

# servas INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 1 - March/April 2015

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# servas INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Vol. 5 No. 1 - March/April 2015

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**H**ere in Greece we plant a lot of trees in public areas, but they are never watered and each year I watch them wither away.

In looking over this issue of SINews I wonder if we really know how big of a change Servas is undergoing now! The new website and membership database will, of course, not change who and what we are, but it sure will impact how we operate. And, the many possibilities it will provide for us to grow and create in so many new ways, should thrill us all.

In order to use all these new goodies, to create these new adventures, and to actualize all these possibilities, we will need to really unite and work on making it work. With the ability to contact any of over 10,000 members with the stroke of a key, comes the possibility to also send spam. Someone will have to oversee the content! Who's going to do that? As we grow, we will need accurate information about Servas (member numbers, money flow, history) so that transparency is maintained and all public info is correct. Who's going to monitor that? Who will be the first responder for new inquiries? Who will do site backups and maintenance on a regular basis? If a member in Korea is having trouble entering her

## Editor's Corner

By Terry Squire Stone  
[newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)



information who can she contact? How long will it take tech support to get back to her? With such a powerful new tool and presence what do we focus on? Peace? Travel? Community? Do we raise money to support our needs, or will volunteers jump right in? Remember your Servas EXCO is not paid. and many have full-time jobs. There is a limit to what six volunteers can do alone.

Which is why I am inspired by what Jonny Sägänger, Servas President, is calling for in his article about motions for SIGA 2015 in New Zealand ([see pg. 6](#)). Yes, he's asking for our ideas, and we need them, as well as all the input we can get. BUT, he's also asking for our commitment. Got a idea, great! But, more important than an idea (we all have ideas, opinions, flashes of brilliance), more important than the original thought, is the follow-through, the actual commitment, and the continual maintenance.

So, send in those ideas NOW and be sure to include the nuts and bolts; who will do the day-to-day work, how much will it cost, how is it paid for, who has oversight, who's willing to take ultimate RESPONSIBILITY? Work it out, write it up, send it in.

Who will water the trees?

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## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS & EVENTS

### APRIL 2015

#### PEACE IN NATURE - INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN UMBRIA

April 28-May 1, 2015  
 Hotel Duomo, San Germini (TR), Italy  
 Email: [albergo.duomo@gruppoabacus.com](mailto:albergo.duomo@gruppoabacus.com)  
 Website: [www.adbergoduomosangemini.it](http://www.adbergoduomosangemini.it)  
 See ad on page 19 for details.

### MAY 2015

#### ENCANTRO IBÉRICO EVENT

May 1-3, 2015  
 Ponte de Lima, Portugal  
 On the path to the Camiño de Santiago, includes hiking, dinner in a typical restaurante, lots of socializing and a musical evening.  
 Contact: [servasportugal@gmail.com](mailto:servasportugal@gmail.com)

#### SERVAS GEORGIA REGIONAL MEETING

May 1-5, 2015  
 Tbilisi, Georgia  
 Peace, tolerance and reconciliation are key needs for our part of the world. This regional meeting will be a chance to open Servas doors to new ideas!  
 Mary Ellen Chatwin and Nana Dvali:  
[servasgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:servasgeorgia@gmail.com)

#### SERVAS LOMBARDIA ORGANIZES

##### "SERVAS BY BIKE"

May 30 - June 1, 2015  
 Between Bergamo and Milan, Italy  
[www.servas.it/tiki-download\\_file.php?fileId=858](http://www.servas.it/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=858)  
 Registration: [www.servas.it/tiki-download\\_file.php?fileId=857](http://www.servas.it/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=857)

### JUNE 2015

#### THE ANNUAL US SERVAS CONFERENCE - "PEACE IS A JOURNEY"

The weekend of June 12-14  
 University of Colorado  
 Boulder, CO  
 Explore the many ways friendships develop and how they foster cooperation and peace. Sponsored by the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) Certificate Program. All are welcome, nationally and internationally.

#### SERVAS CZECH REPUBLIC MEETS SERVAS POLAND

June 26-28, 2015  
 Hotel Krakonos  
 Benecko, Czech Republic  
[www.hotelkrakonos.com](http://www.hotelkrakonos.com)

### JULY 2015

#### FIRST SERVAS INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN ROMANIA

July 29 - August 2  
 Rasnov-Brasov, Romania

### OCTOBER 2015

#### SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA2015)

Saturday October 10th - Friday 16th 2015  
 Aotearoa, New Zealand.  
 Email your questions about SIGA to:  
 Jonny Sägänger - [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)  
 Ann Greenhough - [vicepresident@servas.org](mailto:vicepresident@servas.org)

Email your meeting & events announcements in .txt or .doc format to: [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

# New Zealand... A Stepping Stone for "Servas in Transition"

By Jonny Sägänger, President, Servas International



Jonny Sägänger rushing forward in the Swedish ski race "Vasastafetten" in Dalarna, in the middle of Sweden. Read more about it here: [www.vasaloppet.se/wps/wcm/connect/en/vasaloppet/start](http://www.vasaloppet.se/wps/wcm/connect/en/vasaloppet/start).

*"Progress is impossible without change,  
and those who cannot change their minds  
cannot change anything."*

- George Bernard Shaw

I recently received the following question in an email from one of the hard-working Servas national secretaries: "What does the SI conference and general assembly slogan "Servas in Transition" stand for?"

It's a short question and the answer can be both short and elaborately long.

The short answer is the slogan is there to show the Servas movement, and the rest of the world, that our organisation is in a period of change.

The long answer is that we're in the middle of many changes:

- We're about to construct a new and modern website with an underlying IT architecture on the Internet domain [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org).
- A distinguished global profile for Servas internationally is being developed. The new logo and design that is now in use in more than 20 member groups and member countries is one of the main tools and vehicles to give Servas a modern and dynamic "look."
- The creation of a foundation for Servas values. Since almost everyone on earth has her or his definition of what ideal "peace" means for her or him, it is important to define what the term means according to Servas. SI Exco has created a draft for a vision, mission and other fundamental documents that can constitute the roots that Servas needs to stand firmly on mother earth in a difficult period in the history of the organisation. It will also help us distinguish which values we want others and ourselves to associate with Servas. This value base will make us more attractive in some people's eyes, and less attractive in other people's eyes. This is fundamentally good, since it creates clarity in what Servas stands for and what makes it unique.

Once we have this foundation in place the next step will be to establish the actions that will enable us to achieve the goals that are set up in the Servas International statutes, which constitutes Servas "law":

*The purpose of the (Servas) network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.*

Neither Servas International's statutes, nor the draft vision and mission that Exco has created are "written in stone". I have high expectations that the ongoing work with Servas' set of values will develop and evolve in the period before, during, and after the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) in New Zealand this October.

Those who would like to participate in the discussions about Servas' value base should write their motions to SI GA subject containing words like "vision", "mission" and/or "values".

## Transitions in Action

I participated in two Servas national general assemblies this month (March 2015); I got connected with Servas Japan via video call, and I visited Servas Sweden's general assembly in person.

During the video call it became evident that I was lucky enough to be part of the historic meeting when Servas Japan made the final decisions needed to truly enter the era of digital and web-based interactive communication. This means Servas Japan will shortly upload its host list on the Dolphin member data system.

The Servas Sweden general assembly decided it will engage in a project to increase the recruitment of new

[PRESIDENT - continued on page 5](#)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## PRESIDENT

*continued from pg. 4*

members, with special focus on younger members. This project will evolve during the year, be turned into a motion for SI general assembly, and will hopefully become a document that can be used by other countries as well.

By the way, Servas Russia doesn't seem to need to put extra emphasis on recruiting younger people. That's the clear message from the Russian national secretary, Christina Buynova, in this recent post on Facebook...



Our cozy little Servas meeting in Moscow.  
P.S. Who is worried about the youth in Servas? Look, we are younger every year!



Giila - Kommentera

Amoud Philippo, Danielle Serres, Carla Kristensen och 20 andra gillar detta.

### And Onward to New Zealand

Besides "heavy" subjects like vision, mission, values, statutes, et cetera, I'm convinced that SICOGA 2015 will be a lot of fun, entertainment and excitement.

I have already decided to do one thing that certainly excites and intrigues me; For the first time in my life I

will make sure to get the opportunity to talk to people who live in countries like Kazakhstan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Rwanda and Ethiopia. I have met people who come from some of these countries but the persons I've met have most commonly been students studying abroad, refugees or other kinds of migrants. I'm so curious to get to know and try to understand more about their views on the subject of peace, universal human needs, what makes them laugh, traditions, rituals, what they eat for breakfast - you name it!

I feel extremely grateful to be able to make plans for these exciting meetings. It's a gift to be able to experience such moments of human interaction.

This is why I think one of the goals for Servas should be to promote this:

- Everyone in the world should have the right to freedom of movement and residence
- Everyone should have the right to leave any country, including her or his own, and to return to her or his home country.

What is also needed here is an improved distribution of wealth around the world. A person who doesn't have

the money to pay for the flight, boat trip or whatever, cannot travel anyway, which means that their rights are only words written on a computer screen or on a paper.

If the person is member of Servas, she or he at least doesn't have to pay for lodging.

One of the reasons Bob Lutweiler once started a movement that later became Servas was to make it possible for people in Germany to be able to stay in Sweden after the second world war. Germans were not allowed to own foreign currency, which made it impossible for most of them to travel. With Bob Lutweiler's innovation this became possible.

That's what I call a genius idea. It also leads me to think how this action from Bob Lutweiler could be applied to today's world with extreme movements of refugees of war and people who are forced to migrate because they live in places that lack the conditions needed to live a dignified life.

I hope to see many of you in person in New Zealand or via video link connected between the meeting and your home country. 🇳🇿



## MOTIONS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT SICOGA 2015

The General Assembly is the business part of the Servas International conference where delegates can present motions to be debated and voted upon.

SI Exco encourages motions from the Servas family so that our organisation can develop and thrive. We do however need to have an efficient method of processing the motions we receive. It would therefore greatly assist if you could refer to the guidelines listed below when preparing your motions..

**Any member country who would like issues to be considered as part of the General Assembly agenda must submit outline motions to the SI president by April 10th 2015.** This deadline is set according to the SI statutes as 6 months before SICOGA 2015 in New Zealand which starts on October 10th 2015.

Any motions from a member country should only be submitted by the national secretary and using the guidelines detailed below.

SI committees and SI officers cannot directly submit motions to the GA but should present their ideas for motions to SI Exco so they can be considered.

**If you have any questions contact Jonny Sägänger at [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org)**

I look forward with interest to reading your motions!

### HOW TO PREPARE A MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Please follow the guidelines carefully otherwise we may need to return motions to you for amendment if they do not meet these requirements.

Motions can be accepted from those national member groups who have voting rights at the General Assembly. They should come in the name of the National Secretary.

Any other proposals for motions from SI committees and SI officers or interested Servas members should be sent to SI Exco via the SI president so they can be considered for submission by SI Exco.

Only SI Exco can submit motions to the GA in addition to national member groups. 🌱

## A REMINDER

# Help Develop Servas With Your Motion To SIGA 2015

*by Jonny Sägänger, President, Servas International*

**As we move forward with our  
planning for the Servas International  
Conference in October in New Zealand  
SI Exco would like to remind you of the  
April 10, 2015 Submission Deadline.**

### — IMPORTANT NOTICE —

**On March 10 Exco sent instructions on how to write motions for SI GA 2015 to all National Secretaries via the SI Bulletin.**

**The header read:**

**Reminder: Three important Servas International deadlines.**



**ALL ROADS POINT TO NEW ZEALAND  
FOR THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OCTOBER 10, 2015**

## IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR SIGA MOTIONS

1. Your motion should come from the National Secretary and be sent in an email to [president@servas.org](mailto:president@servas.org).
2. Write the words "Motion for SI GA 2015" as the first words in the email subject line.
3. Add 3-5 key words to the subject heading that summarise the motion.
4. In the main message please follow the following format:
  - Repeat the heading and the 3-5 words that describe the motion.
  - Include a summary of the topic of the motion.
  - Construct the motion in a way that it can be voted on with YES, NO or ABSTAIN.
5. Within the motion make sure you give a brief description of:
  - The background that led you to propose the motion.
  - Your reasons for proposing it and, if it is passed, the benefits you see for both Servas International and national groups.
  - The impact if the motion is not passed.
  - The resource implications for officers of Servas International or others in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.
  - The budget implications for Servas International if the motion is passed.\*

\* Consider the short and longer financial cost implications of the motion for both Servas International and national groups.

  - Alternatively identify any potential short or longer term financial benefits of the motion for both Servas International and national groups.
6. Finally please identify who you would consider should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and execution, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

# Update from New Zealand

by Marijke Batenburg, Chair SICOGA Planning, New Zealand

**T**oday, March 12th, the registrars for the SICOGA gathering (Amir Levy & Derek Carver) let me know that we have 100 people registered for the conference 10-16 October. This is wonderful and we hope there will be more registrations in the coming month. We welcome you all.

There are many aspects of the preparations underway for this gathering. We are preparing for the formal proceedings as well as planning for plenty of fun events. The NZ planning committee is comprised of Rodney Faulkner, Jan Carr, Peter Debney, Sandra Debney, Sarah Faulkner, Jessica Andrades, Chris Patterson and me, Marijke Batenburg. There is also an active EXCO team guided by Ann Greenhough who is the conference coordinator, planning the business of the conference.

On March 7th Servas NZ held its first formal conference at Totara Springs - the proposed conference venue - and we were well pleased with it. We could see the conference working well there... and the food was very good.

## Getting to know you

In the next month each of the registered participants will be given an email friend - a NZ host with whom you can correspond and ask questions. (This will not include formal matters such as visas.) This person may or may not be someone you are hosted with before or after the conference.

Gathering Point in Auckland open 8/9 October. Most participants will arrive into Auckland - the largest city in NZ - and there will be a gathering point in a central location confirmed

by the end of March. Here you can meet friends, ask questions about the conference, gather information about your stay and anything else. It will also be the place that the buses will leave from on Saturday 10th October at 9am for Totara Springs. As we may not have enough hosts in Auckland to accommodate all the requests, we hope to be able to confirm a favourable rate for accommodation at this same venue. Please let us know if you would like updated information on this possibility.



Sandra Debney, National Secretary,  
Servas New Zealand

## Profile of Servas in NZ

Servas New Zealand has just elected our new National Secretary Sandra Debney (photo above). As I am the outgoing National Secretary I will now be available to attend fully to facilitating the NZ planning group for the conference.

There are 340 hosts in NZ, 17 day hosts and 80 friends. We are no different than several other countries where the average age is in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. (We see it as a matter of urgency that ServasOnline is established quickly or else we will become extinct.) The transition from using paper copy host lists to electronic

has really taken off. Most hosts live in the North Island (two thirds). However, the South Island is very popular with tourists and requests to our South Island hosts can be high. This year we plan to publish the NZ host list in July. It will be marked NZ Servas Host 2016 and be on Dolphin by August 2015.

If you are planning a longer stay in NZ we recommend the following website. [www.newzealand.com/int](http://www.newzealand.com/int) There is information here on how to plan your trip and much more. Also please look at the Servas NZ website: [www.servas.org.nz](http://www.servas.org.nz) Have a look at the travellers tales and the snazzy way you can learn about the qualities and interests of our hosts.

## Food in NZ.

Due to overall mild temperatures, moderately high rainfall, and many hours of sunshine, fruits and vegetables that grow in sub tropical climate to alpine climate, grow here.

## Clothing

The seasons in NZ are opposite to the Northern hemisphere. The conference is being held in the middle of our spring September – November. Spring brings weather of all types – expect everything from cold, frosty, clear days to sunny and hot. Make sure you are prepared! Jeans are good and layering works well.

## Four Seasons in One Day

New Zealand weather can change unexpectedly. Be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature if you're going hiking or doing other outdoor activities.

We will be sending updates to participants. For those of you are travelling vicariously by reading the information in the SI news we welcome your questions and be happy to respond to them in the next SI news.

Arohanui,  
Marijke



# Inside the Development Committee's Experience

by Anna Cristina Siragusa (Italy) – Mentor for Servas Kazakhstan, Development Committee.

Here is a story about a challenging experience of the Servas International Development Committee (SI D.C.), the organ that aims to foster harmonious, productive, successful national groups. We enter in contact with people from all over the world and as you can imagine, it is not always easy to work by distance with someone you don't know. Meeting people in person is the best way to get to know the reality they live: I am sure that you Servas people understand exactly what I mean.

That's why we organized at least one meeting per year in places where we could see some space for positive growth within Servas. For 2014 we decided to hold the event

in Central Asia following on Pablo Chufeni's and Alexey Tereshchenko's original ideas about developing Servas in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. For one year before the meeting, we worked closely with the Polish youth team, with Christina Buynova (Servas Russia), and locally with Devendra Singh (India-Kyrgyzstan).

Finally last summer the idea became reality, and many Servas friends gathered from all over the world, and of course from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. You can read a nice article describing the cultural and fun part of this meeting in the previous issue of SI News (Vol. 4 No. 2 - Nov/Dec 2014) and a follow up piece in the sidebar on this page.

Three members of the



Aigul Bakirova from Kyrgyzstan (left) and Leila Suleimanova from Kazakhstan (right) are the new National Secretaries



working at the table: one of the many meetings dedicated to Servas people from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

Development Committee (Ewa Dzierzawska and Pablo Chufeni and me) attended the meeting. We were aware that the Servas presence had almost disappeared in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and this really gave us an incentive to work harder! To set the mood for our work Pablo presented a short film he had prepared, promoting values and benefits of Servas.

We used the occasion to run

**COMMITTEE - continued on page 9**

## THE CONFLICT WITHIN SERVAS KAZAKHSTAN An Attempt at a Summary

by Wolfgang Stapelfeldt (Servas Germany)

Since 27th December 2014 Servas Kazakhstan has had a new board. During the months before the election and the time after there have been rumours going on in Servas Kazakhstan concerning the development and personal situation within the group.\*

Zhandos Aitymov has been the founder and first national secretary of Servas Kazakhstan. Not only according to his perception Harald Seiffert (Servas Germany) has been a mentor and helper for Servas Kazakhstan from the very start.

In summer 2014 a youth meeting was organised in Kyrgyzstan, especially (not only) meant for members from Central Asia, but members from other countries were, of course, invited. According to Ewa Dzierzawska (Servas Poland), Kyrgyzstan was chosen as the place because visa is only required for very few countries to travel there as a tourist. The meeting was organised by Servas Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Russia (Zhandos Aitymov writes). Among the other visitors were Harald Seiffert, and as members of the Servas International Development Committee (DC): Ewa Dzierzawska, Anna Cristina Siragusa (Servas Italy) and Pablo Chufeni (Servas Argentina).

Already before the meeting there had been a conflict between Zhandos Aitymov and Devendra Pal (that time national secretary of Servas Kyrgyzstan) concerning some participants from Servas (according to Zhandos Aitymov's statement). Zhandos Aitymov accused Devendra Singh of having invited people from Kazakhstan who hadn't been members of Servas Kazakhstan, without contacting him. During the meetings there were serious discussions during which Zhandos Aitymov was questioned by Leila of not having done enough for Servas during the last years.

The conflict ended with the decision of members of Servas Kazakhstan to hold elections for a new board of Servas Kazakhstan. A first election took place on 19th October 19th (with Leila Suleimenova being elected as national secretary), but as Zhandos Aitymov did not attend the meeting (being in Turkey at that time) DC and Servas SI Executive Committee weren't sure whether the elections could be regarded as valid. So new elections were held on 27th December 27th, with Zhandos attending it. Leila was elected as the new national secretary, Karlygash Ishanova as deputy. No one voted for Zhandos Aitymov, who did not accept the election as legitimate from a democratic standpoint. According to his

**KAZAKHSTAN - continued on page 9**



From left: Karlygash Ishanova, Deputy of Servas Kazakhstan; Devendra Singh, founder of Servas Kyrgyzstan and election observer; Joldasov Tamerlane; Leila Suleimanova, National Secretary of Servas Kazakhstan; Aidana Namazov; and Yerlan Namazov, Peace Secretary of Servas Kazakhstan



## COMMITTEE

*continued from pg. 8*

various meetings with the members from these two targeted countries, in order to pass on as much information as possible about how Servas works. A lot of things had to be discussed and explained. Many members in these areas had never had any contact with Servas members from other countries, nor travelled with Servas (except from Zhandos Aitymov, the founder of Servas Kazakhstan, and Devendra Singh, the founder and honorary president of Servas Kyrgyzstan).

What emerged clearly during the discussions was a big difference in the way the functioning of Servas was perceived, especially when talking about the possibility of a change in the leadership through elections based on democratic principles. Just consider that since its establishing in 2006, there were never Servas elections amongst members in Kazakhstan and such questions had never even been discussed. It is natural that with new information, some thoughts and energies can arise amongst members, but up to this point everything was very positive: everyone surely wanted to understand more about Servas, and to improve their national group. No doubt that everyone there was grateful to key people that started Servas in each country. But eventually conflicts couldn't be avoided anymore.

The days we spent at the international meeting represented a challenge: we faced problems and confronted in an open and constructive way. Although we departed in harmony, a conflict within Servas Kazakhstan continued and you will read more in Wolfgang Stapelfeldt's article on page XY in this issue of SI News. We hope it definitely ended with last December's election. The Development Committee hopes that a new era of cooperation within Servas Kazakhstan is starting: let's don't forget that Servas' strength comes from peace amongst members within the organization. 🌱

*Members from the Development Committee are also: Ewa Dzierzawska, chair (Poland); Aneris Cao (Argentina and Chile); Joel Kaloba (Zambia); Pablo Chufeni (Argentina)*

## KAZAKHSTAN

*continued from pg. 8*

perception he had been treated unfairly during the meeting in Kyrgyzstan – also from two members of the DC who, following his statement, had to prevent Harald Seiffert from taking part in important meetings (remember: Zhandos Aitymov characterises Harald Seiffert as close friend). He complains about unfriendly behaviour by two members of the DC towards him and only accepted Anna Cristina Siragusa as dialogue partner.

As it comes to the elections, Leila Suleimenova and Zhandos Aitymov seem to look at the matter from a different perspective. Zhandos Aitymov points out in a longer e-mail that for him it was important to have in mind the different cultural and lingual identities in Kazakhstan. It was his aim, he writes, to work together with other groups to build up a network and connect the different identities with each other. This would have taken some time and needed patience. Still Servas Kazakhstan had had many visitors – he, Zhandos Aitymov, had been quite satisfied with the development. To this Leila Suleimenova countered that during the last years hardly any activities of the national secretary had been visible and there had never been any assembly over years – it is no chance for an election. She points out in an e-mail that Zhandos Aitymov clearly has his merits as it comes to the development of Servas Kazakhstan, but she criticises the lack of further development and also dissemination and sharing of information. Only through taking part in the meeting in Kyrgyzstan she found out what Servas really was – without it she could have believed to be in another organisation (this last information I got from a member of DC, not from Leila directly). Comments of other members of Servas Kazakhstan seem to support this.

Leila Suleimenova's look on Kazakhstan with its variety seems close to Zhandos Aitymov's, but she is setting up other priorities from that knowledge by saying: "To develop the activity of Servas, Kazakhstan we have to involve very active and positive people with widely-open minded ones who speak not only in native languages but others too, as our country is multi-national one."

Leila Suleimenova emphasised that the election in December 2014 had been democratic, with Anna Cristina Siragusa and Alexey Tereshenko (Servas Russia) taking part via skype. Zhandos Aitymov, however, sees the election as illegal. From the beginning on he had stated that Servas Kazakhstan is not ready for an election. Servas in Kazakhstan would in his opinion need another two years, also bearing in mind that Kazakhstan consists of 14 administrative districts, being reduced to three within Servas. Following his ideas each of the three regions should have its own decision-making authority and come to an arrangement concerning a joint candidate. This for him was a precondition for an election.

It is not known to me as the author of this account who within Servas Kazakhstan has divided the regions and how and when it was done.

To underline his attitude Zhandos Aitymov wrote a note of protest to several NGOs (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and others) in which he stated (among other things) that "Servas Kazakhstan plans to hold elections of National secretary of Servas Kazakhstan in two years, as it was stated in many internal emails sent to EXCO, and Servas International. Any kind of meetings, events that claim to be election of National Secretary of Servas Kazakhstan are not valid."

Unfortunately this whole matter over many months has led to a conflict between Leila Suleimenova and Zhandos Aitymov. However, according to the statements of different people who look deeper into the matter it would be desirable if Zhandos Aitymov could still place his services to the disposal of Servas. In his e-mails he shows a great knowledge of the history of Kazakhstan and the region of Middle Asia, which in the eyes of a member of DC I spoke to would qualify him as a Servas International regional area coordinator, for example.

This article is not at all meant as a judgement of the matter. It can only express hopes for a good and harmonious development of Servas Kazakhstan and that everybody who is devoted to the ideas of Servas can find a home there. A splitting can't be the solution. 🌱

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*\*In this article I would like to summarise the different positions and to give some background information that is known to me. I haven't taken part in any meeting and have not been involved in the whole matter at any time, so it is a view from outside. My text is based on personal talks (skype and telephone) to Ewa Dzierzawska (Servas Poland and Servas International Development Committee, DC) and Harald Seiffert (Servas Germany), e-mail contact with Anna Cristina Siragusa (Servas Italy and Servas International Development Committee, further on called DC) and Leila Suleimenova (Servas Kazakhstan). In addition to that I tried to contact Zhandos Aitymov (former national secretary of Servas Kazakhstan), but got no reply. However I read several of his e-mails to different people where he clearly stated his point of view.*

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# Follow-Up on Servas Activity in Central Asia

by Karlygash Ichshanova,  
Deputy of NS, Servas-Kazakhstan  
[www.servas.kz](http://www.servas.kz)



Servas Kazakhstan members with its national musical instrument Dombra with Anna Christina

The Servas meeting in Kyrgyzstan in the summer 2014 was our first encounter with Servas members from other countries and there were many represented: Poland, Russia, Korea, Argentina, Italy, Denmark and many others. Almost twenty altogether! We learned a lot about Servas structure, work and philosophy as a peace organization. Now we are ready to share our knowledge and explain to others how we can play our role as peace-builders, both as individuals and an organization.

Unfortunately I, Karlygash couldn't travel to Kyrgyzstan because of the family problems but I was responsible for the cultural program that Servas Kazakhstan brought with them; our national costumes, songs, food.

Leila told me everything in detail so I somehow feel like I attended the get-together – the workshops, the discussions, the games.

Leila and others, came back from Kyrgyzstan full of energy and lots of ideas on how to develop Servas in our country and, hopefully, bring more visitors. We're planning to have Servas members in all regions of Kazakhstan. We would also like to activate the youth programme. In December we organised a national meeting and held an election. Leila was elected NS and Karlygash –Deputy.

Now our aim is also to help develop Servas in other central Asian countries – Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan. It's a unique and extremely interesting part of the world with rich culture, beautiful nature and turbulent history. Just come and see for yourself. It's worth it. Let's meet. 🇷🇺



The flag of Kazakhstan



Visiting the children's village



Servas Kazakhstan members in their national dresses with the member of Servas, Italy



Korean family: father and daughter with the Servas member of Spain



Anna Christina and Italian Servas member are learning old kazakh written skills

# The New Servas Membership Database

by Jonny Sägänger, SI President  
and Jaime Alberto Romero, SI General Secretary

**A**s a result of recent decisions made by voting member groups of Servas International, women, men and children (as opposed to just head of household) will now be part of a single world-wide system, and be immediately accessible to each other. (This will, of course, still be after they have been approved by an interview.) Also, members will now be designated as hosts, day-hosts, travellers *and/or* supporters of Servas (new category) and will be contained in a (for members only) international database.

## This is a huge change in the way Servas operates!

Until now, each country has had its own host list, available to key people in a central host list storage area in Dolphin. A traveller, once approved, would request host lists from their national secretary for the countries in which they wanted to meet Servas hosts.

The change will be reflected in the new ServasOnline System (SOLSYS) which is now under development (see *the SOLSYS status report article on page 9*). In the same way other world-wide organizations operate, individual Servas members will be able to create a profile, update their own personal information by themselves, and search for likely hosts, arrange visits, etc.

This doesn't mean that those members who are not computer users will be discriminated against in our organisation; all volunteers will do their utmost to cater to both needs.

## There were two Servas International decisions that made this possible:

1. A motion passed at the 2012 General Assembly will give responsibility to individuals for their personal data: *"Country representatives or individual members will be responsible for entering and maintaining personal data in the ServasOnLine system. Administration of ServasOnLine shall be handled in the framework of the Information Communication Team (ICT) in close contact with member countries. All member countries should appoint persons responsible for this cooperation."*
2. A motion passed by Distance Vote in December 2014 will require all Servas national groups to ensure that their individual members are added to the ServasOnline system: *"In the context of the developing Servas On Line Project - SOL, each National Secretary of a National Servas Group should create a list of individual members (travellers, host and others) from relevant data bases before March of each year."*

## What does this mean for individual Servas members, once the ServasOnline system is operational?

- Individual Servas members will use the ServasOnline system to enter and update their personal information
- Country volunteers will oversee entries for their country and do their best to ensure it is accurate
- Members will be able to search the world-wide system to locate and contact hosts
- Individual members can connect with each other and work together to plan and promote Peace activities
- Individual Servas members can create communities with other members with similar interests

If you have questions please email [exco@servas.org](mailto:exco@servas.org) with the subject line "Individual members" and we will get back to you. 🌱

## A HISTORY OF SERVAS MEMBERSHIP To Foster Servas Development And Increase Equality

by Jonny Sägänger, SI President

**T**he definition of membership in Servas for many years been a confusing subject. Members in Servas International (SI) according to the Servas International constitution — the SI statutes — are national groups that meet the membership criteria. But at the same time individual women and men are often called members of an SI member group or national group. Confusing? Personally we think so and we know we're not the only ones who are confused about the definition of what it means to be a "member" in the Servas community.

The good news is that there exist now two important decisions from within our organisation that have paved the way to end the confusion and to create clarity. The votes — most recently the SI Distant Vote on the Internet that ended in December 2014 and a decision at the SI General Assembly (SI GA) in Poland 2012 — will create conditions for better and clearer definitions, terminology and an organisational structure that will be easier to understand.

These decisions will — which are equally important for a progressive organisation like Servas — also promote increased equality between men and women, between the younger generations and the older generations.

On top of that, the decisions will help Servas to mobilise it's resources in our effort to have a more significant presence on the Internet as a peace and hospitality organisation and to improve the hospitality service we offer both member groups, member countries and individual female and male members, as well as their children.

As a critical reader you of course ask yourself how will this be possible?

### LET'S START WITH SOME FACTS

At the SI GA 2012 the representatives of Servas member groups voted for a joint motion from Servas in Sweden and Canada:

*Country representatives or individual members will be responsible for entering and maintaining personal data in the ServasOnLine system. Administration of ServasOnLine shall be handled in the framework of the Information Communication Team (ICT) in close contact with member countries. All member countries should appoint persons responsible for this cooperation.*

**MEMBERSHIP - continued on page 12**

## MEMBERSHIP

*continued from pg. 11*

*ServasOnline responsibilities and working methods should be reviewed every year and reported to SI EXCO and at following General Assemblies.*

Item 63 in the Servas International Minutes of General Assembly 2012, which you can find here:

[www.servas.org/sicoga2015/files/SI\\_GA\\_2012\\_Minutes\\_final.pdf](http://www.servas.org/sicoga2015/files/SI_GA_2012_Minutes_final.pdf)

Out of all the voting member groups 46 supported the joint motion. One country voted against and three member groups abstained from voting.

The major significance of this vote was that not only country representatives, but also individual members should be given the responsibility — and the authority — to enter and maintain their own personal data in the ServasOnline System (SOLSYS) which now is under development (please find status report article about SOLSYS on page 16).

The current Exco realized that there was a need to reinforce the vote from SI GA 2012 with further changes to how individual member's data should be handled within Servas International. This became increasingly important when we (Exco) realized what is needed to create a well functioning administrative system for member data management and support functions for individual hosting and travelling members, communities like the member groups and national groups as well as for volunteer officers.

For that reason Exco presented a motion about individual members (travellers, host and others) that was voted on by the SI member groups in a SI Distant Vote during the second half of 2014.

The motion read as follows:

### **MOTION EXCO – 001 – 2014. REGISTRATION PROCESS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

In the context of the developing Servas On Line Project - SOL, each National Secretary of a National Servas Group should create a list of individual members (travellers, host and others) from relevant data bases before March of each year.

The motion was adopted by the Distant Vote, which means that the vote is as binding as the decision would have been had it been passed by a meeting of the SI GA.

Out of the 52 voting member groups 37 voted for, seven against and eight abstained.

In his report Chris Patterson, the SI Distant Vote Administrator living in New Zealand, states:

*Motion 1, concerning Registration of Individual Members, generated a number of comments. First, there was concern that no supporting information was available to explain the need and rationale for the motion. Second, this was a motion that several voters felt would have benefited from a discussion forum of some kind so that comments could be made on the motion before the wording was finalised. The Against/No & Abstain votes may reflect these concerns.*

SI Exco admits that we - as a group - failed to inform the SI membership in advance in an adequate manner about the background, the rationales and the importance of this Distant Vote.

But since the motion passed the vote with a significant majority Exco is convinced that the vast majority of member groups realize that the future lies in the shift to giving the individual women and men who host travellers and travel with Servas a greater responsibility in handling their own personal data, for example contact information, interests, professional and personal background in their posts in the "host list". I put the term "host list" in quotation marks, since the Servas host lists are increasingly digital and Internet based. The term "host list" leads the thinking to "host lists" printed on paper.

What now happens is that one country after another have given priority to provide travellers with the information they need in a digital way via the Internet, instead of sending heavy envelopes with voluminous host lists.

The SI GA 2012 and the recent SI Distant Vote will speed up this development. This doesn't mean that those members who prefer to use printed host lists will be discriminated against in our organisation. SI Exco will - together with member groups and national groups - do our utmost to cater to these needs.

So, now let's move to the question about promotion of equality of genders and different generations. The claim at the beginning of this article is that individual handling of and responsibility for member data promote increased equality between men and women, and the fostering of increased rights of the younger generation of Servas members?

**The gender issue.** I know from personal experience that it has happened — and might still happen — that one partner in a couple refuses the partner to have his or her own Letter of Introduction (LOI). The partner prefers that both partners are listed on one LOI as a couple. This becomes discriminatory when it impedes the partner from pursuing the

ambitions to travel in solitude with Servas. It will become part of a solution to this problem when it becomes mandatory with personal accounts for both the women and the man in a household.

**The children's issue.** Generally the children in hosting Servas families are — at the most — presented with their names, sex and age. The children appear as some kind of appendage or attachment to the main figures, the heads of the family and/or the household where they live. Children in the Servas community should of course be presented with the possibility to register information about their interests, favorite musicians and subjects at school. This additional information in the "host list" posts will increase children's interest and eagerness to visit Servas hosts and to receive Servas travelers.

So, finally, in what way will the SI GA 2012 and the recent SI Distant Vote help Servas to get a more significant presence on the Internet as a peace and hospitality organisation and how will it improve the hospitality service we offer?

The simple reason is that the handling of personal data will become easier and less time consuming for Servas female and male members to handle when she and he get access to an easy to use (user friendly) personal Servas account.

Does this shift towards increased possibility — and responsibility — for female and male Servas members to enter and maintain their personal details mean that there will be no need for the administrative tasks that today are being handled by hard working volunteers in Servas member groups and country groups?

Not at all, the Servas groups on country level still have an important responsibility to oversee the quality of the data that has been registered by the individual members.

The really good news is that the Servas volunteers can slowly start a shift away from mainly administrative and "bureaucratic" handling of individual members to outreaching activities like peace activities, promotion of Servas to make the organisation grow et cetera.

Do you have questions about individual membership for women and men in Servas? Please send them via an email to SI Exco ([exco@servas.org](mailto:exco@servas.org)) with the subject line "Individual members" and we will get back to you shortly. 🌱

# ServasOnLine Project Status Report

by Jonny Sägänger, President Servas International and SOLSYS Project Sponsor  
and Bernard Andrieu, Project Manager

The creation of a new and modernized website is one of the top priorities for the Servas International Executive Committee (SI EXCO). The so-called ServasOnLine project has been prioritized based on decisions that were made at the Servas International General Assembly 2012 and at the General Assembly 2009.

But ServasOnLine is more than a new website.

## The SOL project consists of the following parts:

- The creation of presence and appearance on the world-wide-web, (www=Internet).
- ICT (Information and Communication Team) platform
- Members' application and database storage.

This is the reason the project, as it has evolved, has been renamed the "ServasOnLine System Project" (SOLSYS Project).

SOLSYS has a range of different features. It's search engine which enables easy communication between travellers and potential hosts. It should also facilitate for better communication – and interaction – between all people who are part of our global organisation.

The website should be attractive enough to attract new members of all

ages, in order to make our network bigger and to give the organisation a needed numeric and economic boost.

On the wish list for future features in the SOLSYS project is to offer member groups and member countries the ability to handle the extremely important task of member administration. If this kind of bureaucracy can be done in less time and with less money spent, Servas volunteers around the world could focus more on peace activities and the promotion of Servas and its services and values.

In December 2014 the French web design and development company, Oonops, delivered new versions of specification documents for the ServasOnLine system and so-called mock-ups for the new website that will be located on the domain [servas.org](http://servas.org) (please look at the mock-up image on page 14)

The selection of the company Oonops was the result of a procurement process for the design phase of the ServasOnLine project. The design phase of the SOLSYS project is now completed. Next in line is to make a process for the procurement of services for the next phase of the project, the development phase, and the to execute the development.

The group of volunteers in the ServasOnLine Steering Committee Management Team (SOLSYS SCMT) that is

planning and executing the project is now in contact with a number of companies that is considering to offer their services based on a so called Request For Proposals (RFP). The RFP presents what services SOLSYS SCMT and Exco want to be delivered by the company that will be chosen based on criteria like price, quality and ability to work fast and efficiently.

The RFP for SOLSYS was sent to a selected group of companies around the world at the beginning of this year, for estimates of costs and time frames.

SOLSCMT and SI Exco will, as soon as possible, identify and select the company or companies that offer the best combination of price and quality.

During this there will be a need for SOLSCMT to redefine roles and responsibilities, i.e. hosting, administration and webmaster for the ServasOnLine operations. This work is in progress.

## This will also happen in the SOLSYS project on short and long term basis:

- Preparation of ServasOnLine deployment in each country (jointly with the national secretaries, which implies a stop in use of their own national members' database).
- SI budgeting SOLSYS which will involve the cost for 2015 investment, for example the development of the main functions, and the future costs for yearly operations and evolution.

The first test version of the developed website is expected to be ready for testing during the summer of 2015.

In March 2015 there will be an announce call for testers to test this first

version on the Canadian server. Sweden, Canada, Germany, Israel, France and Spain are among the countries that have expressed interest in volunteering as pilot countries for the implementation of the ServasOnLine System.

In October this year a second test version will be presented at the Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2015).

An operational version is planned to be launched in 2016.

SI Exco is convinced that the new website and the ServasOnLine System needs to be finished soon, in order to prevent loss of existing members and to keep recruitment of new members at an acceptable level.

But it's our responsibility as Servas International's board to be both visionary and realistic.

## FACTS ABOUT SERVASONLINE SYSTEM

### The ServasOnLine System (SOLSYS) includes the following parts:

- A public website, including a restricted area accessible to authenticated Servas members only.
- An online application for updating contents of the public website. This is called a content management system (CMS).
- An online application for the Members Administration, with its distinct url.

There is now a mock-up version of the new website's design. The mock-up is static — not interactive — and it shows the graphical design and some

**SERVASONLINE - continued on page 14**

## SERVASONLINE

Continued from page 13

basic functionality on the website (see example of screen image of mock-up on page this page).

The graphic design was developed during the second half of 2014 by Oonops in cooperation with the ServasOnLine Steering Committee Management Team (SOLSYSCMT)\* and SI Exco.

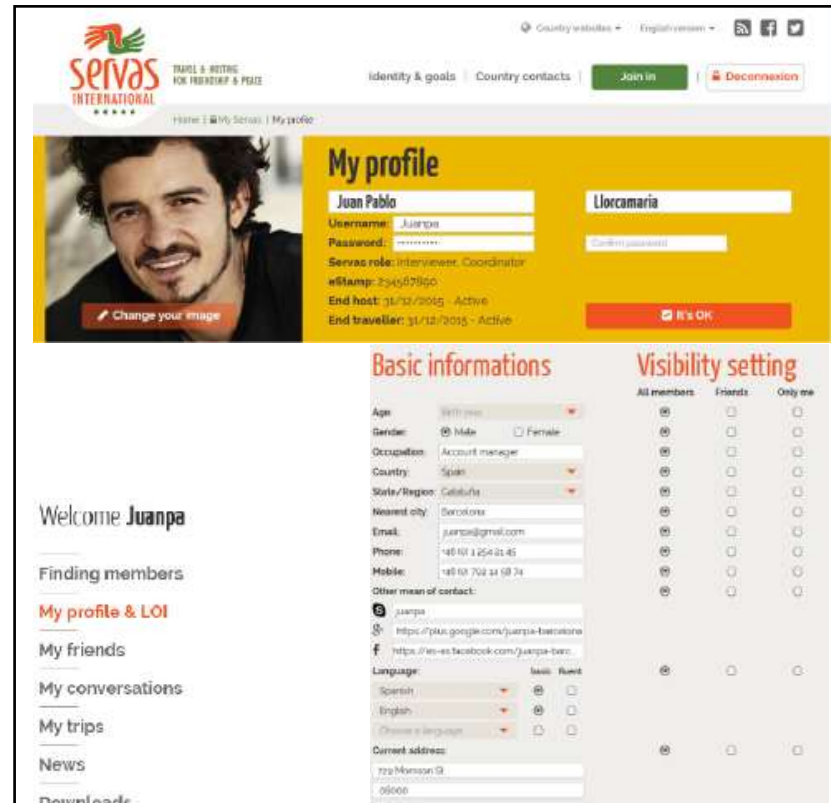
During 2014 a Servas International Image & Design Support Team (SIIDST) created one of the main components for the website; a new Servas International logo.

SI Exco has, through SIIDST, been able to offer member groups and member countries the tools and services needed to apply and use the new logo. The offer has been well received and, as of this writing, has been adopted by over 25 member countries.

Investment in the new servas.org website will be partly financed with the so-called ServasOnLine levy, which consists of funds collected from Servas member groups based on a decision made during SIGA2009 in Argentina. Alternative economic resources for ServasOnLine has been allocated in the SI budget for the three year period until the next SIGA in 2015.

As of December 31, 2014 total expenses for the ServasOnLine project from GA 2009 amounts to 15,722 euros.

\*The SOLSCMT currently consists of the Servas members Bernard Andrieu (Project Manager), Frédéric Morizot, Stefan Fagerström and Jonny Sågänger (Project sponsor and SI Exco representative).



This image taken from the mock-up version of the new Servas International website gives you an idea about the future design of the website that will be launched on the Internet domain servas.org. Illustration: Oonops.

## SURF IN & VISIT SERVAS' CURRENT WEBSITE

The current Servas International (SI) website located at [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) is a temporary design. This is where the project group SOLSYS SCMT and SI EXCO will launch the new website. The current Servas website has all the basic functionality and links for you to access Servas member and national groups, as well as registration for this years Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA 2015) in New Zealand.

This temporary website was designed in 2014 by Stefan Fagerström, Jean-Marc Eyot and Matthew Pashkovskiy, after access to the previous website had to be taken offline in December of 2013 due to hacker attacks. On the recommendation of the SI Information and Communication Team (SI ICT), SI Exco replaced it with a temporary site during the of the new, permanent design and architecture now in development.

**Servas International - [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org)**

# We're At Your Service!

Since the introduction last year of the new Servas Image & Design Support Team (SIIDST) has assisted over 25 member countries with adapting the new logo just for them. But, we're also here to help you with any of your other Servas related projects, whether it be for web or print.



We realize that everyone is not a designer or may not have the tools necessary to produce quality graphics. SIIDST members are design professionals, as well as Servas members, who have volunteered their time to help and/or advise Servas member countries with their next Servas project.

If you are a Servas National Secretary or a project/event coordinator you are welcome to contact us with your questions and/or assistance.

We also want to encourage all Servas member countries to consider the importance of maintaining a consistent and unified image throughout the Servas family. We ask you to please refer to the SIIDST web site for logo usage and design guidelines before applying the Servas logo to your project. You're also welcome to download various versions of the Servas International logo. Contact us if you have any questions or need assistance.

Email: [servasdesignhelp@gmail.com](mailto:servasdesignhelp@gmail.com)

[designhelp@servas.org](mailto:designhelp@servas.org)

Web Site: [www.siidst.servas.org](http://www.siidst.servas.org)

**HELP WANTED:** The SIIDST is looking for more team members. If you graphic design and promotional experience, a working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and/or web design please apply for team membership please email us with your qualifications and background information.

# Host List Test Results

by *Arnoud Philippo, Host List Coordinator*

In this issue, I would like to tell you about hostlists. We now have 119 countries with one or more (day-)hosts. All countries have their hostlist uploaded in Dolphin (Servas Japan will do this soon). Almost all countries do allow that their digital list can be given or sent by e-mail to the traveler. Only Ireland, Japan and Switzerland do not allow this: papercopies of their hostlist can be ordered through Dolphin (with the HostListRequestForm). Many countries have been able to reduce their expenses for printing and sending hostlists.

\*The hostlists of 80 countries were tested recently. 954 e-mails were sent with the request to reply as soon as possible. The fraction of the e-mails which did not bounce (called the 'data-reliability') was on the average 88 %. Only nine countries have a result less than 70 %. So, apart from these countries, it's reasonable to suppose that the data in most lists are updated. Good news!

Apart from this the number of e-mails replied within 14 days after sending was registered. The fraction of the messages which was replied 'on time' (called 'response-reliability') is on the average 42 %.

From the 53 lists with 10 or more hosts five lists have a response-reliability of 73 % or more: Nepal (100 %), Mexico (86 %), Portugal (82 %), Singapore (73 %) and Romania (78 %).

\*It is recommended to keep the data-reliability on these high levels and to increase the response-reliability, in the (near) future through the use of an efficient system incorporated in ServasOnline which enhances the availability of updated host- and traveller-data, maintained by motivated key-people in Servas.

The report of the Hostlistreliabilitytest will be send to all Servas-groups, teams and committees and to all the people who did help with doing the test! Do you want to receive the Report Host List Reliability Test 2014/2015? Please send a message to [hostlistcoordinator@servas.org](mailto:hostlistcoordinator@servas.org)

\*In the next issue more about the Project Servas Start-Up Contacts. 🌱

# Keeping Our Dreams Alive

by *Danielle Serres, Servas International Peace Secretary*

Still time to send you my best wishes for a more peaceful world to live in this year!

Many thanks to all of you who sent me messages of solidarity, after the violent attacks in Paris.

Of course it's only natural if one feels specially affected when something terrible like this happens in one's country. Although as a citizen of the world I am also deeply concerned when human rights are attacked in other parts of the world, freedom of expression being only one of those human rights. And human rights are universal benchmarks.

These dramatic events and their aftermath, with so many people taking the streets peacefully, just gave me more determination in my daily struggle against discrimination and intolerance.

Let's keep our dreams alive even in the most challenging moments, and may our sorrow never sweep away our hopes of a better world.

Let's make our friendship stronger! 🌱



## HOW TO INCREASE SERVAS MEMBERSHIP

by Harley Thomas, Servas Sweden

At our last annual meeting in Servas Sweden we decided to do our best to change the curve showing slowly decreasing numbers of Servas members in Sweden. We already had a nice new homepage, we had tried to expose Servas at a tourist fair and we had also made small hand-over cards with basic information about Servas. All of these actions did help a little, but not enough.

Last year a local newspaper wrote an article about Servas, which suddenly doubled the numbers of Servas members in that city (Umeå).

Then in September 2014, the second biggest daily newspaper in Sweden had a big article about Servas. The article covered a two-page spread and displayed nice pictures from different trips made by Swedish Servas members. There were some pictures from Sweden, showing Servas guests experiencing adventures like a winter bath in icy water after a sauna. In the article there was basic information about Servas as well as an interview with a Swedish couple who have travelled several times as Servas guests. They related their preparations before a trip, their unexpected experiences and nice encounters with Servas hosts in South America and South Africa. Some encounters had led to long-lasting friendships. A shorter version of the article was also published online, [www.svd.se/resor/tips-bo-hos-vardar-i-hela-varlden\\_3919446.svd](http://www.svd.se/resor/tips-bo-hos-vardar-i-hela-varlden_3919446.svd) (in Swedish - ed)

The same day as the article was published we noticed an increase in traffic to our website. More exactly, we had 146 visitors to our website that day. On average we have 11 visitors per day. This day we also received 10 emails from families, who had read the article and wanted to proceed with an interview to become members. In total we received 22 membership inquiries during the first two weeks after the publication. This is a lot more than we usually get! And we still get membership requests thanks to this article, and in the meantime we are busy arranging meetings for interviews in order to approve new members.

Our conclusion is that articles in any daily newspaper, are a very good way of spreading information about what fun and how interesting and exciting it can be to become a Servas member. Almost every well-known newspaper has a couple of pages about travelling at least once a week. Try to contact your local newspaper and make Servas grow! 🌱

# Together Everyone Achieves More Our UN Representatives: Who Are They? What Do They Do?

**W**e would like to introduce you to our Servas Representatives to the United Nations (These appointments follow the guidelines created in 2014 and drafted under SI Peace Secretary leadership.)

Committed to the UN process of attaining peace and conflict resolution, and to the importance of Servas as an NGO at the UN, our UN representatives attend sessions/events regularly. As volunteers they are not expected to attend full-time but at least three to four times a year.

They promote Servas as a peace organization within the UN environment and in communications with Servas and local communities. They also establish contacts with other NGOs within the UN context.

They can join oral or written statements of NGOs and/or prepare (together with SI President and SI Peace Secretary) written and/or oral statements to be presented at the UN.

Under certain conditions SI UN representatives may facilitate your visit to the UN venues provided that you contact them well in advance.

As a member of Servas International you may enjoy the privilege of becoming a UN observer at the United Nations in New York, Geneva, or Vienna. In each of these three UN venues there are five openings each year for you to obtain an annual ground pass. At the time of writing there are still openings available for UN NYC and Vienna venues for 2015.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Serres at [peacesecretary@servas.org](mailto:peacesecretary@servas.org) or Magnus Adams at [magnus.adams@servas.org](mailto:magnus.adams@servas.org) 🌱

## MEMBERS OF THE SERVAS UN TEAM

## SERVAS PEACE SECRETARY

**Danielle SERRES**

I live in the South of France and I have been a Servas member for 7 years. I have always been interested in defending human rights, and still working as a freelance translator in that field. I believe in peace, social justice and nonviolence, and as Servas International Peace Secretary for 3 years one of my goal has been to build a team of Servas volunteers to represent our NGO at the UN, and improve knowledge of UN work and ideals among the Servas community. I believe being an accredited NGO at ECOSOC since 1973 gives us a unique opportunity to be recognized as a network established to help build world peace.

## IN GENEVA

**Lorette DUBOUT**

I live in Annecy, France. I'm a social worker. My hobbies are mountain hiking in all weathers, cinema, reading and singing Gospel. I like travelling and meeting people, and to be a "go-between". What I seek is always for humans to be an "added value".

**Daniela DOENGES**

Born in 1971 in Hagen, Germany, I live in Crozet, France. I have a Masters in Specialized Translation from the University of Geneva with the language combination of German, French and English, and a master thesis about translation in the context of inter-cultural dialogue. I also completed two years of Arabic. I am passionate about human rights and inter-cultural dialogue and have been engaged in NGO work at the UN since January 2013. I currently work as a German teacher in a French public school. I have undertaken numerous trips throughout Middle East and Asia and am passionate about minority rights and the Right to Development.

**Magnus ADAMS**

I have been a Servas International Peace Secretary Assistant since 2013. I am 29 years old and became a member of Servas when returning from an internship in Uruguay in 2007. My wish is to connect Servas to other NGOs and to facilitate Servas members' active UN participation.

**Vreny BOESCH**

Vreny Boesch is my name now, but during 30 years I was Mrs. Schmidt. At that time I was married to a Swiss farmer. Our four children are 34, 38, 46, and 47 years old. In 1980, I lost a child. Luckily, we have been SERVAS hosts for 33 years and the 'world was coming to us', now I get the chance now to travel over the world. I was a kindergarten teacher, farmer and my last profession was adult-educator. I retired in 2007.

## IN NYC

**Jeanne DEVINE**

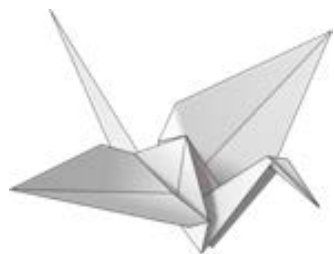
I live in Tempe, Arizona and have also lived in Mexico (1968-70). I founded and directed Unlimited Potential, non-profit educational program for Hispanic immigrant women and preschoolers (86-07). From 1990 to the present I have traveled in Canada, Mexico, C. America, S. America, Thailand, Nepal, S. Africa. I am currently active in environmental, immigration, social-political issues, building local SERVAS group in Phoenix area and promoting info and awareness of UN and UNA. Fervent believer in SERVAS and potential to build peace, social justice, and environmentally sustainable world.

**Fanny BELLO**

I was born in Venezuela and presently live and work in New York as an economist (Universidad Central de Venezuela). In Venezuela, I was the Director of the Foundation for Developing Community (Fundacomun). From this government program I brought experience to Servas in Venezuela during my 10 years as Servas General Secretary. Also in Venezuela I worked in agriculture financing institutions, culminating this job as Minister of Agriculture.

I am very proud of being Servas International Representative at United Nations. For me Servas has a very important role to play in UN. I think this is an important theme to discuss during Servas International Conference in New Zealand.





# Origami for Peace and Teambuilding

by Meir Hayoun, Anna Cristina Siragusa and Danielle Serres

## About the Peace Crane

The crane is a bird with a long neck and tail feathers. The origami crane has become an international symbol for peace. Sadako, a young girl in Japan who initially survived the atom bomb blast in 1945, tried to make 1,000 origami cranes before she died. Sadako's story has been an inspiration for many people around the world who hope for greater peace in our world.

In 1958 in the place where the atomic bomb was dropped, a PEACE memorial has been inaugurated (Hiroshima Peace Park).

There you can find the statue of Sadako with her arms outstretched to the sky: an origami crane is taking flight from her hands. At the base of the statue you can read "This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world".

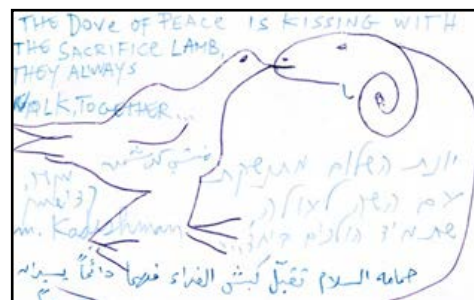


Every year people of all nationalities bring paper cranes to the peace memorial, in the hope that peace will reign among nations.

Origami is also commonly used for teambuilding exercises. For peace of our minds, practising silence and attention during the workshop. See an example of it, with Anna Cristina Siragusa leading a workshop for Servas Italy members during Servas Italy National Assembly, 2014, in Falconara Marittima:

## About the dove

The dove is another bird which is also recognized by many as a symbol of peace. For example, the Chinese felt the dove was a symbol of peace and long life. In 1950, Picasso painted La Colombe (The Dove), a traditional, realistic picture of a pigeon, and said that his father had taught him to paint doves, concluding, "I stand for life against death; I stand for peace against war." 🕊️



Meir Hayoun, Servas Israel National Peace Secretary, shares with us this drawing by a famous Israeli artist, Menashe Kadishman

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### E-LIST HEADACHES AND SOLUTIONS

Dear SI News,

Jane Giffould wrote in the Nov./Dec. 2014 SI News about her travelling that she "wanted no commitment to times or places that Servas required."

She continues "please do not rely only on electronic means." I agree that there can be problems accessing and printing parts of electronic lists. My suggestion? ...

When I travelled for 28 weeks to 12 Asian countries, I wrote a list of my hosts, and at least one "backup host" for each host I wanted to visit. I didn't write details, just the vital info. About 50 hosts fit on one sheet of paper. I took 2 copies with me.

No internet or computer needed, just 8 grams of paper. What could be easier?

No host books to carry or chance losing, and you can return them before your trip for a refund and someone else can use them.

But even if Jane had done this, Servas wouldn't often work for her as she had "only have a vague idea where I might end up in the evening" and most hosts need some notice.

in peace,

**Michael Johnson,**

**Servas Canada newsletter editor.**

Send your comments, opinions and suggestions to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org). Be sure to include "Letters to Editor" in your email subject line.

# Summary of the Christmas 2014 Event in Israel

by Claudia Sagi, Servas Israel N.S



view of roofs in the Old city of Jerusalem

**W**e did it again - the Christmas with Servas in Israel event, which took place on 22-29 December 2014, is over, and it left all of us with a taste of wanting more—more international social meetings—to get to know each other better in Servas.

More than 30 Servas friends from 11 countries met in Israel, traveled with Israeli hosts and joined guided tours in Christian sites in the Galilee and Jerusalem.

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

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

We wish to thank all participants for being patient with our logistical mistakes, for rushing you from site to site, from host to host, and from host or hotel.

We wanted to share our country and hosts with you.

We already know that other Servas groups will plan social meetings like us, to get to know the cultures and people from other countries better.

It has been a great and meaningful experience for us.

Thanks to Servas Israel organizers, helpers, hosts and drivers - and they were many.

KOL HAKAVOD (well done)

TODA VELEHITRAOT (thanks and see you again) 🌈



one group in the visitor's center in old Akko (Acre)



one group before the Old City wall in Jerusalem



get-together game at Capernaum national park, at the start of the tour of the Sea of Galilee



how-happy-we-were game at farewell meeting



The group at the Church of the Primacy of Peter on a beach of the Sea of Galilee



another group there



get-together-game at Mary's Well in Nazareth at the start of the tour of Nazareth old city's holy sites

## CHRISTMAS 2014 IN ISRAEL

### A Personal Touch

by Marilyn Collins, Servas Britain

I had been on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2006 and I was in Jerusalem in November 2014, staying with my son, daughter-in-law and three grandsons, who have lived there for eighteen months, but I knew that this trip would be quite different.

My first host was Iris Salomon Hareven, whose husband Sharon kindly picked me up from the airport and took me home to Iris and their two small sons. Pavel Sroubek from the Czech Republic and his daughter Kristina were also staying with them as Servas travellers and Pavel was kind enough to give me a lift with them to Haifa the next day, where we were to meet the rest of our group and our next hosts, who in my case were Sylvia and Yossi Lipa, who are originally from Britain and met as teenagers on a Kibbutz, later married and made their life and their family in Israel. The next day Yossi took us to Kibbutz Kfar Massaryk where we met the rest of the group for a tour around, by our guide Haim Murik, Yossi.


The next day was Christmas Eve and we were lucky enough to travel to Nazareth by car with our hosts Orna and Benjamin Alkalay, who were part of Claudia's organising team. Our Servas guide in Nazareth was Iris Salomon-Hareven, and she turned out to be an excellent guide as well as an excellent host. Her golden personality shone through her ability to pay attention to every important detail. Later we watched a sort of Carnival, or Lord Mayor's parade, but the highlight for me was attending Latin Mass in the beautiful 'Basilica of the Annunciation'. We stayed that night with Orna and Benjamin in another Servas hosts house in Massad.

Iris was also our guide the next day, Christmas Day, around the Sea of Galilee. I couldn't believe it, who would ever have believed that I could be on the 'Sea of Galilee' on Christmas Day, The whole day was wonderful, I was so happy!

On 'Boxing Day' we travelled to Jerusalem by car, where we booked into a hostel for three nights. My roommate there was Imelda Hildebrandt from Germany, We made friends straight away and I hope that we will get a chance to see each other again. I also hope to meet up again with Imelda's friend Gerlinda Butzphal, also from Germany. We laughed a lot together, spent precious time together and had very interesting conversations to boot! Thank you Claudia and your team of organizers. It was a wonderful experience.

After the group disbanded I was very happy to go and spend time with my special Servas friends Lesley and Meir Hayoun, who I met in 2009 when they came to stay with me in Compton Abbas. They took me under their wings and treated me to two more memorable days in Jerusalem, during which Lesley introduced me to Judy, a very interesting woman, originally from Canada, who had travelled to Israel reluctantly with her mother in 1948 and very soon decided to be a part of it for the rest of her life!

I travelled back to Tel Aviv by bus on New Year's Eve, where I spent the last two days of my trip with Judith Lahav, my last Servas host. We also became friends and I was able to talk to her about just about everything. We walked to the seaside together from her apartment and we enjoyed lunch together in a restaurant that was actually on the beach! Later she drove me back to Jerusalem to a New Year's Eve party. A very good way to end a most enjoyable trip.

Thank you Servas! 

## Peace in Nature

International Meeting in Umbria

April 26 - May 1 2015

Hotel Duomo - San Gemini (TR) – Italy

Phone +39 0744 630015

Email [albergo.duomo@gruppoabacus.com](mailto:albergo.duomo@gruppoabacus.com)

Web site [www.albergoduomosangemini.it](http://www.albergoduomosangemini.it)

The Servas Italy association is organizing an international meeting since April 26 until May 1, 2015 in the city of San Gemini (15 km from Terni) by the Hotel Duomo (an ancient building of 18th century). The meeting will give the opportunity of knowing and tasting the beauty and some of the activities about peace developed by Umbria region. The programme schedules tours and meetings with the representatives of "Tavola della Pace" and the foundation "Aldo Capitini". The meeting is limited to a maximum number of 50 foreign participants and 20 Italian participants.

#### Services Offered:

Halfboard for 5 days. Included: private bus, tickets for the guided tours, boat and appetizer on Piediluco Lake and some food tastings. No lunch included.

#### Costs in Euros per person:

265 Euros in classic double room; 300 Euros in comfort/superior double room;  
340 Euros in de luxe double room; 390 Euros in suite.

#### Booking:

The booking has to be done to the hotel Duomo directly specifying that you are Servas members, what room you are booking and paying 100 Euros in advance.

#### Arrival instructions:

By car : motorway E45 (Roma-Cesena) exit San Gemini. By train ([www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)) : Terni Railstation then Bus to San Gemini. By Plane: Roma Fiumicino (FCO) airport ([www.adr.it/fiumicino](http://www.adr.it/fiumicino)) then train to Roma Termini station or Roma Ciampino (CIA) airport ([www.adr.it/ciampino](http://www.adr.it/ciampino)) then Bus to Roma Termini station.

#### Transfer from Roma Termini Railway Station:

Private bus to Sangemini from Termini Station in Rome (Via Giolitti) departing at 5 p.m. on April 26, 2015. Please book to the hotel if you are interested.

#### Transfer from Terni Railway station:

Some private cars of Italian Servas members will be waiting in the square in front of Terni railway station at 6 p.m. on April 26, 2015. Please book to the hotel if you are interested.

#### Note

All participants are warmly invited to take with them an object preferably representing their country of origin that will be exchanged with the other participants. The event doesn't have any insurance to cover healthcare. Servas Italy doesn't give any insurance in case of any accidents.

For any further information don't hesitate to contact Servas staff at: [peaceinumbria@gmail.com](mailto:peaceinumbria@gmail.com)

# Birgitte Damsgaard - 1914–2014

By Susanne Thestrup, Board Member, Servas Denmark

**B**irgitte Damsgaard, former National Secretary of Servas Denmark, passed away in November 2014. Birgitte was born in 1914, and a group of relatives and Servas friends celebrated her 100th birthday in her home in March 2014. Birgitte became the National Secretary (NS) in 1970. She put a lot of effort into growing Servas from a shaky list with less than 20 hosts to a stable organisation with more hosts than the incoming travellers could cover. And lots of outgoing travellers.

Birgitte started writing articles, notices, leaflets, posters and ads for all kinds of newspapers, journals, bulletins, newsletters, institutions, unions, etc. She sent letters to professionals whom she thought might join as hosts, for example ministers, schoolteachers and principals, journalists. She was targeting mostly people in knowledge-based jobs, even though she wanted hosts to reflect all layers of society. The first big boost came after a national newspaper article in 1972. Over that summer 50 hosts and more than 100 travellers poured in. The following decades saw several such boosts after a successful article or even a spot on TV.

Birgitte's first conference as NS was the International Servas Conference in Vienna, Austria in 1970. A chance to meet face to face with the people she was communicating

with. Those were the days of typewriters and snail mail. Birgitte kept intense correspondence with Servas people all around the world. She typed the lines closely together so as not to waste the paper and add extra weight in the

envelopes she re-used so carefully in friendly competition with Reva King of US Servas for the title as Miss Scrooge. She would go through her letters with a pen, making tiny scribbled corrections.

"If I receive a letter that is inspiring, regardless of gladness or madness, it has me sitting at the typewriter answering it in no time", she says in her notes. She left behind piles of written material, which documents the extensive contacts she had in the Servas world. In her notes Birgitte says in 1975, "the discussions at the Conference in Switzerland (1974) made me wonder whether Servas is becoming too big with the unavoidable bureaucracy and fund raising." From early years, Birgitte's criteria for accepting people as hosts and travellers were very basic: Travellers should be interested in other



Birgitte Damsgaard at 90 in March 2004

people. Criteria for hosts were slightly more elaborate; they should be highly tolerant and have a sense of humour in order to be able to accept the unusual guests and react with patience and even a smile in case of "bad behaviour".

She did not want to impose criteria such as membership of peace movements or certain levels of education, and she did not want to limit recruiting activities to word of mouth to reserve Servas for a narrow group. She believed that anybody could benefit from meeting people when travelling, focusing on the individual level. "I cannot pretend to believe that we in Servas can do much to make the world a better place (...). But I know that we can do very much for the individual traveller, who in a strange land will find security, kindness, friendship, laughter and happiness. A lot of people would say love."

There were two major international events in Denmark during Birgitte's time as NS; the 1978 SIGA in Helsingør and the 50th anniversary in 1999 which took place

in historical Askov as a one-week folk high school session. During the 1980-90s Birgitte was still active in creating opportunities for Servas people to meet. Servas Denmark had regular gatherings at Christianshavns Beboerbus community centre in Copenhagen with travellers sharing experiences and slide presentations from their travels. This was an important way of sharing in a time with no internet and Birgitte encouraged it.

A Committee was active alongside Birgitte to support her in the decision-making but at some point it became clear that Servas had to be established as a formal organisation. This was in 2001 and from this time Birgitte began slowing down in Servas Denmark. At this point her home was piled high with boxes related to Servas and visitors had to share a seat on the couch with bundles of SI News, hosts lists and binders with correspondence. A few years later - when her photocopier no longer seemed to want to cooperate - she gradually handed over the daily operations, too. In 2004 she retired from Servas and she was honoured at a reception to celebrate 34 years of service to Servas. She worked for Servas tirelessly until 2004 and we are grateful for the heart, time and energy she put in for all of us.

# How To Prepare Your Submission For Publication In Servas International News

## ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL

- Details on Upcoming International Events & Meetings
  - Articles on Servas activities in your country, opinion pieces on peace, travel & hosting, travel stories with a Servas Theme
  - Letters to the Editor (complaints, questions, praise)
  - Short quotes regarding peace/travel/friendship, etc.
  - Servas travel experiences, peace projects, event reports
  - Web sites of interest to Servas members
- Send files to [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

## MATERIAL NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Events or announcements of interest only to an individual country's members
- Long reports, such as technical and financial data, should be posted on the Servas web site.

Send such material by email to:  
[add\\_to\\_website@servas.org](mailto:add_to_website@servas.org).

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO:

- DO assume the reader knows nothing about your story. Provide an opening paragraph that explains what your story is going to be about. Include the Who, Why, What, Where and When in the first paragraph. Remember, you're writing a STORY or presenting INFORMATION not an sending an email or letter to a friend.
- DO give your story an APPROPRIATE HEADLINE and, if possible, a SUBHEAD, so your reader has an idea of what is being presented.
- DO include your (the author's) name, Servas title (if any), your country and, if you want it public, your email AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY immediately following the headline or subhead

(the exception would be for a Letter to the Editor where it should be at the end).

- DO make your article engaging and interesting, and pertinent to an INTERNATIONAL audience.
- DO avoid abbreviations so your message is clear.
- DO spell check and proof your story, twice. If possible have a friend review it for you. We will not edit your copy unless there are space limitations.
- DO prepare your story in a text application such as Microsoft Word, TextEdit. Save your file as .doc, .rtf or .txt format and attach to e-mail. Please give your file a name that RELATES TO YOUR STORY.
- DO include photos in .jpg format at 150 dpi or better in the SAME email (but NOT inside your text file).
- DO review this and previous issues of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS for examples of story format and structure.
- **DO thoroughly proof your article/event listing/letter before submitting it. We do not correct for spelling or grammar. Some editing may be done for space limitations.**

All material for publication in Servas International News should be submitted as E-mail attachments addressed to: [newsletter@servas.org](mailto:newsletter@servas.org)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO:

- DO NOT format your text with tables and fancy fonts.
- DO NOT double-space after a sentence.
- DO NOT add a space before a period or comma. Remember, a computer is not a typewriter.
- DO NOT enter double paragraph returns.
- DO NOT place photos within the story text. Submit them separately in the same email.
- DO NOT write your story in an Email message.

# Translate Servas International News Into Your Country's Language

The current issue of SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS available to any Servas member country who would like to convert an issue into their native language.

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

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

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



## Servas Continues To Grow On The World Wide Web

Here is a current listing of Servas-related web and social networking sites. If you don't see your country's web site, social networking site or other online link please send an email to "newsletter@servas.org" and we'll be sure to add it next time.

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

- **SERVAS INTERNATIONAL**  
www.facebook.com/Servas.International  
www.facebook.com/groups/2519241851  
(Servas Members Only Group)  
www.facebook.com/groups/servas (Open Group)  
Twitter: twitter.com/ServasI (Servas International)  
twitter.com/Servaspresident (Servas President)  
www.servas.org
- **SERVAS YOUTH**  
www.facebook.com/servasyouth  
www.facebook.com/groups/31004490866  
www.servasyouth.org
- **SERVAS YOUTH ESPAÑA**  
www.facebook.com/pages/Servas-Youth-España/107873695946821
- **SERVAS YOUTH PERU**  
www.facebook.com/ServasYouthPeru  
www.servasyouth.org

### LINKS TO SERVAS MEMBER COUNTRY SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WEB SITES

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

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

#### OTHER SERVAS-RELATED LINKS

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