



Servas Canada: Furthering peace through multicultural dialogue

Occasional Bulletin 2

Sept 2017

Dear Servas members:

As National Secretary, I receive information from other Servas member countries about upcoming activities or news. Some of this detail is put on our Servas Canada website, and/or in an edited short one or two-page bulletin like this one. Detail in this bulletin comes from Servas International. J.

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INTERNATIONAL: NOTES

As of June 2017, **45% of Servas members worldwide are on ServasOnline**. Twenty-four countries have their members' data now on ServasOnline. The ServasOnline team reminds all Servas members to go online as soon as possible to complete your profile and place your home on the Servas map. Only Servas members who have completed the ServasOnline membership process in their own countries can see Servas personal data. Also electronic Letters of Introduction (e-LOI) and PDF host lists will be available in ServasOnline once the migration process is complete.

Korea to Host SICOGA 2018

Servas Korea will host the next Servas International Conference and General Assembly (SICOGA) in Seoul, in October 2018.

International Peace Day (September 21)

This year's Servas International theme for the week as a time for peace-based activities is

Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All. For information, see servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/other_files/2017/2017_International_Servas_Week_Innovation_Group.pdf

Member Country Activities

Servas branches have been re-established in Nicaragua and Cuba. As of January, Servas Bolivia has 24 members. There are new Servas communities in Mali and in the Dominican Republic. There are new active Boards in Servas India, Denmark, Sweden, and Chile. [Julie: *Congratulations on continuing to promote Servas ideals!*]

Wanted: Photographs and Text for 2018 Peace Calendar

Please send good quality photographs with a clear and brief caption, by September 30th to peacesecretary@servas.org

The new [Servas International website](http://servas.org) (servas.org) launched in February. The website has a calendar function (servas.org/en/events-meetings) that lists Servas events around the world. Please send Carla K. (crsckris@gmail.com) of Servas Portugal information about your upcoming event.

The **May 2017 Servas International Distant Vote** to approve the 2015-2016 audited accounts was passed with 42 votes in favour, three abstentions, and one invalid vote.

RWANDA

With 50 members, Servas Rwanda is now a fully registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) working on peace initiatives.

In August 2017, Servas Rwanda hosted a meeting on *Sustaining Servas in Africa: Strengthening National Networks and Building for the Future*. The main objectives were to: increase awareness of Servas in Africa; strengthen Servas Africa national networks and their impact; share and link with other Servas networks outside Africa; after the Rwandan genocide, learn about best practices in peace building; and engaging youth.

“Travel Peacefully and Walk Lightly on Earth”

(phrase from October 2015 SICOGA)

As a community of hosts and travellers, Servas has potential to contribute to the protection of the environment and to raise awareness of environmental issues. Servas promotes an ethical way of travelling, compatible with sustainable development.

In Servas we prefer to call ourselves “travellers” rather than “tourists” as our main goal is to integrate into our hosts’ communities, and share in their daily life.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2017 as the **International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development**, recognizing “the importance of international tourism...fostering better understanding among peoples...bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures...contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world.” On March 8th, Danielle Serres (SI Peace Secretary) and Daniela Donges (SI representative in Geneva) organized an event where attendees were asked, “How can we contribute to sustainable development goals?” Read more about the Geneva meeting: servas.org/en/Servas-and-the-UnitedNations

Servas International Archives

In 2009, SI archivist Grant Barnes, from US Servas, arranged to preserve Servas International and US Servas archives at the Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace Archives, at Stanford University. At the

time, the HI Archives staff initially reviewed 110 boxes, available online

at www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt7870361q/entire_text/

Anna Koster, the newly elected SI archivist is now reviewing this archives and looking to create online historical records to complement the SI archives. She is working with the Archiving Consulting Group including herself, Mary Jane Mikuriya, US Servas International representative, and Penny Pattison, SI General Secretary. *Any Servas member with experience in archives is welcome to join the Archiving Consulting Group.*

Anna, Mary Jane, and Penny met in late May in San Francisco to work out an archives action plan including a format for reviewing box contents. HI Archives senior staff offered advice and provided encouragement as well as supporting the plan to remove inappropriate or duplicate material, and separating US Servas material from SI material. [It was agreed that new items \(increments\) will be added once every three years.](#) The next increment will be done in early 2018.

Countries wishing to add to the SI archives should contact the SI archivist. Donations must clearly identify the item by title, date, and why it is important. If the item is a photograph, identification of individuals pictured, and location is also important.

For clarity, the SI archives are physical objects in secure storage, protected and under the responsibility of the storage location, for all time; the SI online historical documents are items of interest to the SI community available on the Internet and maintained by SI volunteers. Our next steps are to: prepare more detailed descriptions of the SI material, and create a searchable PDF file; define what is to be included in the SI online historical documents; and review information in the HI Archives.

[Julie: *“A new beginning for Servas” recognizing the historical value of archives; a great start! Well done!*]

Penny, Mary, and Anna are ready to share this information with the rest of the Servas international community.