

Smiling Faces au pair newsletter

January, February & March 2008



Enjoy the Netherlands to the fullest! That is what Smiling Faces Au Pairs hopes that you do. That is why we organize fun activities to meet other people, get to know Holland but above all to give you a nice experience.

In this newsletter you will find the activities Smiling Faces has organized especially for you.

Smiling Faces joined IAPA

Official member of the International Au Pair Association

We are very proud to announce we have become an official member of the International Au Pair Association! This is the biggest international au pair organisation and its members are recognized all over the world.

IAPA is an international community and trade association for experienced and qualified au pair organizations that specialize in providing culture exchange services.

Member organizations must meet firm business and ethical standards and in turn, agree to abide by IAPA's code of conduct, which signifies competence, fair dealing and high integrity.

Because we now are a member of IAPA, our au pairs can also enter in to the contest of '**Au pair of the year 2008**'. To compete, your host family has to enter you by filling in the forms and writing a short essay explaining why you should win. It has to be handed in at our office before the 9th of January.



For more information you can go to www.iapa.org.

SF Outings

Hotspots of Rotterdam; a day of many smiles

By Sue-Mari Lindeque



"This day started out very cold with a gust of wind and ended with warm friendship and many smiles.

We were two groups of girls and we met up at Cafe Dudok. After everyone had been introduced, we had a look at our maps to mark all the spots that we were still going to visit. We had a taste of the famous and delicious Dudok apple pie, followed by a short walk-about in the streets of Rotterdam.

Our next event was a very educational and enjoyable tour on a boat called the Spido, through the Rotterdam harbour. During this tour, we learned more about the history of Dutch and worldwide trade, as well as the architecture surrounding the harbour. After the boat ride, we went to Rotterdam Central where we experienced traditional Dutch Frites with Pindasaus. Some had theirs with ketchup and the rest had theirs with mayonnaise.

Our exploration at the Kunsthal Art Museum was very interesting indeed. We saw beautiful photography, a strange yet intriguing exposition of movement and a historical expo of homosexuality.

Most of us found this museum very amusing and entertaining. The next spot on our map was the Kubus-woningen. These houses are very good examples of extraordinary modern architecture in Rotterdam, and a definite must see.

We then moved on to our next and final activity at the Boudoir Cafe. This is a beautiful cocktail-lounge-like restaurant-bar, and unfortunately they do not serve the traditional Dutch dish, "Bitterballen". We then decided to end off our outing across the road at a very cosy and casual bar with a drink and, of-course, Bitterballen.

This concluded an amazing, fun-filled day and it was a great pleasure to meet new people and to make a whole bunch of friends!!"

If you'd like the digital version of the photos, please send us an email, requesting them. info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl

Christmas fusion dinner

Delicious food, Bingo and Wii



The Christmas fusion dinner was a huge success. The food you cooked was very tasty! We hope you all enjoyed the food, the bingo and the bowling and boxing on the Wii as well.

We hope you had a good Christmas and we want to wish all of you a fantastic 2008!

If you'd like the digital version of the photos, please send us an email, requesting them or look them up at the SF hi5 group. info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl

Bowling & Off corso

Saturday the 23th of February



Bowling on the Wii at the Christmas Fusion Dinner was fun, but how about the real deal? This Saturday the 23rd of February we are going bowling! Afterwards we're going to the 'we all love the 80's and 90's party' at the off corso discotheque. All of this will take place in the center of Rotterdam.

Bowling will costs about €10.- (depends on no. participants). Tickets for the disco cost €12.50 at the door or €11.50 in presales. More information on location, time and prices will be send to you by email around the beginning of February.

For more information, please visit www.oostervant.nl and www.off-corso.nl.

Please send an e-mail to info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl to let us know if you will attend. If there aren't enough attendees we will cancel the first or the latter part of the evening.

The Efteling: a fairytale world

Sunday the 20th of April



The Dutch au pair organization (NAPO) is organizing a trip to the Efteling for this April. Because we are a member agency, you are all invited! With all the NAPO agencies together, there will be over 200 au pairs!

The Efteling is an amusement park in the south of The Netherlands. Its magical surroundings are based on fairytales (e.g. little red riding hood) which make you feel like you are walking around in a dream.

There are a lot of shows, fun rides and roller coasters, such as 'The Flying Dutch man'.

Tickets normally cost €27.75, but because the NAPO is organizing it you can count on a nice discount. For more information on the Efteling, visit their website; www.efteling.com.

If you want to attend you can send us an e-mail at info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl and we will arrange your ticket.

SF Fun

Top model au pairs

Our au pairs at a photoshoot for KEK

Last November a few of our au pairs had the privilege of modelling in a KEK photoshoot.

KEK is a glossy magazine for parents of young children. It's all about brands, clothes, fashion, holidays, etc. A real lifestyle magazine for the upperclass with kids.

Chenay, Fiorella (and a few of our babysitters) together with the host children will appear in the February (8th) issue of KEK. The photoshoot is a combination of child care and fashion. It's placed next to the princess Amalia special, who's being brought up by au pairs.



This is wonderful publicity for us and a lot of fun for our au pairs and babysitters. Maybe your host parents will buy you a copy of the magazine when it comes out.

SF communities on the web

Meet the other SF au pairs online

Online communities are a big hit, so of course we can't miss out. Join us at one of the following web communities.

You'll find links to the other au pair's profiles, this newsletter, photos of the outings, tips on all sorts of things and much more.

www.facebook.com

www.hi5.com

www.hyves.nl

www.friendster.com

www.orkut.com

www.yahoo.com

www.myspace.com

Activities in Rotterdam & Randstad

Nothing to do on your weekends? Visit one of these websites, they are full of fun ideas.

Isic.org

Fodors.com

Virtualtourist.com

Rotterdamsuitburo.nl

Uit010.nl

Uitaandemaas.nl

Birthdays & other celebrations

Happy birthday to everybody listed below!

January 3	Magaly Antiporta
January 14	Nicolene Fourie
January 29	Mericia Ruiz
February 5	Irina Chirilov
February 10	Karin Geysen
February 11	Amy Janssen
March 13	Karen Castro
March 25	Jakeline Villanueva



In the Netherlands it is quite normal to send a card to someone who celebrates his or her birthday. So if you want to join our custom, send these birthday girls a card!

This is also possible by e-mail. Go to www.hallmark.com and you can send a free birthday e-card!
No address? Send us an email and you will receive the Au Pair address list.

SF Gifts

Recruite a friend and get a present!

Always wanted that great fragrance of Jessica Palmer, Chanel, Ralph Lauren? Or that great make up of Rimmel, the best body cream of Clarins or..... Well, send us the details of your friend of your home country who wants to be an Au Pair in the Netherlands. If we can place her, you can collect your present!

You can select one of our three gifts for every new friend you send to us. For more information about the SF profile, you can contact us at info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl.



Gifts:

- * Gift certificate for € 50.- to be spend at Douglas (perfume & cosmetics)
- * Gift certificate for € 50.- to be spend at Dutch cinemas (Pathé theaters)
- * NS kortingskaart, card for 40% discount on travelling by train in the Netherlands (value: € 55.-)

FREE SF key cord

For all the Smiling Faces au pairs there is a **PINK** Smiling Faces key cord available. Your keys and cell phone always at the same spot. Very handy and very trendy! If you haven't got it yet, you can send your key cord request to us by email; info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl.

FREE IYTC-NAPO card

Travel further, stay longer and experience more!

NAPO and ISIC have worked together to make the International Youth Travel Card (IYTC) accessible for au pairs in The Netherlands.

With the IYTC-NAPO card you can get discounts on travelling, tourist attractions, entertainment, accommodations and going out. You can also access some of their services for young travellers.

Because we want our au pairs to have good time here, we will give it to you for free! If you'd like to get this card, please send us an email and attach a digital picture. If you don't have a digital picture you can send us a picture by post.

For more information on the the IYTC-NAPO card, visit <http://www.isic.org/sisp/index.htm?fx=home>.



Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

We'd like to welcome the newly arrived Smiling Faces au pairs! Welcome to the Netherlands, we hope you'll enjoy your stay and a very pleasant time with your host family.

When?	Who?	Where?
January	Diana from Peru	Rotterdam
January	Trang from Vietnam	Rotterdam
January	Janine from Peru	Hilversum
January	Chantelle from South Africa	Rotterdam
January	Leina from Peru	Amsterdam
February	Nathali from Peru	Rotterdam
February	Putu from Indonesia	Tilburg
March	Yenny from Peru	Overveen
March	Maritza from Peru	Rotterdam
March	Andisa from South Africa	A'dam/ Den Haag
March	Svetlana from Moldavia	Bergschenhoek
March	Renyl from the Phillipines	Amsterdam
March	Annaly from the Phillipines	Amsterdam
March	Brittany from South Africa	Rotterdam
March	Vivianne from Peru	Rotterdam

Departures

Paola, Delia and Diana will be leaving us soon, we hope you've had an incredible time and have a good trip home!

Courses

Dutch course and au pair training

Smiling Faces developed especially for au pairs a Dutch course to learn the basics of communication with your host children. In this course we also discuss the difficulties you might experience and we train you how to solve them.

You will get homework every week and workable tips to make your life as an au pair as nice as possible. Please ask your host family to subscribe for this special course at info@smilingfacesaupairs.nl.

It is a part of your au pair program and the family will pay for it.

Au pairs who are not placed by Smiling Faces can join the course as well.



New course starts:

Place Hoflaan 113, Nieuwe Park Rozenburgschool in Rotterdam, Kralingen

Time 1900h – 2200h

Dates Every Wednesday (7 weeks), starting **January 23rd** 2008

English course

For any level



The Center for British English is located in the centre of Rotterdam and is easily accessible by any form of public transport. Classes are mostly in the evening (from 6 to 8 pm or from 8 to 10 pm), though they also do offer some daytime classes.

They have 18 levels in English. When you come in to register, you will conduct a test and a short interview to assess your level. This to make sure that everyone is in the right class.

Courses are on a weekly basis for 15 weeks and start 3 times a year - in September, January and May. Classes have a maximum of 12 people, which guarantees individual attention. The main focus of all of the classes is on speaking English, not simply studying it.

Smiling Faces au pairs get a € 80 discount on the normal price of our courses. The course fee for au pairs is € 250 including the book, which is normally € 25.

All communication is in English and the classes are multinational. Classes are lively and relaxed and the teachers provide an excellent environment for learning. For more information visit: www.british-english.nl.

*The new courses will start in **January 14th**. Registration for the new course (January- April 2008) will be possible from Monday January 7th until Friday January 11th, every evening from 1730h until 2000h.*