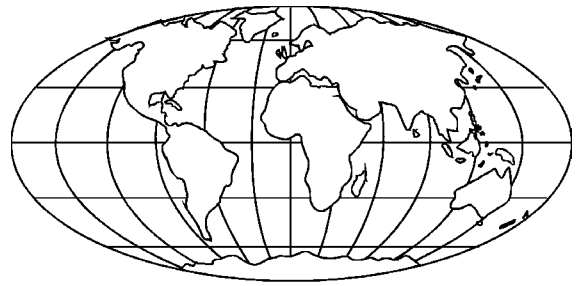


# **EL CHISME**

## **de Neighbors Abroad**



Volume 51, Number 2

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

March-April 2013

*Please join us at the Welcoming Party for  
the Tsuchiura Student Guests arriving for the  
20th Middle School Exchange*

*Date: Saturday, March 9, 2013*

*Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Place: Mitchell Park, Pine Grove  
Group Area near Tennis Courts*



*Kite Flying  
will take place  
after lunch!*

## Presidents' Report

A great deal of effort and creativity went into the production of the Neighbors Abroad February 9th Festival "Around the World in Six Cities". Each city coordinated the efforts of its committee members to put the displays together.



And Heidi Berndt made numerous trips to the Lucie Stern ballroom to make measurements and lay out the display spaces. Her friend Raji Ramen

helped her to make a floor plan showing detail down to the number of chairs between each display. Martin Berndt was the "high wire" artist, stringing cords from the overhead beams to give another place for display. Everyone did an incredible job.

We were gratified by support from people in Linköping who treasure the relationship between our two cities. Besides the film sent by Anders Lindkvist that Bruce mentioned in his column, we received templates for making paper airplanes from Elizabeth Lagvik at the Air Force Museum. Sussi Wisén's parents in Linköping, Maud and Sören, also offered help and ideas.

While some of us "get by with a little help from our friends", some of us also involved family and friends of family in this enterprise. We met Heidi Berndt's son and daughter-in-law and Marilyn Hunwick's daughter and granddaughter who were also at the festival. Our own four grandsons got involved. Ray Evans contributed a "trebuchet" siege engine for use in the Castle Siege game. Griffin and Maxwell Evans patiently helped younger boys with the siege engines and the paper airplanes. Robbie Evans "modeled" the Pippi cutout.

And thanks must go to the City of Palo Alto and especially to Mary Constantino and her fine staff at Lucie Stern Community Center. We deeply appreciate their cooperation and help.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*



## LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE FROM OUR EARLIEST SISTER CITY

*Mrs. Ruth Carleton  
President Palo Committee  
Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto  
California, USA*

*Madam:*

*Mabuhay!*

*It is with expression of pride and honor to convey my warmest felicitations to Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto, California, USA as you celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary!*

*Palo, Leyte, Republic of the Philippines is proud and privileged of the rare honor of being the first member of a community of friendship 'Around the World in Six Cities' a creation of Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto, California. How Palo, Leyte became its maiden affiliate is a beautiful short story by itself – in 1962 a young, enterprising local town mayor, intrigued and driven by curiosity of similarity in names of the two cities halfway across the globe penned a short note to his compeer of Palo Alto seeking friendship by making "our two cities twins." The letter must have heightened the interest and excitement of those involved in the sister city program of Palo Alto and triggers a series of fruitful group visits from Palo Alto to Palo, Leyte the first of which was in 1963. In acknowledging to the positive and generous respond of Palo Alto, the local government of Palo, Leyte designated the GIANTS Club of Palo, a local community club organized 12 years earlier as its matching group to Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto, California. With it a new friendship and partnership unshakable with time was born!*

*Once again, on behalf of the GIANTS Club of Palo, I send my congratulations to the Neighbors Abroad and our best wishes for a successful celebration.*

*More power to you!*

*Faithfully,*

*Pabbles*

*First GIANTS*

## PALO – 1963

### Mabuhay!

#### Our 50th Celebration

Feb. 9th was an extraordinary event proclaiming the beginning of Neighbors Abroad's 50th Anniversary year. Palo, Leyte, our first sister city was well represented by an inviting booth decorated by Emelio and Betty Duran, their friends Christene and Merwin, Margaret Green and Barbara Newton. The Lucie Stern Ballroom was a beehive of activity as each sister city prepared for the many people, young and older who enjoyed an exciting afternoon with "Around the World in Six Sister Cities." Many, many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made this all possible!



#### A Filipino Dance

Vida Revelli brought four smiling dancers-students at Stanford—Pat, Adrian, James and Alexis who performed that delightful dance, the *Tinikling* which originated in Leyte. The rhythm of two long bamboo poles allows the dancers just enough time to dance between the poles like lively little birds.

#### Thank you Goldilocks

Goldilocks, the Filipino restaurant noted for its authentic pastries donated Filipino shortbread cookies. It is located near Costco in Mtn. View and offers delicious Filipino food.

#### A Trip to the Philippines

How would you like to visit the Philippines with a "Goodwill Ambassadors" trip to the Philippines this summer--allowing a side trip to Palo, Leyte? More information will be forthcoming!

#### And from Pabbles Dolina, First GIANTS (below and left)

"Neighbors Abroad is an organization manned by extremely laudable, dedicated volunteers—keeping alive through the years the spirit of a humane sister city program even beyond the lives of some of its own original members—offering opportunities to almost a hundred indigent but deserving young students they have never met—gain college degrees of their own choice—a dream come true, a ticket to a bright future and dignified life—and putting up a beautiful, well-stocked Children's Library—the only one of its kind in the Island of Leyte and perhaps in the entire country—the town is very proud of it. For all these things, the Palo Committee and GIANTS are forever grateful."

### Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton



*Colorful traditional costumes and artifacts of the Philippines on display in the Palo Booth at the Around the World in Six Cities 50th Anniversary Celebration.*



*Stanford student dancers entertain with the tinikling dance at the Around the World in Six Cities Celebration.*

## OAXACA -1964

I would like to introduce all of you to the two fine exchange students we are sending to Oaxaca this summer. Both are students at Gunn High School and both received outstanding recommendations from their Spanish teachers.

Katie Russell is completing ninth grade this year. She is in Spanish 3, which is conducted entirely in Spanish, and her teacher considers her a top student in the class, who speaks well and understands everything. Katie has been a member of the student council for many years, is involved in the Model United Nations, likes volley ball, figure skating, reading, writing, piano and languages. She was a gold medalist in the National Spanish Exam in 2011-2012. She is looking forward very much to experiencing another culture and having an Oaxacan sister come home with her. (She says she always wanted a sister!)



*Katie Russell*

Divya Saini is completing eleventh grade. She has studied Spanish for five years and her teacher considers her an excellent candidate for this exchange since she is not only proficient in Spanish, but kind, generous, a good leader and team player and quite mature. Divya is president of the Future Practicing Physicians Club at school, is in the National Honor Society, volunteers to tutor second graders in math and also volunteers at the Veterans Hospital. She enjoys spending time with little kids, especially reading to them. She not only is looking forward to gaining experience in a different



*Divya Saini*

culture but also can share her Indian background with her Oaxacan family.

In early April we will be hosting visitors from Oaxaca in Palo Alto. The majority of them would like to have homestays while here. If you would like to host one or



more Oaxacans in your home, please contact me as soon as possible, either at (650) 493 3798 or at marionb@sonic.net.

When the Oaxacan visitors are here we would like to invite former exchange students from Palo Alto who went to any of our Sister Cities to a reception. We are missing the names and current addresses of some of them, especially between 1965 and 1973. If you were one of the "missing" please contact me so we can invite you to a city reception to help celebrate Neighbors Abroad's 50 years of existence.

Hope you all saw the nice article in the Palo Alto Weekly on February 1, calling attention to Neighbors Abroad's 50th Anniversary. And wasn't that a great family affair at Lucie Stern Ballroom on February 9th with exhibits from all six of our Sister Cities!

Now take out your calendars and mark Sunday, October 6th. Most of you know that every two years we hold a "Neighbors Abroad Family Fun Day International Fair" in the Lucie Stern outdoor main courtyard. We not only have games and food, but also the Famous International Store which consists of all donated items from All of You. Start now going through your treasures. When you find items from around the world (not just from our Sister Cities) which you have enjoyed for years, but now would like to donate for others to enjoy, contact me! Since we are all volunteers and all items are donated, the money for everything sold in the store goes directly to the children's projects in Oaxaca, Mexico and Palo, Philippines. It's a win-win situation! You get to clean out, others get new things to enjoy and the children in Oaxaca and Palo benefit.



*Speakers platform at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Observatory in Oaxaca, a joint project with Palo Alto*

Not only is Neighbors Abroad celebrating a 50th anniversary here, but we just received an email from Oaxaca with a photo of the speakers platform at a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Observatory in Oaxaca, which Palo

Alto helped to fund and for which both cities won a Sister Cities International award in 1973 for "Best Single Project" for cities of 25,000 to 75,000 population. Since this first award in 1973 we have won at least ten more Sister Cities International awards through the years for our projects.

Remember we have ready-packed suitcases for the Children's projects in Oaxaca. Call me if you're going!

**¡Hasta luego!**  
*Marion Mandell*



*Above, a celebration guest looks at posters and artifacts in the Oaxaca booth.*



*At left, Vice President for Oaxaca Marion Mandell in a native costume in front of a display of other costumes from the state of Oaxaca.*

## ENSCHEDÉ-1980



### Hallo Vrienden:

Here is the follow-up on news from the *Glazen Huis*-the special event that ran from December 18-24, 2012 in the *Oude Markt* in Enschede's Centrum.



*3FM Serious Request Booth at the festival in Enschede's Centrum*

You read in the last issue of *El Chisme* about the annual "3FM Serious Request" in Enschede. This year the funds were donated to the UN to fight childhood death: one of the UN's 2015 Millennium Goals to "Reduce Child Mortality" for children under five years

old. I am very pleased to report that Neighbors Abroad sent a 50 Euro donation to the "3FM Serious Request" organization on December 17, 2012.

On December 18, 2012 I received an email from Irene: "Thank you and Neighbors Abroad of course, very much for making the donation by handing over the cheque which is in name of



*Certificate for Neighbors Abroad's donation to Enschede's fund drive for the U.N.*

Neighbors Abroad." On 2/4/13 I received an email from the Serious Request Committee. The fund drive was *een groot success* ("a big success"). They received a total of 12,251.667 Euros (\$16,587.43) in donations. This is a great example of the sister city bond between the people in Neighbors Abroad and in Enschede.

Art News: The De Young Museum in San Francisco is presenting a superb selection of Dutch Old Master paintings from the Mauritshuis (National) Museum in Den Haag.

*continued on next page*

The most celebrated piece is *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer. There are works by Gerrit Berckheyde, Carel Fabritius and a related exhibit of 60 Rembrandt etchings. The exhibition runs from January 26 until June 2, 2013.

50th anniversary: Neighbors Abroad has kicked off its 50th anniversary on February 9th with a "multi" sister city Festival. My Enschede friends Hilda Ferwerda and Irene Vernes assembled and sent me a magnificent body of information for the Festival. I received an email from Irene: "You've probably heard that Hilda and I put together a package with items from Enschede and some of its projects and a couple of pictures from the Rijksmuseum. It is great having this opportunity to present ourselves in Palo Alto."

*Met hartelijke dank* (heartfelt thanks) to Hilda and Irene for their kindness and support in making the Enschede booth so successful by providing materials from Enschede. Much gratitude to Ann Pianetta and Madeleine Smeets for all their effort and work on the Enschede booth. Madeleine brought traditional Dutch costumes, flags and other paraphernalia and Ann brought *oranje en witte ballonnen* and female and male mannequins which we used display the costumes. Together the three of us set up, acted as Enschede "tour guides" and then dismantled the Enschede booth. We had lots of visitors including our City Council Liaison Liz Kniss.

Irene also mentioned that Tommy Fehrenbach (Palo Alto's Manager of Economic Development), the city manager, the Mayor, and the vice mayor will be part of a delegation for an official visit to Enschede in 2013. Irene wrote to me: "We've made a first proposal for projects (in the field of mobility, connection science park with city center, bicycle plan, etc) we could as cities collaborate on. I am confident that we will be able to work out a couple of projects on which Enschede and Palo Alto will work on together. I will keep you posted!"

That's the news from Enschede.

**Tot Ziens,  
Joni Reid**



Enschede booth at the Around the World in Six Cities event.



Madeleine Smeets, at left, and Ann Pianetta, at right, are welcoming hosts in the Enschede booth.



Guests doing the Frog Dance (Små Grodorna) around the Swedish Midsommar Pole

Far right, poster of Palo Alto artist Greg Brown's wall mural in Linköping. Near right, Pippi Longstocking wannabe!

# LINKÖPING-1987



Well, we threw a pretty good festival, had a lot of people visit the Linköping booth, and Mary Ashley drew a lot of notice with the dancing of The Small Frog around a midsummer pole.

We did get splendid help from Linköping. Anders Lindqvist obtained a film about the Swedish National Air Force Museum in Linköping and had it translated from Swedish to English.

Karin Baage and Sussi Wisén of Palo Alto helped Marilyn Hunwick design the display.

Linköping city is interested in arranging a visit by one of our singing groups, so we will need to do some sniffing around to see if we can find interest.

*Bruce Wilner*



*Marilyn Hunwick arranges displays in the Linköping booth*



# ALBI – 1994



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Day

The Albi Committee has been very active promoting our French Sister City during the Neighbors Abroad February 9 Celebration. All started weeks before with a careful



*Carol Stevens in the Albi Booth*

planning and preparation of what the Albi participation would be about. Carol Stevens had provided beautiful artifacts from her numerous trips to Albi, miniature *pigeonniers*, colorful *santons* (clay figurines that depict colorful people, traditional trades, activities and costumes from France) and Toulouse-Lautrec posters. Barb Mackraz, Marc Pasturel, and Carol helped set up and man the booth, answering questions from adults and children about the French city of Albi, while Chula and Hubert Morel-Seytoux made delicious sweet and savory *crêpes* all afternoon to the delight of all visitors, especially the children. Chula was dressed in a beautiful and authentic costume from *Bretagne* (Brittany) from where *crêpes* originated.

Daniele Campmas was our official photographer and had managed to secure the participation of a choir from the Palo Alto Mid-Peninsula International School.

This choir was one of the highlights of the day. As you may imagine from the pictures if you were not present that day, the children under the direction of music teachers Jean Baptiste Charlot at the guitar and Su Yang at the electronic piano beautifully interpreted French, Chinese and American songs in front of a delighted audience cap-



*Su Yang directing the Mid-Peninsula International School choir as parents and guests look on.*

continued on next page

tivated by the purity and warmth of their voices. On their red tee-shirts one could read the motto “many cultures one world”, a key reminder for a school which promotes diversity and understanding of multiple cultures by welcom-



ing and mixing children of European and Asian heritage. What a beautiful match with Neighbors Abroad charter

*Choir singing with guitarist Jean Baptiste Charlot (in foreground) accompanying.*

which is to expand multicultural understanding via personal exchanges. A million thanks to our music teachers,



*Below, Chula and Hubert Morel-Seytoux posing in Bretagne costume with display items at their booth. Above, they are hard at work making and serving popular crêpes.*



young students and School Director Philippe Dietz for allowing this to happen.

As part of a multi-cities “passport” game, children (and adults) were moving from booth to booth to get their passport stamped while answering “scavenger hunt” questions. Below are the questions for Albi. Would you like to try to answer them to check your knowledge of our Sister City Albi?

1. What was the building material for Albi’s Cathedral of St.Cecile?
  - A. Straw
  - B. Brick
  - C. Stones
2. Who is Albi’s most famous painter?
  - A. Toulouse Lautrec
  - B. Van Gogh
  - C. Pablo Picasso
3. What is the purpose of a pigeonnier?
  - A. A storehouse for grain
  - B. A cottage for visitors
  - C. A home for birds raised to provide food as well as fertilizer

Did you do well? Here are the answers: 1-B, 2-A, and 3-C.

**À bientôt,  
Michel Campmas**



*Popular Origami folding table at the 50th Anniversary Festival*



## TSUCHIURA-2009

### Konnichiwa,

On March 9, Palo Alto host students and their families will welcome sixteen junior high school students from Tsuchiura City. The welcoming party will be held at Mitchell Park from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Host parents are preparing a barbecue lunch to show a warm welcome to the students. Please join us to celebrate the 20th year of the Middle School Exchange Program.

The students' schedule includes:

- Monday, 3/11: Attend City Council Meeting: Mayor Sharff will present a proclamation to our visitors.
- Wednesday, 3/13: City Hall and Police Department visit during the day and Cooking Night (Japanese students will cook a Japanese dinner for their host families.)
- Thursday-Friday 3/14 & 3/15: Guests will visit Yosemite on an overnight.
- Friday, 3/15: Bingo Night: Guests and host students will enjoy a potluck dinner and play Bingo.
- Saturday, 3/16: Host Day: Host families will entertain their guest.
- Sunday, 3/17: Appreciation and Farewell Party: Tsuchiura students will host lunch for their host families to show their gratitude.

They'll leave Palo Alto right after the farewell party for San Francisco. Their schedule also includes two days visiting their host students schools; Jordan and JLS. Guests will shadow host students classes for two days. We hope our guests will enjoy their Palo Alto stay.

My other news is to introduce the Marathon runner who was chosen to participate in the 23rd Kasumigaura International Marathon in Tsuchiura on April 21, 2013.



Jason Golbus was chosen by Palo Alto Economic Development Manager Thomas Fehrenbach.

Jason grew up in the NW suburbs of Chicago where his parents still live. he moved to California in 1996 to get his M.S. at UC-Berkeley. He spent a few years in LA and then settled back in the Bay Area in 2000. He has lived in Palo Alto since 2007. He and his wife recently bought a house in Barron Park. They have two children—Toby, who is 3 1/2, and Emi, who is 21 months.

Jason is an electrical engineer, specializing in chip design. He worked for a series of unsuccessful start-ups, until 2009, when he joined Nvidia in Santa Clara. He is now a manager of a group that designs circuits for the mobile chips in many Android phones and tablets today.

He picked up running early, partly because he lacked the hand-eye coordination for most other sports. He ran on the cross-country and track teams in high-school and then ran only casually through college and grad school. In 1999, he trained for and completed his first marathon in San Francisco. He has tried to do 1 or 2 marathons every year since then, and has now completed more than 20. His favorite marathons are Chicago and Rock-n-Roll Arizona (where his sister and her family live). He has done them a combined 13 times. He has also done the major races in New York and Boston. He has never done a marathon outside of the U.S.

I met Jason at our 50th year celebration event at Lucie Stern on 2/9 and am very happy that he can represent Palo Alto in Tsuchiura. I also found out that Jason's wife, Tracy, was born in Japan and graduated from Tsukuba University in Tsukuba which is a neighboring city to Tsuchiura.

We all send our best wishes for Jason for his and his family's safe trip to Tsuchiura and for his successful run!!!

**Arigato for your support,**

*Keiko Nakajima*



*Tsuchiura booth display at the 50th Anniversary celebration.*



*Display of dolls in the Tsuchiura booth.*



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## March 2013

Saturday, 9th, 11:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Welcome ceremony and lunch in honor of visiting Tsuchiura students, followed by kite flying for all. Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto, Pine Grove Group Area near Tennis Courts

Wednesday, 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center Room A6, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

## April 2013

First week:

Oaxaca delegation of city, sister city committee, and childrens' project officials visit to Palo Alto. Contact Marion Mandell at (650) 493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net to get involved with this group.

Wednesday, 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center Room A6, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

**Next El Chisme Deadline—April 15, 2013**

- 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

<http://neighborsabroad.org>