

OUR TRADITIONS

Our Traditions was written by the students and teacher in the Level 3 ESL class at SCALE in May of 2012

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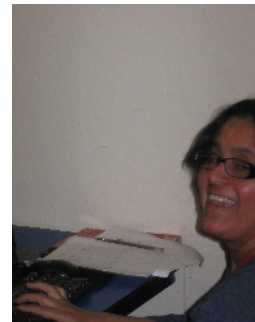
Saint Benedito celebration by Elizeth Carvalho

In my city there is an interesting Catholic tradition to honor a "Saint Benedito". According to slaves, a long times ago, the ship went to Brazil with slaves and it had an accident. The slaves prayed to Saint Benedito to not die, then they grabbed a ship mast in the water and it took them to the beach. In celebration on this date, Catholic people do the party in the Saint Benedito church, with delicious foods, music and dance the "Congo". Days before a party, Catholic men go to the forest and cut wood from trees, like the ship mast, then leave them there for the festival day. On the day of celebration, men and women go to the forest to take the mast. The women dance with old fashioned skirts and sing "Where is the Saint Benedito mast?" and the men answer "It's here, it's here".

One day when I was 15, before this festival day, my teenager friends went in the forest and they took the mast. When the men came over, it wasn't there and the women sang: "Where is the Saint Benedito mast?" and the men answered "It isn't here, it isn't here." Then they improvised another mast for the festival.

My town Livingston by Ovidia Machorro

My town is very popular because it is a tourist attraction. The typical food is with coconut. We make a seafood soup with coconut. And the festive days some people wear costumes. They make chains with shells and they tie them on the leg and then they go to the dock to wait for the boat while they play drums and dance. This is a traditional dance they call punta. This dance is originally from the Garifunas, a black people from my town. I miss these days in my town.



Celebrating our parents by Hyunkeun Oh

Our tradition is to celebrate our parents death Anniversary. At this event the whole family and friends get together for my mother and father. We prepare traditional food and take out their pictures to pray and recognize our parents. This event usually happens at my house. This Anniversary is very important to our family, because we all get together to celebrate our parents life.



Umbrella ice pops (paletas de sombrilla) by Blanca Palencia

This is a custom of my friends and I when we were in 9-grade. When I was in my country every day after school we used to sit in the sidewalk next to my grandmother's house. The first thing that we loved to do it was collect the money to buy ice pops (paletas de sombrilla). We spent hours by hours laughing and eating our delicious ice pop Those delicious ice pops made as talk, cry, laugh, sing. They gave us so much energy. Some things we talked about were what happened at school like the mistakes of our "special classmates" (smarters) because they thought they were so smart - maybe they were but they never accepted that they were wrong. That's why all the time we were fighting but we never did in a bad way, just for fun. Another thing we enjoyed to do it was ring the door bells of our "special classmates" and then run away very fast. They never realized who we were but we had fun - everything we did. It was not for harm or disrespect - just because we were fun girls. I really miss those days because none of my friends is here.

The tradition of the new houses in my town by Dionicio Perez

In my town we have many tradition and many ways to celebrate. When people build a new house, they celebrate the beginning of the house. The first day when the construction workers start to put the first block in the ground, the owner makes a special food for the workers and all the family. In the middle of the house the owners pray with the candles in their hands. They prey to god to bless the house and for all the people going to live in the house.



When the house is finished, there is another party. In the morning the owner's family gets together in the house. Then the women start to cook the food during the day. In front of the house there is "The MARIMBA". The marimbistas play all kinds of songs for the party. In the afternoon there is a big dinner. After the dinner is the special night drink. This drink takes a lot of work. A day before the celebration the owners made all the ingredients. To prepare this drink a few woman with a bottle in their hands walk to a little river to get clean water. When they arrive at home the owner throws fireworks. This drink tastes sweet and the color is black. I miss all the food and that custom.



A Tradition in my house by Andreia Muhlbeier

In my house I created by myself a “Breakfast Tradition”. Every Holiday or special occasion like a Birthday, or something that we can celebrate, I make a special breakfast with fruits, cookies, cakes, omelets, juice and coffee. I also make a nice decoration with flowers, and the colors of the Holiday that we are celebrating. My family loves that and this makes me so happy to see my family smiling early morning. Every special occasion they wait for my special breakfast. My daughters go to sleep a day before so excited and they can’t wait for the next morning. Then I wake up early, around 6 am to make sure that nobody will be awake to damage my surprise, and get my “Mom’s job” all done.

The point is that I’m pretty sure my daughters will continue the Tradition that I created and that was my ideal since I started. I wanted to do something that they can remember someday to tell to their kids. My older daughter Fernanda told me that she will do it for her kids someday, and she’ll tell them that was her mom’s idea. My younger daughter Alessandra loves my breakfast Tradition and she’ll do it, I’m pretty sure of that. At this time, I probably will be a grandma and I hope to continue doing my special breakfast, in a big table with all my family together, grandsons, granddaughters, and I will hear so many laughs, talks, bright eyes, smiling faces, and I promise I will remember this day, that I wrote at Scale about my Breakfast Tradition.

A traditional food from my state by Rosiene Silva

I am from Minas Gerais. In my state we have a lot of good food - some ones are very known in all other states of Brazil like “feijao tropeiro”. It is beans, white sausage, cabbage, eggs , flour and same ”mineiro spice”. It is very traditional to do this kind food on Sunday, gather friends and family and get together. My friend from another part of Brazil asks me to do this food because they say that I have a “mineira hand” to cook. This is very important to me because I enjoyed the food with my family and friends. I miss this moment very much! Some people from Minas Gerais often say Sunday without “feijao tropeiro” is not Sunday. This has been part of my family traditional for many years and will be many more.





The Tradition in sports by Uly Ribeiro

The tradition that most excites me was going to the Stadium Maracana (Rio de Janeiro – Brazil) to watch the game of my heart team Fluminense. From teenage until the present day, we follow the Fluminense all times, the victories and defeats.

Always on the week that preceded the classic, my friends and I were already preparing for the big event. We met in a determined place to take a few drinks and exchange ideas and then go to the stadium. All uniformed and with flags, we left with contagious enthusiasm. In the bus we always found some rival fans, and we started singing provocative choruses and they answered with others. At the time there was no serious fighting like today that causes up to death. It was great fun. And when we arrived at the stadium the emotion intensified. We entered and sat down with organized supporters with their percussion instruments. We sang and did some choreography. In short time, there was no more places. We sang loudly and the other rival fans tried to muffle our singing and exploded with more force, shouting - “NENSEEE..NENSEEE...” With 30 minutes before the beginning, the fans organized, distributing some small bags of rice powder to launch when the team enters the field.

And when the electronic scoreboard announced the names of players and only one voice, we repeated three times, beating our palms. It was pure emotion. Until today, even distant physically, the emotion, the passion and love are the same of many years ago.

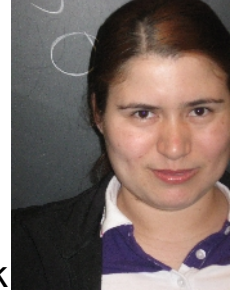
New year tradition in Guatemala CA by Juan Vasquez

In the house of my parents we always celebrated the farewell of the old year and the beginning of the new year. The children do fireworks all day to midnight all over the country. At 12:00 o'clock almost in all houses there is much noise “pla, pla, pla plaaaaa plaaaaa”. We have a dinner at midnight with tamales made at home, the family reunites around the table, my father gives us a glass of wine from grapes, and preys to God for giving us one year more of life and of everything good that was leaving the old year to us. Everything was very nice. They taught us the respect for God, to be been grateful and the union of the family. In the United States already it is not the same. It changes a little but we try to do what we can, not to forget our beautiful customs.



My religion tradition by Emilia Nascimento

I am going to talk about my religion in my city in Brazil. In my city there are many kinds of religion. I think from all in the world. Some of them are Catholic, Universal, Assembly, Methodist, Christian of Brazil, etc. Some have a rule – you can't wear short clothes, make up, cut hair and you can't drink wine and eat bread in some churches without a baptism. In another church you need to put a scarf on your head. I am Evangelic. I believe in God. For me God is everything in my life. I know a little about the word of God. Some religions distort the word. I don't like that. Because of that sometimes I don't go to the church. They want money, they are lying and fake.



Brazil my family tradition by Senir Guimares

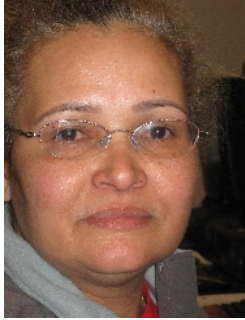
I was born in a Christian family where every morning my mother got all 14 children to study the Bible and pray together before we start any activity. In my country there is a traditional carnival. I don't like that the state government spends a lot of money so the people dance and play for three days. Also in my country there are a lot children abandoned in the streets who need help and nobody does nothing for them. In my country there is a traditional food named feijoada. Almost all Brazilian people like it. It is made with pork meat and served with rice, green collage or spring greens and fried bananas. It is very popular in my country. Some people don't know to do it. When it is made well it is very good to enjoy.

My City Tradition by Luciana Santiago

In my State (Minas Gerais) we have many traditions. My grandfather's favorite is Vaquejada. The vaqueiros came from different parts of the States and they get together every year on the month of July. They have a competition and try to put the bulls and cows inside of the circle line. In my city Florestal we all like to see Vaquejada. The people like to wear boots and cowboy hats, the typical food is barbecue and they dance a lot of country music. The kids love to play in the playground. I like to remember it, because my grandfather used to love watching the Vaquejada.



A Delicious and Dangerous Fruit by Devany Beaudoin



The pequi is a native fruit to central parts of Brazil. The pequi is a tree fruit, and the pequi tree grows up on the farms. The fruit matures during the dry season, usually July to September. In my state everyone loves this fruit. People wake up 3:30 in the morning to pick pequi. Some people usually make ice cream and popsicles.

My Mother usually does pequi preserves and extracts pequi oil. The pequi fruit is part of our customs. On Sunday my mother usually cooks and invites family and friends to enjoy lunch with us. This is very important to me, because I really enjoy the food and the moment with my family and friends. Two of the most popular dishes with pequi are chicken with pequi, and pequi rice. The fruit can be dangerous also. It's like a porcupine full of quills. This has been a part of my family tradition for many years and will be for many more.

Christmas by Marie Personna

Christmas is the best holiday in my country. We celebrate on December 24, Christmas Eve, and on December 25, Christmas day. People take at least one month to prepare for this holiday. We buy: home decoration, clothes, carts, gifts, etc. About fifteen days before the date, some people set up the Christmas tree.

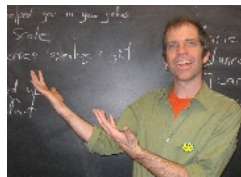
On Christmas Eve, we have the big celebration. We have exchange of gifts. One family invites other families to come and celebrate together. This family prepares special food, desert, drink and a cake. Everyone brings something for the party. We put every food on the table and every gift under the Christmas tree. To start the party, we pray first to say thank you to God. After that we put on the music, we sing some Christmas songs, we dance, we laugh, we eat, we talk. Sometimes, we stayed all night. Some people leave at 11:30 pm to go to church at 12 am. People consider this season as wonderful, special and important.





My family tradition by Rose Michelle Gregoire

My tradition is very important to me because I have a lot of fun and I get to spend time with all my family. First we have to find a private restaurant, but our favorite one is one that's called "Madame La Chef". Second we have to wear red because we celebrate it on Christmas. Also we were born in December. Third we eat a lot of food especially rice and it's so delicious. Fourth after dinner we take it to the floor and dance until we drop. Fifth when it's time to go we do a cheer with champagne, we hug and we go home. In conclusion my tradition is amazing.



My tradition of playing music by Jeff McClelland

When I was younger, I had many friends who enjoyed playing musical instruments and singing. We used to get together with food and wine and play music together. I loved it. Sometime we just jammed and other times we sang old traditional songs, popular songs or songs that we made up. We usually played at people's houses, but my favorite place to play was always at the beach around the fire. Now that I've moved to Boston, I don't have any musician friends here. But my girlfriend and I still keep this tradition even if it's just the two of us. Caroline plays recorder or guitar and I play guitar and we both sing. I like singing with her because we have learned the same songs and also because it never bothers her when I sing out of key.