

Developments in Servas Bulletin 1 June 2013

Welcome to the first edition of *Developments in Servas*.



As vice president I have compiled it on behalf of Exco (the Servas International Executive Committee). We hope it will be an opportunity to circulate information about new ideas and projects that are going on around the Servas network worldwide.

Any suggestions for a name for the bulletin are very welcome.

It is being distributed to the international key list of all active members in national groups and SI committees. Please pass it on to hosts and travellers as widely as possible. Many thanks to Michael Johnson in Canada for his help.

Send any comments or feedback about the bulletin to me at vicepresident@servas.org.

The next issue of the bulletin will be in October 2013. Contributions welcome by September 30th 2013.

Ann Greenhough, Vice President - Servas International

SI News

Have you read the latest issue?

Find it at http://www.servas.org/siexco/images/1/1b/SI_News_April-May_2013.pdf. for in-depth articles and discussion about what is happening in Servas around the world.

Send any contributions for the next edition to Terry Stone at: newsletter@servas.org

Translating the bulletin

So far this bulletin has only been produced in English. If you are interested in helping to translate this and future bulletins into another language please let us know at vice-president@servas.org

Communication within a multilingual organisation

Servas uses English as the main language of communication although we are very much a multi-lingual organisation with a rich diversity of languages. During formal meetings such as the SI General Assembly, as well as at less formal gatherings, language can present a barrier to good communication.

At international meetings there are always concerns that delegates may be unable to participate on an equal basis with each other because of the reliance on English as the lead language. Those with a more limited knowledge of English may find it difficult to join in group discussions and so make a full contribution.

Clearly Servas does not have the means to access expensive interpreting services or equipment. Simultaneous translation into Spanish projected onto a large screen has been successful at a number of General Assemblies. I am also interested in exploring ways of improving interpretation and understanding of the proceedings for those from a range of other languages.

Let me know at vicepresident@servas.org if you have ideas or access to resources that Servas could use to enhance communication within a multi-lingual gathering where not everyone has fluency in English. This would be with a view to trying out any new ideas at the next GA in 2015.

Exco meeting September 2103

Exco (the Servas International executive committee) will have its first face to face meeting from 18th to 23rd September 2013 in Yorkshire, UK. If you would like us to consider any specific Servas issue during our discussions please send your comments to exco@servas.org



Servas Peace Posters

A message from Danielle Serres, SI Peace Secretary:- >>>>>

Servas France Peace Committee has been created in 2010. Now led by Servas France's National Peace Secretary, it's very active in the organisation. Some members have prepared an exhibition with several posters to be displayed at Servas meetings and/or at various events in order to spread the word about Servas.

Posters have been on display for the first time during the Servas Britain AGM (May 11-12, 2013), and were very much appreciated. Members have offered to translate them into English. They have again been on display during the Servas France GA (May 18-20, 2013). You are welcome to use this material for your own Servas activities, as long as you keep the credits to the Servas France Peace Committee and/or the artists/photographers as necessary.

Following are links where you can download posters and text:

- Images Files in PDF format (good quality, can't be modified)

www.mediafire.com/?nvwmnod6mq9o5

- Text Files in .doc format (can be modified for translations)

www.mediafire.com/?t4rmp945ci7nq

In case you intend to translate them into your country's language(s), please let us know.

For more information please send email to Danielle Serres at peacesecretary@servas.org



The Servas Future Project

Where next for Servas?

The project will explore a vision for the future of Servas as a global not-for-profit peace organisation.

What makes Servas special?

What sets it apart from other international hosting networks?

We plan to seek ideas and feedback from individual members and groups in Servas, worldwide. There will be a questionnaire to complete and encouragement for discussions within your national group and at regional and international gatherings.

More details to follow soon. In the meantime if you would like to help with the project contact Ann Greenhough at: vicepresident@servas.org

Malawi: SYLE volunteers, a new venture

In March, Demelza, national secretary in Malawi, sent a message about Servas volunteers coming to Malawi. We look forward to hearing how things went in the next bulletin. Anyone interested in trying the same idea, contact Demelza at demelzabenbow@gmail.com

Malawi's first SYLE-volunteer is due to arrive on 7th April in Blantyre.

In an attempt to encourage more Servas travellers to Malawi, Servas Malawi has created a volunteer version of the youth SYLE language programme. In our project, a Servas Traveller comes and spends the first 2 weeks with 7 hosts explaining to them hosting and travelling with Servas and giving a presentation about their country. They then spend 1-2 weeks with longer stay hosts and carry out voluntary work on each day of the stay. Our first SYLE-volunteer is due to arrive in a few days and she will be working with the Blantyre blood donation centre, collecting much needed testimonies from blood receivers. Our next volunteer comes from Australia in May and will be working in rural areas, creating a practical language programme followed by 2 weeks teaching at our local prison.



Malawi NS: Demelza Benbow >>>>>

Greetings from the Servas Youth Team

Hello to all our friends!

The new Servas Youth Team has been working hard to involve more youth in Servas, and more Servas in youth!

We meet on the first Saturday of each month via video-conference using google chat, the next best thing to face-to-face!

The team is working well and running pretty smoothly.

One of the most important innovations of the SYLE program has been a new organizational chart, which has streamlined the organizing process for each SYLE. We have helped coordinate five SYLE's so far, with two in the works right now!

Everyone please take note of the upcoming youth conferences this summer: Alicante, Spain from August 25-September 1, and Berlin, Germany from August 17-August 22. Servas Pakistan may be the location for the event in 2014!! Stay tuned for more information.

We are waiting on the new Servas website, and the Servas Youth page will be updated at that time. In the meantime, you can stay current with the team on facebook. (<http://www.facebook.com/servasyouth>)

Please join us at a monthly meeting, and feel free to write to us at: youth@servas.org.

Look for an in-depth email from your SI Youth Team



News from Servas Brazil

Alvany Santiago, retired National Secretary sends news from Servas Brazil.

- ❖ *Servas Brazil organized a Regional National Meeting in April. This meant that countrywide, all regions met at the same time and some connected with each other by skype or mobile.
Is this an idea that could work in other countries where distances between regions are large?*
- ❖ *In Petrolina, PE in the northeast of Brazil we have decided to organize a SYLE program (Servas Youth Language Experience) and receive a young person here later in 2013. My students between 20 and 25 are keen to be involved. Some of them are already in Servas, some belong to our Youth Servas & Peace group that encourages young people to get involved.*
- ❖ *We have also started a campaign 'Women and Men Joined for Peace!'*

*We launched it on Women's International Day and will highlight it again on **International Peace Day on September 21st 2103**. One of the actions of this campaign is to talk with workers about relationships and conflict during Accident Prevention Week that most organisations launch every year.*

Alvany is active in a number of projects in her home area and has lots of ideas about how Servas can be involved in community action. For more details contact Alvany at: alvanysantiago@gmail.com.
Let us know about how you involve Servas in your peace and community activities.

Servas Volunteering Programme for Kids in Turkey

We urgently need volunteers to help us.

Event: 5th International Servas Volunteering Programme for kids

When?: July6-16th.

Where?: Ekinci Village, Antakya-Hatay in Turkey

Where to stay?: With local families

What to do: Teach kids (09-14 ages) anything you know in streets, gardens, etc. 2-4 hours a day.

More nice things: We take care of you, go sightseeing together, help you experience culture (weddings, cooking, family life routine, music, etc.)

For more info and the archive:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/events/427106967379749/>

The Most Exciting Holiday is Sharing

For the most up to date information about the project contact Mehmet

Mehmet Ates, Servas Turkey Peace Secretary Programme Coordinator
mehmettates@yahoo.com
mehsevi@hotmail.com

Meetings in Belgium. All welcome:

Servas Belgium & Luxemburg (belgium@servas.org) would like to invite you to join these coming events:

- **June 25, 2013: Informal meeting in the centre of BRUSSELS**
Venue 'Grand Café', Bd Anspach 78, 1000 Brussels 18h15-20h
- **September 24, 2013: Informal meeting in the centre of BRUSSELS**
Venue 'Grand Café', Bd Anspach 78, 1000 Brussels 18h15-20h
- **October 20, 2013: "BRUGES IN AUTUMN"**
On the program: Visit of the historic city centre, **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, lunch and walk in 'Green Bruges'
- **January 26, 2014: "GHENT: VISIT of THE CITY and ANNUAL DINNER"**
Venue: The beautiful historic culture chapel 'Sint-Vincent' in Ghent

7th Servas Regional Meeting in East Asia - November 2013

You are invited to the 7th Meeting of Servas East Asia.

Date: 15th to 17th, November 2013 (Friday through Sunday)

Venue: Zi Jin Yuan Hotel (紫荆园宾馆) inside Sun Yat-sen University.

中国广州市, 新港西路135号, 中山大学东南区259号

For details contact:

Dr. Changxian Yi, National Secretary, Servas China

E-mail: zocycx@gmail.com

Mr. Jack Huang

Cell phone: 0086-18302039139 E-mail: jack.r.huang@msn.com



A Green Servas?

Join Servas Canada in a debate about how we travel.

Servas Canada is on Facebook. There is a discussion started there on "a green Servas". How can we promote travel through Servas that keeps our "carbon footprint" as small as possible, while we still reap the benefits of Servas interactions? Join us, add your comments and let's see where we can take it!

Alison Reid,
Treasurer, Servas Canada
areid@northwestel.net

Alpe-Adria Meeting September 2013

This year's Servas "Alpe-Adria-Meeting" is organised by a team of Servas Austria. It will take place 20-22 Sep 2013 at Klagenfurt/Celovec in Carinthia, Austria. This international gathering every year brings together Servas people from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia and "the rest of the world" for two days of joyful exchange.

For more information please look at:

http://austria.servas.org/images/events/alpe-adria-2013_invitation.pdf

and/or write a mail to: hedwig_glatz@yahoo.com

Message from the Servas International Archivist:

I am the new SI Archivist, and I am asking for your help. I need to develop a policy regarding what documents and items should belong in the SI archive, which physically now resides at the Hoover Institution, on the campus of Stanford University in California.

(Go to <http://cdn.calisphere.org/data/13030/1q/kt7870361q/files/kt7870361q.pdf> to see the record.)

There are 105 boxes in storage, but no materials are on-line. Ultimately I would like to see historically important documents readable on-line. First, however, the collection needs to be described and I will be working on that.

I would like your input on what documents you think we should value most by making them most widely available to all. What criteria should we use? Secondly, what should we acquire from individuals and Servas national organizations? Third, how to collect this material (where to send it, who pays for the cost of shipping, etc.)? Perhaps we should also discuss whether we need to keep actual paper copies of documents or instead simply have a digital archive on the SI server.

Please send your comments (and notice of any existing collections held by national Servas organizations) to Bob "Mitch" Mitchell rjmitch@execpc.com

Thank you for reading this first edition.

I welcome your comments, criticism and suggestions.

In peace,

Ann Greenhough