

Thanksgiving Dinner in February

By EurAuPair Au Pair Céline Dietrich from France

Céline Dietrich from France, EurAuPair au pair with the Bozniak/Stronach family of Washington, DC, is a big fan of American Thanksgiving celebrations:

“My name is Céline, I am French and I celebrate this month my first year in the United States. I am living with a wonderful host family in Washington, D.C. I extended my experience, so I will stay six more months here with them. Maybe it’s because of the color of fall that I am thinking about it, but my best memory here as an au pair was last Thanksgiving. I just arrived in Washington few days before; I didn’t really know my host family at this time and I was under the stress of leaving my country, family and friends. We went all together to West Virginia to spend the weekend in the mountains, with friends. I was amazed by the food, for sure,

the atmosphere and the kindness of the people with whom I spend this beautiful day. I took it as a good sign for the year that I will spend with them and I was right - I had a beautiful year.

Because I had such a great day, when in February my 25th birthday came, I asked my host family to have a birthday like Thanksgiving dinner with the turkey, the macaroni and cheese, and all the other typical side dishes. My family from France was visiting me, so it was the occasion for them to try the famous dish and to meet my host family and friends here, in the way of a Thanksgiving dinner. All of us had a great time and now everybody is still laughing about the turkey in February!

I am about to spend another Thanksgiving in the South of the United States, because I am doing a road trip with a friend that I met in



Allison, my host mum, and me the day of Thanksgiving

this program. We will probably be around San Antonio, Texas, for this particular day. I don’t know yet what it will look like, but I am sure that it will be memories for life.”

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About Us...

EurAuPair Intercultural Child Care Programs is a non-profit, public benefit organization designated by the U.S. Department of State to conduct the Au Pair cultural exchange program under the Fulbright Hays Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 and is intended “to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges”.

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Hot Summer Day at the Beach

By Community Counselor Lisa Dupré, San Diego, CA



Community Counselor Lisa and “sand mermaid” Hannah

The Southern California EurAuPair team combined a group of au pairs, led by Area Coordinator Rachel Harvey and Community Counselors Lisa Dupré from San Diego and Daniel Hoock from the Los Angeles area.

We had a nice meeting at the end of August 2011, at the Huntington State Beach Park. Five au pairs, friends and family members ventured the drive to Huntington Beach. It was a beautiful sunny day at the beach, where we got some sun rays, made sand castles and frolicked in the ocean. Rachel’s daughter Hannah was nice enough to allow me to bury her and make her into a sand mermaid. We had a nice time visiting and meeting each other. We also brought our lunches and ate snacks and sweets provided by our Area Coordinator Rachel.

We hope to meet again as a big group soon!

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October 2011 EurAupair Cultural Events

EurAupair au pair Melina Knau from Germany, Community Counselor Cindy Nelson-Singh and her husband visited the 2011 Super Bowl Champs Hall of Fame in Green Bay, WI. Melina's older brother is a huge NFL football fan in Germany, he was cheering for the Green Bay Packers during the Super Bowl Championship. He was very excited to learn that Melina's host family lived less than one hour from the Green Bay Packers and Lambeau Field. As our cultural experience for October, we decided to tour the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame and see the Super Bowl XLV trophy in person. It was a great tour, and Melina bought an authentic Aaron Rodgers' jersey to send home to her brother. *Thank You to Cindy for writing about her and Melina's trip to the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame.*



EurAupair Community Counselor Helena Vieira (right) and au pair Wendy Inzunza Maldonado from Mexico went to the Trail of Terror in Minneapolis, MN. Scary!



For their October cultural event, EurAupair Community Counselors Eva Haug and Barbara Salzmänn-Hogberg took their au pairs to the annual Scarecrow Festival in St. Charles, IL, 50 miles west of Chicago. The Scarecrow Festival has been around for the past 25 years. Local businesses and individuals enter very elaborate and creative scarecrow displays into a contest. Au Pairs (front row from the left) Heidi Singh (South Africa), Mareike Wiemker, Martina Grell (both Germany), Viviane Lemes (Brazil), second row from left Anne Laure Hlocko (France), Counselor Barbara, Leonie Adler and her friend Marion Ruopp (both Germany) enjoyed looking at all the scarecrows, listening to the band "7th Heaven" and tasting a variety of food at the fest. *Thank you, Barbara and Eva, for taking the au pairs to this fun festival!*

October 2011 EurAupair Cultural Events

Community Counselor Janette Kovsky about her group's October Cultural Event: We went to Remlinger Farms in Duvall, WA, in search for the perfect pumpkins. Once we found our match we came back to our house for the carving while we enjoyed hot Apple Cider, Pumpkin Ice Cream, German Cherry Cake, Zucchini Bread and good conversations. This was a memorable afternoon under a blue autumn sky!



Crowned Miss Brazilian Day 2011

By Community Counselor Kristin Wormley, Atlanta, GA

EurAupair au pair Dirlene Reis from Brazil, currently residing in Decatur, GA, with the Grossman family, was named Miss Brazilian Day this past September. Brazilian Day commonly referred to as "Sete de Setembro" was held September 7th this year in New York City. It is a celebration of Brazil's independence from Portugal, which occurred in 1822.

Brazilian Day in New York takes place on 46th Street, near Times Square, in Manhattan and is a huge celebration with parades and concerts. Dirlene stated, "Brazilian parties are always full of energy and a lot of fun. The Brazilian Day 2011 in New York City with 1.5 million people was not different."

When asked to describe the

Miss Brazilian Day competition, Dirlene said "The Miss Brazilian Day competition chooses one beautiful woman to represent Brazil at the big celebration. This year, I was chosen from amongst 10 beautiful Brazilian girls. Being named Miss Brazilian Day is such an honor to me. It shows to the world Brazilian beauty and how much diversification is in our people. It shows our culture, our Samba dance, our happiness and how proud we are to be Brazilians."

As a candidate, Dirlene had to submit an application and sit for an interview prior to making it to the final selection. A panel of artists and press professionals then chose the Brazilian candidate to be named Miss Brazilian Day 2011.



Au pair Dirlene with her host siblings Gabriella and Miles

Halloween is Fun!

By EurAupair Au Pair Julie Bohl from Germany

EurAupair au pair Julie Bohl from Germany, hosted by the Schumacher/Berendt host family of Arlington, VA, shares her first Halloween experience in the US:

"The day before Halloween started with the neighborhood Halloween party on the street. I went there as a witchy witch as you can see on the picture. They had drinks, food, spooky sweets and fun games for the little ones. They also had 2

moon bounces for the children and every kid was wearing its costume. After nap time I carved a pumpkin for the first time in my life. It was a little harder than I was thinking but not too difficult. I really like my Jack O'Lantern!

On Halloween day we went trick or treating and got lots of candy. The girls totally got the concept of going to the door, knocking and getting candy. They wanted to go to every

single house! After we were done we inspected the candy and ate a couple.

When the babies were in bed I went to Georgetown to see all the people in their costumes. It was very funny; there were a lot of good costumes!

Altogether it was a great experience and I look forward to the next Halloween! Hope you had a fun Halloween!"



Surfing in the Atlantic Ocean

By Community Counselor
Samantha Pitera, Stratford, CT

Community Counselor Samantha Pitera writes about the surfing adventure she had with her au pair group.

"We had been planning it all summer, but just didn't seem to be getting around to it. So we braved the potential cold, donned wetsuits and hit the surf. Not only did we go surfing in late September, but we were surfing in New York City!! Well, Queens to be exact. Having left home at 7am, all dressed in jeans and sweaters, I was a little nervous about how the girls would feel about getting into bathing suits and heading into the Atlantic. I had no reason to worry!

Before long, my German fair-weather au pairs were running into the waves in their bathing suits. Already signs of a great day ahead, yay! My husband and step-daughter joined us as we dragged our long



Standing up on a surf board for the first time!

boards along the seagull-studded beach. First we practiced our paddling and "pop-ups" (a quick jump from lying down on your board to standing directly in the middle of it) and then headed for the surf. Instructors guided each of us

into waves and then we were able to practice all by ourselves. Before long the girls were standing like REAL Hawaii-born surfers! Words cannot describe how excited I was for them! As they emerged from the surf they were smiling from ear to ear.

This was a great activity for the girls! Overall I learned that as Counselors we have the opportunity to challenge our au pairs, introduce them to new worlds and watch them flourish."



Photo left to right: Inna Gutnik (Germany), President Lincoln, Julie Mercier (France)

2011 Lake Villa Civil War Days

By Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel, Chicago, IL

On Sunday, September 18, 2011, au pairs from Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel's group were able to see what life would be like as a soldier during the Civil War: the group attended the 9th Annual Lake Villa Civil War Days.

The Annual Lake Villa Civil War Days celebration is held at the Lehman Mansion in Lake Villa, Illinois. The Lehman Mansion was constructed in 1912 as a summer residence for Edward J. Lehmann and his family, and has been beautifully restored to the grandeur of its elegant past. Mr. Lehmann, Merchant Prince of State Street, had a profound impact on the history of Lake Villa. By bringing in the railroad and a resort hotel, the area was the "Lake Geneva" of its time. A depot was completed and the first passenger train stopped at Lake Villa on July 26, 1886. Mr. Lehman also co-owned a livery stable and bus barn with Mr. John Stratton, which offered horse drawn bus and carriage rides to local resorts from the train station and sight-

seeing tours. To the east was the fabulous Lehmann home, a stucco castle built in 1888 overlooking Deep Lake.

The Annual Lake Villa Civil War Days celebration is co-hosted by the Lake Villa Historical Society, Village of Lake Villa, Army of the Cumberland and Camp Douglas.

The Lake Villa Historical Society, is a public emissary and educational resource, and serves its community by collecting and preserving documents and artifacts that reflect the richness of Lake Villa's history; by facilitating discovery and understanding of our shared history; and by taking a responsible role in the continued preservation and historical development of the community.

Thank you, Dawn, for giving us some historical background information on Lake Villa!