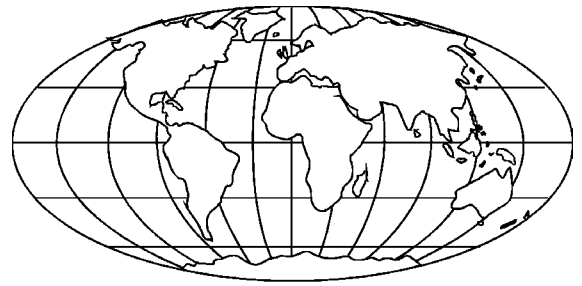


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 52, Number 6

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

November-December 2014



Neighbors Abroad Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 7, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Hardesty-Parker Home, 69 Santiago Avenue, Atherton

- *Wonderful musical entertainment*
- *Food representing each of our 6 sister cities*

\$25 donation per person

All proceeds go to NA 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

An appreciation of Keiko Nakajima

At the very successful Japan Festival on September 28, Mayor Nancy Shepherd presented Keiko with a proclamation lauding her work in maintaining an on-going student exchange with our sister city of Tsuchiura, Japan, and her efforts to strengthen the sister-city relationship. Keiko has chaperoned each of the student exchange trips and she was responsible for arranging all



the activities when the Japanese students visited Palo Alto in turn.

Keiko has now retired from the board of directors of Neighbors Abroad turning over her job as Vice President for Tsuchiura to Jennifer Buenrostro. As a board member, Keiko was always very willing to help with other Neighbors Abroad events, lending support to the committees for all the other sister-cities. We will miss her presence on the board.

Keiko has also retired from her teaching job in the Palo Alto School District. On behalf of the board of Neighbors Abroad we want to thank her for her service and wish her all luck and happiness in her retirement.

Barbara and Joe Evans

See more Japan Festival photos on page 7



Food and activity tables lined the Lucie Stern Courtyard



Official ceremony at Japan Festival commemorating Fifth Anniversary of Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Sister-City agreement.



Keiko Nakajima, standing in front row at right, with delegation from Tsuchiura and local students and committee members.



TSUCHIURA

A warm welcome to new Neighbors Abroad Vice President for Tsuchiura Jennifer Buenrostro, who will be reporting on news from Tsuchiura in this column beginning with the next issue.

Jennifer has lived in the Bay Area since 1991. After a career as a ballet dancer, she returned to school at Stanford and earned a degree in economics. She worked in the financial services industry before she became a real estate agent in 2006. Her two boys attend Palo Alto schools and she has been an active PAUSD and PTA volunteer.

What got you interested in Neighbors Abroad and the Sister-City program with Tsuchiura? Have you been to Tsuchiura or Japan?

"In the summer of 2013, I had the pleasure of visiting Tsuchiura, Japan as a chaperone for the 16 middle school students that were involved with the exchange program that year. My son was in 8th grade at the time and we had hosted one of the 16 Japanese students that visited earlier that year. Even though communication was difficult, Yusuke and my son Christopher became good friends during the week that we spent together (Google translate was a life saver!) As a result of our wonderful experience with Yusuke, Christopher and I were excited to visit him

and meet his parents.

"We had an amazing time during our 10 day stay in Japan. Altogether the trip was an incredible experience for me and for all the students. It is the reason that I have become passionate about continuing this valuable program so that many more students from the U.S. can experience this rich cultural exchange. I came away with a love of the Japanese culture, food and heritage. We became so close with my son's Japanese host family that both my son and I went on the trip again this past summer. My son's host family is planning to visit here in March 2015 to stay with us."

Do you plan to continue the middle school exchange and other programs and exchanges with Tsuchiura?

"My goals for the future are to continue this valuable program that creates an opportunity for students in both Japan and the U.S. to experience each other's culture in a way that is not possible while traveling as a tourist. The home stay program is something I am passionate about and it is the centerpiece of this exchange program.

"Unfortunately, I don't speak Japanese, so every trip in the future must be led/accompanied by someone fluent in the language. We have been very lucky so far this year that the new middle school teacher, Sensei Saki Matayoshi, has a lot of energy and commitment to her students. She is very interested to see this exchange program continue, so I am hopeful that with her help, and the help of other passionate parents, that we can see this program continue for many years to come."

Isabella Wei, past Palo Alto-Tsuchiura student exchange participant and now a Freshman at Palo Alto High School, shares her memories of volunteering at the Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Festival in September.

I've never realized how much work goes into preparing a festival, and now, I've learned. I had volunteered to design the t-shirts for the festival, which I thought would be a cinch. However, there was much I hadn't learned. There was so much I didn't understand and I was nervous and confused without guidance. When I finally finished the t-shirts, I let out a sigh of relief. There was a fun potluck arranged where there was lots of delicious food to eat. It was a chance for the Tsuchiura representatives to enjoy our hospitality. There was Japanese dance during the potluck, which I found very beautiful. But there was still work left to do.

I woke up early for the festival and helped a bit with setting up the tables. Then, I set up the face painting stand and worked throughout the afternoon, working with children and looking around the festival after I had finished my shift. I enjoyed watching the Mochitsuki and got the opportunity to pound the mochi with the large, stick-like hammers, which was especially rewarding

when I got to eat some of the mochi afterwards. There was Zen meditation and the tea ceremony performed by the Chief Priest of the Kojoan temple. I spent a lot of time watching the various events that were presented in the courtyard and ate some chicken donburi for lunch. Sushi House donated several hundred meals for this festival and there were a few food trucks at the front of the Lucie Stern Community Center. What I found especially interesting was the Sister-City ceremony. Listening to the speeches made me realize how all this work was quite rewarding. Watching the representatives of both Palo Alto and Tsuchiura break the barrel of sake was fulfilling in a way, and I cheered when they broke the top off cleanly. We volunteers and visitors to the festival got to eat delicious food, enjoy fun events, understand our sister-city, and learn more about Japanese culture. This festival did more than bridge a connection between Tsuchiura and Palo Alto. It brought people together in a grand way. I give thanks to Neighbors Abroad for giving me an opportunity to experience something new. Also, to the City of Palo Alto and the City of Tsuchiura. As well as Nakajima Sensei and all the volunteers that helped make this happen. Thank you.



ALBI

150th Anniversary Toulouse Lautrec Exhibition

One hundred and fifty years ago on November 24, well known Post-Impressionist Painter Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa, or more simply, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was born at the Hotel du Bosc in Albi. To celebrate this event, the Toulouse Lautrec Museum in Albi has put together a special exhibit which highlights the role of Maurice Joyant, a lifelong faithful friend and accomplice of the painter who, as a fervent collector and publisher of art and engravings, helped him distribute and sell his works. At the death of Toulouse Lautrec, his family asked Maurice Joyant to take care of all his work and his studio. After trying unsuccessfully (!) to donate the paintings to the Luxembourg Museum in Paris, he helped create, with the support of the City of Albi, the permanent exhibit in the Palais de la Barbie that everyone can enjoy in Albi today.

Latest News on a Tennis Players Adult Exchange...

We are making good progress on both sides of the Atlantic. Here, we now have eleven persons who are strongly interested in going to Albi and reciprocating in hosting Albi tennis players. This is a good size for such a group. In Albi, my contact Jean-Pierre Remazeilhes had a meeting with the board of the Albi Tennis Club Association who expressed a strong interest in the idea. Their preference would be in the June-July timeframe and I am waiting for more details to share with the Palo Alto Tennis Club interested members. I will keep you posted.

À bientôt,
Michel Campmas



*Post-Impressionist
Toulouse Lautrec
(1864-1901)*

LINKÖPING



Still no communication between me and our nominal contacts at Linköping. I must get active and write a note about drought, before it rains.

Marilyn Hunwick has been more active. Recognizing that there should be two exchange students from Linköping at Stanford, she has managed to find their names and e-mail addresses. Now we need to get their attention and lure them out for a meal. She describes the exchange program below.

Bruce Wilner

Stanford University Exchange with Linköping University

Since 1981 an exchange program in Electrical Engineering has been held annually between the Stanford and Linköping Universities. This exchange is designed for undergraduate engineering students in their senior level courses at Linköping.

Although they are undergraduates, the Swedish students carry a full academic load, mostly in EE graduate courses and often become fully integrated within the department and Stanford during their year abroad.

Two Linköping students have come to Stanford each year for this program while only a few Stanford students have studied at Linköping. A similar exchange is held with the KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology, also in Sweden.

In the past, the students have from time to time been hosted by members of Neighbors Abroad. Bruce and Elinor Wilner have had close associations with the exchange students over the years. One of the students the Hunwicks hosted in 1999 returned in 2014 on a visit to see sights he had missed during his studies, took them out to dinner, and remains a Friend on Facebook.

The current exchange is now in its 33rd year. The two new students arrived in September and have started classes.





OAXACA

Here's some exciting news about Palo Alto musician and composer Andrew Currier who just had an amazing experience in Oaxaca!

About a month ago I received a call from Andrew telling me that he had been asked to compose the background music for a silent film, titled "Days of Grey", filmed in Iceland, which was to be shown at a film festival in Oaxaca in early October. Since he did not know anyone in Oaxaca he wanted some contacts, not only of ordinary people, but of other musicians who could play some of the parts of the musical composition with him, since they were to play this new composition live during the showing of the film.

I put him in contact with Soledad Osogobio, President of the Sister City Committee in Oaxaca, and she made it possible for him to meet Javier Hernández García, Director of the Orquesta Primavera (a performance of which we attended in Oaxaca in June). They emailed back and forth and got it all together when Andrew arrived in Oaxaca.

Members of the Sister City Committee met him at the airport and helped him get around. He even took a suitcase of clothing to the Orphanage. And here's the final good news!! The film was awarded first place at the festival. A GREAT time was had by all. Andrew says: "It was truly a life changing experience!!"

Well, it seems like the Summer 2014 Student Exchange to Oaxaca has barely ended and the plans for next summer, 2015, are already in the works! Please spread the word to families with teens who will be at least 15 years old or older by next summer and are studying Spanish at any level. A Family Information Meeting will be held on Monday evening, November 24, at 7:30 P.M. in Room A3 at Cubberley Community Center. Applications will be available and all questions will be answered. This exchange is an outstanding opportunity for your children, grandchildren, neighbors' children, in fact anyone you know, since it includes total immersion in family life for students from both countries. First, our local students spend approximately a month with a family in Oaxaca, then our students return with their Oaxacan sister or brother to spend approximately the same length of time in the homes of our students here. Both in Mexico and here the students become true members of their families while visiting!

Watch your mail for the for the once-a-year fund drive for the Children's Projects which we all help support both in Oaxaca and Palo. Remember, we only ask for your contributions ONCE A YEAR. A recent communication from the Albergue Infantil Josefino (the Orphanage) tells us that they are hoping to complete the renovations to the



PALO

Mabuhay!

Word from Palo

We are pleased to hear from Sheilane



Cabag, one of our two beloved librarians in the Children's Library. She reports that she and Rebecca Magiinte have been working hard to restore as many books as possible. The effects of the horrific typhoon of last December have left behind mildew and other ravages of water.

So you can imagine the great need for a shipment of books. We are planning to collect as many as possible to fill those large balakbayan boxes [2 by 2 by 2 feet] We plan to "raid" this month's sale by FOPAL this weekend. You can also help by checking your collection of used children's books and I [Ruth Carleton] will pick them up. Call me at 650-324-3635.

How we have helped in Palo

During these past months, Neighbors Abroad has continued to reimburse our librarians and also to continue to give our scholars their stipends. Thanks to the many of you who helped after the disaster, repairs have begun to be made. We hope to have another fundraiser in the spring and you can also help by contributing to the up-coming appeal of the Children's Fund for Neighbors Abroad.

Our annual holiday will again be held at the Hardesty-Parker home on Dec. 7. Check the cover for details!

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres

laundry area and to add desperately-needed storage areas for supplies to the building soon. Presently, storage spaces (cabinets, closets, etc.) do not exist in the old building and are greatly needed. They sent us a budget estimate for the above construction and they are VERY frugal! They are hoping to get everything done for only about \$7,000. Funds go a lot further there, but it's still a lot if you don't have it! Of course, we also help with our contributions toward care of the children—food, clothing, health care, etc.

That reminds me, if you know anyone going to Oaxaca soon—maybe over the holiday season—please ask them to contact me. We have MANY ready-packed suitcases of terrific clothing for the children which we would like to get to them.

The children are doing well in school this year and three more have entered college!

!Hasta luego!

Marion



ENSCHEDA

Hoi Vrienden,

I have returned from my trip to Holland and as usual it was a glorious trip.

In addition to seeing much of the Netherlands I visited Enschede a couple of times.

On September 19th, I went to Enschede to visit with Barbara Schrok and Berend Lomulder. I stayed at their home the very first time I went to Enschede. Barbara has retired from her Chiropractor practice as she has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She is quite independent and is as delightful as ever.

Hilda Ferwerda picked me up at Barbara's home and drove me to the Rijks Museum Twente. The city of Enschede can rightfully boast about this sophisticated art museum. I wrote about visiting the museum last year, and this year's exhibitions—the works of Jan van Eyck and Rogier van de Weyden: "Ontdekking van de Wereld" (Discovering the World) and works by Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens: "de Vlaamse Barok" (The Flemish Baroque) were outstanding. Hilda acted as my personal docent sharing her knowledge about the exhibitions.

Hilda is finishing her masters degree and indicated she will have more time to devote to the Enschede side of Neighbors Abroad when she has completed her masters.

After the magnificent museum tour I met with Dayenne



Smolders and Quirin Prenger (the Mayor of Enschede's Public Affairs Officer). Dayenne told me that a "small delegation" from

Enschede would be in Palo Alto in a "few weeks." The city of Palo Alto had not informed Neighbors Abroad of this visit, thus I do not have the dates. I hope Tommy Fehrenbach will let us know.

Dayenne mentioned a student from the University of Twente was currently doing his masters internship in Palo Alto "on mobility issues." I was aware of this student's Palo Alto internship because Dayenne had notified me and Carlijn Soer had contacted him while she was here this past spring, but I did not know in which department he was working. His name is Mathijs Waagemakers.

On September 19th Dave Blank organized a great dinner and fun time in a restaurant in Enschede, with Enschede friends. Two of the guests were student interns from Twente University. The people seated around the table (below) are: Gertjan Koster, Mirije van Dijk, me, Jeroen Huijben (he was a student intern in 2002), Nadja Bollaar (girlfriend of Rick Groen), Rick Groen and Professor Dave Blank. It was a wonderful surprise for me and the best way to spend an absolutely delightful evening. We may have the pleasure of seeing Dave again toward the end of the year if he makes it to san Francisco. Let's hope he does.



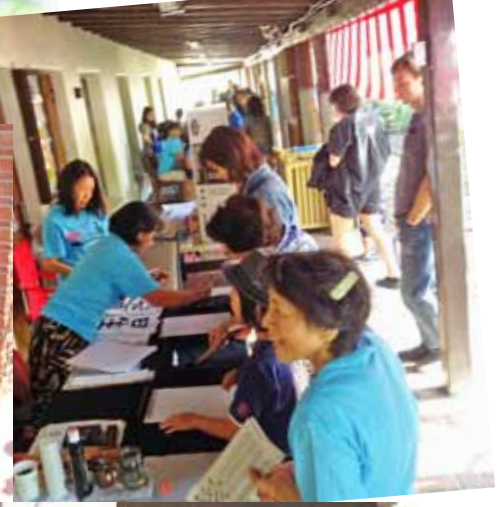
I met with Mathijs Waagemakers when I returned from Holland. He came to my house for dinner and I took him to Foothill Park. He began working in Palo Alto on September 11th as an intern in the Palo Alto Department of Transportation and Planning. His project is to evaluate the free shuttle service the city provides. He is currently conducting a survey of riders by riding on the shuttle and interviewing people: does the shuttle service meet the needs of the Palo Altans who ride the shuttles? He is also working with Jaime Rodriguez (Palo Alto's director of transportation) regarding an electric bicycle policy. Mathijs is living in East Palo Alto with other young men from various countries and is having a rather nice time in our part of the country. He is completing his masters from the University of Twente with a degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on transportation and traffic issues.



**Tot ziens,
Joni Reid**

Japan Festival 2014

*photos courtesy of
Saki Matayoshi*



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 2014

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

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

Monday, 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Oaxaca Student Exchange Information Meeting; Cubberley Comm. Center Room A3, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. See page 5 for details.

December 2014

Sunday, 7th, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Party to benefit Children's Projects. 65 Santiago Ave., Atherton. \$25.00 donation. See cover for details.

Neighbors Abroad members and friends are invited to attend a free public lecture sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council on Wednesday, November 5th entitled "Water: California and a Global Outlook" with Peter Gleick, President and Co-Founder, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security. 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—December 10, 2014

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