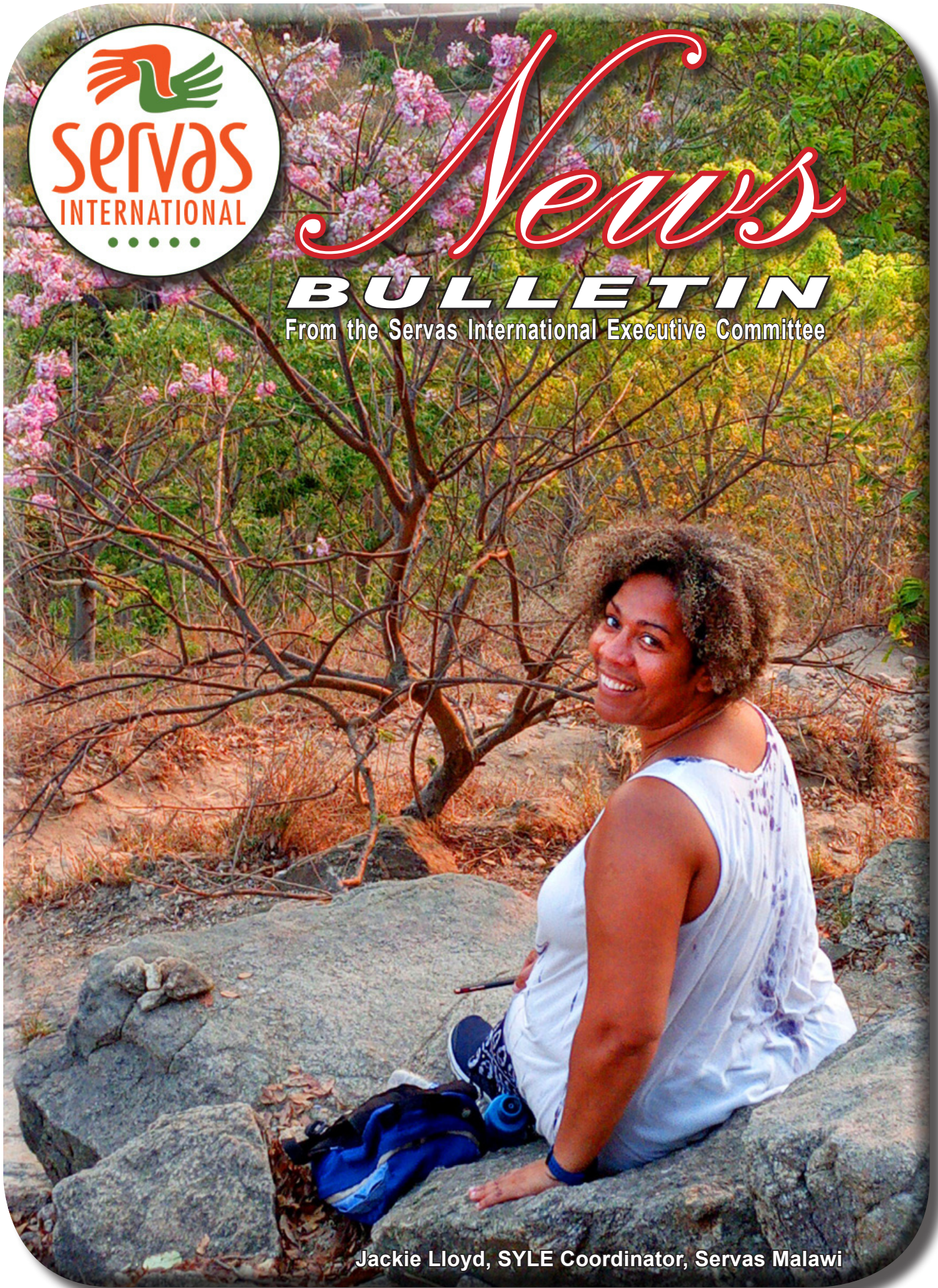




News

BULLETIN

From the Servas International Executive Committee



Jackie Lloyd, SYLE Coordinator, Servas Malawi



BULLETIN

From the Servas International Executive Committee

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EDITORIAL

by Jonny Sågänger, SI President

Representatives of the Servas community continue, despite the Coronavirus, to lead vigorous discussions via Google Groups about the future funding formula of Servas International (SI).

SI's funding formula is a calculation of how the costs for running Servas International should be divided among – and paid by – the individuals and member groups that benefit from the organization's services.

In May next year, at the end of a democratic SI Distant Vote process, the Servas member groups will decide whether to replace the existing funding formula with one of several proposals now being developed in those Google Groups discussions.

Currently, two main factions hold quite different views on one issue: Should there be an individual Servas membership for every person who has registered a personal profile in the global database ServasOnline? One group maintains that Servas will lose many of its members if they are charged an annual membership fee. The other group is confident that the membership will remain intact even if such a fee is introduced, regardless of whether you only host other members and never travel nor benefit from being hosted.



SI President, Jonny Sågänger
Photographer: Dan Coleman

As these discussions intensify over the next few months, now is a good time for every member to reflect on two things:

- What motivates you to be part of the Servas community?
- What value do Servas International and Servas member groups need to provide in order to make individual members willing to pay an annual membership fee instead of paying only when obtaining a letter of introduction (LOI) in order to travel?

My personal opinion is that a Servas membership, which a number of member groups already have introduced, gives good value for money to members who can pay a fee.

One of the main reasons for my belief is that hosting someone you never met before brings the world into your home.

I'm also confident that the other values of a Servas membership will appeal to members. I listed those in [SI News Bulletin No. 4 - 2019, page 4.](#)

Every national secretary and member who holds any other key Servas position is welcome to join the ongoing Google Groups discussion about the future SI funding formula. Just send an email to treasurer@servas.org and you will be invited to the debate.

—Jonny Sågänger
SI President

To
fee or
not to
fee?

How to Promote Servas with #hashtags

Does thinking about social media hashtags give you a headache because you don't know:

- what they are? • how to use them?
- which ones to use? • how many to use?

Keep reading for tips from social media experts from US Servas. You will discover how to use social media hashtags like a pro.

Let's start with an overview. A hashtag is any word or phrase with a # symbol in front of it. For example, #Servas or #peacebuilders.

Hashtags were first used on Twitter as a way of grouping conversations about the same topic. Anything starting with # is a hyperlink. This means hashtags are searchable.

Very simply, social media hashtags help you to:

- Group conversations
- Collect posts together
- Add context, such as an event or a location
- Add emotion through showing opinions or having fun.
- Hashtags are simple and easy to use.

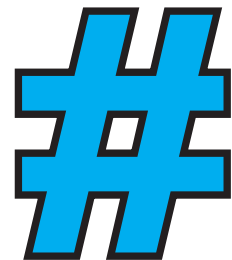
Read more at:

<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=296df58c019df3450d69f5f53&id=d303590310>

—Chris-Ann Lauria, President, Board Chair & National Secretary, US Servas



Chris-Ann Lauria,
President, US Servas



SI Treasurer Report on SI Funding Formula Discussion

In my last report (SINB No.2–2020), I presented unaudited numbers for fiscal year 2019—2020 (April 1, 2019—March 31, 2020). I am happy to report that the audit has now been completed and SI Exco will be sending the full audited report to all Servas member groups for a distant vote to adopt the audited financials.

In this report I want to talk a little about our budget, and how Servas International (SI) gets funded. Servas International has always been funded by Servas member groups. Up to 2018—2019, we were funded on the basis of how many letters of introduction (LOIs) were issued by each Servas member group. That meant that we were largely funded by travellers, even though the services provided by Servas International are for the benefit of all members and for myriad Servas activities—whether related to hosts, travellers, travel or peace.

During the SI Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) 2018, the general assembly voted to change this system, and make the payment *member-based*. I was given the task of coming up with a proposal that could be discussed, and adopted if acceptable, at the next SI General Assembly. Until a new method is voted on, it was agreed that the Servas member groups would pay the average of their last three years' payments. Accordingly, for the 2019—2020 period, Servas International received that amount.

For the last three months we have been having active discussions in a Google group

to come up with a new funding formula/model for SI. We have received proposals from several Servas member groups. We set up a Google group for these discussions. Key persons from all Servas member groups were invited to participate in the discussions.

There are two parameters that are likely to influence any funding formula. (a) The funding method should provide adequate funding for SI activities. This has not always been the case. You may remember that in my report on Servas International

Financials 2019—2020, I mentioned that we are likely to have a deficit of 48,000 Swiss Francs (CHF) in the 2020—2021 period.

That is because our spending was based on an approved budget that exceeded the approved funding voted on during the most recent SI General Assembly.

(b) It should be a *member-based* system; in other words, the payment should be based on a "rate per member".

The rate payable per member should be weighted, keeping in mind the different ability of Servas member groups to pay.

These are important discussions because the survival of Servas depends on our ability to set up a fair funding system that adequately funds all of our activities. I hope that we will soon make some meaningful decisions on the funding proposal, and I will be able to provide you with more information on any such decisions in my next report.

—Radha B. Radhakrishna
Treasurer, Servas International



US Servas Statement on Racism and Black Lives Matter



Barack Obama presents a Presidential Medal of Freedom to John Lewis.

On the day before he was hospitalized near the end of his life, civil-rights activist icon John Lewis visited Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, DC. "I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on," he wrote in a stirring essay that he asked to have published on the day of his funeral. It appeared in newspapers nationwide on July 30, 2020. Drawing upon Lewis's words, The New York Times titled the essay, "Together You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation."



the essay, "Together You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation."

Justice Is Essential for Peace. Servas Stands for Both

... So begins a statement under the title "Justice Is Essential for Peace. Servas Stands for Both," issued by the US Servas Board last month. It presents the Board's view of events that have gripped the country and the world since the murder of George Floyd in police custody, and it presents one way that Servas is responding. Read the entire statement at:

<https://mailchi.mp/usservas/open-doors-the-latest-happenings-with-us-servas-1369458>



Yosi McIntire

Yosi McIntire, convenor of the US Servas Peace & Justice Committee, is collecting info about areas in which Servas members are engaged.

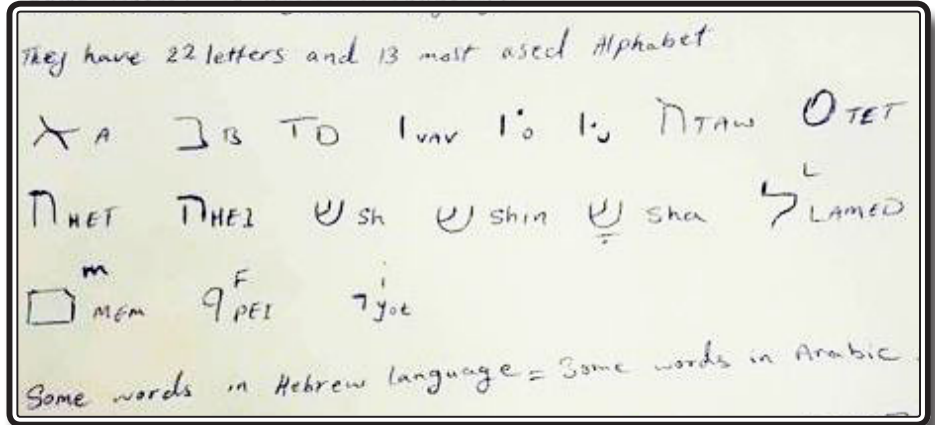
—Board of Directors of US Servas



Remembering George Floyd

عربی Hebrew and Arabic Lesson عبرית

On September 11, Servas members from countries including Iran, Turkey, Italy, Mexico and Georgia joined an online meeting held by Marco and his daughter Gaia. They taught us the letters of Hebrew alphabet and a few simple words. Hebrew words are written from right to left, similar to Arabic and Persian.



Handwritten screenshot

Servas members in the online meeting



Gaia sang a beautiful Hebrew song and everyone applauded her. Then Nadia, who is originally from Morocco and now living in Turkey, translated the words into Arabic to show the common roots of the two languages and their similarities.

—Simin and Zahra, Servas Iran members

2nd Writing Contest on Environment & Peace

Theme: Environment, Peace and the new Corona Virus: what has that got to do with me?

Servas Brazil and Servas Portugal joined the organizing team of the Second Writing Contest. This initiative of the Environment & Peace Project is linked to the *How Responsible is Your Organization* (CERO) programme, developed by the Research Group on Careers and Skills Development Laboratory (LCDC) of the Federal University of the São Francisco Valley (Univasf), in Brazil, in partnership with the Public Prosecutor Office of Bahia State and the University of Bahia State (UNEB).

It all started some years ago, when Alvany Santiago, member of Servas Brazil, a university professor in Univasf and environmental researcher, took over a “fazenda” (where she was born) from her parents. There, she found the degradation of the land, since trees were cut and the water was polluted. Alvany initiated then a project with family, childhood friends, locals, as well as with Servas visitors, planting trees, preserving the “mata atlântica” (Atlantic forest), recovering the water sources, building a sustainable water management... and bringing back the birds. The visitors that came to this “fazenda” connected in such a way that they decided to create a group called “Santiago EcoAmigos”.

After some time, Alvany launched the idea of involving students in her environmental voluntary work and contacted local schools, the Education Federal Department and other entities.

In 2019 the First Writing Contest was created, involving a population of two-thousand students, from basic to high schools. The outcome was so positive, both for the students community as for the local society, families and teachers that now in 2020 the second edition was launched on June during the week of World Environmental Day (June 5th).



...they decided to make a group called “Santiago EcoAmigos”

The Contest will last until November 20th (Black awareness day), when the winning contestants will receive their prizes.

The theme of 2020 Writing Contest is: “Environment, Peace and the new corona virus: what has that got to do with me?”

The Contest aims to increase ecological awareness and contemplation of nature, emphasizing the importance of peace and environmental preservation for improving quality of life and protecting health in these times of pandemic. This is on the basis of principles promoting peace and tolerance with a supra-party, supra-religious character, always seeking to join forces, build partnerships and develop as human beings in harmony with the environment.

Another aim is to stimulate reading, text production and draw attention to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, specifically SDGs 04, 05, 13, 15, 16 and 17, dealing with health, education with quality, gender equality, water and forest life, climate change, peace and justice.

This Contest is for students enrolled in Elementary School II (6th to 9th grade) and in High School (1st to 3rd year) in public and private schools in 29 municipalities in the State of Bahia, Brazil.

Students enroll through digital platforms, and send in their works, from mid-August to mid-October. During this period they are also asked to plant trees and attend a number of online workshops on peace, sustainability, environment, writing, and other subjects. One of these online workshops will be held by Alvany Santiago and Carla Kristensen on September 21, International Peace Day, on how Servas advocates for peace and understanding. Another workshop on creative writing will be held by Prof Claudia Lima and Cristina Benedita.

Servas Brazil (Tere de Paula, Alvany Santiago, Neuma Dantas, and others) and

Servas Portugal (Cristina Benedita, Isabel Chaves and Carla Kristensen) take an active role in the organizing committee, attending preparation meetings, evaluating the essays and donating some of the prizes to the winning students (tablets or bicycles).

As this is a project that relates deeply to the values of Servas, **we would like to invite other Servas groups or countries to help us gather a significant number of prizes to those children.** It can be tablets, bicycles, books, games. All contributions would be much appreciated.

You can contact Alvany Santiago (alvanysantiago@gmail.com) or Carla Kristensen (crsckris@gmail.com) for more details.

—Carla Kristensen (SI Vice President and Board member of Servas Portugal) and Alvany Santiago (Servas Brazil Bahia State Regional coordinator and co-creator of Santiago EcoAmig@s)

<https://www.facebook.com/santiagoecoamigos/>
<https://santiagoecoamigos.blogspot.com/>
<https://www.instagram.com/santiagoecoamigas/>

Vibrant Activities in Servas Colombia 2020 – part A

By: Ana María Fajardo Maldonado, President, Servas Colombia



Christmas in Colombia had a special start and end: Peter Inzenhofer from Germany (who passed away recently—may his soul rest in peace—we all miss him), had a memorable experience in Colombia and in the Colombian Amazon with members Daniel Bautista and his family.

Marguerite and David Hills (US Servas) blogged in January about their experiences. <https://hillonawalkabout.wordpress.com>

Cristina, from Portugal, wrote that her two months in Colombia were the best in her life. She even said she could imagine living her life in the Colombian Amazon.

Nicoletta and Stefano, from Servas Italy, told us about their experiences, with indigenous people, rituals and anecdotes.

Ana María Nacif came from Canada, though she is of Argentine nationality, to see her son marry a Colombian in the historic city, UNESCO World Heritage Cartagena de Indias.

Many of our members are very committed and active:

- Adriana Patricia Prieto invited us to a workshop on healthy and sustainable eating.
- Natalia Meza shared the first measures to fight the coronavirus.
- Leandro Hoyos recommended the tour book: Bicentennial: The Pending Freedom
- Nohelia Ruís Mateus sent us a video from 1937 about corona virus in chickens.
- Tati Santos invited us to learn about near-death experiences (NDE).
- Rene Mauricio Rivera told us of dances by our Amazonian indigenous people.
- Fabio Bello, of Servas Italy, celebrated the Carnavalito de Barranquilla on the Atlantic coast. He shared a night of dance, music, and our carnival characters with Roberto Leal, Carmen C de Leal, Fanny Villamizar and Ana María Fajardo.



In Cartagena, Emi showed her Japanese friend, Fekuda, around San Felipe castle.

Vibrant Activities in Servas Colombia 2020 – part B

by Ana María Fajardo Maldonado, President, Servas Colombia

In March we had a flurry of Servas visits:

- Gonzalo Forero received Liu from Taiwan, arranging pleasant visits across Colombia.
- Our Lists Coordinator, Leandro Hoyos, had visitors from Belgium:
- Fló and Elisa recounted their adventures in Africa and South America.
- We celebrated five years of cooperation between Servas Colombia and UNIEMPRESARIAL.
- Mario Alejandro Garcera hosted Servas travellers who came for SYLE in Spanish.
- I planned to go the UN in New York City but Covid-19 cancelled everything.
- That month our travellers from the USA, Japan, Taiwan and Belgium all returned home.
- Cristina, who travelled to Brazil, returned to Portugal. Fabio returned from Brazil to Italy.

I travelled to my daughter’s house in Vermont . Due to the closing of borders I couldn’t return to Colombia and since that date I have remained, with many blessings, in the United States.

June brought videos from visual artist Fanny Sirley Ardila, who shared all the Ardila family traditions, recalling fiestas celebrated in Guavatá. It is the land of the vitamin C-rich guava.

Since March we have intensified our sharing with virtual activities, sports sessions, emotionality workshops, cooking classes, video conferences on various topics, theatre presentations, videos, and radio programmes on travelling. All this brings us closer virtually, to travel through Colombia, through our culture, music, customs, traditions, gastronomy and all the beautiful places in Colombia.

We also took part in Servas International video conferences, the Servas solidarity chat, Servas Latin America, Servas Colombia and followed the development of the School of Peace in Turkey.

David Roll’s radio shows produced by Servas Colombia members, first broadcast on May 25, reached 2,100 people. By September we plan to have made eight programmes. Of course, we joined in greetings videos for Servas Artists and Servas International.

On August 30, 2020, the Until We Love Life concert united more than a hundred Colombian musicians and 20,367 followers in a virtual concert for peace in Colombia.

We have made Servas Colombia a family since 1963, when we were founded by Octavio Morales Alvarado.

We invite you to learn more about Servas International and Servas Colombia: www.servas.org.

—Ana María Fajardo Maldonado
colombia@servas.org



Ana Maria with her daughter Tamara Jacobsen in Vermont US



Ana Maria [centre] with Servas Italy travellers Nicoletta and Stefan [left].



An Afternoon at the UN in Geneva

In September 2016, Christoph Kuhn of Servas Switzerland had the opportunity to attend a Human Rights Council session at the UN in the Swiss city of Geneva.

Even though it's some years ago, his experiences should be of interest for Servas members who might be interested in engaging in a similar activity with Servas International.

Here's Christoph Kuhn's story, with his own words, from the Human Rights Council 2016 — the 33rd HRC Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland:

First, I follow the Panel 7 debate: "Violations of International Law in Palestine". Some state representatives speak twice (fairly identically), once in the name of an association of states, once in the name of their own state.

The whole session is an endlessly repeated Israel-bashing — without any information from new reports being discussed. There is only one surprise for me: The Russian representative

is the only one who mentions Israeli losses and speaks in a bit more balanced way! Does he want to give Russia the chance to be a serious broker in a future peace solution?

After three-quarters of an hour, it is finally clear to me that there are no new insights, that there won't be anything to solve problems. So I leave room 20 and attend a side event: "Combating Torture: Proceedings Under International Law", in which two lawyers pass on their international experience.

Maître Gilles Devers explains that it is worth using international courts or international law to force countries to have more legal certainty. Even oppressive regimes don't like being publicly denounced.

According to Maître Redan Mettioui, individual actions unfold with the effect of time — according to the motto "constant drops of water wear away the stone".

Question from a Saharouienne: "What options do we have if the Moroccan courts do not accept our complaints?" — Maître Redan: "If one way is not effective, look for another." Maître Devers thinks: "The EU may be able to work to deprive Morocco of legal sovereignty over Western Sahara. Spain, as a former colonial power that exercises aerial surveillance, could also work in this direction."

After an hour, this side event is over and I go back to Room 20 for the Panel 7 session. The ritual Israel-bashing goes on and on: the same 15 points are endlessly lined up in new pirouettes: self-satisfaction of the speakers or their states. I am looking in vain for any current reports provided on the internet — nothing of relevance: It appears that Panel 7 is



Christoph Kuhn
of Servas Switzerland

automatically always put on the agenda at the HRC meetings, even if “nothing new” is to be reported. There is no question of dispute or discussion; Israel declines to listen — and so do I now, before the event ends. Quite tired from this huge business I return home by public transport.

Even if my report sounds somewhat disillusioned at times, attending an UN meeting as an NGO member is an interesting and mind-opening experience!

Tips for occasional visitors:

First-time registration for getting a UNOG pass must be completed several weeks in advance. Register at peacesecretary@servas.org

The pass is valid for one year. The effort involved is such that it is only worthwhile for those who are really interested and plan to attend more than one session (there are three a year).

The entrance for NGO members and not “VIPs” is Door 40 of the newer building (bus no. 8 in the direction of OMG to “Appia”; the same stop as for the very worthwhile Red Cross Museum).

It takes about half an hour to get the requested ID card issued at the entrance; a total of about one hour to wait until you are in the hall.

The cafeteria Le Serpent on the ground floor is good and quite inexpensive (for Geneva).

The International Network of Human Rights app, which can be downloaded at the ridh.org website, provides the most precise list of all Human Rights Council events. Once installed, activate all of the sub-organizations and topics you want to look at.

Panel 7 can be left out if no new research findings are documented — see above.

Side events are often interesting and offer the opportunity to network. They are often announced on leaflets on display, but not always with appropriate room information; the app mentioned above is more precise.

—Christoph Kuhn
Servas Switzerland

If you are interested in engaging in Servas International United Nations activities, please contact the SI Peace Secretary Paige LaCombe at: peacesecretary@servas.org.



Christoph Kuhn
of Servas Switzerland
attends a Human Rights Council session
for an afternoon at the UN in Geneva.

NEW SERVAS KEY PEOPLE 2020–2023

SERVAS IRELAND

Our Annual meeting was held on June 20, 2020. Board members and their role in Servas.

National President: Dorothy Fine, replacing Barbara Egan

National Secretary and Nat. Peace Secretary: Donal Coleman

National Deputy and Nat. Treasurer: Don Lucey

National Host List Coordinator: William Fine

ServasOnline Administrator: Derek Lee



Dorothy Fine



Donal Coleman



Don Lucey



William Fine



Derek Lee

SERVAS RUSSIA

Since July 24, 2020 Servas Russia has a new National Secretary.

National Secretary: **Anna Grishina** replaces Julia Mezenina.

Thanks to all the board members (who have left) for the time and the energy they have given to the development of Servas. Congratulations and a warm welcome to everyone who has joined a board. We hope you'll find your new roles rewarding and enjoyable. Good luck in facing the challenge of making Servas more fascinating and more attractive for young people.

Take care and stay healthy!

—Rita Dessauvage, SI Dolphin Team

Member of Servas Belgium & Luxemburg



Anna Grishina

Committees / Teams

Recently the Nominations Team has been updated; now there are 4 members instead of 3. New members: Dianne Ortega of Costa Rica/Mexico, and Philippo Arnoud of Spain. Others: Norma Nicholson and Susanne Thestrup. Note: Jean Seymour, Britain left the team.



Confucius said:

Wherever you go, go with all your heart.

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.

Servas Canada appoints a new NS and splits the NS role

Julie Cormack stepped down in July as National Secretary to focus on her writing. At its most recent board meeting, the Servas Canada board appointed Nancy Palardy as the national secretary, NS.



Nancy Palardy

Recognising the multiple responsibilities of the National Secretary, the Servas Canada board has decided to split the role in two and share the responsibilities. The member group now has a new role of Servas International Liaison. Kent Macaulay, who is currently on the Servas Canada board, will be filling that position. As the main contact for Servas Canada to Servas International, he will represent Servas Canada's interests to SI Exco and its member groups by communicating between Servas Canada board members and SI Exco.



Kent Macaulay

In her role as Servas Canada's National Secretary, Nancy Palardy will stay more focused on board meetings and coordinating the day-to-day operations of Servas Canada.

—Nancy Palardy & Jonny Sägänger

Remembering Peter Mwenisongole, Servas Tanzania

SI Exco is sad to inform the Servas International community of the passing of Peter Mwenisongole (28-11-1952 — 4-9-2020) from Tanzania. He was National Secretary of Servas Tanzania from 2009 until 2018.

Peter Mwenisongole was a wonderful human being who gave many years of service to Servas.

[Peter Mwenisongole >>>](#)



Alan Stone Leaves SI News & SI Image and Design Support Team

by Jonny Sägänger, SI President

Alan Stone of Servas Greece has decided to leave his positions as graphic design editor for SI News Bulletin (SINB) and the SI Image & Design Support Team (SI IDST).

SI Exco note with regret that Alan Stone has decided to step down from these two SI positions. The board would like to place on record its deepest appreciation for his services. Servas has greatly benefited from all that he has done.

We hope he will come back again to serve in the future, when help is needed.

In the meantime, we wish him the very best and thank him again for everything. The SI IDST was created in October 2014 by Alan Stone and Stefan Fagerström of Servas Sweden.

Over the years, with great spirit, Alan Stone has held the responsibilities of SI IDST to maintain a professional image of Servas by encouraging, supporting and assisting member countries and teams with the design and production of promotional materials.

To pick just a few SI IDST activities over the last year from Alan Stone's annual report:

- Created the Servas Information Distribution logo
- Created Servas logos for Australia & Mexico
- Produced SI News Bulletins in English and Spanish
- Began production of 2020 Peace Calendar but the project was cancelled

SI is currently looking for people who have the ability, experience, capability and time to participate in the Servas Image & Design Support Team. Please send your application to president@servas.org.

The future plan for SI IDST is to continue to provide design support, services and advice to the Servas organization and member countries as requested; and to assist Servas Exco with promotional ideas and options for continued awareness and growth.

Michael Johnson has replaced Alan Stone as graphic designer for SI News Bulletin. SI Exco warmly welcomes Michael in his new position.



Alan Stone
with his pal, Charlie.



Michael Johnson

31 PEAKS in Seven Days



What peak are they on? Count their fingers.

And Other Amazing Feats of Servas Malawi during Covid-19 by Demelza Benbow

A team of fantastic Servas Malawi youth members worked hard to collect testimonies of blood “receivers”. They worked for ten days, 9 am to 3 pm collecting and typing blood donors. They got stories from donors and people on the street. It culminated in a ceremony which included:

- 1. testimonies, put onto large boards along the donor’s corridor
- 2. a hike up a mountain with lunch
- 3. a certification ceremony by Guest of Honour, Yolanda Katsonga Phiri, who is a lupus sufferer, and a previous blood transfusion user.

She told us of her kidney collapse, dialysis, and transplant. **She needed over 200 units of blood !**

The group spread a questionnaire asking those who received blood if they were willing to share their story. Participants were also asked to give permission for this information to go on the Wall of Fame at the O’Dala centre, Blantyre, Malawi.

Donor Farai Makande explained: **“While in Zimbabwe my father was attacked. He would have died without 3 pints of blood. I give my rare AB blood in thanks for the extra years I had with my father.”**

Those who have received blood and want to tell donors their story, please send photos and details to Demelza at: Whatsapp +265 999 482 983 or email: demelzabenbow@gmail.com



Kidney transplant survivor, Yolanda



Farai Makande giving his 36th pint of blood.

Demelza Benbow gave a pint the same day. Malawi needs 125,000 units of blood annually. We collect only 62,000. Help us—support Malawi.

Challenge of a Lifetime

Two twelve-year-old boys (Taron Benbow and Will Samanyika), both Servas Malawi youth members, joined two adult Servas Malawi members in a hiking challenge of a lifetime.

Racing across 31 peaks — yes 31 peaks — on top of Mulanje mountain...these fit 'goat-like' athletes climbed up precipitous inclines and braved the rain, to raise money for a Malawi-based NGO called **CharChar**. They raised over \$3000.

"You have to push yourself in life"

CharChar, an educational literacy support organisation, promotes local teachers trained in the use of phonetic pronunciation enhancing considerably the speed at which students learn to read.

Will said, ***"It was much harder than I thought, I was super tired at the end of each day and I really needed to eat all my food!"***. There are 7 main huts where, for a fee, you can stay. Taron said, ***"sometimes we just slept ... in our sleeping bag but it got quite cold and we had to wear all our clothes to keep warm"***.

Altogether seven people started the 31-peaks-in-7days challenge with a guide and a porter. Guide Coster said, ***"Mulanje can be treacherous you have to prepare well, you need to start early"***. Porter/guide Fanuel said, ***"even the two boys who pulled out did very well, credit to them for doing ten peaks"***. Momcilo and Dunav Randjelovic students at St. Andrews school said, ***"My mom wouldn't have believed how steep those peaks were, we had to crawl and cling onto tufts of grass to pull ourselves up"***. Mulanje, 3,900 feet is only reached by the intrepid few. Stories abound those who have failed.

Led by Gordon Benbow (a keen squash player) and teacher, the 31-peaks-in-7days attempt idea had been a long time coming to fruition. Gordon said: ***"I thought it up a long time ago but the Covid closure of schools gave me the impetuous to put it together. I really wanted to find a way to support CharChar because they do great work here in Malawi; I've seen amazing results."***



We did it ! 31 peaks in 7 days.



Volunteer director, Natalie Conti said, ***"CharChar has been inspired by what this group has done. Learning to read is critical to advancing literacy rates and we are grateful to them."*** Chris Petheridge, a sports teacher and member of the team said, ***"We moved fast from peak to peak, but you couldn't help but be inspired by the beauty of Mulanje Mountain and the danger of it simultaneously."***

The only female in the team, 18-year-old Lèmorah Tiyamike Benbow a local mural artist, said: ***"You have to push yourself in life, inspire yourself. It was exhilarating and exhausting at the same time."***

SERVAS, A GLOBAL COMMUNITY WITHIN VIRTUAL REACH

You can find the Servas community here on the world wide web:

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

The SI News is sent in digital format to all National Secretaries and Key People, who distribute it to their country/group members. It is a quarterly publication and contains articles of interest such as communications from SI ExCo, stories of Servas experiences, articles about Peace, Servas and the UN.

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

ABOUT THE SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN

The Servas International News Bulletin (SI News Bulletin) is a newsletter from Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco), which is the organization's global board. The SI News Bulletin contains a brief report about current issues and decisions.

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

Email: president@servas.org

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

SI EXCO 2018—2021

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ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

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