

Servas Canada

Newsletter 13 - October 2006

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1. World Peace Forum - Vancouver

The World Peace Forum 2006 is an international gathering of individuals, groups and civic governments from cities and communities who envision living in a culture of peace and sustainability in our lifetime.

It will be held in Vancouver from June 23 to 28th, 2006. We are very fortunate that it will be held in our country this year. And, of course, it fits in so well with Servas ideals.

To obtain more information and to register for the peace forum, click on the following web-site: <http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca>

Sylvia Krogh, Servas Canada Peace Secretary, writes:

"I will be attending the forum and would be glad to meet with other Servas hosts or travellers who attend. Initially, we can meet in the lobby of the Gage Residence on the UBC campus at 12 noon on Friday, June 23rd. I will wear a Servas button and hold up a Servas sign. And if someone from Vancouver is attending the forum, perhaps you can contact me with further ideas of places that we can meet later on. It would be nice to meet for supper on night, perhaps at a restaurant if someone can suggest one.

"Hope to see you there!"

To contact Sylvia about meeting in Vancouver, you will find her contact information in host record 419 on page 77 of the 2006 Servas Canada Host List.

2. Travel and Transitions - Web site and contest

Susanne Pacher, an enthusiastic Servas supporter in Toronto who attended the Canada - US conference last summer, has a wonderful travel web site <http://www.travelandtransitions.com/> on which she profiles many Servas-like experiences. She asked that we send the following announcement to Servas Canada members:

Susanne writes:

"On my travel website I have recently launched a travel story contest (<http://www.travelandtransitions.com/contests.htm>) that invites our readers to contribute their own travel stories of how travel opened their minds and broadened their horizons. It will run through August 31, 2006 with all contest winners being notified on or before September 30, 2006.

"Of course we also have some fabulous prizes:

- Our grand prize is a 2-week (15 day) Greek Sailing Adventure for 2, sponsored by G.A.P Adventures, Canada's adventure travel leader and a socially and environmentally responsible company.
- The first prize is a 1-week stay in a vacation suite for 4 to 8 people in a multitude of locations across the world.
- The second prize is a 2-night 3-day weekend in a B&B in Toronto complete with a city tour in an amphibious vehicle and a culinary tour of the St. Lawrence market.
- The third prize is a \$150 merchandise gift certificate from the Mountain Equipment Coop, another socially and environmentally conscious enterprise.
- We also have a variety of magazine prizes for our honourable mentions.

"The stories that we are most interested in are stories of learning experiences, of cross-cultural encounters and ultimately stories of human understanding through travel which Servas stands for."

3. Traveller Report - China

Walking in Dalian, Liaoning, China
(Submitted by Phyllis Head of Toronto)

My tummy muscles tighten,
Shoulders are pushed
back Neck stretches upward,
My posture is straight.
My feet carry me with a lithe bounce to each step.

A healthy euphoria carries me along the streets of Dalian!

A friend with whom I practise Tai Chi greets me with "Ni Hao", which is "hello" in Mandarin. In Chinese, her name is Yao Dong-Ju. I call her "Lori".

She said to me, "Sometimes when I was talking with you about the very things deep in our hearts, I had the feeling that there must be something quite universal that binds us: something so natural, so simple, but always so precious.

"It's so good that two people from different cultures and places like us can have more to talk about. It must be something more than words"

It's moments like this that make SERVAS work!

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