

Holiday Season

By Au Pair Debora Lourenco Lindo, hosted by the Rowell Family in Virginia Beach, VA

Having experienced quite a few US American Holidays during her program, Debora writes about celebrating her favorite holidays:

Let's talk about holidays!

There is, as you may imagine, many differences between holidays in the United States and Brazil, my home country. Some I like it better there, other I like it here.

Having a white Christmas, for example, is a dream of many Brazilians. There we have a wet Christmas instead, due to the season being summer, we are usually in the rain or hanging out by the beach house or pool during Christmas and New Year's Eve, which I prefer.

Then, there's Thanksgiving which I only got to know last year. Our Thanksgiving is mainly celebrated with Christmas. We do not have a specific day for it. But I am not here to talk about the differences, let's get into my favorite holiday:

We do celebrate Valentine's Day. However, this holiday in Brazil is usually celebrated between couples and I loved that here in the US it is between any person that is important to you and you love. This is one of my favorite holidays in the US. Last year, my host family got me some chocolate and my friends got me flowers and cards and so did I to my friends, my English teacher and my

Continued on back page...



Debora picking her pumpkin at a local pumpkin patch.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Holiday Season
- Exploring Lake Michigan
- Nebraska Football
- Welcome to Washington State
- Feed My Starving Children
- We LOVE our Au Pair
- EurAupair Photos

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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Exploring Lake Michigan

By Julia Neumeister, Au Pair with the Cohn Family in Northbrook, IL

On a beautiful Sunday morning, we met at Navy Pier in Chicago to go on a 2 hour brunch cruise. We met our Area Coordinator Vivi and waited to get on the boat.

After we started to board, we lined up to take a group picture. I think we were about 20 people.

The crew showed us our tables and we sat down. As soon as the buffet opened, everybody lined up to pick out their food. They had a really good selection of chicken, veggies,

waffles, beef, etc.

It was a very sunny and warm day. We decided to go outside on the upper decks and enjoy the view of the city from Lake Michigan. Chicago is such an amazing city! The skyline looks so nice from the water. I always enjoy going downtown to explore Chicago.



The Chicago skyline from Lake Michigan.

We had some new au pairs in our cluster. For some of them it was the first time in Chicago. Everybody took pictures and soaked up the sun.

After a while we went back in to have dessert. They had a lot of different desserts (cheesecake, fruitcake, brownie, éclairs and fruit). The dance floor was filled with people and everybody was dancing.

When the cruise was over, everybody got off the boat. Some au pairs stayed in the city, others went back home.

Thank you very much, Julia, for writing about this Chicago-land monthly meeting!



Chicago-land Au Pairs, Community Counselors and Area Coordinator enjoyed this sunny day and the boat cruise.

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Nebraska Football

By Omaha Community Counselor Alice Smith

Saturday was quite the day as we embarked on an adventure that is truly indicative of the Nebraska culture. We were headed for a football game!

Nebraska fans are nothing if not passionate and loyal. The city of Lincoln glows red

as everyone swarms to the stadium. The day was perfect: sunny, blue skies, warm enough but with a touch of chill in the air.

The game was a lot of fun to watch and explain as none of the girls had been to an American football game before. The cheers and

the “wave” that circled the stadium on a number of occasions were also a lot of fun.

All was going along quite smoothly, the teams were tied for quite a while, and we watched as the ball was passed from team to team. Then, drat! Northwestern scored a field goal and we were 3 points behind! When we finally did get the ball, we were way down at the wrong end of the field with only a minute and a half left. Somehow we got the ball to the 50 yard line, but by then we only had 4 seconds. What can be done in 4 seconds!? Well, the ball was thrown, making it all the way to the end zone. It looked as if the other team might catch it, but instead it was bumped backwards into the hands of a Nebraska player, who jumped up, caught it and landed in the end zone!

In 4 seconds, the Nebraska team won the game! It was what is called a “Hail Mary” touchdown, and the noise at that point was deafening! People all around us



Au Pairs Fenja (Germany), Kathi (Germany) and Gisela (Spain) with Community Counselor Alice in front of the ‘red’ audience.



The Nebraska team won – wohoo!!

(including us!) were high fiving and cheering! This was a remarkable occurrence ... and I am delighted we were there to see it - a truly amazing cultural experience for the girls!

A big Thank You goes to Alice for introducing her group of au pairs to American Football. The photos, too, are a lot of fun!

Welcome to Washington State

Community Counselor Krysten Carl from Spokane, WA shares German Au Pair Laura Krempin's first couple of weeks with the Havens Host Family, also of Spokane.

Upon Laura's arrival to the airport, Host Mom Jessica gives her a warm welcome.



Krysten and Laura having fun at the Hat Store in Leavenworth, WA.



Laura's Host Brother Jess, Jessica, Laura and Community Counselor Krysten enjoy the amazing view from the top of the Space Needle in Seattle!



Laura with her Host Siblings Jess and Darian at the Spokane ice rink.



Thank you for submitting these fun photos – we are looking forward to receiving many more!

Feed My Starving Children

By Community Counselor Deborah Nygaard from Fairfield, CT

Feed My Starving Children is a ministry started by a local pastor's wife who was devastated by the starvation of children she saw traveling throughout the Third World. She worked with nutritionists to develop a nutritionally dense formulation of vitamins, minerals and grains that if eaten twice a day would help children thrive. The ministry works directly with local groups, so they don't have

to go through governments to get the food to the children.

Each bag we filled needed to weigh an exact amount. Each box filled and pelleted needed to weigh an exact amount as well, so they wouldn't be turned away at the export station.

Community Counselors Deborah Nygaard and Gail Albrecht participated with their groups of au pairs in the gym of a school in New Canaan. There were many

stations set up, all filled to capacity and lots of fun music to listen to. Au pairs and community counselors very much enjoyed this monthly activity and helping children in need.

EurAuPair sends a big Thank You to community counselors and au pairs for lending a helping hand during one of their monthly get-togethers!

Au Pairs and Community Counselors filling bags with food for children in the Third World.



We LOVE our Au Pair

Two Host Families share with the Gazette what makes their Au Pair so unique and special. These stories show once again, what the Au Pair Program is all about!! Thank you very much to both Host Families for these wonderful contributions.



Helmiina with her Host Sister Morgan

Jennifer Johnson from Alexandria, VA writes about her Au Pair Helmiina Tyni from Finland:

We could not possibly have a better au pair for our little family than Helmiina (though it did rattle me a bit when someone asked me the other day if she was my daughter!!!). She's doing a great job.

Morgan adores her and is actually speaking Finnish with her which is just the most bizarre thing in the world. She pitches in at home, she plays non-stop with Morgan and

I've enjoyed spending time with her as well. It is amazing to me that someone so young could move around the world and acclimate so quickly. If you think about it: she's always lived at home until now.

Even when there were issues she's just great. Maybe it is her culture, but it's so easy to have a very forthright conversation, no one gets upset, we come up with a solution and move on. I think she is great and cannot say enough good things about her character and the job she is doing!



So cute!!

Enjoy reading about Yiling Zhong's initial few weeks with the Vuturo Family of Boise, ID:

'Firsts' for Yiling in her lifetime since joining our family 4 weeks ago have been: going on a boat, tubing behind the boat, going on vacation for a week at the lake, her first hike, jet skiing, camping, roasting marshmallows and horseback

riding. She said she LOVES camping now and all of her friends in China can't believe all the things she gets to do in America. She really enjoyed horseback riding on her birthday yesterday and then we all went out for Chinese food for dinner to complete her birthday celebration. She was surprised



Yiling on her birthday!

by the fortune cookies, as she had never seen them before! She said they don't have them in China - ha!

She thinks roasted marshmallows taste like delicious ice cream. She loves our food and she said that in China her family thought that all Americans eat fast food like McDonalds and KFC every day. She never thought that we would cook our own food. She asked why our house has more than

one bathroom. She had never seen a dishwasher or a garbage disposal and thinks they are great! She had also never before seen disposable diapers and thinks that they are wonderful.

The children love her and she is absolutely wonderful with both of them! We love her, too and she is a great addition to our family!



The Vuturo Family and Au Pair Yiling enjoying the beautiful Idaho nature.

EurAupair Photos



This picture shows French Au Pair Marion who lives in Abbeville, LA during the famous Omelette Festival, together with a French ambassador of the twin city Bessières, France. Highlight of the event was when many chefs cooked a giant omelette!



For their cultural event, Community Counselor Rebekah Measor and Au Pair Sandrine from France toured the Facebook Campus in Scotts Valley, CA.



This fun picture was sent to us by Community Counselor Barbara Salzmann-Hogberg who invited her Au Pairs to a Halloween Party at her house. In the picture, from left to right: Denise (Devil), Senta (Harry Potter), Lisa (Roman Goddess), Alex (Soccer player), Johanna (Clown) - all German - Chelsie from China (Cat) and Community Counselor Barbara (Witch).



New Jersey Community Counselor Marita Falconer took her group of Au Pairs to this family owned farm. Camille (France), Kheira (France), Pernille (Denmark) and Caroline (Germany) have chosen their favorite pumpkin.



Portland Au Pairs Ariel (China) and Kristina (Germany) enjoy their corn maze experience.



In November, Community Counselor Vern Thelen from Michigan organized a cookie bake for his Au Pairs, with the help of his wife. Jadwiga (Germany) brought a recipe for chocolate/white swirl cookies and Tracy (Germany) contributed the recipe for the jelly centered cookies. The cookies were excellent!



Iowa Community Counselor Lorna Morgan and Au Pair Nadine from Germany enjoy their cultural event at a local apple orchard and pumpkin patch.



For their November meeting, New Jersey Community Counselor Magali Devalue and her group of Au Pairs took advantage of some big sales at the mall!



This beautiful picture was taken during Community Counselor Christina Belli's October meeting. Maelle (France) and Linda (Germany) were having a great time at the pumpkin patch in Terrebonne, OR.



Community Counselor Linda Jimenez and Au Pairs Samandra (Brazil) and Sofia (Spain) visited the Botanical Gardens in Washington, D.C.

*...continued from front page
"Holiday Season"*

host family.

Now, my first favorite is Halloween! Why? Because we do not have that there! I love to carve pumpkins and dress up in costumes. It is so funny and creative! The haunted houses and trick or treat is so entertaining and we can get children and adults together, having fun and enjoying their time with all the family,

neighbors, and friends.

This year my friends and I went pumpkin picking and carved them. We spent about 3 hours together, helping each other and chatting. It was such a pleasant time! On Thursday, October 31st, me and my host family are going trick or treating in the neighborhood and then on Saturday, November 2nd, my friends and I are hanging out at one's house, everybody

dresses up in costumes, the house all decorated with our pumpkins and other decoration items, Halloween songs and some drinks. It's just a wonderful time to be creative and have fun!

I hope you enjoyed the passage about my little experience. Enjoy your Halloween and be ready, more holidays are coming up soon!

Thank you so much, Debora, for sending your article and the lovely photos to us!!



Debora's pumpkin creations!