



Spotlight On The Crisis in Japan And How Servas Can Offer Support

Report from Servas Japan

After the earthquake and tsunami one member describes how Servas is helping (Plus a suggestion from Servas Netherlands.)

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My Trip to Japan

Ana Maughi, Servas Argentina, reports on her and her husband's bicycle trip through Japan. It all started with sushi.

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IV Encontro Ibérico

Servas Portugal hosts the 4th annual Iberian Meeting. Singing, eating and talking, what could be better?

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History of Servas Córdoba

Servas in Argentina began in 2003 and now has over 80 members. Here's an article about one of it's beautiful areas.

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Servas South America Congress

40 Servas Members from eight South American countries met in Brazil in 2010 to discuss the core issues challenging Servas

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Terry Stone, Editor
newsletter@servas.org



Oh dear, Servas International News has been taken out of my hands. I no longer feel in control of it. It has been high-jacked - by YOU! I thought I would have to do a lot of work to do to get articles to fill these pages. I was even hoping for a slightly smaller issue this month (for easier mailing). I thought there would be a lot of back-and-forth as people got used to how to submit.

But no. The newsletter filled up all by itself! Text and pictures were submitted and deadlines met! I feel useless!

So here's YOUR June issue of Servas International News...

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Translate Servas News into Your Country's Language.

By Terry Stone, Editor-Servas News

We have received several requests for help with translating the newsletter into different languages. We want *Servas International News* to be accessible to as many members as possible, so, to help toward achieving that goal, we are offering to make current issues of *Servas International News* available to any Servas member country who would like to convert them into their native language.

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

Servas International News is produced using Adobe InDesign CS2 for Macintosh. A press-ready, packaged file will contain all the fonts, photos and linked graphics used



in the current issue along with the complete InDesign file. You must have either a Mac or PC version of Adobe InDesign CS2 v4.0 or better to open the file. Please remember that certain fonts may not convert properly from Mac to PC so some adjustments might be necessary when opening the file in a Windows machine.

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 and use 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Building A Servas Peace Through New Networking

Servas encourages people networking with each other, understanding each other's cultures, finding enduring pathways to Peace. Servas began through round tables of inquiry and personal travel among people who wanted to learn from each other. Servas is dedicated to this principle of networking in our international Statutes. That is what led to our international "Servas Open Doors", home-based hospitality programme.

Now, new ways of networking have come into practice. Because of revolutionary communications, groups of us are connecting internationally by Skype and telephone. Many of these networking meetings are serving Servas. This kind of networking is very interesting and rewarding. By supporting an international Servas work group you get to

know distant people very well. You recognize their cultural ways, and their individual preferences. For instance, some people like to receive a lot of information before commenting. Others like to speak frequently and quickly. Some use humour. Others like confrontation or competition. International Servas group work offers you ways of:

- stretching your personal communications abilities, calculating the effect of your words
- practicing listening
- holding your thoughts for the right moment
- trying to learn even when you may disagree
- reflecting on your personal values and purposes
- making new friends.

Sincerely,
Gary Sealey
President, Servas International

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 30 — AUGUST 6, 2011

YOUTH EVENT & AFRICA AREA MEETING

Kamapala, Uganda
Everyone is invited. Let's empower youth and unite Africa!
Contact: kigozimoses@yahoo.co.uk

1 AUGUST — 4 AUGUST, 2011

SERVAS YOUTH NORDIC MEETING

Located in Hvalsø village close to the town Roskilde, Denmark.
Info and application at www.servas.dk/Youthmeeting
See story on page 8.

JUNE 1 — JUNE 6, 2012

NETHERLANDS INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Details in next issue.

Send in calendar items at least 2 months in advance of event. Only International events will be listed. Send National and Regional meeting info to (reneeendron@hotmail.com) for inclusion on servas.org.

Servas International NEWS

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Report from Servas-Japan

Servas helps Servas-Japan cope with the aftermath of earthquake and tsunami

By Mr. Nobuo Tsumura, Servas-host in Shiroishi-shi, Miyagi-ken, Japan.

March 11, 2011, 2.46 pm there was an earthquake of magnitude 9.0. From 16 to 30 minutes after the quake a huge tsunami arrived. Houses and people disappeared with this tsunami, with the water many things including people got into the ocean. Because fires arose it was impossible to help the people out of

machi, Kesenuma-shi, Rikuzentakada-shi, Ofunato-shi, Kamaishi-shi and Miyako-shi. There is a lack of shops, because many shops disappeared. People have to cope with the daily problem not to be able to go shopping. The men help to clean the damaged areas. The women they have nothing to do than to take care of the



this situation. Still now they are looking for people who lived on their own, who had no relatives or friends who survived. Now, the lots of dirt and broken materials are taken away and the area is being cleaned. April 21st the schools re-opened in temporarily buildings.

The 'lucky' people live in temporarily houses. Many people moved to other villages or towns to live there for the time being. Sometimes in sporthalls or other public buildings. Many people are waiting for a temporarily house. There are big problems in Minamisanriku-



children. They don't have a job and they are unable to cook for themselves. The food is supplied by volunteers.

The Servas-help

I left my home at 6 am and visited a refugee-camp where 500 people live, to bring them instant cup-noodles. The Japanese army brings hot water to prepare these noodles for lunch. In the afternoon I went to visit the family Watanabe. Watanabe is Servas-host in Ofunato and he takes care of 22 people who live in his home and temple. Watanabe is priest of the Tenrikyo and his home and temple are built on a hill. Around this hill everything is destroyed.

I arrived in Ofunato at 7 pm (its more than 200 km from my home), because the roads are broken and I had to drive

Emotional Support for Servas-Japan


Some members of Servas-Japan are volunteering to help the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The earthquake triggered extremely destructive tsunami waves of up to 38.9 metres (128 ft) that struck Japan, in some cases traveling up to 10 km (6 mi) inland, flooding more than 400 km².

Some of you have visited Servas-hosts in Japan, others hosted Servas-travellers from Japan. We propose to send these members of Servas-Japan a postcard or letter (not email!) to support them mentally to cope with the suffering because of the catastrophe. Please ask your national Servas organisation for an address-update if you are not sure if the address you have is still valid. And, please, tell your (Servas-) friends, acquaintances, colleagues about this project!

Servas-Netherlands decided to help Servas-Japan financially as well. If you want any information about this please get in touch with Servas-Netherlands by sending an e-mail message to servasnl@yahoo.com with the subject 'Project Servas-Japan'.

around. Because there is no electricity in Ofunato, they use candle-light. The food prepared in the refugee-camps is very basic and without much variety. This is a big difference with the large variety of food the people were used to eat, so it causes mental problems as well.

There are about 80 refugee-camps and I want to give priority to the camps where the situation is most difficult. I hope to support the local economy, so the people can sell their produce in nearby villages. I am not satisfied yet, but I want to continue to help the victims.

Beside food we also bring clothes to the refugee-camps, we try to find temporary housing for the volunteers and victims to stay and we help the victims with to furnish their temporary houses. 



My trip to Japan

By Ana Manghi, Servas Argentina

I met my husband 12 years ago in a sushi bar in Buenos Aires. I became sushi addict and after three years of taking classes I learned how to make it. But not only the food attracted me to Japan. For me, it is the land of manga, anime, Godzilla, the cutest robots, the Pachinko, the most varied urban tribes, Tadao Ando, Butoh dance and of the home appliances that talk and announce everything they made.

Once there, I discovered that it is also the country of the most beautiful Shrines, temples and onsens (hots springs). I learned about the beautiful Sumi-e painting, the Kabuki, Bunraku and Noh theater, the tea ceremony, the maikos, the taiko drums and much more. Japan is so unique, so exquisite, so aware to the slightest detail. I planned the trip to know more about everything that fascinated me so much of that country and for that reason it was very important for me to have direct contact with the people.



I studied the list of hosts and I focused on the Kanto and Kansai regions. A long time before our departure I started to organize everything and I got confirmation form each of our hosts one month before leaving Buenos Aires. We stayed in Japan for forty days with eighteen different hosts.

Places like Mt. Fuji, Miyashima, Kyoto, Kamakura and Nara were unforgettable. Every day we learned new things that our hosts explained to us, each day we had something to discover.

We found out that the Japanese people have a kindness with no comparison: they are so polite that they would give us their own rooms if that meant that we could be more comfortable. Courtesy and respect are so important in Japan that they also impose a certain distance. Sometimes you get through it immediately and sometimes it takes more time. Nevertheless in every place that we stayed our hosts made us feel at home.



We shared very unusual breakfasts (for us, Argentinians), from rice with nori seaweed and tempura to sausages with eggs and green tea, and also we had the most entertaining and delicious dinners. We ate many things for the first time, and discovered many unknown flavors.

It's rare to experiment that many things if you don't have a guidance. That and an unlimited kindness was what we found in our Servas hosts. They always induced us to try



new things. They were the ones that ultimately put together our trip. It was a trip to the deepness of a different country where we met different people and in this process we got to know more about ourselves.

Oh, and we took our folding bikes with us! We used them a lot and we got lost a lot because of them as well, because for foreigners it's very difficult to get oriented in a place like Tokyo where the streets are like a maze and don't even have names! I recommend to purchase the Japan Rail pass before getting there because traveling in Japan is very expensive.

We made a stop in Los Angeles in our way to Japan and in our way back we spent some days in Seoul. Korea deserves much more time but in this short visit, we were dazzled by the strength of this incredible country and the politeness of its people.

This was a magic trip, thanks to all our hosts, they know that if they come to Buenos Aires they have a home at our place! Here we don't have a Japanese style bath but what we do have is a newest pressure rice cooker (that I bought during the trip) and I'm learning how to use it for making here the dishes that we enjoyed in their country.



Thanks to all! Kimiko Tomimoto - Hiromichi Tachi and wife- Yoshiko Ishiwata - Tomoko Hirai and family - Tomishi and Katsuko Matsuo - Minako Mizoguchi and family- Fumiko Horie - Hiro Saika - Akira and Chisato Kawasaki - Michiko Sato - Misato Fukushima and family - Kazuo Ida - Hagiwara Yoshie and family - Eun-gyeong Ji and Angie - Jim Fenton - Phil and Vivian Danufsky. 📷

IV ENCONTRO IBÉRICO

APRIL 29th to MAY 1st. 2011

By: Carla Kristensen, NS for Servas Portugal

Servas Portugal and Servas Spain have been holding the so-called Iberian Meeting every year, for the past 4 years. It usually takes place in the Douro region, because Douro is one of the rivers that crosses both countries and the landscape is gorgeous. In Douro there are the vineyards, the beautiful walking paths, the tasteful food and many nice places to enjoy.

This year (2011) it was Portugal's time to host the Iberian Meeting. We started preparing everything in the beginning of the year, from choosing a nice spot, to sending out the invitations, arranging for activities that would attract both young and not so young Servas members - there was some work involved, but we wanted it to be a memorable event.

So on the 29th April 42 members from Spain and Portugal met in the Foz Côa Youth Hostel, full of joy and positive energy. The welcoming dinner was the moment to meet everybody, followed by a small




workshop where members from Spain talked about what they knew about Portugal (food and customs) and vice-versa. It was a very special moment where we had the opportunity to talk about the "fado", the portuguese national song, "bacalhau", the dried cod-fish that can be prepared in more than a thousand ways, and also about spanish geographical regions and spanish authors and painters like Cervantes and El Greco

On Saturday we visited the Museu de Foz Côa, where we could learn more about the region and its ancient rock engravings. During the afternoon it was time to walk in the countryside through ancient roman paths and visit another museum that

had interesting things to admire, such as a medieval skeleton, or very ancient artefacts.

After dinner we gathered in the conference room, in the Youth Hostel, and we discussed some of the Iberian Peninsula History (the foundation of the Portuguese kingdom in the year 1143), by Maria José Serpa. Afterwards it was the time for our most recent member, Alexandra Luis, talk about women in Portugal that became famous in various areas such as sports (Rosa Mota), Journalism (Cândida Pinto), Literature and women's rights (like the 3 Marias that wrote the "Novas Cartas Portuguesas) or Art (Paula Rêgo), etc.

Finally on Sunday, May the 1st, we had a nice chi-kung moment with Carmen from Spain and then we took a train to Peso da Régua, enjoying each others company and the incredibly beautiful landscape. Arriving at Peso da Régua it was time to have lunch and say good-bye, returning safe and sound to our homes.

I am now looking forward to the next meeting, in 2012, that will be held in Spain. Spain and Portugal have become closer and these meetings are undoubtedly a perfect excuse to see new and old friends. 

Good News for Servas

By Gary Sealey, President, Servas International

For years, Servas groups have discussed "going online" so that Servas hosts and travelers can easily and safely identify each other and choose interesting places and circuits to visit.

Online databases have long been used in civil society hospitality, environmental and peace groups. Some Servas national groups already have searchable member lists for administrators, and many have public websites. But these websites do not allow much interaction. The information flow is usually one-way. Finally, in 2009, the International General Assembly decided to begin a Servas Online project. Thirty Servas groups are contributing special funds to it. A small group of Servas professionals met last year and marked out general specifications on what features should be included. Dolphin would be continued and so would the paper directories, as long as they are needed. Now, a mock up,

a prototype has been developed and almost ready for showcasing. When operating, it will transform Servas relations and the face of Servas.

To guide the project and prepare for its review, testing and adoption, seven senior Servas panellists have come forward, from North and South America and Mexico (which Servas geography places in the Servas Central America Area); Western Europe and Africa. Thanks to: Michael Silbert (Canada), Phyllis Chinn, John Gunther (USA); Rodolfo Alvarado Castaneda (Mexico); Jonny Saganger and Thomas Thomas (Sweden and Germany); and Sheldon Weeks (Botswana, Southern Africa). The international committee especially Pramod, Penny and Pablo are actively supporting their work, which will continue through the next General Assembly.


You are welcome to join Senior Panellists teleconference meetings, or serve

as a resource person whom Panellists may consult on the Servas Online project to prepare the General Assembly for whole-hearted implementation. If you know of some interested people please tell them or tell us so we can include them as Resource Persons or as additional Panellists.

Here is more good news.

Thanks to Volunteers who have come forward to serve Servas. The energy of Mathew Pashkovsky of Russia is particularly appreciated. He and Pramod (our Vice President who lives in India) have set out the Servas Online prototype using one of the amazingly new and inexpensive software programmes.

Servas Germany has also recruited half-dozen keen and qualified volunteers who met about three weeks ago to get ready to assist developing Servas Online.

If you are planning a Servas meeting, and would like information to share with your Servas group please tell us. You may be able to get help with an informative presentation. 

History of Servas in Córdoba.

By Isabel Romero PS - Córdoba, Argentina

Perhaps many who read this do not have a clear idea of where Córdoba, Argentina is located. Well, then, we will give a brief historical and geographical description and place you into our space and then share the best with Servas travelers who are visiting in Córdoba.

Geography

The Córdoba state is 165,321 km², in the central-northern Mediterranean position. After the province of Buenos Aires, Córdoba is the most populated province and of economic importance. It has a total population (of 3,304,801 inhabitants). Its capital is the city of Córdoba, formerly called New Andalusia, as the wife of the founder Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera was born in the town of Córdoba in Andalusia, Spain

Highlighted field

In Córdoba state the highlights have mainly two forms of relief: the mountains and the plains or plains.

This massive mountain is part of the Precordillera complex and is composed of cords, plains and mountain valleys.

The plains - flat surfaces located between 80 m and 600 m above sea level - are located to the east and south of the Sierras and occupy most of the province. Are highest in piedmont that away from him, which are almost horizontal. The area is populated with agricultural and livestock development.

It is one of the provinces with the greatest diversity of climates, soils and terrain. Córdoba is characterized by the abundance of rivers, streams, springs, ponds, most of them is the huge gap "Mar Chiquita" healing waters and a rich ecological reserve. The province's climate is temperate continental Córdoba. Winters aren't so cool and summers are warm. The average annual temperature is 17 ° C. The rains occur mainly in summer.

History

The capital city of Cordoba was founded on July 6, 1573 by Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera of Spain who had been sent from Lima, Peru to establish a town elsewhere, but he liked this land and that's how the city is born. Córdoba Suquia River witnessed the founding of Córdoba Capital, it was to their margins where the Spanish gave the name of Córdoba La Llana of New Andalusia and in a few years polarized cultural power of this part of America where in 1608 the Colegio Máximo or University, laid the groundwork for the first University of La Plata Basin.



Little more than 20 years later, in 1599, the Jesuit religious order settled here, transforming the land at its central task of evangelization.

Pedagogical work and mission of this congregation turned out to be of paramount importance to the life and cultural development of the Rio de la Plata and Tucumán.

So he left an indelible mark on the city of Córdoba Capital, called the Manzana de las Luces and declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, between brick and brick keep de history of the province and the country.

Today the city of Córdoba is the second province in industry and commerce for its important manufacturing centers but still maintains intact its traditional doctoral air by the extensive cultural activity and the weight of its universities


SERVAS IN CÓRDOBA

A Córdoba woman - new in Europe in 2003 - was introduced to Servas and became interested in the objectives of the organization. Servas was known to few in Buenos Aires and only one in Córdoba, but interest spread to many more and became organized within Argentina's extensive areas or regions. Córdoba is the Central Region and within five (5) years Servas grew to more than 80 members. Its coordinator is Amalia Maffeis.

Following the ideals of Servas we have known and shared our home with many Servas travelers from all over the world, which is always a wealth of motivating and encouraging, and we also visited other Servas members around the world.

From Servas we are working on projects for the protection of the environment, participating in recreational, cultural and social aids and attending a geriatric center.

We also work for the improvement of human relations and seeking peace is all around us. The peace that is present when we honor our inter connectedness with others - our interdependence, not our separation.

Peace is expressed through the principles of unity, justice, the presence, cooperation, collaboration, creativity and confidence. This is an everyday learning way of living. 



Servas Members Meet to Cultivate Friendships & Plan for the Future!

Servas South America Congress, Salvador, Brazil 2010

By Alvany Santiago – Servas Brazil and Jaime Romero – Area Coordinator for South America.

Servas South American Congress, Brazil – 2010 in Salvador Bahia Brazil, from October 20th to 24th 2010, enlarged upon Servas successes in the region, which began in Misiones (Argentina) in October 2007 and continued in Villa de Leyva (Colombia) in April 2009. Jaime Romero recently chosen as Area Coordinator by Servas member groups in South America splendidly advanced Roberto Borenstein's valuable original contribution, in collaboration with Alvany Santiago as National Secretary of Servas Brazil and Pablo Chufeni, International Coordinator of Servas Youth.

About 40 peoples attended the Congress. Eight National Groups from South America were represented: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Eight youth delegates also attended from these countries. Pablo Colangelo, Servas International Host list Coordinator, expertly represented Servas International Executive Committee. He gave updates on Dolphin, ServasOnLine and other resolutions from the Servas International General Assembly of 2009. Luisa Corbetta Servas International Peace Secretary also highlighted Peace themes, when she joined the Congress by teleconference from Italy, and with Jaime Romero explained the Peace Training Course and other peace activities.



Fun time

The Congress integrated three events: Regional South American Meeting, Servas Brazil National Assembly and South American Servas

Youth Meeting with the following common objectives:

- Improve peace philosophy between Servas members encouraging personal networking and engagements with nonprofit organizations.
- Increase the ties of friendship and contact among Servas members in the region and also to discuss issues passed during the General Assembly 2009.
- Discuss strengthening proposals for Servas at national, regional and international level.
- Involve Youth within Servas and recognize the importance of Afro descendant people in the development of Brazil.
- Appoint new Youth Local Contacts for National Groups without them.
- Call attention to environmental issues.



Servas group during the tour

“Tribute to Afro Latin American people, the challenge to join our families in friendship”

Participants committed themselves to keep working towards Servas improvement in their region when back home.

Among the commitments: insert member's data into Dolphin; develop peace activities; organize SYLE and SCE- Servas Cultural Experience initiated by Servas Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela; and above all -- to foster and maintain Servas networking in South America in order to learn from each other.

Keynote messages received from Servas International President Gary Sealey and from Servas National Secretary of Belgium and



Jaime talking about peace

Luxembourg Rita Dessauvage each highlighted key themes of personal, life-long dedication to Servas values and actions:


Rita Dessauvage:

“I wish you a very successful congress and remember that words, words and more words are not enough. We need action to face the challenges of the coming years; Servas needs your involvement and your collaboration not only during this Congress but above all when you are back at home.”

Gary Sealey: “By the end of your Congress, please consider: Servas needs you and your friends, either as elected leaders or as volunteers. Your community needs you and Servas, too. Please share your learnings from this Congress. Tell your neighbourhood friends, your clubs, your schools and your fellow workers the Servas process, meanings, and fun. Help them see the need for discovery and understanding. Help them hear the value and power of Servas. Reflect on the gift you get from this Congress and then – Please pass that gift to your waiting and needy world.”



Angelita Maria dos Santos, from Associação das Mulheres Rendeiras - Petrolina (PE)

We are very grateful to everyone who helped the Congress for delivering their promises so well. 

Alvany Santiago can be contacted at alvanyantiago@gmail.com

Photos by: Dinorah Sanz, Uruguay and Luciane Braga, Brazil.

WHO'S WHO IN SERVAS

Terry Stone,
Newsletter Editor and National Secretary for Greece.

I am a 60-something American woman, from Los Angeles, living in Greece since 2005. (We decided to definitely make the move to Greece when Bush was reelected and health insurance became unaffordable.) I'm happy to say that I became a Greek citizen last year and am thrilled to be a member of the EU. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the EU and for Greece. We are facing some bumpy times!

I became a Servas member a little more than 3 years ago when Alan (my husband and the designer of this newsletter) and I met a stranger in a some out of the way Greek town who said we "should check out Servas." I don't know who he was but I am very thankful to him!

Somehow I was put in touch with Servas Turkey who was overseeing Servas Greece, as there wasn't a Greek national secretary at the time. When it came time to sign on the dotted line I was asked if I would like to also be the national secretary for Greece. I had no idea what that was but I said "Sure," and have been handling the job as best I can since then (A National Secretary who is not altogether fluent in the local language!).

Then this year, while discussing with Gary Sealey, Servas President, about this and that (mostly about what's wrong with Servas!!!) he mentioned that Servas needed a newsletter editor. Oh well, again I said, "Sure." I'm a mother, and mothers can do everything, right?! Oh, yes, and I have a graphics and newsletter background, in addition to some computer skills and a bit of writing experience (as well as a very talented graphic designer husband!).

So here we are, you and me. I'll do my best to keep the newsletter rolling along, at least for a year. (If you would like to be editor, please let me know, I'm hoping this will be a temporary position!)

Each month we would like to run a short biography from someone in Servas. Please submit or suggest. - ed

Servas Youth Nordic Meeting
1 August – 4 August 2011

By Susanne Thestrup, Servas Denmark

As all other youth meetings, this one is for Servas people of all ages with activities centred around the young (18-25) and families with children. We expect participants of all ages!

A cool place - the venue

Check out www.lerbjergcentret.dk to see it. Located in Hvalsø village close to the town Roskilde, Denmark.

Activities

We will have a programme of interesting activities with contributions from participants and invited "speakers", activities in large and small groups, some pre-planned, others more spontaneous.

Traditionally Servas meetings have a day trip. This one will, too! Just imagine all of us taking off in the morning and enjoying a full day out. It will be a day to remember.

Servas visits

The Servas hosts in Denmark or the other Nordic countries, Norway, Sweden, Finland or even Iceland are looking forward to hosting participants before and after the meeting.

Participation fee: Adult - 600 DKK (\$100 U.S. / 80.46 euro*)
 Child - 400 DKK (\$76 U.S. / 53.60 euro*)

Info and application form at www.servas.dk/Youthmeeting

Servas Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland invite you to join. Let's all meet and have a great time. 📧

** Based on exchange rates at time of publication.*

SERVAS WEB CONNECTIONS

Servas Yahoo Groups

- Servas International** - general discussion for all members.
 Post message: Servas-International@yahoogroups.com
 Subscribe: Servas-International-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Servas-International>
 Currently discussing: Members without email
- Servas News** - become involved with this newsletter
 Post message: servasnews@yahoogroups.com
 Subscribe: servasnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/servasnews>
 Currently discussing: Translating the newsletter into other languages
- ServasOnline** - website/database redesign
 Post message: Servasonline@yahoogroups.com
 Subscribe: Servasonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Servasonline>
 Currently discussing: Servas Web Site re-design

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, send email to the Subscribe email address. All of these email groups are private and have very little traffic at this time.

Servas is also on FaceBook & Twitter

"It is well to know something of the manners of various peoples, in order more sanely to judge our own, and that we do not think that everything against our modes is ridiculous, and against reason, as those who have seen nothing are accustomed to think"

- Rene Descartes,
 philosopher and mathematician (1596-1650)


Fat Forged Friendships

By Michael Johnson, Canada

A quarter century ago a German Servas couple came to live in Toronto, Ontario, Canada to do research on children and body fat. Here these two doctors worked on a "formula" for premature babies, which is now used in many countries.

I met with them many times as both

host and guest in the two years they lived here, and their two girls (one born in Toronto then) came later for visits.

This month, May 2011, the couple returned to Canada and our friendship was as warm as if we'd never parted. Servas does more than provide beds & breakfasts, it enriches lives. 



At the "Kissing Bridge," Ontario's only covered wooden bridge in a Mennonite area.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL FORMAT?

Many thanks for a new up-to-date looking newsletter with very interesting content.

I have one criticism. I, and no doubt a lot of other readers, do not print the newsletter but read it on my computer. With multiple columns one has to jump up and down to read a complete article.

Some editors always like to put things in columns and this is fine for printed material but not for the average computer screen.

Perhaps you could discuss this with your production team and even canvas your readers to find out the preference of the majority.

Kind regards

Ralph Sutton - New Zealand

Our Designer Responds: We would really like to not create two different versions - one for print (vertical) and one for on-line viewing (horizontal) - as that's quite a lot of extra production time. However, we are very open to suggestions from Servas members on which format they would prefer. A horizontal format might indeed be more versatile since it could be easily read on the computer screen but could still be printed in "landscape" format instead of the traditional letter format. We look forward to comments and opinions from our readers.

CORRECTION

The YouTube video promoting Servas that you show in the April edition ("*Neve Video Promotes Servas International*") was done by an international team. The script and original idea is by a girl in Venezuela, translators and editors also are from different countries. Possibly the final work or touch was by Christian from Argentina, but to be fair to everyone, it is not an Argentinian realization, as it seems to be from what I read in the News. I worked on the translation to several languages and know of all the people from different countries that took part in it, so I know what I am saying.

Dinorah Sanz

We want to hear from you. Your comments, suggestions are welcome. All members are encouraged to write with concerns, questions, problems, solutions, or the joke of the month! Tell us what you want to see in future issues your Servas News! -ed

How to Submit to Servas News

IMPORTANT: Submission deadline for content is the 15th of the month!!! Material received after deadline will be held for insertion into the following issue.

TIPS: Assume that the reader is new to Servas. Tell the Who, What, Where and When in the first paragraph. Avoid abbreviations. Keep articles to one page if possible. Make your item engaging and interesting, and pertinent to a global audience. We will not be posting individual country events or announcements. Long reports, such as technical and financial data, go to Renee (reneeendron@hotmail.com) for posting on www.Servas.org.

Everything will be posted as submitted! Please include a gripping headline (upper & lower case), author byline along with contact info, captions for photos. Spell check and proof your story, twice. We here at Newsletter Central will not edit copy.

We're looking for:

- Global calendar items
- Articles, opinion pieces, travel stories
- Letters to the Editor
- Short quotes regarding peace/Servas
- Short jokes, funny stories
- Web sites of interest to Servas members
- Questions about Servas

Technical Tips

- Prepare your story in a text application such as Microsoft Word, TextEdit. Save as a .doc or .txt format.
- Attach photos to email in JPEG format. **DO NOT PLACE PHOTO INTO THE TEXT DOCUMENT.** Use file names that match your story.
- Key photo captions to the photos (photo A, photo B, etc.) and list them at the end of your story.
- If it is not possible to use a text application software you can write your story in the body of an email. Please avoid fancy formatting and do not double-space after a sentence - single-space only.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask:
newsletter@servas.org

REMEMBER: What you write is what we'll post. Please thoroughly proof your article/letter before submitting it.