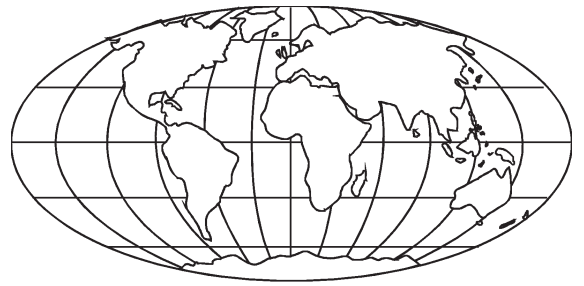


# EL CHISME

## de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 53, Number 6

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

November-December 2015



*Saturday, December 5, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.*  
*Hardesty-Parker Home, 69 Santiago Ave., Atherton*

*Entertainment by the Neighbors Abroad International Band*  
*Food representing each of our 6 sister cities*

*\$25 Donation per person*

*All proceeds go to Neighbors Abroad Children's Projects.*

*Reserve by calling 650-324-3635*  
*Checks payable to Neighbors Abroad should be sent to:*  
*Ruth Carleton, 36 Pearce Mitchell, Stanford, CA 94305*

# Presidents' Report

## Thankfulness:

Sometimes it seems to us that Neighbors Abroad is just plain boring. We have some events that repeat every year and it is hard to imagine something new and exciting coming along. But the almost ritual nature of the events from the welcome party for the Japanese exchange students, through the Bastille Day picnic and songfest and up to the recent Family Fun Day and the upcoming Holiday Party gives shape to the Neighbors Abroad year. And thinking of each of these events causes us to feel gratitude for the members who come together every year and are responsible for making every one of them successful. We are also grateful for the efforts of all the board members who have cooperated to help each others' special projects, working not only for themselves but for the good of the whole organization.

As I write this, however, we are preparing for a special event, welcoming a delegation from Enschede, the Netherlands. Dayenne Smolders, who was a gracious guide for Joe and me when we were in Enschede, will be in Palo Alto the first week in November with others from her city. I think Joni Reid, our Vice President for Enschede will also be writing about the people from Enschede that she expects to see here. We welcome this visit and hope that next year may see visits from other sister cities.

Continuing in a vein of thankfulness, Joe and I are very grateful that we have had the opportunity to visit four of

our six sister cities. And it seems clear to us that that kind of visit, that opportunity for a special connection to a city, adds to and strengthens both membership and enthusiasm for Neighbors Abroad. We should strive for more such visits.

In speaking with the Linköping University students who are visiting Stanford we were also reminded of how important it is to have many points of contact between our cities. Jennifer Buenrostro had commented that it would be wonderful to know that when one visits one of our sister cities, one could have a contact there with similar interests. You would have someone with whom you could share lunch or a cup of coffee and the feeling would be that you already had a connection to that city. I hope that the Vice Presidents for our various sister cities might think about how that can be developed in the future. Just sharing each others contacts would be a step in the right direction.

Joe and I are grateful for the friendship of all the good people we have found in this organization. We believe that people who share an interest in global concerns and who appreciate our common humanity will always find a home in Neighbors Abroad.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

## STUDENTS WHO WILL BE 15 YEARS OR OLDER BY JUNE OF 2016, WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING NEXT SUMMER?



If traveling to a foreign country, learning to speak another language, and becoming a member of a new family sounds good to you, be sure to come to the **FAMILY INFORMATION MEETING** about **Neighbors Abroad's Student Exchanges**. Bring your parents to hear about the program too! (So they can find out how financially reasonable it really is...)

**The meeting will be on Monday, November 16 at 7:00 P.M.  
in Room A-3 at Cubberley Community Center,  
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto**

Application packets will be available and all of your questions can be answered. This is the place to get your information

If you have an urgent advance burning question, please call or email Marion at 650-493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net





## OAXACA

The Family Fun Day International Fair which was held on October 4 at Lucie Stern Community

Center Main Courtyard was a fine success on a lovely day. Even with somewhat fewer attendees than we would have liked (due so many other activities going on in Palo Alto that day), it was great fun—the children loved the games, crafts, and stories, everyone loved the quesadillas and other food, and the famous International Store made over \$2000 for the Children's projects in Oaxaca and Palo. The International Fashion Show and program of songs by Bowman International School students were enjoyed by all. We owe many thanks to all of the helpers who kept everything going. These included many members of Kiwanis and Neighbors Abroad, Girl Scouts, and an assortment of high school students. THANK YOU!

Please spread the word about the Family Information Meeting for next summer's student exchange covered on page 2 in this edition of *El Chisme*. Let's send a big group on our exchanges in 2016. And while you are marking your calendar, remember the Saturday, December 5, annual Holiday Party at the Hardesty/Parker residence. The "famous" Neighbors Abroad International Band will



*Childrens' Chorus from Bowman International School entertaining at Family Fun Day*

provide the entertainment this year.

As usual, I want to remind you to be sure to tell anyone you know who is planning a trip to Oaxaca in the near future to call or email me first (650-493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net) We have LOTS of ready-packed suitcases for both the orphanage and the Child-to-Child health program all ready to go—and MANY eager recipients for them in Oaxaca,

**Hasta Luego,  
Marion Mandell**



*International Fashion Show at the Family Fun Day Celebration. The costumes displayed here are, left to right: girl's Ukranian outfit with double woolen skirt with man's Ukranian costume right behind her, then Austrian Dirndl, German country outfit, costume from India, Chinese dress, Philippine dress with traditional "butterfly sleeves", man in Philippine traditional "Barong" shirt made of pineapple fiber, woman's huipil from the Huautla de Jimenez area of Oaxaca.*





**Mabuhay!  
News from  
Palo**

We are so pleased to have word from our friends in the GIANTS Club and one of our librarians, Sheilane Cabag. They sent many photos of the library, some of which are shown in this *El Chisme*. Improvements and repairs to the Library include those in the kitchen, fixing leaks in the roof and purchase and installation of a new computer and broadband internet. Views show the new computer system with Sheilane's son who is installing applications for Facebook, Yahoo etc.

**The Mini-Library**

At Sitio Canmamotong, Barangay Libertad, our librarians Rebecca Maglinte and Sheilane Cabag, after a thorough cleaning of books and materials left-over from the typhoon, have assembled and installed them from the Children's Library of Palo to what is called the "Palo Alto Mini Children's Library" in that barangay. It is a testament to their devotion to the provision of books to many children that the members of the GIANTS Club were present at a ceremony including prayer. We can only be awed by this dedication to the education of many children.

**And from Frank Villaganas, head GIANT**

Frank states that most efforts for the library are concentrating on the interior of the library but there are funds available for the exterior should they be needed. He closes with "Viva Neighbors Abroad"! Thank you, Frank.

**International News Involving the Philippines**

The *New York Times* reports that Australia is asking the Philippines to accept some of the refugees in the current crisis. This would pose a strong burden on the Philippines where many cannot understand why a "developed" country such as Australia wishes to pass on its "obligations" to a less developed country such as the Philippines.

**Mabuhay!  
Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres**

**Mini-Library Dedication**



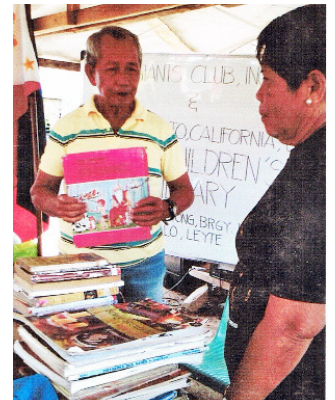
*Barangay Libertad Chairwoman Darina Romero. First Giant Frank Villaganas seated.*



*At the ceremony from left: Rebecca Maglinte, Gilac Letlet Roca, Gilac Aleta Lago, Gilac Ella Villaganas, Sheilane Cabag, Scholar Ana Mae Deguerio & Eden Joyce Roa.*



*Giants members and Barangay officials at the library materials presentation.*



*Turn-over of books to daycare worker Lolita Maglinte by Giant Frank Villaganas.*

**New Computer Equipment**



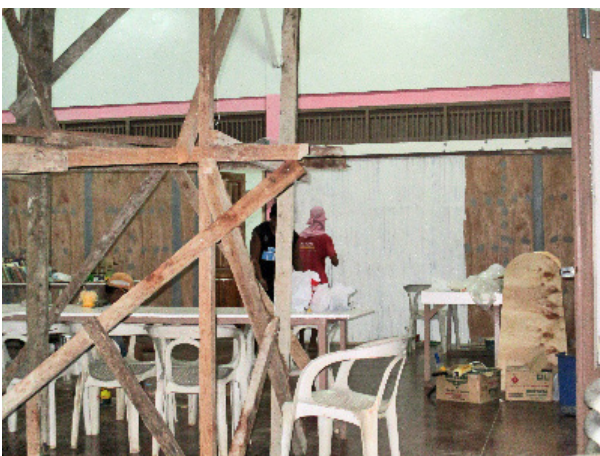
*New computer and equipment for internet/ wifi connectivity in the library.*

*Librarian Sheilane Cabag's son works on setting up the new computer system, with Frank Villaganas of the Giants looking on.*





Repairs and new conference room partition



Left and below, creating the conference room partition. Below right, repairing kitchen



Above and right, students studying in the newly refurbished reading room of the library.



At left, the library has a new roof. No more leaks! At right, bookcases have been raised to keep books higher off the floor in case of flooding. Above right, overview of the reading room; librarians' desk at left.



# ALBI

Your Picture Here

The search is on for a Vice President for Albi. Contact a board member if you can help.





## TSUCHIURA

The new picture on the Tsuchiura column masthead is Diana Nemet, who is joining Jennifer Buenrostro as co-Vice



President for Tsuchiura! Diana introduces herself below:

My introduction to Japan started with my daughter's interest in participating in the middle-school exchange program when she was a 7th-grade student at JLS. That year we hosted a lovely Japanese student in the Spring. I volunteered the following June, along with Jennifer, as a parent chaperone for the student trip to Japan. My daughter had an incredible time with her host family, and I had an amazing time as well, so much so, that we participated in the exchange program again in her 8th-grade year. Jennifer and her son, Christopher, also participated and we all traveled together with the group of students and Nakajima-sensei to Japan.

After the Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Festival, when Nakajima-sensei announced that she was retiring, Jennifer and I offered to help the new Japanese-language teacher organize the exchange program since we had been involved the past couple of years. However, the new teacher wanted to focus on her new teaching assignment and she said she'd consider leading the program after she was established in the classroom after a couple of years. Jennifer and I didn't want to program to end, so somehow we ended up leading it—although neither of us speak Japanese!!

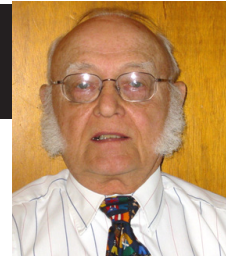
I had never traveled to Japan before my involvement with Neighbors Abroad. In fact, I had never traveled to Asia. And I've never studied Japanese. In fact, my Japanese pronunciation of "Tsuchiura" is barely understandable by anyone in Japan. During my first visit I was asked to give a speech at our farewell party. I didn't want to mispronounce the name of Tsuchiura, especially considering all of the City of Tsuchiura dignitaries were there, so I told all of the kids of my speech in advance, and asked them to say in unison "Tsuchiura" at the part of my speech. The Tsuchiura officials were surprised and amused considering they know how difficult it is to pronounce the name of their town.

The plans for our upcoming exchange are going very smoothly—last year was a steep learning curve for us since it was the first time we had organized the exchange. This year is much easier considering we know what all needs to be done and are able to organize things well in advance. We're currently accepting applications from interested families and expect to receive the profiles of the Japanese students towards the end of December.

I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of the students—both the Palo Alto and Tsuchiura students—and I love visiting Japan. We've made some wonderful friends there and I love the dedication that the City of Tsuchiura has to our sister-city relationship. I'm grateful to have been involved with this program and feel very fortunate that I can help other families and students enjoy the pleasure of learning about a new culture and making friends on the other side of the world that my family and I have enjoyed so much.

*Diana Nemet*

## LINKÖPING



Marilyn Hunwick has once again done some detective work and "found" the Linköping University students who are spending a year of their graduate studies at Stanford on an exchange program arranged by the late Stig Hagstrom, who with his wife Brita-Stina was instrumental in establishing the Palo Alto-Linköping sister city relationship.

Barbara and Joe Evans hosted a barbecue on a recent Saturday afternoon for the Linköping Committee to get acquainted with Oskar Ankarberg and Pontus Orraryd. They are both graduate students in the Electrical Engineering Department studying for Masters Degrees at Linköping University.

They are enjoying their stay so far in sunny California, sharing an apartment in Menlo Park and commuting by bicycle to Stanford. How does the academic work compare to their home university? They said the atmosphere is more competitive, and the work load is more structured—less time to explore on ones own.

We hope to see some more of them while they are here, although their schedule is busy. They took a break from studying for midterm exams to have lunch with us.

*Bruce Wilner*



*Pontus Orraryd, left, and Oskar Ankarberg, right*



## ENSCHEDÉ

I would like to introduce you to two young scholars who are currently staying in my home while they are engaged in their post-doc work at Stanford University. I have asked each of them to write a short biography:

### Ingrid Vogelaar writes:

My name is Ingrid and I am a postdoctoral research fellow at the Oncology division of the Stanford University Department of Medicine since August 2015.

I moved to Palo Alto from Nijmegen, a city with 170,000 inhabitants in the Netherlands, where I did my PhD.

The next two years I will work at Stanford and in my free time I will enjoy the beautiful surroundings of California and of course the great weather!

### Benjamin Mosk writes:

I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics (SITP). Stanford is a great place for doing physics, with famous faculty members such as Leonard Susskind, Andrei Linde and many others. I



also discovered that California is a wonderful place to live, with its great climate, its wonderful national parks and plenty of opportunities for doing sports.

Being Dutch, I started my academic career as an undergraduate student in Leiden, a small Dutch city characterized by its canals and its 400-year-old university. After having stayed abroad in France and the United Kingdom for my masters degree, I returned to my home country to do a PhD in Amsterdam. During the next two years I hope to develop myself as a researcher and to contribute to the fields of string theory (holography) and cosmology.

It is a great pleasure to host these two fine young people at my home. They are now part of a group of over 30 scholars from the Netherlands, and elsewhere, who have been guests in my home since 2001.

I am often in contact with Paul Bijleveld and Hilda Ferwerda. Paul has told me he recently had surgery. We all send Paul our warm wishes for a speedy recovery and hope that he will soon be involved in his usual and customary activities.

As I have written in the previous *El Chisme*, I was in Enschede this past May. Dayenne Smolders told me she



anticipated a group from Enschede would be visiting Palo Alto sometime in the fall, but she did not know the dates of the visit at that time.

Although I have not yet heard from Dayenne regarding the Enschede visit, on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we were informed in emails from Tommy Fehrenbach that the visitors from Enschede will be in Palo Alto from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at City Hall with the Council "Special Order of the Day" following in the council chambers. He thought about 15 visitors would be coming to Palo Alto including the new mayor of Enschede. He asked Neighbors Abroad to co-sponsor the events. Tommy wrote he will keep us posted.

I have learned some of the visitors will include, but not be limited to: city officials, possibly faculty from the University of Twente's Design Lab and the President of the Executive Board of the University of Twente. I have been advised the new Mayor of Enschede is Onno van Veldhuizen.

Their tentative program is full and may include visits to: San Francisco, Stanford University, Silicon Valley hi-tech firms and possibly an ice-hockey game. This is an exciting time for our Enschede visitors, the city of Palo Alto and as the Vice-President of the Enschede Committee since 2001—for me.

### Tot ziens, Joni Reid

—Excerpts from an email from Henk de Poot about Joni's visit to Enschede and *El Chisme*.

Dear Joni,

It has been a pleasure having you as our special guest at the AKI ArtEZ Overlap Festival, the Maker Festival, and some weeks later at the Art in Volkspark festivities.

It was particularly pleasant to read your accounts of these events as published in *El Chisme*, the Palo Alto magazine for the Neighbors Abroad Society. By documenting these events from your vantage point also helps us see the value of organizing such events.

Your account of Wout Zweers' chocolate workshop at the Makers Festival drew my attention as I have been witnessing Wout's steps toward preparing the exhibit. I showed Wout your article which he liked very much.

Finally I liked to read about your visit to the Art in Volkspark festivities and the Bart Bijleveld Jazz band. At another occasion you wrote me that they visited Palo Alto in 2005. Isn't it special that you witness their stage performance 10 years later in Enschede?

I am looking forward to your future articles in *El Chisme* and look forward to your next visit to our city Enschede.

tot ziens,  
Henk de Poot

# EL CHISME

## de Neighbors Abroad

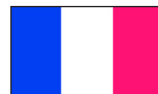


Neighbors Abroad  
P. O. Box 52004  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
U.S. A.

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

### November 2015

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Comm. Center, A3, 4000 Middlefield Rd. PA

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Student Exchange Family Information Meeting. Cubberley Comm. Center, Room A3, 4000 Middlefield Rd. PA see page 2 for more details.

### December 2015

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Annual Neighbors Abroad Holiday Party to benefit the Childrens' Projects. \$25 Donation per person. See front cover for details.

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>: noon to 9:00 p.m.

28th Annual Christmas Creche Exhibit at the LDS Church, 3865 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. There are about 350 nativity scenes from around the world on

display, along with live holiday music, and special concerts in the evenings at 7:30 p.m. Admission is FREE and everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

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

**Next El Chisme Deadline—December 15, 2015**

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