

Amish Country

By Janina Grosse, Au Pair with the Piecuch Family in Winona Lake, IN



Charlotte, Mylene (both from France), Janina (Germany) and Melanie (France) in front of a buggy at Amish Country.

In early summer, Community Counselor Patricia Vance and a group of au pairs visited Amish Country in Shipshewana, Indiana:

We drove to the Amish people to see how they live and to learn about their culture. First, we took a buggy ride. I was able to sit in the front next to an elderly Amish man. That was very interesting for me, because I could ask a lot of questions. This was the time when I learned that the roots of the Amish were in Germany. I also learned that they have their own language, a mix of German and English, it's called Pennsylvania Dutch.

At the end of the ride we stopped by at the stores and looked for some souvenirs. There we found dolls without a face. Pat explained that no doll made from the Amish has a face.

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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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My Experience with the New York City Team Handball Club

By Lena Fuchs who was an Au Pair with the Soll Family in Ramsey, NJ

My au pair year in New Jersey is as good as over and I will be heading back home to Germany soon. As I look back, I remember many 'feel-at-home' moments with my host family ;). It's the little things that stick in my memory, like having dinner together with the whole family and sharing funny, exciting news/moments or having a nice, fun day with the kids. I am very happy I was given the chance to become a part of such a great family! I felt at

home and I am grateful for their support and understanding.

Another big part of my memories became the people of the New York City Team Handball Club. People from all over the world sharing the same passion: Handball. From the first practice on everyone was welcoming and friendly. Not only could I keep playing handball (which is not usual in America!), but I also had the opportunity to meet a whole new group of people! I had so

much fun on and off the court.

I got to see many places I wouldn't have been able to visit, e.g. West Point and I flew to North Carolina. The highlight was definitely the US National Championship in Reno, NV in May 2013! Unfortunately we couldn't win the title, but we had a lot of fun and I connected the event to a 7-day road trip with my Japanese teammate. I got to see Yellowstone National Park, Monument Valley, Las Vegas and more.

It was a great experience to see how a 'fringe sport' that is huge in my country, develops and grows in the world of football and baseball. I recommend joining a sports team or any other group like music bands etc. to every au pair! It is a great opportunity to meet people and to do what you like.

- Great People. Great Sport. Great Club.

EurAuPair sends a big Thank You to Lena for taking the time to describe her experience with her American handball team.



Lena and her teammates from the New York City Team Handball Club.

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Au Pair Memories

As their year comes to an end, two Au Pairs reflect on their special memories. A big Thank You goes to Yu Chieh from Taiwan and Teresa from Germany for sharing their story with all of us at the EurAupair Gazette – it is always nice to read about such wonderful au pair/host family relations!

Enjoy reading about Teresa Richter's year with her Host Family, the Neilsen's from Columbia, SC:

It's almost one year ago that I started my adventure, when I said goodbye to my parents and friends at the airport, not knowing how my year abroad is going to be.

First, we spent four wonderful days in New York, learning helpful things about child care, making new friends

and exploring the city. I met many nice people, all with the same adventure ahead of them and I stayed in contact with a lot of them during my year.

My life as an au pair began in Columbia, South Carolina. My two host kids are Daniel, who turned 4 in my second week and Christopher, who was 8 months old back then. I fell for them the very first second.

It's not always easy to be an au pair, because you live together

with your work that can be very exhausting sometimes. But it's the greatest thing to watch your kids growing up and learning new stuff. I saw Christopher starting to walk and talk and developing his character, and I was on Daniel's side on his first school day and his first karate lesson.

One of my favorite memories of my year is the moment when I was lying on the couch with Christopher,

playing and giggling, as he said "T-ida I lowu" what means "Teresa, I love you". It just melted my heart. Or the time Daniel started to say "Goodnight big sister!" every evening.

Of course there are some difficult times, when you have issues with the host family or the kids and you get homesick sometimes. Especially around Christmas was hard for me, because I missed my family very much. But you can always work it out somehow.

Living together with little kids is never boring. They always do something cute or hilarious and have fun and crazy ideas. I can't count anymore how many times I built a pillow-and-blanket-cave with the kids, went to play dates in the zoo and the kids' museum or splashed in the lake next to our house.

The time was flying by though and it feels like it was yesterday when I flew away from Germany. Now my year is almost over and I look back on great adventures and experiences. I learned a lot about cultural differences, raising children and about myself.

I met many au pairs from all over the world and I have plans to visit them in their home country. It's fascinating how different they grew up and how they live in their countries. I made friendships which hopefully will last a lifetime. Now I look forward to my travel month which leads me to the West Coast and Hawaii, where I will travel with a few friends that I met in my first week in New York City.

Even though I'm excited to see my family and friends again, I will miss a lot of things, especially my host kids. I have a second family in the USA now and I can't wait to visit them again!



Teresa with her host parents and her host siblings Christopher and Daniel.

Yu Chieh Wang, hosted by the Chang/Tu Family of Goldsboro, NC writes:

During my au pair life in North Carolina with my host family, my host kids (two girls) just started homeschooling. I teach them Chinese Mandarin and Math. Not only my host kids learn from me, but also I learn the teaching skills and how to handle the class management from them, too. I accompany them for their first year of homeschool.

Last year, my host kids had their very first birthday party in the States (they celebrated their birthday in Taiwan for past years). It means a lot to them. They were so excited for that day's coming, and so did I! I'm glad that I shared their happiness.

My host family knows I like to travel; sometimes they gave me extra time off if their schedules allowed it. I've been to

Honolulu, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Charleston and Orlando. I even went to a New Year's Eve countdown at Times Square. This February of 2013, my host family went back to Taiwan for Chinese New Year, and they brought me with them, too. We all had a good time in Taiwan.

Now I just have two months left to finish my year as being an au pair. I know I will definitely miss my girls (and their dog, Winston) after I leave here. We had so many good memories together and I can't believe my au pair life is almost done. How lucky I am that I have such a good opportunity being an au pair in the States and come to the Tu family. Thank them so much for giving me a wonderful year here. I'll keep all of these memories in mind for sure. Love!



Yu Chieh with her host sisters celebrating their birthday.

EurAupair Photos



During Earth Day Festival in St. Louis, MO, Au Pairs Alina, Sabrina, Nadine, Maren and Sabrina (all from Germany) helped Community Counselor Dee McMillion spread the word about EurAupair.



This Western photo of Community Counselor Lisa Dupre and her group of Au Pairs and friends is taken at the Lakeside Rodeo in the San Diego, CA area.



The April cultural event took the Washington state Au Pairs and Community Counselors to Olympia, WA. This group photo was taken in front of the Capitol Building.



The Fesler Family from St. Louis, MO with their Au Pair Sabrina from Germany who finished her year in May 2013.



Community Counselor Jessica Simon's Au Pair group at Beaver Creek Ski Resort in Colorado!



Chicago-land Au Pairs, Community Counselors and Area Coordinator toured Wrigley Field, home of the Cubs baseball team, for their monthly meeting.



Au Pair Jessica (South Africa) and her Community Counselor Paige Torgerson toured Princeton University in New Jersey.



New Jersey Community Counselor Magali De Value and her group of Au Pairs at the Dey Mansion in Wayne, NJ where they learned about George Washington's stay here. In the picture are Marie (France), Pauline (France), Luisa (Brazil), Sabrina (Germany) and Kristin (Germany) as well as friends of the au pairs.



On a rainy day in April, New Jersey Au Pairs and Community Counselor Marita Falconer toured the Grover Cleveland Historic Park. In the picture: Cosmina (Romania), Kimmi (Germany) and Sarah (Germany).

Lene, Esther (both from Germany), Ana (Colombia) and Eddie (Germany) view New York from a new perspective: a high point on the New Jersey Palisades.



Color Run

By Chicago Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel

Several months ago at a monthly meeting, Counselor Dawn Rothermel's group surprised her by asking, if for their June meeting, they could participate in The Color Run. The au pairs knew that Dawn

enjoyed running and they thought this would be a wonderful event, even though they were not runners themselves. Of course the answer was "YES".

So, on a gorgeous Father's Day Sunday morning, Dawn and 3 of her

au pairs joined 15,000 other runners in downtown Chicago to experience The Color Run.

The route meandered through downtown Chicago on a 5k course through arches where everyone was "colored": orange, pink, blue, yellow

and green.

We ran together as a group and had a great time!

Thank you, Dawn, for another fun contribution to the EurAupair Gazette.



Au Pairs Patrizia, Neele, Inna (all from Germany) and Community Counselor Dawn before the Color Run...



*...and after!!
Not in the picture: Team captain Jasmina (Germany) who was busy providing child care.*

The Taste of the Rogue

By Mary Alice Spooner, Community Counselor in Rogue River, OR



Monika (left, from Germany) and her Community Counselor Mary Alice (center) at the Taste of the Rogue fundraiser.

I am a volunteer for an annual event which is a fundraiser for the Grants Pass Boys and Girls Club. Our biggest fundraiser is held in April and it is called "The Taste of the Rogue". Twenty plus wineries and the same amount of local restaurants donate their wine and food. Local businesses and private parties donate high-end goods to be auctioned. There is a silent auction and a bidding auction; we have raised over \$100,000 in a year for the club.

For our "Cultural Event" I asked au pair Monika to volunteer for the evening and help out some of my friends during the silent auction. She jumped at the opportunity. Monika helped us decorate the day before and

was very excited to participate in the event. The night of the event, she worked very hard helping coordinate all the items for the auction as well as assisting donors to fill out all the forms properly. She was amazing! I can see why her host mom finds her to be so exceptional. Monika and I have actually become good friends. She has an amazing sense of humor, which I love and she is very easy to be around. The theme for the night was "Red, White and Blue, their future is You!".

Thank you so much, Mary Alice, for sharing this exciting event with us.

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"Amish Country"*

We went to get something to eat at a restaurant and after that we headed to a cheese factory "Guggisberg - German Cheese House". We spoke to some Amish women and one lady said that all Amish children have to go to an Amish school and that they have to learn German there as well. The woman spoke German with me,

but I did not understand a word.

During our visit to Amish country, I learned that there are a lot of different cultures and every single one is different in their own way. The Amish live without electricity and running water; they don't have cars. They have their own clothing style and their own language. They also have their own religion.

I was very surprised how the Amish get married - it is so different

from our weddings. For them it is not a big deal. They wear black and there is no music and they don't exchange rings. Also, they don't go on a honeymoon. After the wedding, the man has to let his beard grow and he is not allowed to shave it ever again. And they don't have the possibility of a divorce.

I'm impressed that the Amish can live without all modern things. A lot of things are normal for us,

but the Amish never saw anything like it. It also impressed me that they sew their own clothes and that they cook and do the laundry without electricity.

From the Amish you can learn how you can live with very little things.

Thank you, Janina, for sharing this fun and very interesting cultural meeting with everybody at EurAupair.