and enjoyable time together. You will get to know many new people and some of them, I'm sure, will become your lifelong friends.

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The venue for the SICOGA lies in the Asia Plateau. In November, the average high is 23C, cooling to 15C at night, with very little rain. A brochure says: *This famed “Table Land” of Panchgani sits at a comfortable altitude of 1300 meters [4200 feet], and forms a majestic backdrop to the 27-hectare [68-acre] campus dominated by natural greenery.*

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On Nominations and Elections

Just a reminder, part of SICOGA 2022 is voting for Servas International representatives. Please look at the Servas [Nominations and Elections](#) web page and consider if you or anyone you know should nominate for any of the positions that will need to be filled

We look forward to meeting you in Panchgani, India, in November!

—Jonny Sågänger SI President
president@servas.org

On behalf of: SI EXCO, Servas India and the SICOGA 2022 Organizing Team
sicoga2022@servas.org



Conference program plan

The Servas International Conference and General Assembly, SICOGA, has generally been arranged every three years. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was postponed from 2021 to 2022.

One of the core activities during the conference is the SI General Assembly (SIGA). Read more about it below.

During the conference there is also a program with workshops, discussion groups and training sessions on a wide range of topics where all the conference participants will be able to contribute to the debate about the future of Servas.

Here are excerpts from the program:

- Workshop to an create action plan: Servas to reach more people around the globe. How to make Servas grow in numbers and revenue? How to get new Servas members?
- Servas role in times of armed conflict. For example: Ukraine.
- Climate change: This is how Servas contributes — positive and negative.
- Workshop. Around the Belgian

report “Servas: Getting Involved as Locals in Tourism”.

- Workshop: SWOT analysis (Servas Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats).
- Women travelling with Servas. Servas, a safe alternative for female travellers.
- Theme: philosophy of welcoming people: “How to make a Servas traveller feel welcome”. “How a Servas traveller makes a host feel comfortable when visiting”.
- “Travelling for Peace as a way to break down prejudices”.
- UN Representation, CSW, Human Rights.
- Youth of Servas. Families and Servas.
- What’s new in Servas? Virtual events and new experiences.
- What’s new in ServasOnline 2.0:
 - Admin perspective
 - Individual perspective.
- Virtual Travels.

Your input to the fun and informal, rich and enjoyable part of the conference will be warmly welcomed. Please send your input and/or additional ideas for the non-SIGA programme to SI Vice-President Carla Kristensen (vicepresident@servas.org) and SI General Secretary Kiat Y Tan (generalsecretary@servas.org).

Maybe you will arrange or lead a meeting.

In the subject line please write:
SICOGA 2022: Program, social & fun activities.

—Jonny Sågänger,
SI President



Ciao Denmark!

By Viola Bellinzona, a 17 year-old member from Torino, Italy

My first Servas trip alone was a Servas Youth Language Experience (SYLE) in Denmark. The best thing was the immediate feeling of being at home and welcomed. From the moment the hosting family's mother, Heidi, picked me up at the airport until the end of the trip, the whole family always paid attention to me, explaining in great detail their surroundings and habits, which were very different from ours. For example, they eat pasta with ketchup, which is devastating to us Italians.

After this trip I take with me the desire and curiosity to continue travelling and discovering new cultures. I see that people live life in a different way from what I am used to, and I enjoyed hearing other opinions.

Another thing I will always carry in my heart was seeing how people who didn't know me decided to dedicate a large part of their time to me for nine days to make me feel so welcome.

The most important thing I learned was how nice it is to be able to go back home and tell people about the independence I have built up by travelling this way. This is something I felt a lot because I had already been to Denmark before Covid-19, with my parents. Back then I was protected and in my comfort zone. But this time, on my own, I discovered a *me* I didn't know yet!

Finally, I would suggest to anyone to throw themselves into these experiences because, these are things that we will keep in your hearts.



Thanks again Servas for the opportunity I was given. I hope that you who are reading this, will take the plunge like I did.

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Photo top: Viola, born 2006 (right) and Silje born 2005 (hosting family's daughter) at a festival in Herring, Denmark, the home town of her host family.

Photo bottom: Viola cooking pizza (left) with Heidi (Danish host mother).

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Motions for SIGA 2022



On November 25–26, the Servas International General Assembly (SIGA) of National Servas Member Groups will hold the business part of a SICOGA.

During the SIGA sessions, voting delegates from National Servas Member Groups will make decisions about the running and financing of Servas International as well as the planning for the future direction of the organization.

SI officers and committees will also be elected and appointed for a time period, which usually is three years.

The decisions that will be made during the business meeting are based on proposals that have been submitted for consideration by the SIGA. The proposals are called motions and were submitted by the member groups' National Secretaries or by the Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco).

Here are the motions received by SI Exco from National member groups and from committees...

International activities agenda for youth and families

SIGA encourages all the national groups to create one activity (international or national) for youth or youth and families (so for everybody, even children) and repeat the same activity every year. Also to create an attractive agenda to promote members' participation and to increase the number of Servas members.

International video and multimedia channel/archive

SIGA encourages all the national groups to create video and multimedia documents to post in a Servas channel (YouTube for example) and to save them in a multimedia archive. Videos and multimedia documents can be:

History of Servas, told by members or by animation. Videos from Servas meetings, assemblies, youth activities, interviews of elder members.

Adoption of a procedure for conflict resolution by member groups

The SI Conflict Resolution Team (SI CRT) proposes that SIGA 2022 approves that:

- each National Servas Group adopts/adapts/creates a procedure for resolving conflicts peacefully, quickly and equitably —because it is best to handle conflicts quickly and fairly within a National Group.

Adoption of the Code of Ethics and Behaviour

The SI CRT propose that SIGA 2022 approves that:

- the Code of Ethics and Behaviour

be adopted by the member countries, binding on all members —because it shows the vision and mission, principles, ethos and values of Servas

Note:

The deadline for motions was May 24, 2022. SI Exco will distribute the final agenda for SIGA 2022 to the SI member groups not later than August 25th, three months before the SIGA, according to the SI Statutes (2021).

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

SI Exco will also share the final motions and organize Subject Working Groups (SWGs). There will be a volunteer coordinator for each of these SWGs, and any Servas member is welcome to join in discussions of these motions in the months leading up to the SIGA. Such discussion is intended to make best use of the SIGA plenary sessions [meetings attended by everyone] by clarifying the motions.

At the conference in November there will be meetings of the SWGs, before the motions are taken to the plenary sessions of SIGA 2022.

—Jonny Sågänger
SI President

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Meeting Miss Czech

By Barbro and Ulf Löwhagen,
Vänernborg, Sweden

Way back in July 1968 we hitchhiked through Poland and Czechoslovakia down to Bratislava, now the capital of Slovakia. We were Servas hosts in Uppsala, Sweden. In Poland we travelled on just about anything that moved: an ambulance, a Soviet military lorry [truck], a horse carriage, local lorries, a very big van picking up passengers on their way to a local market full thing to sell such as vegetables and live chickens.

Poland is the only country we have travelled in where we could not attend a local dance because Ulf had no tie!

In Bratislava we joined a local Servas host Bob on an unusual mission: he was a local dentist and also a freelance photographer taking photos of the 1968 Miss Czechoslovakia winner, Jarmila Teplanova! See more photos at:

<https://images.app.goo.gl/1v19tY1XxqHig6R27>



Photo, from left: Jarmila, her younger sister, Bob Puskiller.

Jarmila wore a swimsuit and we helped her to get up trees and in a jungle gym in a park. Sometimes it takes Servas to get a chance to experience something unexpected!

In Prague that summer you could really feel a very special euphoria! But it was brutally

shattered in August when the Soviet Union invaded the country.

In the following year, 1969, Swedish Servas Secretary Leif Carserud sent us a box in the mail containing everything about Servas Sweden and we were suddenly in charge of the Swedish branch—for five years, until our middle son arrived in 1974!

Before Covid-19, in 2019, we went on a Servas trip, across the Bothnian Sea, part of the Baltic Sea, to our neighbour country Finland! Very often travellers neglect great experiences just around the corner.

Sweden and Finland are now potential NATO members. Putin's violent "Special Operation" has really changed the political map in our countries.

Ulf's Adventures

We had a great time in Vienna at the Servas International Conference. Kurt Schmid and his Swedish wife had a flat with unusually little space – Harivalib and I found a night's lodging amongst the piles of books. Harivalib [in white in photo] told me about his ashram and how Servas travellers were welcomed in a friendly way by a large local crowd.



The only time I have been really scared in connection with Servas was when I visited the Koinonia community in Georgia, USA, in 1965. Rough experiences with local racial tensions, rednecks attacking at night, race rallies in local black churches! I hitchhiked in the USA and Mexico for three months. I met some remarkable and unusual Servas people.

Sepia photo: From left:

Ulf Löwhagen, Jarmila Teplanova (Miss Czechoslovakia 1968), and Barbro Frankmark. Half a year later Barbro added Löwhagen to her name when we married.

Photo below: SI Conference, Vienna, 1970.

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Norbert meets Nora—Dutch Man in Canada

By Nora McKnight, Servas Canada



For five days in May we had the pleasure of a visit from Norbert Kuhne, a Servas traveller from the Netherlands. He came to us after a visit with three Servas hosts in Toronto. The weekend of his visit, Ottawa had a windstorm that did extensive damage and resulted in widespread power outages. Due to his very adaptive nature, Norbert was undaunted by this.

By the time we came home for dinner, Norbert had met our daughter and toured the neighbourhood — he gave us a very favourable report. He had ventured into shops that I had never even noticed before. Norbert had his first taste of a typical Canadian food — poutine — but he was unimpressed.

We attended the tulip festival. Photo, from left: Jo, Nora, Norbert. But Norbert was more enchanted with the Beavertail [a Canadian ‘doughnut’] than the flowers.

He bought a variety pack to take away.

We took Norbert to a Dutch grocery store in Ottawa and he was suitably impressed at how many classic Dutch food and gift items were here in Canada.

Norbert joined us at the lake but after a wobbly canoe ride he concluded that canoeing was not for him.

He helped with the many tasks on the property, including filling bird feeders. He made sure we understood that windmills in the Netherlands are not decorative but functional in pumping water.

In Norbert’s letter of introduction he described his goal “to encounter life with an open mind”. He certainly embodied this spirit of openness. When we had other family visiting, Norbert fit right in like another member of the family. En route to Quebec to visit more Servas hosts, he stopped at a First



Nations reserve and visited two families in a Mennonite community.

We were very fortunate to get reconnected with Servas after such a long hiatus during the pandemic.

Norbert adds:

I was very impressed at how well maintained were all gardens in Ottawa and how everybody takes pride in their maintenance. It really was like as if all these people were living in a park! I have not found one single spot in Ontario and Quebec where I wouldn't want to live.

To all Canadian Servas members I want to express that I was very pleasantly surprised that really **everybody** whom I contacted, replied to my request within 48 hours. Also if they saw no possibility to host me on the requested dates they replied promptly. This enabled me to continue with my travel preparations and itinerary very smoothly. Thanks for that.

I will return to Europe with a nice memory of Canadians as open, friendly, helpful, calm and relaxed people. It's also nice to see how much respect there is for nature and surroundings. I noticed hardly any littering or graffiti.

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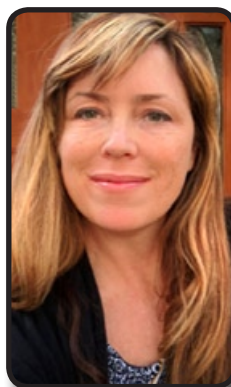


SI and CSW66

By Paige Lacombe (SI Peace Secretary and SI Event Coordinator for CSW66)



Dear friends and families of Servas members,
 I would like to share with you the experiences of attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women this year (CSW66). The CSW is a conference offered by UN Women every March, in which hundreds of women from around the world give reports on the status of gender rights within their country. This is the fourth year Servas members have participated, with 32 international members of Servas attending virtual side and parallel events this year.



Servas delegates shared with each other during CSW66 their unique stories and experiences by means of virtual meetings and reports. For CSW66 reporting, Servas International delegates focused on two key parts: (1) women and climate; and (2) women and peace, although two other topics also came into focus because of world events: women during the pandemic, and the resilience of women during war. You will discover the wide-ranging “takeaways” of many of the Servas delegates

by reading their comments that follow.

Several stories that women told during these sessions that stood out to me personally were:

- Women in professional sports who spoke of the resilience they learned from sports and how important it is to allow girls this opportunity
- Women living in countries bordering on Ukraine and helping refugees desperate to find safety for themselves and their children
- The violence and abuse many women suffered during the pandemic at the hands of their loved ones, and how women of Brazil created a silent, secret way to ask for help using red lipstick to put an X on their hand.

Another highlight of CSW66 was the session with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who stated, “We cannot realize our goal without the contributions of all. This is why all, including men and boys, should be working towards women’s rights and gender equality.” See his full speech here <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k17/k178m7unqj>

We must be diligent in bringing women into the decision-making processes and leadership of government, as they are essential to solving the world’s problems.

More Comments and “Takeaways” by SI delegates to CSW66:

“The event that caught my attention the most was Economic Rights and Justice Conversation Circle and in this group the discussion was about the economic role of women. What impacted me was: only 10% of the money circulating in the world is in women’s hands; they would be approximately 264 years behind men in gender parity.”

—Alessandra Serrazes, Servas Brazil

“ ‘Think global, and act local’: Create educational programs at the grass-roots level to gain more understanding of climate change and disaster preparedness; break the cycle of women not able to reach their potential; create opportunities for the voices of all to be heard, especially the marginalized; increase the number of female decision makers; forge collaborative alliances to work for the benefit of local communities; create a holistic approach to environmental sustainability.”

—Alison Telsey, Servas USA

“I would like to highlight the richness of the contacts made. I introduced @santiagoecoamigas to increase our network of contacts ... I got to know other organizations better like All African Women’s Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) and All India Women Education Fund Association (AIEWA).”

—Alvany Santiago, Servas Brazil

“My most important take away is to have refound a friend in one of the events and had some side chats with her.”

—Angelika Hofmann, SI Main Rep to the UN in Vienna

“I really appreciated the all-female panels (unfortunately, in Italy all-male panels are the norm, and there is a movement against this, called “no woman no panel”), the speeches of the indigenous Canadian women (experiences, prayers and precious information), the brilliant research about workplace bullying. I have loved the passion and professionalism showed by all the panelists.”

—Anna Pinna, Servas Italy

“The NGO Future of Education Circle was my favorite event. I attended due to education being my main concern along with environmental issues. What I really loved about it, is that it so much tied in with my current quest to change my teaching and include more global citizenship and environmental issues. ...There are many more people concerned about the exact same issues than I thought.”

—Brita Schmitz, Servas USA

“I found ‘Women, Youth, Peace and Security conversation’ and ‘Climate Justice for Women and Girls: Approaches to combating Ecocide’ worth mentioning.”

—Hamsavahini Singh, SI Coordinator to the UN

“I attended some excellent events and connected with some peace and human rights defenders.”

—Helga Merkelbach, SI Representative to the UN in Geneva

“I attended 11 sessions and focused on learning from indigenous women who are impacted by climate change and from grassroots organizations where women are involved in addressing interconnected issues of gender equality, climate, democracy, war and violence.”

—Jeanne Devine, SI Representative to the UN in New York

“ ‘The Gender Perspective in Climate Change: The Role of the European Regions’ ... presented a very powerful model of how to mainstream gender. EU institutions and European regions use a gender approach to climate change policies and initiatives that are integrated at every level of government from the EU down to regional and local governments, and citizens’ councils that work the closest with the people.”

—Joanne Ferguson Cavanaugh, Servas USA

“One of the sessions I attended and that stuck with me most was the Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights Conversation Circle. It focused on adolescents, young mothers, and young women who are survivors of childhood sexual violence and incest. Many of the speakers and leaders of the session spoke about ensuring that girls in our communities are allowed equal access to education and the full rights to make decisions about their bodies.”

—Joyce Orishaba, Uganda

“I was encouraged by government initiatives in Latin American countries, reported by ministers in offices of the environment, finance, and gender. It warmed my heart when they promoted a holistic cross-cutting of these topics. But it saddened me when they spoke of ongoing violence and murder of women, indigenous, and environmental supporters; and of the continuing need for the Global North to put promised monies into the Green Climate Fund (a request repeated by African ministers too).

—Julie Cormack, Servas Canada

“I was extremely impressed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterrez and his forceful, unequivocal support for gender equality. In his words, gender equality is at its core a question of power. He stated that economic inequality, conflict, and lack of commitment to reduce climate change are direct results of our male-dominated culture and its discriminatory laws and practices against women.”

—Kent Macaulay, SI Main Representative to the UN in New York

“I got the chance to think about how I could give my contribution through Servas. This summer there will be the Servas Summer Camp in Italy and I would like to hold a workshop about the importance of sexual and reproductive rights among women in the world, and the connection between SRHR and democracy.”

—Marta Agostini, Servas Italy

“I found that the United Nations do support gender equality and young people. The hosts of several United Nations-sponsored conferences I have attended are young African women. They are very professional and let me see their outstanding sides of young African women.”

—Mei Wang, Servas Taiwan

“My most important ‘take-away’ from CSW66 was what I learned during the event: ‘Transforming patriarchal masculinities for women’s rights, gender and climate justice’... It was fundamental for me to understand how deeply toxic masculinity is bonded to global politics and economical models. It is important to understand that, while fighting for gender equality we are also fighting for climate justice and the end of work oppression.”

—Rosa Maria Curro, Servas Italy

“Over and over in different sessions, I heard this sentiment that... the pendulum has swung backwards, with the patriarchal “powers that be” far and wide grabbing back their power. What they do not grasp is that men — and the women who have taken on patriarchal views — do not really lose power in the long run when women gain safety, power, and voice. Creating a more equitable society benefits everyone. It benefits those men’s daughters. It will ultimately create a more peaceful society, a more fair society, and one where women can finally breathe.”

—Wendee Nicole, Servas USA

“Attending CSW66 made me think ‘What is real peace?’ So I visited *Nagasaki no Kane* at Katsuyama Park in Kokura, Japan. This a peace memorial about dropping of the atomic bomb. The original target for the second atomic bomb was supposed to be Kokura, rather than Nagasaki... Visiting this place reminds me all people in the world need to be treated equally and desire to be happy and have a peaceful life. No one should suffer from any discrimination or unjustified condition. So, I will continue promoting peace with Servas!”

—Yukiko Namariyama, Servas Japan

Other Servas delegates to CSW66 were:

Carla Kristensen, Portugal
 Myra D’Souza, Canada
 Edgar William Turuka, Tanzania
 Simin Bakhtiar, Iran
 Sandra Niggemann, Germany
 and from Italy:
 Anna Cristina Siragusa
 Melena Graci
 Stefania Grosso
 Francesca Putzolu
 Lucia Russo
 Rosa Fornabaio
 Mara Pedicone
 Rosa di Luca
 Daria Santoni

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Volunteer Opportunity: Want to be our Rep to the UN in New York?

By Kent Macaulay

Would you like an important role in Servas International’s involvement with the United Nations?

As a peace organization, Servas International has “consultative status” with the UN’s Economic and Social Council. This status enables SI to select five Servas members to be official SI representatives at each of three UN locations (New York, Geneva, Vienna).

Reps should make at least one trip per year to their UN location, but much of the work (including attending UN conferences and meetings) can be done online from one’s home.

SI’s Reps to the UN do the following:

- advocate for the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and other UN

initiatives, encouraging Servas members to learn about and act on these goals and initiatives locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally,

- represent SI at UN events and meetings, and
- network with other NGOs affiliated with the UN to advance peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

At the moment, there is a vacancy in SI’s Team to the UN in New York. If you are intrigued about the chance to become an SI Rep to the UN, you can get further information by emailing Kent Macaulay (SI’s Main Rep to the UN in New York) at kentmacaulay3@gmail.com.

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Host Saved the Day — and my Month

By Tamar Reder, Servas Israel



**Did you ever find yourself a
'stranger in a strange land'?**

It has happened to me several times. The most traumatic was arriving in MIA, the Miami Florida Airport, USA, around 11pm, tired after a day of flying, and longing for a shower and bed for a few hours — but I had a flight at 8am the next morning to Martinique. I had to be in the marina at 11am, to board a boat, for four weeks sailing.

It sounds like a perfect start for a perfect trip, but to my horror my luggage did not arrive.

I called my Servas host, and when I told him my problem, he saved the day, or to be more accurate the whole four

weeks. He came and took me from the airport to the only shop still open and about to be closed, persuaded the saleswoman to help me collect the few most important items — underwear, a bathing suit, a shirt, a pair of shorts...

Without him, I would just have booked a hotel for the night, and I would have had a very miserable time, with nothing to wear.

Since then, I always fly with a carry-on with at least one change of clothes, and I always make a connection with a local Servas member.

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Servas by Bicycle

Three-Country-Corner, Servas Bike Meeting 23-26 June 2022 (Czech Republic)



By Luciano Covi, Servas Italy

We met *to advance peace through creative conviviality*, as the famous Austrian priest, writer and teacher Ivan Illich (1926-2002) would define it. Conviviality is the quality of being friendly and lively.

Toni, Marietta, Michal (Poland) and Raffaella (Italy) and others organized this meeting focusing on the Servas basic principle: build peace every day in daily life, using hospitality to forge relationships and friendships, and accepting differences as

a possibility for personal growth. At the same time, they had to keep the meeting semi-secret for fear of being censured by the police.

Participants shared many personal stories during the meeting and it is impossible to summarize them all. Marisya (a young Polish worker) told us about her several trips to Ukraine. She hosted refugees who have to live together in gyms and large halls made available by public authorities. Marietta (a Polish teacher) told us about her daily activities

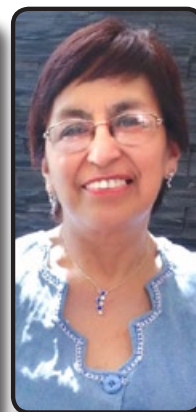
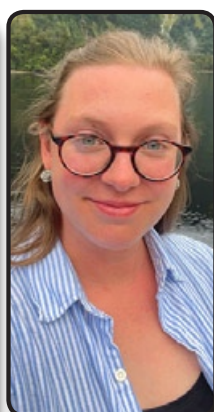
with Ukrainian refugees at places in Poland. She is teaching English and Polish to people of all ages to enable them to understand and perhaps in the future be able to work and integrate elsewhere. Michal (a self-employed Polish engineer) is a long-time Servas member. As soon as the war started, he called Servas friends in Russia who were protesting against the conflict. We were also joined by Pavel (a Czech bank clerk and long-time Servas member before 1989) and Thomas (a polyglot who shared his view of peace).

The meeting took place in a wooded and mountainous area on the border between Poland, Czech Republic and Germany, also known as the *three-country-corner area*.

Joining the *Servas by bike* meeting were nearly 40 participants from Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, France/USA, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, India/Australia/Poland. All were passionate about cycling, travel, foreign languages and interculturalism. In their large group discussions, they spoke English; while in their break-out talks, they spoke a variety of languages. Participants included: a university professor, teacher, engineer, trader, doctor and corporate and bank employees.

While sharing experiences in this meeting, we acknowledged that Peace has to be built day-by-day, with patience. Such a long journey is a collection of small steps; this **Servas bike meeting** has made a small step forward.

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SI FB Administrators Working Together

By Arnoud Philippo

On June 17 the five administrators of **Facebook Group Servas International**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/members>

had our first meeting on Zoom.

I am grateful to Ahmed Rakmi, Daniela Balderrama Rocha, Evelina Fransson and Mausi Cripovich, who offered their help. We introduced ourselves to each other and made the first step to work as a team for this Facebook Group, Servas International.

We created a Whatsapp group to keep in touch easily. Servas is present on many social media sites on the internet. Please find more websites under the headline: "SERVAS, A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WITHIN VIRTUAL REACH" on the second last page of this newsletter.

Photos, from left: Arnoud Philippo, Evelina Fransson, Ahmed Rakmi, Daniela Balderrama, and Mausi Cripovich.

Cultural News

By SINB Editor Michael Johnson



Tell us about your culture. Please send news from your area to:
Michael at newsletter@servas.org



Servas is Alive

When my wife Dafi and I travel, we go out of our way to meet Servas members. While visiting her own family in Israel this spring, Dafi met several Servas members many of whom are now good friends. See photo above.

Israeli members are very active. Their Nat. Sec. Claudia organizes an annual national meeting, and online events too. I participated in one online in May and there was Dafi sitting beside Claudia.

On June 29, 2022 our good Danish friend Tina visited us (and other Servas friends) in Canada. She first came as a Servas member at age 22; she now has two children in their twenties. Both of her "children" stayed with Servas hosts this year while travelling around the world. Photo, from left: Tina, Michael, Dafi.

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NEW KEY PEOPLE

SERVAS and the UNITED NATIONS

We welcome Hamsavahini Singh from India as the new coordinator of the team of UN Observers. Hamsa was appointed by SI EXCO on March 28, 2022. She replaces Danielle Serres, who remains a member of the team.

Learn more about Hamsa and the UN Observers? Go to <https://servas.org/en/Servas-and-the-UnitedNations>



SERVAS PORTUGAL

The General Assembly (GA) of Servas Portugal took place in the city of Viseu on March 27. Three members attended the GA online. Some members met from Friday to Sunday for a get-together visiting the city of Viseu, including Marta Agostini, a young member from Italy doing a SYLE* in Portugal.
 *SYLE = Servas Youth Language Experience.

Direction Board

National Secretary: Cristina Benedita
 National Deputy: António Serzedelo
 Treasurer: Luisa Almeida

Assembly Board

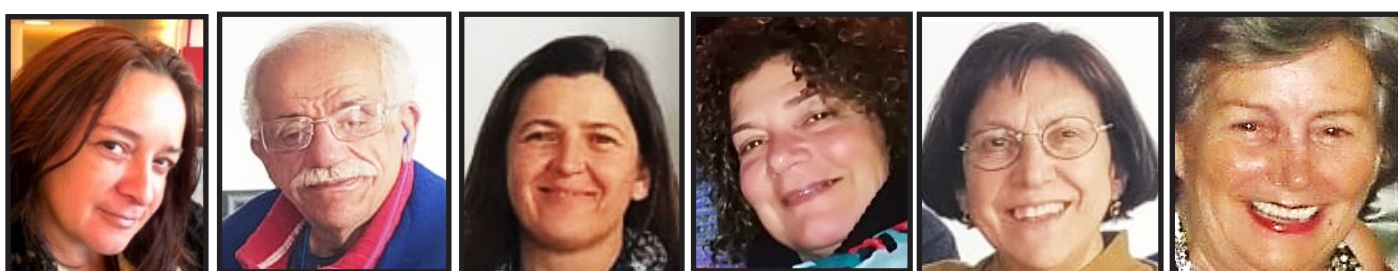
Chairwoman: Carla Kristensen
 1st Secretary: Manuela Gama
 2nd Secretary: Elisa Rafael
Supervisory (Financial) Board

Chairwoman supervisor: Isabel Chaves
 Support supervisor: Ana Rita Gama
 Support supervisor: Jacinto Franco

Peace Secretary Board

Cristina Figueiredo, Carla Kristensen
Outgoing Board member:
 Romulo Sellani, HLC

• • •



Cristina Benedita António Serzedelo Luísa Almeida Carla Kristensen Manuela Gama Elisa Rafael

Isabel Chaves Ana Rita Gama Jacinto Franco Cristina Figueiredo Carla Kristensen



SERVAS MALAYSIA

In June Servas Malaysia held elections for a new board:
National Secretary: Chia Wai Leng
Host List Coordinator: Sally Lee

Executive members:

Y M Chong
David Chai
Kiat Y Tan

Outgoing board members:

NS Jane Tan Kyat, Jeff Sho, and Naresh Kumar

Photos from top:

Chia Wai Leng [left] & Y M Chong, Sally Lee, David Chai.



SERVAS TAIWAN

On April 27 Servas Taiwan held a General Assembly; a new National Secretary and new board members were elected.

National Secretary: Jojo Jen

Honorary Chairman: Mei Wang. Mei has been National Secretary for 6 years and offers support to Jojo Jen, a National Secretary who wants to make Servas Taiwan more fascinating and attractive for young people.

Other board members:

Keith Wu: Nat. IT Coordinator
Vicky Liu: Nat. Exec. Director
Grace Tai: Nat. Chief Coordinator
Pamela Yang: Nat. Exec. Supervisor

Outgoing board members:

Hu Yufang and Thomas Kuo

— • —

Photos: Top row, from left:

Jojo Jen, Mei Wang, Keith Wu.

Bottom row, from left:

Vicky Liu, Grace Tai, Pamela Yang



SERVAS PAKISTAN

We are glad to announce that Servas Pakistan is back with a partly new board and an updated membership list with 30 members.

National Secretary: Muhammad Naseem

National Deputy: Abid Hussain

National Treasurer: Shaib Muhammad Khan

National Host List Coordinator: Nauman Naseem

Youth and Family Contact: Afifa Maryam

National Coordinators: Mirza Noreen and Waheed Ahmad

To all outgoing board members: THANK YOU, Servas is grateful for the work you have done.

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to the newly elected, re-elected and appointed key persons. 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

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Covid-19 Policy Reminder

Last year SI’s global board, SI ExCo, approved a Covid-19 Host and Travel Policy for Servas members around the world, while local and regional governmental restrictions and safety concerns may still apply. Please find the policy here:

<https://servas.org/en/news/covid-19-host-and-travel-policy-servas>

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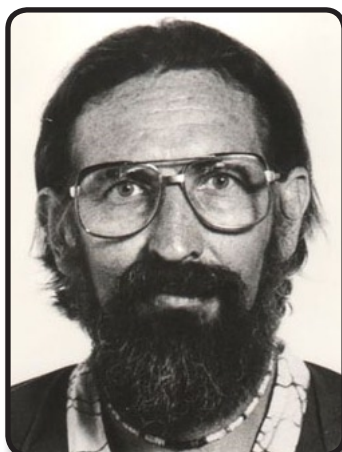
This is a recent photo of some active members of Servas Portugal...



Remembering Sheldon and David

Sheldon G Weeks

Sheldon Griswold Weeks was born on 18 November 1931 in Manhattan New York, and died peacefully at home on 4 May 2022 in Brattleboro Vermont at the age of 90.



He was a humanitarian, educator, researcher, author, peace activist, conscientious objector, Quaker, beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather, and husband.

Sheldon was an active National Secretary for Servas in Africa and attended SI conferences.

He lived with a passion for world travel, nature, the arts, and was a voracious reader and movie watcher. He enjoyed hiking, scuba diving, kayaking, camping, going on safari, visiting galleries and museums, attending music events and theatre.

He was a professor specializing in comparative education at universities in Uganda (1969-72), Tanzania (1972-74), and Papua New Guinea (1974-91), and was founding dean of graduate studies in Botswana (1991-2002).

An extended obituary, that Sheldon wrote about his life, can be found here: <https://sheldongweeks.weebly.com>

Memorial Service: August 20th 2022, 2:00 pm in Putney, Vermont.

There will be the option to participate via zoom from afar. RSVP to: sheldongweeks@gmail.com for details.

About a Quaker Memorial: It is custom in the manner of Friends to sit quietly. Everyone is welcome to speak out of the silence about a memory, story, funny incident, or prayer.

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David Northey

The announcement of David's death last April caused great sadness to those who knew him. He was a key figure in Servas for over twenty years, and Vice President of Servas France in charge of international relations for six years.

David's calmness, British humour and wisdom were legendary. With a great sense of diplomacy, he knew how to calm things down when things got heated. His motto "It is urgent to wait" reflected his concern to analyze things, to think things through before making any decision.

The members of Servas France, who held their General Assembly in June, paid a sincere tribute for the fine person he was, humanly and socially. David knew how to build deep friendships, and showed great benevolence to all without the slightest judgment nor prejudice.

His piano, and him at the keyboard, were many good moments of Servas meetings!

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SERVAS, A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WITHIN VIRTUAL REACH

Discover the Servas community here on the World Wide Web:

Social Media	Location / Site	Administered by:
Servas International	https://servas.org	Servas International
National Groups	See “Servas Websites” at 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 Philippo, Ahmed Rakmi, Daniela Balderrama Rocha, Evelina Fransson and Mausii Cripovich
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		
SI 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)
SI News Bulletin	https://servas.org/en/newsletters-bulletins	SI President and the SI Media & Communication Team
Servas Confluence	A digital coworking and cooperation platform for internal Servas volunteers.	SI Tech Team and SI ExCo

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.

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Michael Johnson

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Isabelle Girard, Lilly Kerekes, Luis Miguel Avendaño Barbero

What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Please let us know.
Email: newsletter@servas.org

You may quote us but please mention Servas International News Bulletin as the source.

SI ExCo 2018 - 2022

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ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Servas International is a global, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national member groups, supporting a worldwide 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.