

Never Say Goodbye

By Wichita, KS Community Counselor Pamela Porvaznik

Say *A Bientot* or *Auf Wiedersehen*, because you never know when you'll see one of your au pairs again.

It happened to me in July. I got a call from my host family asking if I could come to dinner. Kim, our au pair from Germany, was back in the States! I had conflicting plans that evening, but I called one of my friends and my current au pair, Charlie, and arranged a lunch for the very next Sunday.

What a blessing to have bubbly, beautiful Kim back on our shores, telling us all about her experiences back in Germany, how she was greeted when she got off the plane with balloons and flowers by her exuberant mother, father and grandmother. A German TV station was on hand to film her homecoming. It was a joyous occasion with all her friends and family, gathered in her parents' home embracing, exchanging stories about the year just past.

No doubt her parents could see a difference in their only child. Kim left as a girlish young teen, really, not yet 20, and returned as a confident, sun-tanned young

Kansas with her host family for four days, her young charges Allie and Luke – much more grown up themselves – and of course me, her Community Counselor. We were all thrilled to be with her.



Fun times with Charlie, Pamela, Kim and Vicki.

My present au pair, Charlie, was so excited to have her "home." The two blondes toiled around Wichita and made appointments at their favorite hair salon. Kim expressly wanted my friend Vicki to

was Vicki who made sure Kim got to have box seats to her two favorite sports: Basketball and Baseball (and what a winning season the Wichita State Shocker basketball team had last year!). Vicki even

hosted a goodbye lunch for Kim, so it was old home week if only for that one wonderful lunch together.

For her last night with her host family before she jetted off back home to Frankfurt, Kim requested to have a "sleep over" with six-year-old Allie – just the two of them, with popcorn and music and games, until Allie fell asleep.

Mika and Klay, Allie and Luke's mother and father, did a great job last year of transitioning their children from Kim to Charlie, their new au pair from South Africa who arrived two days after Kim left and who has been just as much a precious childcare provider and part of the family as Kim. Oh, the two young women have different personalities, but they are both loved, cherished and embraced by the whole family.

Kim is now working for a travel agency, and Charlie is packing, getting ready for her long trip back home. Charlie has mixed emotions about going back. She is eager to see her parents and siblings, but she's fallen in love

Continued on Page 4...



Previous Au Pair Kim with her host siblings Allison and Luke.

woman with enough money saved up for a car and eager to share her adventurous year with all who were interested.

Now surprisingly back in

come to lunch. Vicki loved meeting Kim during her year in Wichita – in fact all my friends did. Jean Ann, another pal, got us front row tickets to a play she was directing, but it

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Never Say Goodbye
- Arlington Park Race Track
- Snoqualmie River Float
- Goodbye USA, Hello Canada!
- 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".

EurAuPair Intercultural Child Care Programs

250 North Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, CA 92651 USA
Tel: 949/494-5500
E-mail: info@euraupair.com
Web: www.euraupair.com

eur AuPair
Intercultural Child Care Programs
EurAuPair Gazette
250 North Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, CA 92651 USA
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Laguna Beach
California 92651
PERMIT NO. 963

Arlington Park Race Track

By Chicago, IL Area Coordinator Vivi Frumkin

Au pairs and counselors went to Arlington Park Race Track on Sunday, July 16th. Not that any of us knew anything about betting on horses, but luckily Kevin (Community Counselor Nancy's husband) knew more than we did. So he explained, helped with placing bets and of course also helped with collecting the winnings. He made it so very easy - thank you Kevin!

Everybody placed \$2 bets. We learned what WIN, PLACE and SHOW mean when you bet:

WIN is easy because it means you bet on a horse to win the race.

PLACE means betting your horse to come in either 1st or 2nd. SHOW means betting your

horse to finish the race as either 1st, 2nd or 3rd. We enjoyed the day, learned a

little about betting, and yelled for "our" horse to win.

In the photo, the top winners of the day are standing up in the middle. Both Community Counselor Gila Peller and Au Pair Livia from Brazil each won \$12 on a \$2 bet. We stayed for 5 races.

Everyone had so much fun – we might have to do this outing every year!!

Thank you, Vivi, for article and photo and for explaining some horse race rules to us. Congratulations to the lucky winners, Gila and Livia!!



You can see the racetrack in the back and the happy winners in the center.

Snoqualmie River Float

By Seattle, WA Community Counselor Shari Rust

Summertime! Finally it is so hot in Seattle that we all just want to jump in the water to cool off. The perfect opportunity to check out Snoqualmie River in Twin Falls, WA is to go on a river float. That will be awesome and a lot of fun!

On Saturday, August 5th, some of the au pairs came to my house and since my husband, my friend Nicki, my kid and his friend wanted to go with us too, we took the RV, so we all fit in. We grabbed a few snacks, sodas and water bottles and hit the road. A 20-minute drive and we were at Small Fries, which is a great little burger place. This is where we met the rest of the



The group is getting ready for their adventure.

au pairs and Simone, the new counselor in Seattle. She joined us with her friend as well. We all jumped in the RV, left the other cars where they were and drove up the river to find the perfect parking spot to start the fun. We were so lucky, the last parking spot was ours! We parked and unloaded all

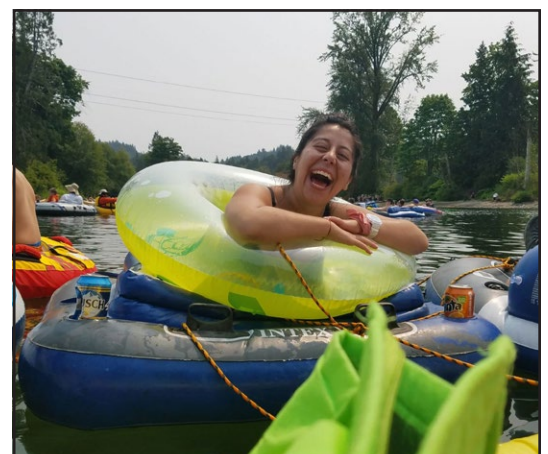
the floaty toys to get ready. It took so long to get all 12 floaties inflated. Then the fun started! We brought a rope to tie all floaties together. It was awesome, all of us had a blast! We had snacks and some drinks with us and just floated down the river. Some spots were very deep, at others we got stuck and had to walk a few steps – this was

extremely funny, because all the floaties were connected – I bet it looked very funny! By the end of the day we finally made it back to Small Fries where all the cars were. Before we went home, we got more tasty burgers – floating made us all very hungry. We had a blast enjoying each other's company on a wonderful hot summer day. Thank you to everyone who could make it.

This sounds like such a fun summer day! Thank you, Shari, for organizing the meeting and sending us the article. The photos are great, too!



Shari and the au pairs enjoy the river and the sun.



Sooo much fun!!

Goodbye USA, Hello Canada!

By German Au Pair Michelle D'Abundo who is hosted by the Baer family in Lake Forest, IL

The nervous but happy feeling when you arrive at the airport after your workshop in NYC to finally meet your host family - every au pair knows it. The excitement to get to know the American way of living while caring for children - every au pair is prepared for that.

Going to another country for a month after staying in your new home for only one afternoon - no au pair on earth is expecting that...well except me I guess.

I'm Michelle, a German au pair, recently living in Lake Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago. So how did I get from Lake Forest to Canada? The answer is simple: my host mom Tara is Canadian and we drove all the way up to Canada to spend time with her family for a month. I spent my first official day with my family in a car and of course I'd like to get



Michelle even tried water skiing!

to know them and especially the kids Brynn (7) and Bobby (10). Unfortunately, the way of getting to know your kids is quite limited in a car, but at least I know now that they like movies and are into sweets - who wouldn't have thought of that?!

So the first days were really kind of unusual and it was difficult to find out what you're supposed or not supposed to do, because the kids were on vacation and didn't really have a schedule and neither did I. After an exhausting 2 day ride we finally reached our final destination: Beechy, Saskatchewan. It's a little town with - I'm not kidding - a population of about 250 people in the middle of the Canadian prairie. But we were not supposed to stay in Beechy for the summer,

we were about to spend our time at the Prairie Lake Park at Lake Diefenbaker. It's a beautiful little place with lots of cabins and trailers directly at the lake. And even if it seems to be in the middle of nowhere with nothing to do - I'm still wondering how they are able to have running water, electricity or even internet connection - we've had a lot of things to do! I mean the weather was awesome and we had a lake right in front of our cabin: that are perfect conditions for water activities like swimming, kayaking, tubing and many more.

From the first day on my host family and their relatives told me to be part of the family and also treated me like that. They invited me to go tubing with the kids, go on a tour with their boat to do knee-boarding,

surfing or water-skiing, playing baseball at the park and of course fishing. They also gave me free time to meet other girls and boys of my age to hang out with. Who, even though they did not know me before, invited me to boat tours, several rides on their SeaDoo's and also showed me how to do it on my own.

One highlight of the month was taking part in a Slow Pitch tournament. I've never done it before, but as my host family encouraged me to do it and a friend that I met at the lake asked me to join their team, I gave it a try - mercifully! For those of you who don't know Slow Pitch yet: It's basically a soft version of Baseball only with a bigger ball that you throw less hard and some tiny little different rules. Although it was burning hot (around 35°C I think) it was a lot of fun! After the games were done, everybody looked forward to go to 'the dance' - well, at least they called it like that. It's like a big party with music and I think decades ago they actually danced at 'the dance' but nowadays it's basically more about just

being together and having good conversations. Nevertheless it was a great experience and I had lots of fun and met many new people!

As good as the summer started and went on, it didn't end well for

great experience and I'm very glad to have had the chance to make it. My host family and everybody else that I've met made me feel very comfortable and tried their best to integrate



Michelle made her host grandma a spectacularly delicious German birthday cake.

my host mom. During the end of the last week when my host dad Jeff just arrived to spend the last days with us, she broke her leg while one-skiing (water-skiing with only one ski). After an awful fall into the water she couldn't move her leg and we had to call 911 for an ambulance (which took like 1 hour to get to the lake). Anyway, she made it to the hospital but they couldn't do surgery within the next 5 days. As we were about to leave anyways, we decided to drive home to get the surgery done in the States. And here we go again: a 2 day ride with two for KinderEggs crying kids and a mom with a broken leg groaning with pain in the backseat. All in all it was a

me to the community at the lake. Through all this time I'm also happy to say that my Community Counselor Dawn always kept in contact with me to see if I'm fine or struggling with anything.

If I could turn back the time I'd always do it again and I can only recommend a trip to beautiful Canada to you!

Thank you so much, Michelle, for sharing your summer in Canada with us - what an amazing start to the au pair program you had!! We hope that your host mom has recovered and is feeling much better.



Michelle and her host siblings are having a great time on the lake.

EurAupair Summer Photos



Lafayette, IN Au Pair Ana (Brazil) and Community Counselor Lynne Noble participated in the Subaru 5K Color Run benefiting Special Olympics Indiana. You can see the before and after photos.



Bethesda, MD Community Counselor Natalia and her group of au pairs volunteered for a foundation named "JUST TRYAN IT" which was holding their 2nd Annual JUST TRYAN IT Kids' Triathlon to help raise funds for families fighting childhood cancer. What a purposeful monthly meeting!



Hello from our July arriving au pairs! They enjoyed the EurAupair workshop as well as New York City.



Anne Krohn, Community Counselor from Lake Ridge, VA and her au pairs had a great time doing stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking. Then they enjoyed a typical American barbecue!



Seattle, WA Community Counselors Natalie, Simone and Shari organized a picnic at Alki Beach Park. Many au pairs and even our Pacific Coast Area Coordinator Cynthia joined this fun meeting!



Our Chicago au pairs, community counselor and area coordinator enjoyed a boat tour on Chicago River and Lake Michigan. How nice to experience the city from a boat!

...Continued from Front Page

with America. Charlie has been in the States two years with two different families. She is one of the kindest, humblest young women I've met. I will miss her terribly. But then a new au pair, also from South Africa, arrives even before Charlie leaves. New adventures on the way.

While it's time to say **Adieu**, we who work with the EurAupair organization, never say **Goodbye**. Because you never know when we'll have the great privilege of seeing our au pairs again.

Thank you so much, Pamela, for this wonderful article and photos. It's a perfect reminder of what the au pair program is all about: adding new family members and connecting people from all over the world!!

Charlie and Kim enjoyed meeting, after having heard a lot of great stories about each other.

