
VOICES

Volunteer English Program Student Magazine

Fall 2016

Vol. 2, Issue 2

Welcome to the Fall 2016 Issue of Voices, the Volunteer English Program Student Magazine!

Home and travel: The activities of VEP students are much like you would read in just about any magazine these days. This issue of Voices is full of these stories, from Disney Land to New York to Philadelphia and the Jersey shore, as well as right here in Chester County. And we start this issue with a fable.

We thank our students for the interesting views of how they are experiencing their time in America. We invite you to read their stories in this issue of Voices.

--The Editors

Table of Contents



Volunteer English Program in Chester County
790 East Market Street, Suite 215
West Chester, PA 19382
610.918.8222 | www.volunteerenglish.org



A Fable, page 2

My House, page 2

Summer Vacation, page 3

Visiting the United States of America, page 4

Two Countries, page 6

A Fable

A fable is a little story, small story that can teach everyone a lesson. I have a fable to share. It is called "The Spider and the Fly." The spider and the fly lived in two worlds. The spider is very cunning. The spider told the fly, because he knows the silly fly will come and be drawn into his dismal den. At first, the fly was on alert. She knew if anyone went up to the spider's winding stair, they would never come down again. The spider kept saying to the fly, "You have the diamond bright eyes, you have a crest upon your head, and you are a pretty fly with the pearl and silver wings, and your robes are

green and purple." But his are as dull as lead. At first, the fly didn't believe the spider when she heard the spider's flattering words. She came slowly flitting by and her wings hung aloft, until the spider dragged her up to his winding stair, into his dismal den, and the fly never came out again. This fable told us a lesson. We always hear some flattering words. When you hear it, you may be happy, but you will change into a stupid, blind and deaf person. Just like the fly, she lost everything she had.

By Linlin

My House

When we were moved to the U.S., we rented a townhouse at 20 Woodstream Dr. It's a very nice community, close to the park. The T/E school district is very good.

Our home has 2700 square feet. It has four floors. One floor is the living room and kitchen. It is unfurnished. There are three bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. Second floor is the main bedroom and other bedrooms. The third floor is attic and there are two windows. Through the windows I can see the sun, stars, and blue sky, like a painting. The basement is

our activity venue. We do yoga and rope skipping. After dinner we spend our leisure time there. In winter and raining days it becomes very warm.

In here, the kitchen is very nice. It's an open area, it is different in my hometown. There are a lot of home appliances, dish washer, stove top, oven, microwave oven, refrigerator. It is to have all one needs.

I love my house!

By Linlin

Summer Vacation

In August my mother-in-law came from Moldova to the United States for the first time, and we took a couple of trips together.

My husband and I had previously booked rooms at a mountain resort and at the shore. First we went to the mountains for two nights. The trees covering the sides of the roads made the trip to the Inn at Pocono Manor very beautiful. When we arrived at the hotel, there was a long line to check in, so we had to wait about half an hour until we got to our room. The room was nice, but it was noisy because of the air conditioner compressor. That day we enjoyed a big dinner in the restaurant with lovely atmosphere. After that we decided to walk, but we couldn't because it was rained. So we returned to our room, and got ready for bed.

The next day we found out that there was a waterfall near the hotel, and we decided to walk there. We walked for about two miles, but didn't mind the distance because of the beautiful scenery. My husband rode a bike, but my mother-in-law and I enjoyed the promenade. On the way we met some people who rode very beautiful horses. They were close enough so that we could touch them.

After a long hike, we finally got to the

waterfall. It was small but impressive. Because of the high humidity our clothes became wet very quickly, so we didn't stay for a long time. We took some lovely pictures there, and after that returned to the hotel exhausted, but proud of ourselves for having completed the trip. On the last day we took a short walk in the morning; then after breakfast we packed our bags and came back home.

After two days relaxing at home, we continued our vacation by going down to the Jersey shore located in Avon by the Sea. We stayed at the Marriott Hotel for three nights. For the next three days we enjoyed the same activities: breakfast, going to the beach, dinner, and an evening stroll around the hotel. At the shore the pleasant weather and water made swimming and sunbathing enjoyable.

During our vacation we went to different places, but each of them had features that make them unforgettable for us. To me, the most remarkable thing about the Pocono Mountains was the dense forest with cottages like the ones I read about in fairy tales when I was a child. At the shore, even though we had to buy beach tags, we didn't mind because the beach was very clean and quiet, there were a lot of lifeguards, and we felt safe all the time.

We would like to return to the Poconos in the winter time to enjoy the mountain scenery and fresh air, and in summer

to the shore to relax under the Jersey sun and swim in the refreshing water.

By Tatiana

Visiting the United States of America

I visited the United States of America in December 1996. When I arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport, I was surprised by everything. I walked out of the terminal building. I could not open my eyes because the sunlight was very bright. When I breathed the fresh air, I found that the ground was very clean and people were very polite. Then I went to the hotel by bus.

I woke up the next morning. I felt very tired, because I flew for a long time yesterday. But I was very excited. I intended to play at Disney Land. It was a fun place when I was a child, somebody told me. So I got up quickly and went down stairs to enjoy my breakfast. Then I brought some drinks and snacks and went to Disney Land Park by taxi.

When I arrived at the ticket office of Disney Land, there were a lot of people who had arrived and I stood in a queue to buy a ticket. I bought the ticket and entered the park. As soon as I passed the gate, I was surprised to see all the colorful things. Too many games waited for me to select. So I could not decide which one I wanted. Then I was looking for the

tourist map to search for the game which I was interested in. I played many games, until the sun went down.

The next morning I got up early. I found the weather was good, so I planned to go to play in the Universal Studios with my friends. When we reached there by bus, many tourists who came from different countries had arrived. We lined up to buy tickets to enter the Studios. We played several adventure games, until 3 p.m. We heard that there were fingerprints of lots of stars on Hollywood Walk of Fame so we wanted to see them. It was a wonderful place for a lot of star's fingerprints on the ground. Then we enjoyed the dinner and went back to hotel.

I felt very tired, because I played a lot of games in the daytime. So I slept for a long time in that night. It was ten o'clock when I woke up. I was arranging luggage at once. Then I went to the front desk to check out. When I arrived at the hotel lobby, my friend had been there waiting for me. We went to the airport by bus and flew to Philadelphia by plane. The plane flew for nearly five hours, and

landed in Philadelphia International Airport. When I arrived at the terminal, my sister was there waiting for me. Then she brought me to her home.

I got up early, because my sister would bring me to downtown Philadelphia. I would take part in the United States automation products exhibition. We spent over an hour on the way. We arrived at the hotel. (My friend had checked in last night.) My sister left me to go to work. I went upstairs to lay down my luggage to wait until my friend was ready to visit the exhibition. When we reached the museum, many people were already waiting for the exhibition hall to open. We quickly entered the exhibition hall and began a tour for the day.

Three days later, at the invitation of a friend I took the bus to New York. First of all, he took me to browse Manhattan. I was so surprised when I got off the bus. There were a lot of skyscrapers. Many people marched in the street wearing fashionable clothes. It appeared I could feel the atmosphere of financial capital. Bull and I had a group photo taken in front of New York Stock Exchange. I hoped that it could bring me good luck. In the afternoon, we went to Central Park. The old

By Jianmin

men were sitting on a bench to rest in the sunshine. Children played on the lawn. A harmonious picture showed in front of my eyes. At night, I enjoyed dinner in the beautiful night view of New York.

I returned from New York to Philadelphia at night. I intended the next day to go to Washington D. C. When we were going to enter the downtown by bus, it was five o'clock in the afternoon. So many people came back to home from downtown. A lot of cars moved slowly over several miles on the road. We arrived at the destination one hour later than scheduled time. We put down the luggage. Then we went to Chinatown for dinner. Although the weather was very cold in Washington D. C., the night view was very beautiful.

The next morning we visited the White House and Capitol Hill. We left Washington D.C. to travel to Milwaukee to visit Rockwell Automation. The leadership of the company warmly received us, and held a dinner for us. The next day we visited the company headquarters and production plant.

Two days later, I ended the 12 day trip to the United States by flying to San Francisco and connecting back to Shanghai.

TWO COUNTRIES

When we were moved to the United States, my daughters went to public school. There's a lot of interesting things I want to share with you.

My older daughter was the middle school student in China, but when she went to the United States, she became a high school student. When she was in China, she studied in a boarding school, but here, she goes to the public school. So we have more time to be together. There are more students than in China. In China, everyone studies the same lessons but here, every student has a choice of their own lessons. In China, she studied seven or eight subjects for language, math, physics, chemistry and other for knowledge, but here, she selected courses for some skills, like baking, emergency treatment, accounting, and she was able to do anything if she liked. She has become a volunteer. She has found much happiness.

My younger daughter was in primary school in China, but here she became a middle school student. In China, nobody wore makeup to go to school. But she loved it here. She found her classmates wear makeup in school, so she feels very happy. She gets up earlier every morning, and puts on makeup to go to school. But there's one thing she is worried about. In China, she was a leader in her school, but here, she hasn't many friends, and everyone is so different. She is no longer a leader. It's a new start for her, and one year later, she is much better on speaking and writing. Her teacher is very nice. In China, there are forty students in one class, but here, just twenty students, and she makes more friends here. She attends the chorus in school. She wants to be a singer in a music show. I hope her dream comes true.

By Linlin