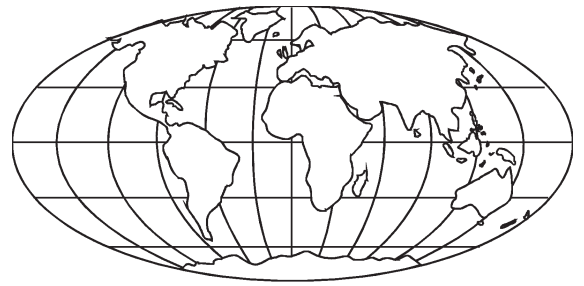


# EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 52, Number 3

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

July-August 2014

*Bastille Day Potluck Picnic  
Sunday, July 13 • 4:30 to Dark  
Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow, Palo Alto  
East Meadow group picnic area*



*Bring your French-style dish and join the fun.  
Call Michel Campmas (650) 856-2214  
for questions or information.*

## PRESIDENTS' REPORT

On June 19th, Thomas Fehrenbach, Economic Development Director for the city of Palo Alto, hosted a reception for Dr. Andre Domin from Heidelberg. Dr. Domin is CEO of Technologiepark Heidelberg. On October 9, 2013, Mayor Gregory Scharff of Palo Alto and Lord Mayor Dr. Eckart Wurzner of Heidelberg signed a Smart Cities Alliance agreement which provides for cooperation



in industry, research and the environment between the two cities. Dr. Domin was in Palo Alto to become better acquainted with

us and make plans for future connections. During the reception he told us about some of the areas of science and technology that are being actively pursued at the Heidelberg technology park.

Then on June 27th members met in the general meeting held at Lucie Stern Cultural Center. The main item of business at that, our annual meeting, was to elect five new members of the Board of Directors of Neighbors Abroad.

New board members include Laurence Albet-Khatib, Jennifer Buenostro, Mary O'Connor, Luz Sanchez and Chris Torres. In addition, returning board members Mary Ashley, Heidi Berndt, Michel Campmas, and Barbara and Joe Evans were elected to serve another three year term.

We heard a financial report from Treasurer Jim Newton and a report on the Oaxaca trip by VP for Oaxaca, Marion Mandell.

In addition to a number of regular Neighbors Abroad members, Mayor Nancy Shepherd, City Manager Jim Keene and several council members took part in the trip, honoring the fifty-year anniversary of our sister-city relationship. The attention from the Palo Alto representatives pleased the dignitaries, including the governor of the state of Oaxaca.

Marion displayed several colorful items created by the children and presented to the delegation. It was agreed that we should try to have a display of these in our City Hall. Several people commented that we need to find a way to better showcase NA and its activities and that the timing is right, following this very successful trip.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

## ALBI



### Bastille Day Celebration

When you read this article we will be real close to Bastille Day celebration. Hopefully you were able to mark your calendar for Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup> at Mitchell Park East Meadow Group Picnic Area at 4:30 pm when you read the previous edition of *El Chisme* or received the General Meeting flyer. The Albi Committee is looking forward to seeing you all and, as we do every year, share songs and French food delicacies. (Remember, this is a pot luck!)

### Latest News on Adult Exchanges...

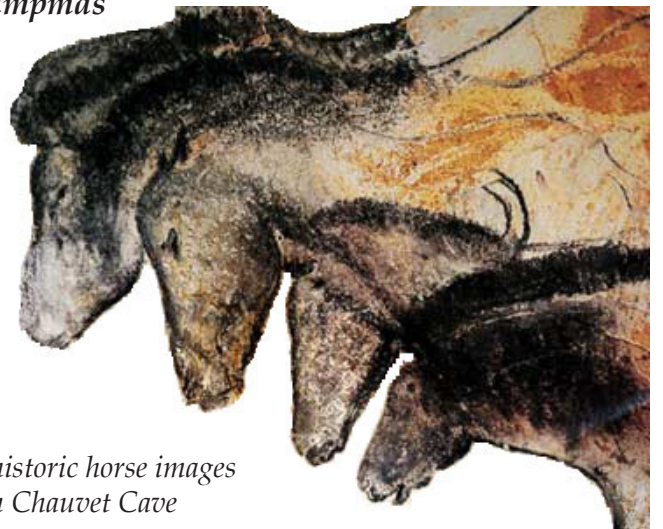
We are making good progress in putting together an adult exchange with Albi involving tennis players. I should be able to share more details by the next edition of *El Chisme*. Stay posted!

### South of France, 30000 years ago...

Some of you may have already heard of *Grotte Chauvet* (Chauvet Cave) where magnificent paintings of fierce animals roaming the South of France have been discovered in a perfect state of preservation. Below left you can see one of the nearly 400 astonishing paintings found in the cave. The site recently became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and (sigh!) will never be opened to the public in order to preserve the paintings. Instead, a quasi-perfect reproduction of the cave and its paintings, thanks to elaborate laser scanning and imaging techniques, will open in the fall. If you can't wait or can't go, you may wish to visit the French Government Web site at

<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/> where you can enjoy a virtual visit of the cave and its treasures in English. When visiting a similar site at Lascaux, I was told that none of these paintings and drawings ever show any hint of rework: what a lesson for us, modern humans used to trial-and-error with our forgiving computer tools! Enjoy!

### À bientôt, Michel Campmas



*Prehistoric horse images  
from Chauvet Cave*



## LINKÖPING

There has been no information exchange with Linköping these last months, but Marilyn Hunwick has kindly assembled a report on two important June holidays for Swedes, and how they were celebrated in the Bay Area.

**Bruce Wilner**



**Sweden's National Day, June 6, 2014** was memorable for SF Bay Area Swedes by a visit from a 5-day "Sweden on the Road" bus tour. Arranged by the Swedish Embassy, among the dignitaries the entourage included the Ambassador Björn Lyrvall and Consul General Barbro Osher. In San Francisco they met and were welcomed by local officials at City Hall and spent time at the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

On the morning of Sweden Day the bus was seen in Palo Alto parked on Ramona Street near University Avenue, where a Swedish flag unfurled over #470 announced a breakfast stop at Nordic Innovation House. On this visit to Silicon Valley to learn from innovative companies, during the day the bus tour also included Google, Ericsson's Silicon Valley Research Center, and Tesla, before returning to San Francisco. (Details from *Nordstjernen* June 30 issue.)



**Sweden's most popular holiday is Midsummer**, centered on the summer solstice. Serious discussions have been held to make Midsummer Eve into the Swedish National Day, instead of June 6. In Sweden, the celebration is held on a Friday and Saturday between June 19 and June 26. In 2014, the dates are June 21 for Midsummer Eve, *Midsommarafton*, and June 22 for Midsummer Day, *Midsommar dag*.

Midsummer festivities include raising a maypole for which greens and flowers have been collected and fill the entire pole, with Swedes of all ages dancing around the pole to traditional music, including children's songs. Many wear traditional folk costumes with crowns of wildflowers. The traditional menu includes new potatoes, herrings, sour cream and the first strawberries of the season.

One of the largest Midsummer celebrations in the Bay Area is held when hundreds of people arrive at Sveadal, a property located near Morgan Hill, sponsored by the Swedish American Patriotic League. First held in Golden Gate Park on May 14, 1894, and every year thereafter, 2014 honors 120 years! The program on Saturday, June 21, includes maypole decorating, raising, and dancing, as well as food choices from cafés to picnics, and shopping at vendors' booths. An afternoon program features the crowning of the Midsummer Queen, Svea, and Columbia & their Court, with a pageant of lively music. Dinner and dancing under the stars conclude the Midsummer Eve Celebration.



## PALO

**Mabuhay!**

We eagerly await news of our counterparts in



Palo. Committee member Bea Duran received a text message from former 1st GIANTS Pabbles Dolina on June 11 as follows: "The librarians are getting usual allowances, same with our current scholars. Funds intact of over one million pesos...will check with 1st GiANTS Frank Villaganas and will try to find operating internet café to send report." We understand the many difficulties faced by our friends and can only hope for the best as they attempt to rebuild their lives. We are looking forward to additional reports from the areas devastated by the typhoon from Maya Escudero who has been helping with numerous fundraisers for the area.

Bea Duran also reported that she was thrilled to finally contact her cousin in Palo, Imelda Sultan-Picorro, all these months after Typhoon Haiyan.

### News

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel recently issued warnings about the dangers to international peace associated with China's recent intimidation of the Philippines as well as of other areas of strategic interest to the United States.

### A Fun Event

If you were present at the late May picnic at Rinconada Park, you had a chance to visit with Santa Cruz Sister City folks, bicyclists from around the world and other interested and interesting people. It was an outstanding event [and delicious!] as so many of Neighbors Abroad events are. If you missed this one, be sure to attend Neighbors Abroad's celebration of Bastille Day sponsored by the Albi Committee on July 14.

### Sister Cities International Article

You can read about the fundraising effort to help Palo on the SCI website at the following link: <http://www.sister-cities.org/news/remembering-typhoon-haiyan-palo-alto-california-palo-leyte-philippines>

**Mabuhay!**

*Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres*



## OAXACA

Wow, what a wonderful trip! Celebrating 50 years of Sister-city-hood was certainly fun! Even small glitches like our original flight being unable to land in Oaxaca the first night because of a terrific rainstorm was okay, so we stayed at the airport Marriott Hotel right next to the Houston airport and arrived in Oaxaca the next morning!

Our travel group was wonderful—very accommodating to all unavoidable changes—a really cheerful cooperative group! I'd go with them anywhere!!!

So, how did we spend our time once we got there? After we got settled in our rooms at the Hotel Suites del Centro, in Oaxaca, we immediately started out to sightsee, first to the marvelous rug weavers at Teotitlán del Valle, where we also learned about how the weavers card, comb, and spin the wool to make yarn and how they make natural dyes, mainly from plants, in scores of incredible colors. We saw both large and small woven rugs and mats and it was hard to avoid wanting to buy them all!



That afternoon the Oaxaca Sister City Committee invited all of us to a wonderful welcome party at El Tremolin, a raised, covered, outdoor facility, with delicious food, much exchanging of gifts, music, dancing, and renewing of friendships with each other. It was absolutely lovely.

The next day we took a walking tour of the city of Oaxaca, visiting Soledad Church, the Rufino Tamayo Museum, the Oaxaca Textile Museum and the traditional Benito Juárez central market. In the late afternoon we visited the Albergue Infantil Josefino, (the orphanage we help support), bringing with us the suitcases of clothing we brought with us for them, plus gifts of a backpack, for each child from the Palo



Alto Kiwanis Club and little flashlights for each child from Neighbors Abroad. The children presented a program of traditional

folk dances for us which we thoroughly enjoyed and this was followed by a sumptuous supper for all of us.

That night the PA City Council members arrived and stayed with the group until they had to leave on Sunday to get back to Palo Alto for a council meeting on Monday.

On Wednesday the group walked to the ornate Santo Domingo Church. (an aside: back in 1974 the Cubberley High School Chorale was the first non-religious group ever allowed to give a concert there. It was beautiful—the acoustics in that building really lend themselves to choral music!)

Then we toured the amazing Ethno-botanic gardens next door, had lunch at La Biznaga restaurant and visited the Museum of Oaxacan Cultures.

The next day the group visited Xoxo, where they specialize in making the *hoja lata* (tin work) ornaments, followed by a visit to market day in Zaachila, and Cuilapan, a XVI Century Dominican Convent.

On Friday we visited a Niño-a-niño group (the Child-to-child Health Program) in rural Yaxe. The children presented a program for us about their activities, including a puppet show (puppets made by the children) about why one should brush their teeth, and showed us their project on family gardens. They prepared and served a nutritious lunch for us of a homemade soup and quesadillas. That evening was a BIG welcome by the



Oaxaca Presidente Municipal (Mayor) and City Council. At the ceremony, our Mayor, Nancy Shepherd and theirs, signed a "Reaffirmation Document," stating how we shall continue to work together on cultural and educational activities of



all sorts for many years to come. This was followed by a HUGE dinner, and that was followed by a presentation of many of the traditional Guelaguetza dances. All in all a big beautiful affair.

On Saturday the group visited the awesome ancient Zapotec city of Monte Alban. These are among the most impressive ruins of the area, with at least five different civilizations built one on top of the other. And a LOT of the area is not even uncovered yet.



all sorts for many years to come.

This was followed by a HUGE dinner, and that was followed by a presentation of many of the

traditional Guelaguetza dances. All in all a big beautiful affair.

Lunch that day was hosted by the Oaxaca State Fire Marshal, Manuel Maza and the Oaxaca fire fighters.

Later that after-

noon there was a rededication ceremony at Benito Juárez Llano Park of a Redwood tree planted by Palo Alto visitors fifty years ago.

The evening ended with an excellent presentation by the Orquesta Primavera at the Casa de la Cultura, followed by a large and delicious supper.

On Sunday we all were the honored guests at a

concert of the State Band of Oaxaca presented outside at the Zócalo. Between every number, the announcer told more about the 50 year relationship of our two cities. It went out live on television.

After that concert all of our group were invited by two and threes to dine with members of the Sister City committee of Oaxaca either in their homes or at a restaurant. What a lovely day!

Monday we visited San Bartolo Coyotepec to learn about the famous black pottery of the area and then went on to see the back-strap weavers at San Tomás Jalietza, followed by the wood carvers at San Martín Tilcajete.

Tuesday some members of the group went to a cooking class and some went to visit the Cri-Cri Library and Day Care Center and the RETO Group which concentrates on prevention and dissemination of information about breast cancer especially to indigenous women in rural areas. If you know anyone with access to breast prostheses (used or new) they would love to have contact with them.

On Wednesday some of the group members joined a bicycle tour of an area in the outskirts of the city, which they enjoyed very much.

That evening we held a Farewell Party to thank our hosts for all they had done for us. And Thursday morning early we left for home!

As said before WOW! What A Trip!

**Hasta luego,  
Marion Mandell**



*Palo Alto exchange students and their Oaxacan sisters joined in the celebration at the Redwood tree ceremony*



*Group picture at Monte Alban*



## TSUCHIURA

Dear Friends,

Eighteen students and six chaperones visited Japan/Tsuchiura between June 3 and June 15. We had a couple of rainy

days at the beginning of our trip, but we were very lucky to have relatively cool days for the rest of our stay. Following are two students and one chaperon's reflections about our trip.

The Tsuchiura Committee is planning a **Japan/Tsuchiura Festival on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Lucie Stern Community Center, between 10:00-4:00.** Please save the date and support us. Let me know if you can help at [tymm4@gmail.com](mailto:tymm4@gmail.com)

**Arigato,  
Keiko**

Dear Nagisa,

I cannot describe how thankful I am to have met a friend like you and stayed with your generous family. It was so fun to learn from you, your family, your friends, and your classmates. I can remember when you were so scared to walk down the tall stairs in the temple at Nikko, but I walked beside you, so that you might have found peace of mind if some one was there to catch you if you fell. There are so many places in Japan that I wish I could live in,

and I would visit you every day I had time just to say thank you. I only attended school for two days and I missed it the day I did not go. All the classmates that I met, the kind teachers that I spoke to, and the interesting experiences that I remember will be kept in my heart, so that I will never forget. I am wishing that someday, I will be able to visit Japan one more time to see the classmates and friends that I met in school with you. The amazing few days that we were together were like nothing I have ever experienced and I'm sure that there will be a day that we will meet again!

Isabella Wei



Stephanie  
in uniform  
at school  
day



Jenna reading her speech at the welcoming party.



Harrison at  
soba noodle  
making



*Zen meditation at Kojoan Temple*



*Students in yukata in Kyoto*



*Vivian in uniform with Diana, our chaperone*

Dear Inada Family,

I had an amazing time in Japan once again. Thank you so much for inviting me into your home this summer. I had another incredible experience and enjoyed every minute of my stay in Tsuchiura, and the rest of Japan that we visited. Upon my arrival, I was welcomed like a family member and received wonderful hospitality from the whole family. I truly enjoyed staying at your home, going to Yusuke's school, visiting Akihabara, and our day at DisneyLand Sea, among other awesome experiences. I can't pick a single favorite part of the trip because everything was just so incredible, thanks to you all. I enjoyed this trip so much and hope that Yusuke and the entire family can come to stay in Palo Alto soon,

Thank you,  
Chris Buenrostro.



*Isabella at Sadako's thousand cranes in Hiroshima*



*Daniel enjoying tea*



## ENSCHEDÉ

Carlijn Soer returned to Oldenzaal the Netherlands on May 29, 2014. Her visit was filled with day trips (for example; I took her to Monterey and San Juan Bautista) and a friend drove

her to Santa Cruz beach. She shopped at the Gilroy Outlets and the Stanford Mall, and in general had a full round of places to visit and people with whom to spend time.

Carlijn and I attend the *Koning Dag* (Kings Day) Celebration at Murphy's Windmill in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The field surrounding the windmill was a sea of orange. Herring and other Dutch food goodies were available to buy and boy, was it *lekker* (delicious.) I met Monique Le Conge (Palo Alto's Library Director) at the celebration. I will plan to see Carlijn when I go to Enschede.



Carlijn Soer at San Juan Baptista

Mark Smeets and three other bay area high school students presented their design in a national competition organized by the Construction Industry Roundtable and the Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program of America. The students' vision of the library of the future is one of three national finalists from 44 entries, and Mark and his cohorts took First Place. Mark will be a senior at PAHS and is the son of our Palo Alto/Dutch friends Madeleine and Guido Smeets. Read more at <http://paloalto.patch.com/groups/schools/p/local-teens-vision-of-library-of-future-sends-them-to-national-design-competition-in-dc> 05/06/14

Wolter Siemons, University of Twente graduate who has spent several periods in the U.S. doing internships, graduate and post-doc work at Stanford and Berkeley, has returned to the Netherlands and is employed by ASML, a Dutch company that is currently the largest supplier in the world of photolithography systems for the semiconductor industry. The company manufactures machines for the

production of integrated circuits (ICs), such as CPUs, DRAM memory, flash memory. Wolter is an application engineer. The company is located in the south of Holland, Veldhoven, which is where Wolter lives. Wolter is an application engineer. The company is located in the south of Holland, Veldhoven, which is where Wolter lives. I will see him this summer also.

### A Wolf in Twente:

A wolf was spotted in the Twente countryside by three separate eyewitnesses during the first week of June in the vicinity of Ootmarsum, not too far from Enschede. It was possible the "wolf almost certainly spent 30 to 48 hours in Northeast Twente," according to wolf expert Roel Korbee. A wolf was last seen in the Netherlands in 1897. The wolf probably came from and returned to Germany after his brief visit to Twente. The wolf is a protected species protected in all European countries. (Dutch News.nl & © *Twentsche Courant Tubantia*. June 18, 2014)

### Gates Foundation Grant:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded 7.5 million dollars to the University of Twente to do satellite research of small farmers' agricultural practices in Africa and Asia. A team from the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) from UT will partner with research centers throughout the world to study the farmers' harvesting practices. The goal is for the farmers to ultimately establish a stable and sustainable annual harvest. (*Twentsche Courant Tubantia*. June 06, 2014)

I will be in Holland from July 31 to September 30 and as usual plan to make several visits to Enschede.

Tot ziens,  
Joni Reid



Joni Reid and Carlijn Soer at the Kings Day celebration.



## Zachi Baharav shares his Tsuchiura Marathon Experience

Running seems to transcend all boundaries: geographical, cultural, and even age and gender. On Sunday, April 20, 2014, I had the privilege of experiencing this while running the Kasumigaura Marathon. With close to 20,000 runners from all over Japan, we covered 26.2 miles along some nice countryside roads, the lake, and many enthusiastic supporters. It was very different from other marathons I have run, but the spirit and the feeling of comradery between runners (and spectators) makes it all worthwhile!

My chance to run this marathon came when the Palo Alto sister city of Tsuchiura extended an invitation to the city of Palo Alto to host a runner for the annual marathon. The invitation included arriving a few days earlier to get acclimated to the time zone and place, and then running the marathon. When I heard about this opportunity, through the Palo Alto Running Club, I immediately applied. It was amazing to experience the support and encouragement from everyone involved in this, from Palo Alto city staff, to Neighbors Abroad members, and of course my hosts at Tsuchiura. Even the training and preparation turned into a unique experience due to the outpouring of support. The picture below is of a group run we had as training, here in Palo Alto, with a few participants from the Japan Bay-Area Runners.



Arriving in Japan on Thursday, I was greeted by the city staff, and met with Jens Ziganke, a runner from Friedrichshafen, Germany, who was also invited by the city to run the marathon. For three days the dedicated city staff and Neighbors Abroad volunteers showed us around the city. Our schedule left no time to waste, but we enjoyed every moment of it! From soba noodle making (now I can appreciate how difficult they are to make), to museums, to a World Heritage Site (Nikko), I learned a great deal while there.

The most memorable part of the visit for me was our tour to the local elementary school, and then to the high school. It was so much fun interacting with the students! We played games with a large group of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and visited different classes. In music class, the teacher asked the kids if they had

any questions for us. One kid asked about our favorite food, another about our favorite color, and then one kid waved his music booklet in the air. It wasn't clear why, but when we investigated, we found a few international songs at the back of the booklet, and the boy wondered if we knew any of them. I looked at it, and there it was: "Edelweiss" from *The Sound of Music*! It so happened that I knew the song well (I love the movie!), and it is very popular in Japan. Jens and I started singing, while the teacher accompanied us. Talk about cross-cultural: We had an American (born in Israel), a German, and several Japanese adults and kids, singing a song from a movie set in Austria. See the picture below.

The visit that afternoon to the high school was another unforgettable experience. We visited different classes, and got to play the Koto (a Japanese instrument), try our hand



in Kanji writing, listen to the choir, and take part in a tea ceremony. Everywhere we went, people welcomed us with open arms and smiling faces.

After all of this activity, I almost forgot the reason that I came: to run a marathon. It was VERY different from any marathon I had done in the United States. It was so well organized, and yet so efficient and simple. The weather was perfect and the crowd ready to see some action! Jens was one of the runners leading the pack, and he got awarded a medal. I finished with a smile on my face and in good spirits.

We departed the next day, with tired legs and happy hearts, and an experience and friends we will cherish forever.

Many thanks to the team from Tsuchiura who made it all happen: The people who chaperoned us the whole time, Manami Wada, Etsuo Sato, and Atsuko Fujimura; City staff, Ryoichi Mochizuki and Takehiko Kikuta; Association team, Yuko Fujita, Yoshihiro Iida, and Tomotsugu Sano. I hope we have the chance to continue and expand this tradition, and host a Japanese runner here in the Bay Area!

*Until next time,  
Zachi Baharav, Ph.D. (and many thanks to Carmel Baharav for edits)*

# 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

### July 2014

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

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley  
Comm. Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Rm. A6, Palo  
Alto

Sunday, 13th, 4:30 p.m.

Bastille Day Picnic, East Meadow Group Area,  
Mitchell Park. 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto.  
See cover for details.

### August 2014

No Board Meeting this month

**Save the Date!**

**Japan/Tsuchiura Festival on  
Sunday, September 28**

**Lucie Stern  
Community Center  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Lots of help needed!  
Email Keiko at [tymm4@gmail.com](mailto:tymm4@gmail.com)  
if you can lend a hand**

**Next El Chisme Deadline—August 15, 2014**

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