

Sharing the worlds of Distance Family... and Thanksgiving

Helen Ellis, MA

(Excerpt from *Being a Distance Grandparent - a Book for ALL Generations*, to be published March 2021)

Experiencing the world of your distance family allows you to take relationships to another level. It requires a willingness to go-with-the-flow and being game for new experiences. In return, Distance Grandparents will gain a new-found knowledge of their children's situation. Tremendous benefits are gained by distance families who 'share their worlds'.



"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes (Physician, Poet, Professor and Author)

Visits to distance family are always an adventure and over the years I have 'hung out' in the 'expat bubble world', met up in kiddie-focused holiday spots and settled, for a time, in fully immersed, picket-fenced, neighbourhood settings.

In Bangkok, I was a guest at a large informal Thanksgiving dinner hosted by a local American embassy staff member and family. The setting was an expansive, tropical pool level of a high-rise apartment complex. The fare included a turkey with all the trimmings – a prized menu item in expat Thailand.

A few years later I was invited to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on American soil: a beautifully set table... the best crockery and cutlery. Most

countries, outside of America do not celebrate Thanksgiving. It was a privilege to be invited.

I've been grateful for the opportunities to see the world of our family, through their eyes.

Helen Ellis (MA) is the founder of DistanceFamilies.com

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Helen is presently working on a three-book series titled:

Being a Distance Grandparent – a Book for ALL Generations

Being a Distance Son or Daughter – a Book for ALL Generations

Being a Distance Grandchild – a Book for ALL Generations

“My 20+ year distance grandparenting journey has delivered me a unique understanding of distance families and I feel passionately, that by sharing our inter-generational experiences we will grow in understanding and empathy, of each other’s worlds.”
