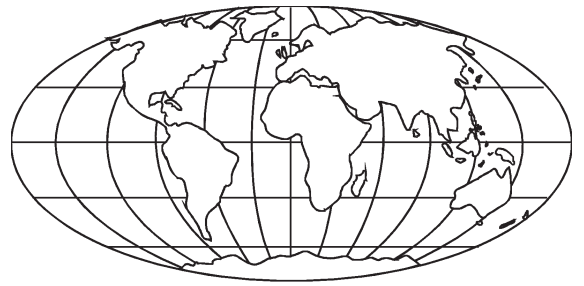


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 53, Number 3

SISTER CITY PROGRAM ■ PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA U.S.A.

May-June 2015

Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper Sunday, May 17

5:45 Brief meeting and election
6:00 Potluck Supper

Lucie Stern Community Center
Community Room
1305 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

Enjoy a social evening with entertainment.
RSVP to the Evans by May 13 at
650-856-0618 or evansbanjo@sbcglobal.net
with number in your party and your planned
contribution to the potluck.

We will be introducing several Guests of Honor. See the Presidents' Report on page 2 for more information.

Presidents' Report

We hope to see many of you at the May 17 General Meeting. We will be electing four new board members. The following have been nominated:

Hank Heubach (Oaxaca Committee)
 Diana Nemet (Tsuchiura Committee)
 Lynn Russell (Oaxaca Committee)
 Bob Wenzlau (Oaxaca Committee).



We will also be recognizing as Guests of Honor: Kaede Komotsuzaki, former exchange student from Tsuchiura who is now enrolled in Foothill College, middle school teacher Saki Matayoshi, visitor Naohiro Tamura from Tsuchiura, and Matt Schlegel, NA's representative to last month's Kasumigaura Marathon.

Currently we are seeing increased interest in Neighbors Abroad, both at City Hall and in the community. At the May 13 Board Meeting we will be hosting members of the Kiwanis International Committee. They want to explore with us what can be done to develop the next generation of Neighbors Abroad leadership while retaining the expertise and institutional memory of long-time board members.

We are fortunate in our new and prospective board members but we need the help of all of you to grow a stronger Neighbors Abroad. We need to also ask those of you who have experienced the benefits and joy of international friendship to find ways to participate. If you are interested in helping to rebuild the student exchanges in our European cities, please sign up for a Student Exchange committee. If you might be willing to host graduate student families to dinner next year, there will be another sign up sheet for that. Neighbors Abroad members are a global-minded group and inviting visitors into our homes for a meal or finding ways to increase interest in our student exchanges are both ways that we can continue building international friendships.

Barbara and Joe Evans

ALBI



150th Toulouse-Lautrec Birth Anniversary Celebration (cont.)

I already mentioned in the January edition of *El Chisme* various events taking place in Albi. I have heard about a few more that I would like to share with you.

Eight elementary schools in Albi have organized a drawing competition for the children, using Toulouse-Lautrec paintings and drawings for inspiration, with the support of the association Société des Amis du Musée Toulouse-Lautrec and the City Council. More than 450 drawings were submitted with 50 selected by a jury and displayed in the City Hall. Well-deserved rewards were then given to delighted children by Guillaume de Toulouse-Lautrec, vice-president of the association.

Also, Marie-Laure Renier, a fashion designer recently established in Albi has created her winter collection for children under 12 based on the color palette of the Toulouse-Lautrec paintings. These garments are being commercialized in France, United States, Australia and Korea, and you may have a chance to see them one of these days!

Tennis Players Adult Exchange Update

After contacting the U. S. tennis players who expressed a strong interest for visiting Albi in the June 2015 time frame, I found out that a September time frame would not work well, especially as it clashes with the U. S. back-to-school schedule. Therefore, Jean-Pierre Remazeilhes and I agreed that it would be better to postpone the trip to June 2016, giving plenty of time to people for planning their vacation. I will be sending Jean-Pierre a short presentation in French explaining the purpose of the exchange and giving some history on the successful past adult exchanges.

*À bientôt,
 Michel Campmas*





ENSCHEDÉ

On March 3rd, I received an email from Paul Bijleveld regarding the visit of Jonathan Reichental, Palo Alto's Chief Information Office in December: Jonathan Reichental, Chief

Information Officer of the City of Palo Alto, participated in the 12th Annual Conference on Science Based Incubation which took place at the University of Twente in Enschede. The conference was held December 12-14, 2014. The theme of Jonathan Reichental's presentation was "Creating a New Operating System for Cities. How University Towns Can Lead." Jonathan explained how the close cooperation between the City of Palo Alto and Stanford University led to the development of a smart information system which is open to all citizens of Palo Alto.

Hilda Ferwerda is Enschede's partner for the sister city relationship between Enschede and Palo Alto for Neighbors Abroad. Hilda is also a docent at Enschede's Rijksmuseum Twente. She showed Jonathan the museum's latest exhibition—the portraits by the Swedish artist Alexander Roslin.

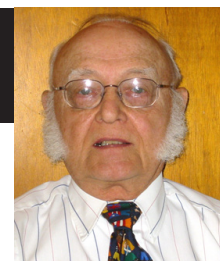
Jonathan visited the *Spinnerij*, an old textile factory which has been transformed into an "incubator" (development) site for creative companies. Jonathan attended an entrepreneurship class at Saxion University of Applied Sciences in Enschede. This weekend session was a portion of a full semester course on business plan development which is organized for foreign students. Jonathan had the opportunity to discuss future cooperative ventures between Palo Alto and Enschede, especially regarding student exchanges, with Dayenne Smolders (Enschede's Manager of International Relations) and Paul Bijleveld.

I will be in the Netherlands from May 4 to June 30 and, as I do every year, I will be making several visits to Enschede and will send reports from Holland.

**Tot ziens,
Joni Reid**



LINKÖPING



Royal Visitors to Silicon Valley

Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and Prince Daniel brought their three-year-old daughter, Princess Estelle, to visit San Francisco and the Bay Area in mid-January. After welcome appearances in San Francisco, the royal couple visited Silicon Valley "to learn about the success of Sweden's entrepreneurs in this capital of innovation," according to *Nordstjernen*, the local Swedish newspaper.

"The royal couple visited high-tech leaders Tesla and Google as well as notable enterprises Runway and Stripe. They lunched at Nordic Innovation House (in downtown Palo Alto), home to several dozen Nordic startups."

Their visit included Stanford's famed design center, the Computer History Museum, and a reception with 150 guests and a distinguished panel of entrepreneurs. "The polished expertise of the young royal couple was remarkable. They dazzled ...not with their royal bearing but with their common touch."

Marilyn Hunwick

Neighbors Abroad member Bill Frye, who was active with the Linköping Committee, passed away on April 15th. Our condolences to his family. Bill, born in Detroit, MI, in 1917 of Swedish immigrant parents, was 98 years of age. He had a BS in Physics from the University of Illinois, a PhD from University of Chicago and worked in Washington DC at the US Naval Reserve Lab during WWII. Afterwards, he moved with wife, Betty, to S. California and then to Palo Alto in 1956 to work at Lockheed Missiles & Space, retiring in 1990 at age 73. Bill also taught aeronautical engineering at UCLA and Stanford. He had many hobbies and interests including attending theater and opera and the study of Swedish language. He was on a Neighbors Abroad trip to Linköping in 2002. He was preceded in death by his wife and 2 younger brothers and is survived by his son, Jim, and daughter, Ann (who resides with her family in Italy), 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

A memorial service will be held on August 8 at 11 a.m. at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church. 505 E. Charleston Road Palo Alto.



PALO

Mabuhay! News from the GIANTS Club

We received

an eloquent letter from Frank Villaganas, the head GIANT. This four page beautifully handwritten "snail mail" letter detailed the hard work and frustrations met in rehabilitating the Children's Library. No sooner had much work been done to restore the library than another typhoon caused new leakage and flooding! There has also been a problem with rotting wood (shelving etc.) caused by a pest "anay" (Talalog for termite). Frank detailed the renewed tasks caused by the flooding—about two feet above the ground floor which left in its wake quantities of mud. Can we imagine working under such conditions?

On a happier note, Chief Villaganas told of a scholar, Mark Yancha, who was reviewing for his board exams as a civil engineer. The GIANTS Club granted funding to him and along with them, we offer our great hopes and wishes for his every success.

We also received details of financial business regarding Neighbors Abroad and the library. We have urged the GIANTS to purchase needed computer[s].

News from the Philippines

There is continued concern in the Philippines about conflict in the South China Sea over claims of ownership made by China, the Philippines and others. President Aquino has said that the Philippines will not go to war over this dispute.

Several nations, including the U. S. have offered monetary assistance to the Philippines following the recent ravages made by the latest typhoon.

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres



OAXACA

At the risk of sounding like a broken record (Record? What's a "record"?) I will remind you all to PLEASE contact me if you or anyone you know is going to

Oaxaca. I have so many full suitcases of wonderful things for the children in the orphanage and the Child-to-child Health program! Please help find people to deliver them to the children's projects there. Palo Alto people have donated lovely, good quality, clothing and shoes—we really need to get them to the children!

And while you are looking, remember to re-discover treasures which you acquired years ago, thoroughly enjoyed, and now are ready to pass on for someone else to enjoy. Donate these wonderful things from your trips abroad to the International Store at the Neighbors Abroad Family Fun Day Fair. It will be held on Sunday, October 4, at the Lucie Stern Community Center Main Courtyard. We are collecting things for the Internarional Store now! We will have things from all over the world—many, many categories! And since everything is donated, all proceeds from the "store" will go directly to the Childrens Projects in Oaxaca, Mexico and Palo, Philippines. Either bring your donations to my house (call first: 493-3798) or if you need someone to pick up your items, also call and we will arrange for that.

Please spread the word that we are still looking for more students for the summer exchange to Oaxaca. Both boys and girls are needed RIGHT AWAY! This is an opportunity no teenager should miss!

¡Hasta Luego!

Marion Mandell



At right:
Palo Alto
City Council-
person
Liz Kniss
(left) and
PAUSD
Middle School
Japanese
teacher Saki
Matayoshi at
the Tsuchiura
Student Ex-
change Wel-
come Picnic.





TSUCHIURA

The Palo Alto portion of the 19th Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Middle School Student Exchange took place in March. On the following pages you will find three impressions of the exchange from a Palo Alto student participant, a Tsuchiura teacher chaperone, and a Tsuchiura student participant, along with some photos of the group and their activities.

Konnichiwa

Jennifer Buenostro



Above, students pose at the Sister City Kiosk at City Hall.

Below, students pose with the welcome sign made by the Palo Alto hosts.



Tsuchiura (つちうら) and Palo Alto Sister City Exchange

In my opinion, the transformation that took place from the beginning of the week to the end of the week was the most remarkable. When the students from Tsuchiura first stepped off of the bus in America, as I recall, they were very shy and reserved due to the considerable change of environment. Yet by the end of it all, there were bonds of friendship that were made, the kind that you will always have with you for evermore, and the passionate feelings all of us have from having to say goodbye. Granted, it is a very difficult thing to say to someone who you've come to care for. Though our time together was fairly short, the memories drawn from that experience is something no one will forget. Moreover, since their arrival, the students have given me a new perspective of this place. Before they came, California seemed so dull due the fact that I have grown up here. There are no surprises left for me, yet since these students have never seen this area before, they brought with them a sense of excitement that I'm sure not too many natives here can say. Their open-mindedness and willingness to try and observe various things was something that I found almost heartwarming. I'm fairly sure that the American students will have a similar reaction when traveling to Japan. At least, that is my hope since the students of Tsuchiura were so outgoing.

The whole experience of this portion of the exchange program was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I can assure you that I'm much looking forward to the second half of it! Getting to experience a culture in depth like this at a fairly young age is something that very few students have. The Japanese culture has intrigued me since elementary school when I first began to study the Edo period, and learn more of their customs and traditions. I also find the language to be rather beautiful and unique for it has three distinct alphabets. I hope for this program to continue and hopefully expand for other students to have this wonderful opportunity, and I feel very fortunate to have gotten to be a part of the sister city exchange.

Sara McGuffey

Jordan Middle School

Impressions and Gratitude of Tsuchiura Middle School Teacher and Chaperone

On March 14th, under the blue sky of California, sixteen Japanese students and we chaperones arrived at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto. We were welcomed by an enthusiastic group of host students, families and Palo Alto dignitaries.

The weather in Palo Alto was excellent and actually a little bit hot, but we Japanese were still wearing our jackets that we had put on before leaving Japan. Our warm clothing helped us immediately notice one of the differences between Palo Alto and Tsuchiura: the climate.

The students from Tsuchiura were very excited to meet their buddies and were also excited for their first visit to the U.S. We as chaperones were also excited to meet and talk with people in Palo Alto.

As an English-language teacher in Japan, I am very interested in approaches to teaching foreign languages to students. During our stay, I had a chance to observe the classes of both Japanese and Spanish foreign languages at Jordan Middle School. In the Japanese class, I was reminded of a beautiful act: *Kiotsuke*.^{*} At the beginning of each class, Japanese people used to do this; however, we seem to have forgotten this in Japanese classrooms today. The Japanese teacher, Ms. Matayoshi, brought my mind back to this important routine. I think *Kiotsuke* allows the class to concentrate. We need to perform *Kiotsuke* when we

start the classes. In the Spanish class, students learned the conjugation of verbs. It seemed to be a little difficult for them, but they tried very well.

I know all people who are doing their jobs are busy, but the PAUSD School Superintendent, the Principals of Jordan Middle School and JLS Middle School, and all the members of Neighbors Abroad shared their precious time for us. I really appreciate their kindness. I would like to say, "Thank you so much" from the bottom of my heart...a million times. Thanks to the Presidents of Neighbors Abroad, Joe and Barbara Evans, the Vice Presidents Jennifer Buenrostro and Diana Nemet, without whom we could not have had a definitely perfect time.

Sincerely yours,
Kikuchi Kimiko

English-Language Teacher, Tsuwa Junior High School

**気をつけ* (ki o tsuke) is a phrase heard numerous times a day if you're a high school student in Japan. It loosely translates to 'attention' or 'ready' and is a command. The process usually goes: 起立! (kiritsu) - "Stand!"
気をつけ! (ki o tsuke) - "Attention!" 礼! (rei) - "Bow!"
着席 (chakuseki) - "Be seated"
This is done at the start of most classes to show respect to the teacher.



Exchange students with family members and chaperones at City Hall for presentation.



Enjoying a treat at Peninsula Creamery.



Above, having fun at Bingo Night.

Below, Welcome Picnic at Mitchell Park



Tsuchiura Student Experience

This exchange program impacted me in ways that I will remember for the rest of my life. The new things I learned everyday made my day enjoyable.

I shadowed my host Conner two days at Jordan Middle School. At school, I was very surprised to see how friendly American students were. Many of the students, no matter if I knew them or not, came to me and said hi.

My host Connor studies Japanese at school. I learned that in America, middle school students have a choice of which language they want to study. Jordan Middle School offers Japanese, Spanish and French. In Japan, English is the only world language schools have to offer and it is a mandatory subject to study for Japanese students.

Physical Education was another class I attended with him. In class, I raced with Connor's classmates and then I tried long jump. It was fun but I really enjoyed the Japanese class the most.

There were no after school club activities in America, but in Japan, many students belong to after school clubs. That was a major difference between Japan and the U. S.

Connor belongs to a baseball team. My host family and I went to see his game. What made me really happy was that not only did his team win the game, but also his coach bought ice cream for the team and me to celebrate the win! I was even shocked to see the size of the ice cream. It was humongous! I have never had an ice cream as big as that in my life.

The last day with host family, they took me to a Sushi restaurant. I have Miso soup almost everyday in Japan, but the Miso soup that I had there was amazing. There were more surprises at the Sushi restaurant. There were many sushi that I have never heard of before on the menu, something like "Dragon Roll." When I ordered "Wasabi Tobikko" (flying fish roe), Green Tobikko came. I was very surprised to see that. It was interesting to see how Americans view Japanese sushi. I really did not want to leave Palo Alto the last day I was there. I wished I had more time to spend with the host family.

I greatly appreciate my host family for giving me this wonderful opportunity to experience the American life, and I learned a lot from this experience.

It encouraged me to study English harder so that when Connor comes to visit me, I can provide the same experience in return. I am also grateful to have an opportunity to make new friends among the Japanese students that visited Palo Alto because we attend different schools.

I really enjoyed this experience and if I have another opportunity like this, I will not let it pass me by.

Thank you very much for giving me this experience of a lifetime.

Shuma Nemoto
Tsuchiura #6 Middle School

EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Neighbors Abroad
P. O. Box 52004
Palo Alto, CA 94303
U.S. A.

NEIGHBORS ABROAD is a volunteer organization which maintains and carries out the activities of the City of Palo Alto's officially recognized Sister City Program with Palo in the province of Leyte in the Philippines, Oaxaca in Mexico, Enschede in the Netherlands, Linköping in Sweden, Albi in France, and Tsuchiura in Japan. Its activities have served and continue to serve the community interests of international and intercultural understanding.

Barbara & Joe Evans, Co-Presidents	856-0618
Jim Newton, Treasurer	854-4360
Mary Ashley, Newsletter	494-1829

<http://neighborsabroad.org>



Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

May 2015

Wednesday, 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Comm.
Center Room A3, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Saturday, 14th, 1:00 p.m.

Welcome Picnic for Tsuchiura exchange students.
Pine Grove Picnic Area, Mitchell Park, 600 East
Meadow Drive, Palo Alto See Cover for details.

June 2015

Wednesday, 8th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Comm.
Center Room A3, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Neighbors Abroad members and friends are invited to attend a free public lecture on "International Humanitarian Law: Human Trafficking Without Borders" with Brad Adams, Executive director of Human Rights Watch, Asia Division, on Wednesday, May 6th, sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council, the American Red Cross, Silicon Valley Chapter, and the Los Altos Public Library. Site: Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. For information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757.

Next El Chisme Deadline—June 15, 2015

- Send your articles to Mary Ashley
- E-mail: meashley@pacbell.net
- 3114 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94306