

GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

I looked up the definition of friendship on the internet and found that it is described as “a relationship of mutual affection between people.” Reflecting on my own life, I consider myself fortunate to have the best friend one could ask for.

The memory of the day I first met her remains etched in my mind. It was my inaugural day at work in a small town, and I was feeling a bit nervous. The management led me to the studio where I encountered a young and beautiful girl donned in a pink coat with modern black curly hair and a kind smile. Her presence instantly eased my nerves, and from that moment on, we became very close friends.

We shared not only our work but also our learning experiences, and we even lived together, creating a bond that followed us like a shadow. In the second year, she pursued another skill, but we continued to enjoy watching movies together. Our intimate relationship has persevered for thirty-eight years, during which we supported each other through life's challenges. It's essential to acknowledge that life is not always smooth sailing, yet our enduring friendship has been a source of strength.

As time passed, we faced the inevitable changes that come with aging. Sometimes, we marvel at the longevity of our friendship, realizing how truly wonderful it is. We have navigated the complexities of life together, sharing our experiences in raising children and more. At this stage in our lives, we occasionally find it hard to believe that our close friendship has endured for such a long time, and we contemplate the wonder of it all. We believe that our friendship is destined to last a lifetime.



By Lisa Zhang

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR?

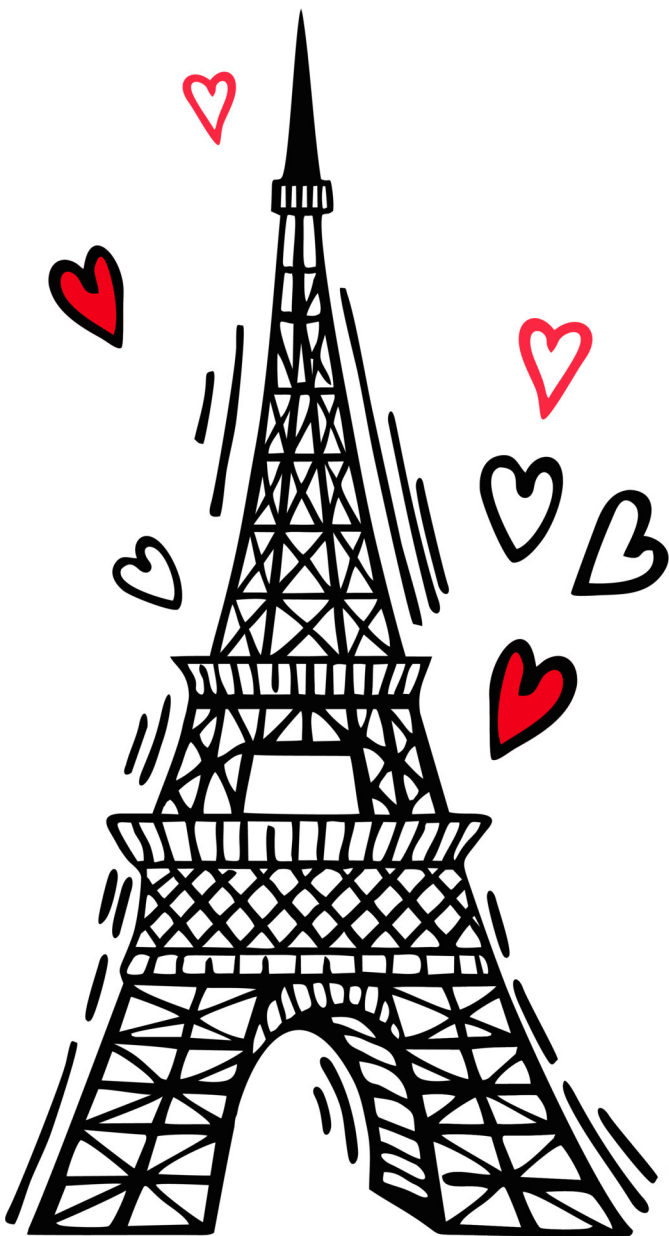
I would like to be remembered as someone who fought to change her reality and lived the life she always desired. A person who disregarded the opinions of others and simply lived in a manner that brought her happiness. In today's world, being different, kind, and original is challenging amidst a backdrop of selfishness and sin. Therefore, I hope to be remembered as someone unique, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of others through memories that make me unforgettable.

By Domenica Maria Pinto Tenecela





DESCRIBING AN INTERESTING PLACE: **THE EIFFEL TOWER**



The Eiffel Tower is one of the most wonderful places in the world.

When you are looking at it from down to up you will feel the huge tower and you'll be interested to visit each floor on it. Use the elevator and go to the top of the Eiffel Tower and you will see one of the best views in the world, the history of Paris, beautiful green gardens, and the river center.

I enjoyed my time there. I was impressed by this tower, one of the most beautiful places I have visited.

By Loay Saman

HOW HALLOWEEN IS CELEBRATED IN THE USA

Before 2019, Halloween had no place in my life's dictionary. Life, at times, is brimming with unforeseeable futures awaiting discovery. In the winter of 2019, I found myself in a captivating country that exuded boundless allure, seeming mysterious and liberating—the United States. This marked the inaugural Halloween in my life, an occasion saturated with endless fantasy, fear, and joy.

In the days leading up to Halloween, numerous families had already adorned their front yards with an array of ancient and supernatural decorations. If such a spine-chilling tradition existed in our country's culture or in Western culture, they would openly embrace and appreciate it. Of course, the true significance eludes me.

What amused me most was the way our male classmates seized the opportunity to don women's costumes. They paraded around in alluring women's attire, complete with enchanting hats, thick makeup, and even long legs adorned with conspicuous leg hair. With high heels, they gleefully attended the Halloween party. Meanwhile, our host mother stocked up on a plethora of pumpkin pies—I still hold a genuine fondness for pumpkin pie.

By Lisa Zhang





WHERE TO GO IN SAN DIEGO

I was there this March and there are some interesting places that I want to recommend. The first place is La Jolla Cove which is famous for sea lions. You can see a lot of wild sea lions there. Also, there's a great hiking trail and some good restaurants near the ocean. I'm 100% sure everybody who goes there can have fun. The second place is Balboa Park. Balboa Park is a huge park that is located in the middle of San Diego. It is actually huge and has a lot of places to go inside of the park. The San Diego zoo is a quite famous attraction there. The last one is Coronado Island. It is a nice place to watch the sunset. Also, the Coronado Hotel is really famous and you can sit on the beach outside of the hotel to watch a beautiful sunset. That was the best thing in San Diego that I can highly recommend to everyone.

By Fuka Nakamura





MULTICULTURAL ADVENTURE!

Taking the risk of moving to a new country and learning a new language is not only exciting; it is a mix of emotions—joy, sadness, hope, adventure, and nerves. When you leave your support system back home, you may experience the feeling of homesickness, which is stress or anxiety caused by separation from familiar people and places. It is a common experience for students moving away from home, regardless of the distance. When this happens, the temptation to give up on your dreams and goals may be strong. However, my experience of living in other countries for extended periods has helped me understand this feeling and engage in activities to navigate this stage and savor the experience to the fullest.

Listen to your body: Often, we mistake fatigue for sickness. When undergoing such a significant change, extreme tiredness is normal. It is crucial to give your body time to adapt and recognize everything that is new.

Maintain your routine: Stick to your normal routine, such as going to the gym, taking walks, eating on schedule, etc.

Don't be embarrassed: Many people around you are also alone and facing similar challenges. Cultural differences will only enhance your experience. Don't be shy—talk to them, seek advice, and, most importantly, lean on them. The friendships you form in this new environment are unique and offer a different type of connection.

Don't isolate yourself: Explore parks, streets, museums, restaurants, and shopping malls. Every city has its charm, and you can enjoy it without spending a fortune. Go out with your new friends and discover the secrets of each place together. Social media and television will still be there every day, but this unique experience will not come back.

Embrace new experiences: Try different activities and types of food. Step out of your comfort zone and savor the spice and color of your new country.

Prioritize safety: Avoid unpleasant experiences by respecting the rules of each place, country, or city. If you have doubts, seek information and avoid unnecessary risks. Inquire about the safety of places and areas, stay alert, and always let someone know where you are and who you are with.

Stay connected with family: Technology is a great ally in this process. Make video calls, chat with your family, etc. While it's essential not to isolate yourself, use technology to make your family feel close. Share details about your new friends, activities, new foods, and adventures, making them a part of your cultural exchange.

Enjoy this experience in every way—learning and memories are unique. Seize everything while you're already here and live it to the fullest, just like everything else in life.

By Maria Fernanda Luna



VISIT THE AMAZING LAKE COMO IN NORTHERN ITALY

One of the most fascinating places that I have been in my life is Lago di Como in Italy. I went there last year in spring, when everything was blooming. The weather was nice, there were not many tourists at that time and everybody was working. I would say that it was not that crowded. Maybe that's why I loved it. But the most beautiful place that I went to was Villa Menosteria, which had more than 100 trees, a splendid view, and the oldest paintings that I have ever seen in my life.

I took many pictures there. I am still looking at them and can't get enough of it.

By Ani Ter-Petrosyan