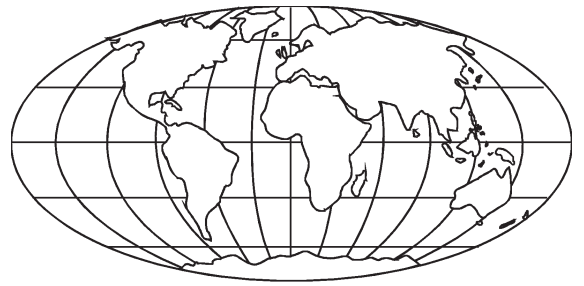


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 49, Number 1

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

January-February 2011

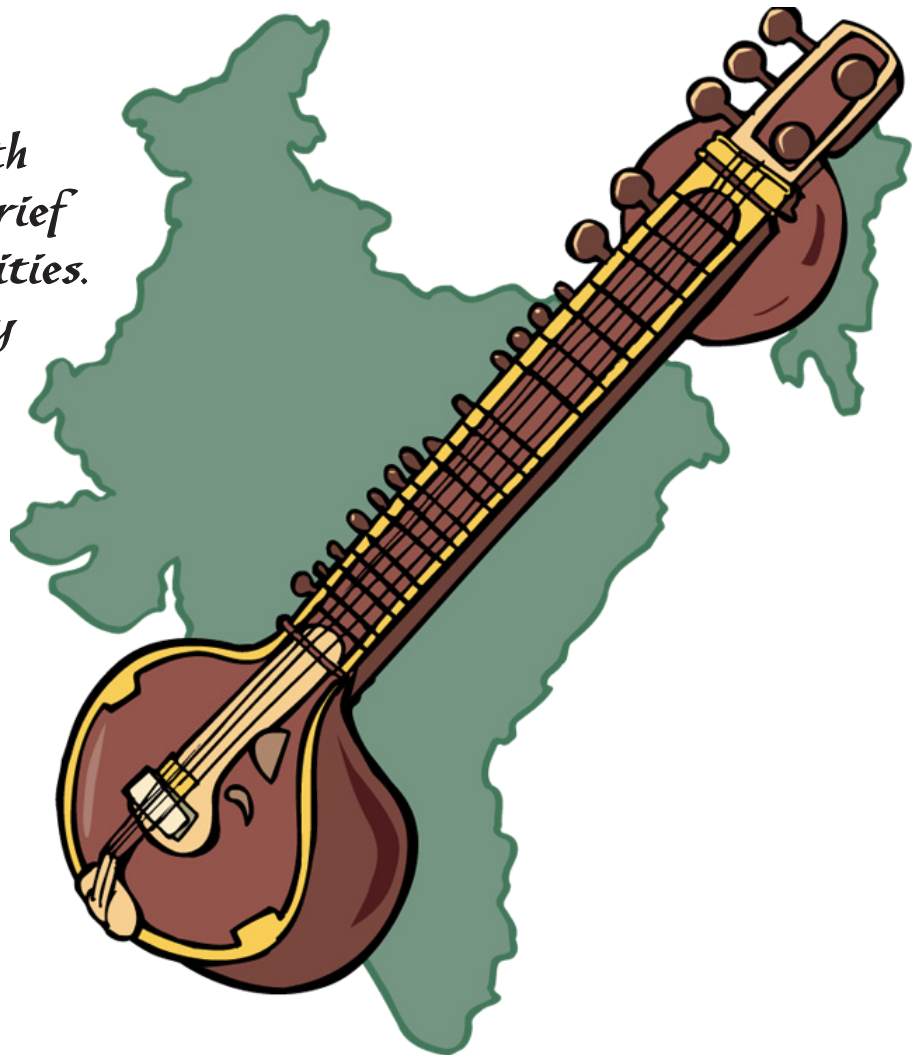
Neighbors Abroad Winter Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

Friday, February 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

*Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto*

Enjoy a social evening with other members, and hear brief updates from our Sister Cities. Dinner will be followed by a program of Bengali folk music performed by some neighbors from the local Indian-American community.

Call Heidi Berndt at (650) 843-0961 to make a reservation and tell her what you would like to bring to the dinner.



Presidents' Report

January is the month for looking both backward and forward. For Neighbors Abroad, it was a great year to look back upon. The fantastically successful Japan Festival in October was the last big event of the



year but Neighbors Abroad members had a number of other opportunities to come together, beginning in the spring with the February potluck

and the barbershop quartet, through Linköping Day and then the general meeting with Knight Fellow Teru Kuwayama. In the summer we met to sing French songs on July 14 and sang again, although in Swedish, at the August Crayfish Fest. In October, in addition to the grand Tsuchiura celebration, we were hosts to touring university students from the Enschede region of The Netherlands. All of these events drew us together and strengthened our commitment to the NA organization while, in many cases, introducing Neighbors Abroad to the broader community.

Looking ahead we will undoubtedly repeat some of the traditional events of the Neighbors Abroad calendar, but Joe and I hope that we can also look at expanding our scope beyond just our sister-city affiliations to promote other activities germane to our mission. Hubert Morel-Seytoux has suggested co-operation with the Mexican student population at Stanford. And we know young Indo-American friends who have a strong interest in our kind of programs, especially those concerned with Asia. We may be limited in the number of possible sister-city affiliations, but we can consider broadening our definition of people to people diplomacy farther by publicizing the cultural celebrations of various groups in our community and reaching out to international students and faculty whenever possible. At the same time we will be increasing our visibility to younger people.

But if we are to reach out to young families, perhaps we need to rethink some of our traditional events. Perhaps instead of our general meeting at the Art Center (to be closed for renovation anyway), we might host a picnic in the park for foreign students and their families. We could also consider asking a

local school group to put on a play as entertainment at our February potluck and invite the parents to eat with us. It would be very useful to have an "outreach coordinator" to work on making those connections.

Perhaps this is a good role for past presidents and one that we could take on after our term of office is over.

Barbara and Joe Evans

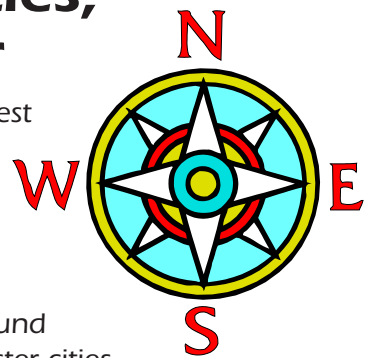
Our Sister Cities, Near and Far

Which sister city is the closest to Palo Alto? You probably guessed Oaxaca, Mexico and you're right. But which is the next closest? Did you think it would be Tsuchiura?

Here are the mileages I found between Palo Alto and our sister cities according to distancefromto.net:

Oaxaca	2092
Tsuchiura	5132
Linköping	5386
Enschede	5532
Albi	5830
Palo	6963

—Joe Evans



In Memoriam

Marge Collins, President of Neighbors Abroad during 1986-87, recently passed away after a long illness. She worked tirelessly to increase Neighbors Abroad's membership base and visibility and was instrumental in our organization receiving a Best Overall Program award from Sister Cities International.

Our sincere condolences to her husband Tom and family.

**Enjoy an Enchanted “Salon” Experience
with world renowned pianist
Carmencita Aspiras
featuring works of Schumann and Chopin**

Friday--March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

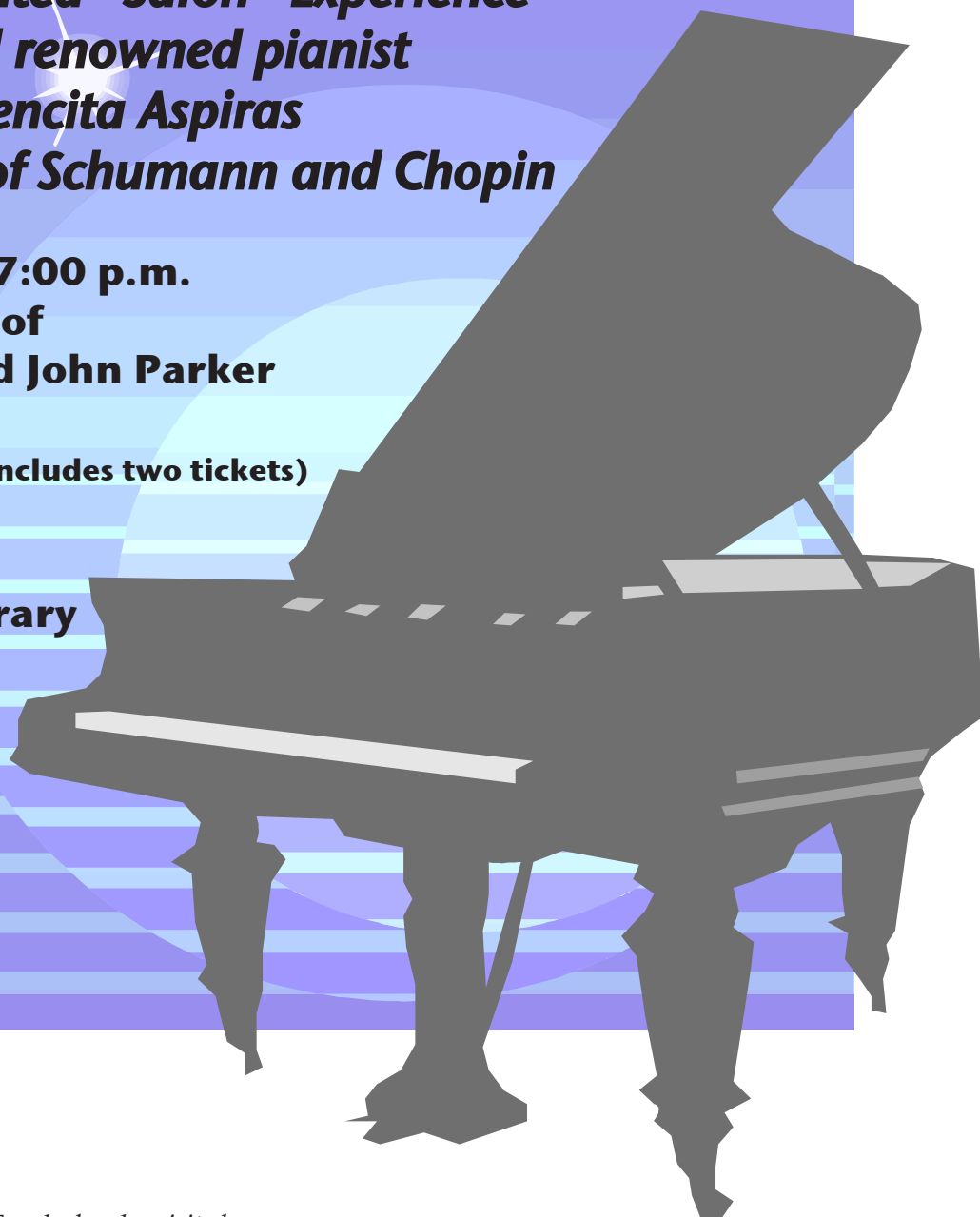
**At the lovely home of
Nancy Hardesty and John Parker**

Tickets \$25

Sponsorship \$75 (includes two tickets)

**Benefit for the
Palo Children’s Library**

**Attendance is limited!
Send checks payable to
Neighbors Abroad,
Ruth Carleton
2350 Ross Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: 650-326-8885**



Thank You!

Niels Boom, one of the students from Enschede who visited Palo Alto in October with the Twente University Study Tour, wrote this appreciation for El Chisme.

In October a group of 28 students and three professors from sister city Enschede visited the United States. Next to visiting 23 companies, going to the *Lion King* musical on Broadway and visiting an SF 49ers match we had the honor of meeting the Neighbors Abroad Committee. While eating in the backyard of Joe and Barbara we talked to many of the committee members, and friends.

There we also learned about the work you do in Mexico. As a thank you for your hospitality, and to support you in your efforts, all participants of the study tour were willing to donate money. You can find our donation of 338 dollars on your bank account. Thank you for a great evening, and good luck in future endeavors.

Niels Boom for the 2010 Twente University Study Tour

ALBI



Latest News from Albi

You may remember in our previous article, the news that Albi was classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO last July. It was thought that this would have some nice touristic consequences but what's happening is even bigger than imagined. I am receiving letter after letter from friends all over France with clips of newspaper articles about Albi, the "Episcopal City". Frederic Mitterand, the French Minister of Culture and Communication recently visited the City and all its classified places. He last visited Albi 25 years ago and was impressed by all the renovation work done to protect and display all these artistic treasures. Even NHK, the Japanese Public Television came last October to report on Albi. Really a worldwide event all the Albigeois (and us too) can be proud of.

In other Albi news, the Toulouse Lautrec Museum reopened recently in a brand new setting inside the Berbie Palace which is part of the World Heritage. Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa or more simply Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, is one of the major artists of the Post Impressionist School in the late 19th century, along with Cézanne, Van Gogh, and Gauguin. During the renovation work, a 13th century pavement was discovered, to the surprise of all. The museum layout was reworked accordingly and these impressive paving stones are now integrated into the visit. Don't miss it if you plan to visit Albi.

Neighbors Abroad Website is Coming Soon

We have been making good progress on the design and layout of the upcoming Neighbors Abroad website, thanks to the efforts of the Web Committee. We are hoping to have it released in its initial form early in 2011. It will then be expanded continuously. For Albi, the committee is planning to work hard at finding and integrating useful and entertaining content. If you have ideas or wishes of what you would like to see included, do not hesitate to send me an email at michel.campmas@gmail.com. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed! This website is for you!

À bientôt,

Michel Campmas

PALO



Mabuhay! and Best wishes for the New Year!

News from Palo

Pablo Dolina sends us good news from Palo. Congressman Neil Benedict A. Montejo of the An Waray Party List was one of several sectional groups invited to be part of the GIANTS regular committee meeting in November. Congressman Montejo is a resident of nearby Tacloban City. His late grandfather was a noted citizen of Palo.

Congressman Montejo related the fine details of his job as congressman. He was briefed about the Neighbors Abroad--Palo sister-cityhood programs. As a result, [undoubtedly impressed!] he then pledged that by the next school year he would allot enough funds to support NINE additional GIANTS scholars. If all comes to fruition, there will be eighteen scholars next year!

The Library

Pablo notes that the Children's Library continues to be well cared for. However a number of the older computers are beyond repair.

Thanks

A warm thank you to the Hardesty-Parker family for once again hosting a delightful holiday party.

A Remembrance

Neighbors Abroad and the Palo Committee give deepest thanks for the lives of Bob Greider, Rena Krasno and Marge Collins.

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton

TSUCHIURA



Konnichiwa!

Reflections on First Japan Tsuchiura Festival

It was an auspicious day for our newest sister city relationship: our first Japan Tsuchiura Festival was blessed with a huge turn-out of volunteers, amazing performing groups, hundreds of enthusiastic families with children, delicious food and... a beautiful sunny day at Lucie Stern Community Center.

The sister city relationship has a solid foundation: 18 years of student exchanges between the middle schools of Palo Alto and Tsuchiura (and Niihari which was merged into Tsuchiura). And at the center of both the festival and many years of exchanges is Keiko Nakajima, who had the dream and energy to bring the communities of Palo Alto and Tsuchiura together.

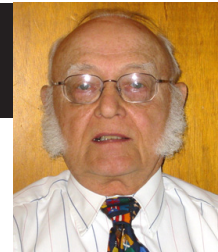
The day was enjoyed by all who participated, from the two Mayors and the Japanese consul general, to the Zen head priest and kappore dancers. The Japanese delegation had a whirlwind three-day visit packed with performances and sightseeing in addition to the all-day festival but went home very happy and inspired to continue this sister city exchange.

For me personally, I had great fun MC'ing the main stage, introducing the amazing performing groups, and working with the volunteers and organizations put together by Keiko. The Japanese Art and Cultural Center is a new center in San Jose teaching martial arts and fine arts. Mochitsuki is an exuberant group that manages to combine taiko and pounding rice cakes. The Palo Alto Buddhist Temple puts on a wonderful Bon Odori annually and were so generous in sharing their knowhow and equipment.

As in any people-to-people exchange, the most satisfying take-away for me was a new friendship—in our case, with the Zen head priest Yoshitomo Mitsui who conducted the meditation and tea ceremony events at the festival and at Channing House. He stayed in a home stay with my father at Channing House and my husband and I had a chance to have dinner with him. He was deeply moved by the sincere interest of so many Palo Altans in Zen Buddhism and its teachings.

I have a feeling we will continue our one-on-one friendship with him – and I suspect there are

LINKÖPING



The interface between our committee and the Linköping people has been too quiet, so the committee has been concerning itself with such trivia as snacks for the Holiday Party.

On a larger scale, the US press has been making much of this autumn's parliamentary election in Sweden. "A sharp shift to the right" they say. It is just that the rightists, the Swedish Democrat Party, gathered enough votes to pass the threshold to have representation in Parliament. It is not enough representation to do anything except to bother the center-left parties, which, surely, they will try to do. It sounds remarkably parallel to our Tea Party. "Take our country back!" "Send the foreigners back to Africa." It is not what we expect to hear from Swedes, just a noisy minority.

Bruce Wilner

many more personal stories like this. Thank you to Neighbors Abroad for adopting Tsuchiura as our sixth sister city and to Keiko Nakajima for making this possible!

*Yoriko Kishimoto,
former Mayor of Palo Alto*

I'd like to close this article by personally thanking all of you who supported our first Japan Tsuchiura Festival on 10/10/10.

**Arigato for your support,
Keiko Nakajima**

Tsuchiura City sponsors the "Kasumigaura International Marathon" every April. This year, the City is inviting one marathon runner from Palo Alto who can run a full marathon (42.195 km or 26 miles, 385 yds.) They will cover the travel and hotel expenses during April 14 to April 19, 2011. The date of the event will be on Sunday, April 17, 2011.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please email Keiko at tyymm4@yahoo.com.

OAXACA



In November you probably all received the annual Children's Projects solicitation letter. Thank you to all of you who responded already and we hope the rest of you will consider donating to the wonderful projects for children in Oaxaca and Palo—the Albergue Infantil (orphanage) and the Programa Niño-a-Niño (Child to Child Health Program) in Oaxaca, and the Children's Library in Palo. All three of these projects are well known for their successful work with children. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

The brochure with full details about the June, 2011, Oaxaca trip will come to you in early January. The exact departure date is awaiting the cost of airline tickets—did you know that it can cost a different amount if you fly on certain days? Anyway, the group will leave home during the week of June 13, (on whatever day has the lowest fare) and will return 10 – 12 days later. Your brochure in January will cover dates, costs, itinerary, hotel, tours, etc., etc., etc. Please respond ASAP with your info and deposit so we can make firm hotel reservations. Thanks. Feel free to call me if you have questions: (650) 493-3798, or email me at marionb@sonic.net. As usual, remember to contact me if anyone you know is going to Oaxaca NOW! As you know, we have LOTS of suitcases ready-packed to go to the children.

¡Hasta luego!

Marion Mandell



OAXACA



HERE



WE COME!



JUNE 2011

ENSCHEDÉ

Joni Reid recently returned from an extended stay in the Netherlands. Here are some photos from her trip.



Below: Professor Dave Blank with the mayor of Enschede Pieter den Oudsten. The mayor is acting on behalf of Queen Beatrix in this presentation by knighting Dave with the Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw—the Order of the Dutch Lion. This is awarded by the Queen for those with merits of a very exceptional nature for society. Dave is being knighted for his work in the field of Nano-technology and for the community work Dave does in Enschede and the Netherland in general.



Above: Two views of the rebuilt Rombeck area of Enschede which was destroyed in the May 2000 fireworks explosion.

Above: Professor Dave Blank giving a speech and wearing the Cross of the Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw



At right: Prins Willem Alexander and Dave Blank

At left: Joni Reid and Jos de Smit





Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

January 2011

Wednesday, 12th, 7:30 p.m.

World Affairs Council lecture by Dr. Erica Weirich, MD, Founder of the Global Health Research Foundation, on "Improving Health Care Through Technology and Cultural Understanding in Bhutan and Other Underserved Populations".
Site: Los Altos Youth Center, One South San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Free Admission For info., call Carol Stevens, (650) 494-0757.

Wednesday, 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

February 2011

Wednesday, 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

Friday, 4th, 6:00 p.m.

Winter General Meeting and Potluck Supper; Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call Heidi Berndt for reservations and potluck dish selection. 650-843-0961.

March 2011

Friday, 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Piano recital by Carmencita Aspiras. Fundraiser for Palo Library. Hardesty-Parker Home. 69 Santiago, Atherton. \$25.00. Call Ruth Carleton for reservations. 650-326-8885.

Next El Chisme Deadline—February 1, 2011

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

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