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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

*Terry Stone, Editor
newsletter@servas.org*



Hi everybody! I hope you had a good summer/winter.

It was a slow season here in Greece. Instead of hosting an average of 10 travelers this year I've only had only three so far. I hope the economy improves and we can host more visitors soon!! Despite what you may see on the news Greece remains a safe and beautiful destination for Servas travelers.

A few announcements:

1. Unfortunately we must limit stories in SERVAS NEWS to English. We do not have the space for, and cannot confirm the accuracy of other languages. If you would like help in creating a copy of the SERVAS NEWS in your country's language please see page 9.
2. I would like to begin an "OpEd Section" in SERVAS NEWS for opinions or issues members would like to express. Please

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where will be the next Servas General Assembly?

The first meeting of Servas was in England. You can read about it in the History of Servas by Pat Knowles. In those days, a war-shocked world was ready to invent a new future. The meeting sixty years ago, in Birmingham, drew a youth, Bob Luitweiler, from his studies at a Danish Folk School. It inspired him for the rest of his life. It led to friends, forming Servas world-wide in a mission of peace-seeking friendships.

We are not yet sure who will host the next General Assembly. Calls have gone to all member groups, but so far no unqualified, complete proposal has come forward.

If you have been to a Servas General Assembly, you know that it is an exercise in global democracy. Big groups and little ones meet together, equally according to democratic rules. We mostly try to speak varieties of English, but are also offered "Whispering Translations". We have used text-projectors at the last 3 Assemblies, so you can instantly read proceedings.

Some of the Assembly is routine. We elect officers (at the next one, a Presidential replacement for me, too!) We debate and choose a budget. Last time, we experimented with a "Peacebuilding Workshop", but we have not yet had a full discussion on how Servas should contribute to personal or Global Peace. Member Groups will make programme suggestions; it's a meeting of all of Servas, after all! The cultural highlights are fun, too. In Argentina we Tango-ed; and at all of the General Assemblies food is ethno-culturally diverse and wholesome.

It's no secret on how to host a General Assembly. There are lots of previous plans on the Sixco website and thanks to US Servas for its new and very good conference plan manual! General Assembly Timing: Usually from March through September 2012. Duration of 8 days including arrival and departure days. Usually there is a cultural

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - page 6

MEETING REPORT

Nordic Youth Meeting 2011

By Susanne Thestrup, Servas Denmark sus.thestrup@okkels.eu

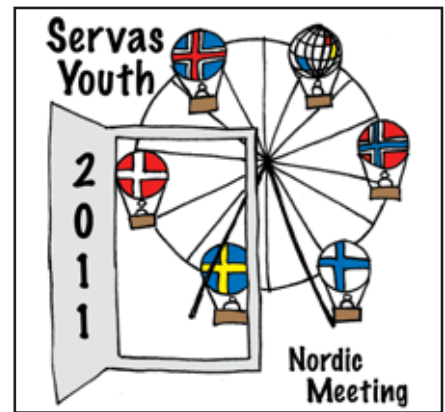
We are happy to let you know that the Servas Youth Nordic Meeting 2011 was a success. Participants covered all age groups, children, teenagers, young adults, adults and very much adults. Many countries were present, also far beyond the five Nordic countries; Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Singapore, Reunion, Italy, Poland, Britain, Venezuela and Brazil. Iceland, unable to attend, sent us a beautiful poster with an invitation to visit.

A comprehensive report with statements from the meeting will be published later on www.servas.dk.

Several development workshops were on the programme. The focus was on youth as well as families and SI Youth Development Officer Magiari Diaz Diaz and Ann Greenhough were key drivers of the workshops. They brought the spirit of Servas Youth and shared it with us. Lots of good discussions generated ideas and proposal for the future activities. The meeting has established a starting point for the young members to build youth activities in the Nordic countries. The aim is to inspire future activities in the region and cooperation with Servas Youth in other countries. This will help develop and renew Servas.

Transportation by bicycle is characteristic to Denmark and the meeting provided enough bikes for all to go for rides in the beautiful landscape and to the nearby lake for a dip several times a day. The bikes were also part of the transportation to visit Servas host Lisbeth Due's family farm for an introduction to their traditional organic and sustainable farming.

The day trip took us all by bus to the famous Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde for a guided tour of this cultural heritage which we share with the countries around us. The map showed us how the Vikings from all the Nordic countries interacted with all around them, either plundering (sorry!) or trading and settling peacefully. The bus then took us north to the village Økosamfundet Dyssekilde for an introduction to sustainable living in a small society established in the 1980s. We



saw their unique houses and modern water purification facility. We ended the visit with a delicious break at their café.

The logo of the meeting was designed to look happy and welcoming. The gondolas represent the five Nordic countries who hosted the meeting and an extra one to make room for everybody else to join the ride.

Please enjoy the footage from a daily TV programme that featured Servas Youth in action at Lerbjergcentret in Hvalsø, Denmark. They said, "Servas is couchsurfing from before the word was invented"!

www.dr.dk/DR1/Aftenshowet/Klip+fra+Aftenshowet/20101217143204.htm#/14413/20:33

Click the time line at part no 5 (halfway through the program)

Servas International
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MEETING REPORT

Servas International Youth Event In Uganda & Africa Area Meeting

Meeting 31 July – 6 August 2011 at the Lweza Training and Conference Center in Kampala on Lake Nyanza (Victoria).

By Rita Dessauvage
rita.dessauvage@telenet.be

The SI Youth Event and Africa Area Meeting has impressed all participants and has more than met the expectations. It was a deep African experience.



More than 50 participants came from nine African Countries (Botswana, Congo-Brazzaville, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia) and 15 participants attended from nine countries outside of Africa (Argentina, Belgium, Great Britain, France (Reunion), Israel, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, and Russia)

Following are the outcomes of the elections organized by Pablo Chufeni and me (Rita Dessauvage) on the 5th of August 2011

1. **Motion to change the name of the Area to “AFRICA”:**
Motion has been accepted
2. **Motion to amend the past structure decided on the Africa Area Meeting held in Zambia in 2007 (Minutes 36) to reduce the number of positions in the Area:**
Area Coordinator/Deputy Area Coordinator/Newsletter Coordinator/Website Manager/Host List Coordinator/Youth Area Coordinator)
Amendment has not been accepted
3. **Election of the positions in the Area “AFRICA”:**
Area Coordinator:
Moses Kigozi/ Uganda
Deputy Area Coordinator:
Clare Mateke/ Zambia
Newsletter Coordinator:
no candidates
Website Manager:
Tibo Rogers/ Sierra Leone
Host List Coordinator:
Peter Mwenisongole/Tanzania



Servas AAM & WYM Lweza AVP building the circle

Youth Area Coordinator:
Titan Serge Ondon/ Congo-Brazzaville

Note: Two counters and two observers have been appointed.

The ballot was secret and the ballots have been destroyed.

Delegates of both member countries and not (yet) member countries represented the following countries:

Botswana (M), Congo-Brazzaville (M), Burundi, Kenya, Malawi (M), Sierra Leone (M), Tanzania, Uganda (M), and Zambia (M)

Servas will certainly become stronger in Africa after this successful meeting.

Special thanks to Sheldon who has been Area Coordinator for many years. 📧



Demelza & Daughters at AAM&WYM



Sarah and Prossy, two of the wonderful hosts in Kampala.

MEETING REPORT

Servas Meeting In The Golan Heights

Saturday 4 June 2011

By Claudia Sagi, National Secretary Servas Israel - Israel@servas.org

First thanks to Anaam and Akaab from the Druze village Bugaata in the Golan Heights - who initiated the meeting and invited us to meet and get close to them and their community in the Druze village.

We met at Moshav Odem – 1180 m above the sea, tasted the wonderful Druze delicacies, heard Akab from Buqaata and Gadi from Odem about Druze and Israeli coexistence in Golan Heights, then took a guided tour to the Great Juba on the edge of an extinct volcano. From there Akab took us to Buqaata , and explained about the history of the village and the Druze community, and how they live side by side with Israeli villages, keeping their separate identity and way of life.. Together we continued to Birkat Ram – the large natural reservoir, located in the crater of a disordered volcano – where



It shows what the spirit of Servas is - no politics, just meetings between people who want to know one another, drink and eat together, show each other their way of life, culture and beliefs. Proximity and familiarity lead to an understanding, a desire to help each other, learn from each other.. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this wonderful meeting,

We all extend a peaceful hand and warm welcome to every guest coming to Israel to any place and any host – Jewish, Druze, Arab or Bedouin, etc. 🇮🇱



Tzuki from Kibbutz Geshur explained about the water system in the Golan. Some of us found time to pick cherries and raspberries. Back to Moshav Odem for the get together lunch – again the tasteful Druze salad, cheese - labane, and sweets, side by side with Israeli tastings brought by the Israeli hosts. Participation exceeded expectations - 80 Servas Israel hosts arrived from all over Israel – from the Arava in the south to Kiriat Shmona and Kibbutz Geshur in the north - not deterred by the current situation near the northern border with Syria.

All wanted to know more about the life of the Druze.

Servas Israel hosts yearn for activities which contribute to coexistence, improved understanding and dialogue between people, ethnic groups and religions in Israel.



UPCOMING EVENT

Open House Day In Servas Congo-Brazzaville

ESPLANADE DU MEMORIAL PIRRE SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA

By *Ondon titan Serge, N.S Servas Congo*

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The aim of this meeting is to promote near the Congolese youth, values defended by the organization: peace, humanitarianism, tolerance, and open door.

Through this activity, which will be attended by members from Servas USA, Servas Congo, aims to provide opportunities for young Congolese to learn more about Servas and what it can bring to the Congo.

ORGANIZATION

Three highlights will crown the day: (1) an exhibition of photos of the servas activities from all servas member country; (2) the minutes of Servas area African meeting and Servas International Youth Meeting held in July 31 to August 6, 2011 in Uganda; and (3) a statement about being a Servas traveler by Ricas Odette(from USA) and an address to young students by Reda Anderson(From USA).

A cocktail will be offered by Servas Congo Brazzaville.

PARTICIPANTS

- We count on the participation of:
- Servas Congo Brazzaville Members
 - Non-member
 - The student

INVITED

- Minister of Civic Education and Youth
- Representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Arts
- Board members of the National Congolese youth

PARTNERS

- Department of Civic Education and Youth
- Servas Belgium;
- French Institute of Brazzaville
- Memorial Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza
- TOP TV

For more details on this event please contact Titan Serge ONDON, Project Coordinator. Tel: 00242 05 553 87 99. E-mail: crilieond@yahoo.fr or Server Congo Brazzaville, Congo-brazzaville@servas.org 

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MESSAGE FROM SERVAS SPAIN

The Servas Spain Exhibition is going on!!

Thank you very much for all the wonderful contributions.

You can watch a little video and pictures about the first day.

This is the link:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2qSgbGX-nl&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

Servas Spain are organizing an Exposition with 30/35 posters (size Din A 0, 84 x 118 cm) about Servas. This exposition will be in the International and Tropical Medicine Center in Barcelona this summer.

One of the poster is dedicated to Servas Youth. We are asking all the countries to collaborate with pictures from Servas young members; a young person with a simple sheet with the word **SERVAS** in capital letters, and the country in lowercase letter.

We want to create an international and colorful poster. You can send to me your pictures.

Waiting your contribution!!

Thanks to everyone.

Susana Martínez,
Servas Spain Secretary
servassecretaria@gmail.com

OPEN HOUSE DAY PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, 1 October, 2011

- 10:00–14:00 Photo exhibition on the shares of Servas in the world (Free admission)
- 14:00–14:20 Arrival of guests
- 14:20–14:25 Installation completed
- 14:30 Arrival of the Minister of Education and Youth Civic and early activity.
Greetings from National Secretary of Servas Congo Brazzaville
Forgot circumstance Sir, the Minister for Civic Education and Youth
Cocktails
- 14:50–15:15 Presentation of the minute of Servas meeting Africa area and Servas
International Youth Meeting held July from 31 July to 6 August, 2011 in Uganda
- 15:15–15:30 Question responses
- 15:30–16:15 Talk about being a Servas traveler
by Odette Ricas
- 16:15–16:30 Question responses
- 16:30–17:45 Address to the young students
by Reda Anderson
- 15:50 End of the ceremony

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

ONGOING EVENT

Exposición Servas En Barcelona


By Luis Miguel Avendaño, S.N. Servas España
magiari@gmail.com

Servas Spain is presenting an exhibition in Barcelona during the months of July, August and September, 2011. Compositions with photos and texts, many provided by Servas members from different countries such as Mexico, Haiti, Zambia, USA, Uganda, Japan, Russia, Guatemala, Brazil, Belgium, Argentina, Denmark, Ireland, Turkey, Peru, Mongolia, and Uruguay.

To all of them, and all the collaborators of Servas Spain, the team of people who participated on July 1 to place every poster and give their best advise, a million thanks for your support.

The subject of this exhibition is to promote the idea of peace and friendship, teaching the values of SERVAS that go beyond providing hospitality.

In our website www.servas.es can see all posters, texts are in Spanish and Catalan language, just to explain what is Servas as simple as we have done.

This activity has been designed within the "Peace Comission" in Servas Spain, called "servas 2.0". This group meets every month and is carrying a deepening work in the philosophy of Servas. We believe that Servas needs to work all the aspects that characterize it as an organization that promotes peace. To do this we plan to give talks in institutions where they can be interesting and explain what Servas is. 

SERVAS BARCELONA EXHIBITION

Espai d'art Wonee
Unitat de Medicina Tropical i Salut Internacional
DRASSANES
Av. Drassanes 17-21 baixos.
BARCELONA

July, August, September 2011
weekdays

Two videos of the exhibition are available on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2qSgbGX-nI&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL
www.youtube.com/watch?v=31EFssGawOw&feature=player_detailpage



Photographs, such as the one above showing Servas members and the name of their country, were collected from the entire international Servas community for inclusion in the exhibit!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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tour in the middle; often participants tour before or after the event. At the GA in Argentina there was a programme for spouses and observers which was fun and educational.

Accommodation:

- a safe, healthy, accessible bargain hotel, inexpensive resort, university, etc, with Internet access; a cruise ship might be good?
- space needed minimum 150 beds, expandable up to 250, in Barcelona we also had dorms
- 7 workshop rooms, with at least one big enough for everyone seated
- multi-ethmo-cultural menu, appropriate for all eating at the same time, and with frequent refreshment breaks
- nearby international airport

Hosting duties

1. Welcome letter to GA; letters of invitation for travelers' Visa applications
2. Coordination with hotel for registration, room set ups, room signage and decoration
3. Specifically coordinate Registration book (receive reservations and accountable payments)
4. Receive and Control a small expense fund for the Treasurer
5. Registration desk (for sign-in, on arrival)
6. Arrange airport pickup or bus shuttles
7. Cultural soiree
8. Cultural tour (eg guided bus tour)
9. Spouses' and Observers' programme
10. Supply and supervise rental or borrowed equipment, supplies including sound system and projectors
11. Pre-conference restaurant meal, if practicable
12. Pre-conference hosting arrangements with hosts, if any
13. Post-conference hosting arrangements, if any
14. other, etc

Hosting work is steady. Conference hosting is too much for one person and a team is needed.

GA Hosts are not responsible for the GA programme, translation, other logistics, but are of course welcome and encouraged to assist the Chair and GA committees. Funding is provided for all essential costs as agreed in advance with Treasurer. Exco has collective experience and can provide advice and will establish a budget in consultation and based on past success.

Looking forward to meeting you at the next Servas International General Assembly. Let us know if you can help!

Gary Sealey
Chair, 2012 GA

TRAVEL REPORT

Servas Peru Visits Ancient Inca Sites

By Pedro Puente, p-puente@hotmail.com

Continuing with the Program of Activities for 2011, on June 29th there was a visit to the Inca Ceremonial Center and the wildlife refuge. Here is the report:

The Sanctuary of Pachacamac is located in the 31.5 Km in the south of Lima. It is one of the most important ceremonial centers of the Central Coast. It was built at different times from the early years of our era to the sixteenth century and is located in the coastal valley formed by Lurin river.



where we had lunch. Then, four miles away northwest, we reached the small wildlife refuge, called Sanctuary Amancay. Its typical flower is the Amancay which grows on the hills of the Central Coast of Lima Department.

Considered Cultural Heritage of Humanity, it was a place of worship of the God Pachacamac, god of fire and son of the Sun. It's a great center of pilgrimage visited by people from almost every corner of this land. Visitors present their best offerings and consult the oracle about their future. The pyramid-shaped temples are the most attractive sites to visit. These have stairs and ramps which lead us to the top of the sanctuary, where one can have a beautiful view of the valley of Lurin and the Pacific Ocean.



The flower blooms and lasts for only three weeks each winter in late June. With its yellow hues, it attracts foxes, viscachas, owls and hawks. The amancay only grows in Lima thanks to the winter drizzle coming from the Humboldt current which allows the formation of heavy fog in winter. The amancay is the symbol of Lima because in its best times it used to give the a yellow tone to hills of Lima.

The first evidence of its existence is found in the Inca culture (1400-1500 AD). There are queros and ceramics with the flower design. Since the foundation of Lima, the pampas of Amancay have been the scene of religious pilgrimages, hunting and traditional feasts. But due to the urban expansion, the flor the amancay is endangered. However, thanks to people's initiative for saving it, it has been rescued and protected by keeping it in the Rio Seco valley of Pachacamac. Its visit is now restricted.



SYLE REPORT

Servas São Paulo, Brazil Welcomes SYLE Visitor From Uruguay

By *Andréa Assis, São Paulo Regional Coordinator, Brazil*
sp@servasbrasil.org.br


From middle of July to August Servas São Paulo, Brazil, received Valentina Guani from Servas Uruguay. The young student of journalism was hosted by several hosters who gave her the opportunity of discovering São Paulo by the *paulistas* – people from São Paulo state – eyes. Samba, classic music, dance & Portuguese classes, visits to tropical forest and museums are some of the activities Valentina took part in. The programme in São Paulo was developed by Débora Pinto.



Valentina's farewell – Servas SP, Brazil – Aug. 2011

Besides São Paulo, Valentina was in Vitória at Espírito Santo state, southern Brazilian coast.

What is the most impressive image Valentina has about Brazil? “The violence was not so all those things you see in TV”, she said. “You can go out, have fun and mainly make friends.” She really improved her Portuguese language skills.

If youngsters are interested in SYLE in Brazil, contact Servas Youth. It'll be a pleasure to receive you. 

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9 – 11, 2011

22ND ALPE ADRIA SERVAS INTERNATIONAL MEETING
 Arta Terme, Friuli, North-Eastern Italy
 Info at tinyurl.com/servasalpeadria2011

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

WORLD COMMEMORATIVE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
www.internationaldayofpeace.org

OCTOBER 1, 2011

OPEN HOUSE DAY IN SERVAS CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE
 Email crilieond@yahoo.fr for more information.

JUNE 1 – 6, 2012

NETHERLANDS INTERNATIONAL MEETING
 Details to come.

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

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

**If you want to build a ship,
 don't drum up people together to collect wood
 and don't assign them tasks and work,
 but rather teach them to long for the
 endless immensity of the sea.**

*Antoine de Saint-Exupery,
 author and aviator (1900-1945)*

SEEN ON THE NET

www.trianglevegsociety.org/grapevine/v11_1/servas.html

www.ricksteves.com/graffiti/archives/servas.htm

For a review of the recent Servas Conference in Uganda go to <http://servasempotugal.blogspot.com>

Wonderful blog, in English, on what took place in Uganda, and the Iberian Meeting, and many other events!
servasempotugal.blogspot.com

The International Day of Peace takes place on Sept 21.

This site tells you all about it!

www.internationaldayofpeace.org/

*Do you have a good web site to share?
 Please submit it to: newsletter@servas.org*

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.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

- include "OpEd" in the E-mail subject header.
- 3. I would like to include articles that define the various programs, other than just hosting, that are active in Servas such as House Exchanges, SYLE, etc. If you can explain or expand on some of these other programs please contact me to coordinate.
- 4. If anyone would like to take over the editor and production duties of SERVAS NEWS please don't hesitate to step forward and contact either myself or Gary.

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 e-mail in .jpg format. **DO NOT PLACE PHOTOS 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 e-mail.
- Avoid fancy formatting and do not double-space after a sentence, or add a space before a comma. Remember, a computer is not a typewriter.
- Include Country/Article Headline in the subject header of our e-mail submission, as well as in your story text.
- Add story author's name, title and e-mail at the "beginning" of the story.

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.

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Do you have a travel story from your corner of the world? Share your adventure and experiences with other Servas members. We will feature one a month. Please send your story and photos to newsletter@servas.org. - ed