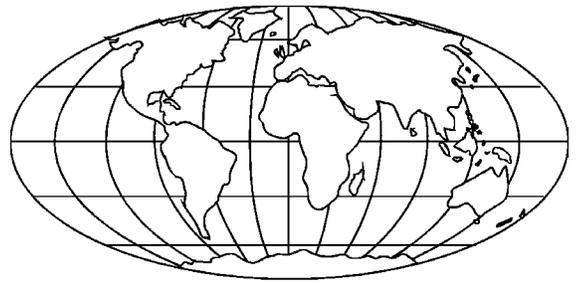


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 50, Number 4

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

July-August 2012

Bastille Day Potluck Picnic
Friday, July 13 • 4:30 to Dark
Mitchell Park, Palo Alto (East Meadow area)



Note new location and July 13 date!
See Albi article for directions or
Call Michel Campmas (650) 856-2214)
for questions or information.

Presidents' Message

Neighbors Abroad is beginning its 50th anniversary year. According to John Bracken's book *Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto: A History*, in July 1962, Mayor David Haight of Palo Alto received from Miguel V. Roca, Municipal Mayor of Palo, Leyte,



an invitation "to make our two cities twins". On July 23, 1962, the City Council of Palo Alto voted unanimously to enter into a town affiliation with Palo, Leyte. In this anniversary year, with the suggestions and help

of each sister city committee, we hope to showcase each of Neighbors Abroad's cities, perhaps reprising some of the most successful of past programs.

Leading off this anniversary year, the Albi committee is hosting its annual Bastille Day celebration, this year to be held on July 13 to enable us to have the best possible site—the group picnic site closest to East Meadow Drive at Mitchell Park. Be sure to let any Francophile neighbors know about this great event.

And, a special request to each and every one of you. Please think about which of your friends or neighbors might enjoy coming to a Neighbors Abroad event such as the French potluck and singing on July 13, or the Japan Festival on September 23. There's also a chance that we may sponsor bluegrass music in the park later this summer. Look for updates on the website: NeighborsAbroad.org.

We were happy to see so many members and friends at the May 18 International Café. Heidi Berndt did her usual great job of organizing the event and was aided by Martin and by a number of other NA members. Danielle Campmas provided French food selections of pate and cheese, Bruce and Elinor Wilner served Swedish specialties of herring and meatballs. Mary Ashley and Ann Pianetta were the Dutch food vendors, providing cheese and deviled eggs and Keiko, our vice president for Tsuchiura, brought a beautiful selection of sushi. Ruth Carleton presided over the Philippine section serving egg rolls and pineapple while Joe and Barbara Evans represented Oaxaca in place of Marion Mandell and served guacamole and taquitos. Roger Ashley was the chief sommelier, inviting guests to enjoy one of several types of wine that had been donated.

Many of those attending commented on how much they enjoyed the talk by Donia Bijan, Iranian born author of *Maman's Homesick Pie*. Donia spoke of life in exile after the Islamic Revolution and how her mother adapted to life in the U.S. afterwards. This was a joint event with the Palo Alto Adult School and the PAAS World Languages department. Thanks to all of you who made it a success.

Barbara and Joe Evans

Scholarship Winners

Each year Neighbors Abroad awards a scholarship to a deserving student from each of our high schools.

Margaret Wenzlau is the recipient of the annual Neighbors Abroad Palo Alto High School scholarship. Margaret will not be able to attend the Palo Alto High School Awards event, so I met Margaret at the career center at Palo Alto High School on June 1st to give her the check at her own personal ceremony.

Margaret Wenzlau and her family have been intimately involved with Neighbors Abroad for many years. It is our pleasure to award Margaret with the

annual Neighbors Abroad Scholarship. Margaret has traveled to our sister city of Oaxaca with her family and she was a summer exchange student. Margaret will attend Stanford next year; her goal is to become a physician specializing in international public health.

Sierra Fan is the winner from Gunn High School. Sierra has participated in the Amigo de las Americas program in 2011 where she lived with a family in



Sierra Fan, Gunn High School Scholarship winner, with Joni Reid

Sierra plans to study international relations at Harvard with a focus in economics and sustainable development.

Joni Reid



Joni Reid giving Margaret Wenzlau her Neighbors Abroad Scholarship check

Nicaragua. Two years ago Sierra attended the Global Youth Leadership Conference and she is also involved in the One Million Lights Organization which provides solar lights to communities in developing countries. At Gunn High School Sierra has been active in the Model United Nations delegation.

Sierra plans to study international relations at Harvard with a focus in economics and sustainable development.



OAXACA

On this page and the following are some of the photos sent by Paty Molina, Director of the Programa Niño-a-Niño, (Child-to-Child Health Program) of some of the activities which took place in the program during the past year. Their over-all object is to promote preventive health to children and families in the outlying areas of the state of Oaxaca by forming groups of girls and boys who learn about health, nutrition, self esteem, etc., and teach these subjects to their families. Adolescents and parents all participate and learn to overcome problems and improve and excell in preventive health. This year they formed four new groups in the Central Valley and four more in Tehuantepec.

Marion Mandell



The Children's Day festival with piñatas is fun for all.



A group from Tequisistlán is showing their newspaper mural about the rights of girls and boys.



These young health promoters are receiving their teaching materials to use with their group in Preventive Health .



The girls and boys of Boca del Monte receive their soccer uniforms sent by Neighbors Abroad.



These children are teaching about Personal Hygiene to other boys and girls.



The students of Pensamiento Liberal are working on their organic family garden.



LINKÖPING

Things are still very quiet on the Swedish front. We are aware that the Mayor of Linköping and several other city officials will be here to visit our mayor October 10 to 16. My contact in Linköping said last month that they had a nearly full schedule. I must contact our mayor to see if we can at least be helpful.

There was a fleeting thought early this spring that we might stage a Midsommar picnic. Then reality set in, and it was decided that those who needed a summer solstice fix could join someone else's picnic.

Bruce Wilner

More Child-to-Child Program Photos



All the children and adolescents of each community receive provisions twice a year to enrich their diets. These children are from San Vicente Mazatán.



These young people from the Central Valley have just finished their training to work with children in their community.



ALBI

Bastille Day is coming...

As is the tradition every year, we will be celebrating *La Fête du 14 juillet* (14th of July Celebration), known in the U.S. as "Bastille Day" after the name of the Citadel whose fall was a major milestone of the French Revolution that led to the end of the centuries-old monarchy.

This year, July 14 falls on a Saturday. For the convenience of those who usually have a fully booked day on Saturdays, and also to secure a nice location for the party, we decided to celebrate the evening before, on

Friday July 13, from 4:30 p.m. to dark. This in fact matches the French tradition where many events take place on the eve of Bastille Day. Please note that in addition to moving the day, we also selected a new place: Mitchell Park, at the East Meadow Group Picnic Site. This is a great location which can hold up to 60 people, is in the shade, and provides ample parking space close-by. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Palo Alto who allowed us to reserve this site at no cost for Neighbors Abroad.



Enjoying French food under the trees.



Getting ready to sing Au Clair de la Lune.

Frère Jacques, Au Clair de la Lune and more. Utensils and soft drinks will be provided.

We are looking forward to seeing you and celebrating together the anniversary of 1789, the French Revolution!

À bientôt,
Michel Campmas

We will be having a Pot Luck Picnic with many opportunities for you to sample or share some French delicacies while singing French folkloric and patriotic songs. Do not miss our Grand Classics: *La Marseillaise,*



ENSCHEDÉ

I heard from Gert Koster in Enschede:

Mirije did the 10k, which was part of the yearly Enschede marathon and Jenna and Owen participated in the

kids run, also during the same event. The photo shows them all after being rewarded with a medal. Jenna performed during the yearly Enschede Jazz festival and she danced in a performance with her group on a big stage on the 'oude markt' last weekend. These are all typical spring events in Enschede. Because of beautiful warm spring weather (80s) many people took out their tents and went camping during the Ascension holiday weekend, which is a four day weekend.

On June 1, 2012 Bart Bijleveld also told me about the Enschede Jazz festival:

The festival was last weekend, and the Fraggles won the first prize in their category again. We beat 8 big bands from all over the country (including Amsterdam, Utrecht).



Mirije, Jenna & Owen Koster wearing their Marathon medals.



The Fraggles Jazz Band-Enschede NL at the Enschede Jazz festival. Bart Bijleveld is seated behind the first row saxophonist.

Friends, you can read about the University of Twente at <http://www.utwente.nl/en/>.

From the most recent University of Twente Website: "High tech, human touch. That is the University of Twente. Some 3,300 scientists and other professionals working together on cutting-edge research, innovations with real-world relevance and inspiring education for more than 9,000 students. The enterprising university encourages students to develop an entrepreneurial spirit and is a partner of Kennispark Twente."

The entire nanolayer Surface & Interface physics (nSI) department, which is currently located at the Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research in Nieuwegein (in the province of Utrecht), is to become part of the University of Twente. This has been announced by the Province of Overijssel, the University of Twente, and the FOM Foundation. The (nSI) department is among the top groups in the field of nanotechnology. It excels in gearing fundamental research to the specific questions and needs of science and industry. The department's move to Twente will take place gradually. The entire department will be settled in its new home by mid 2014.

Professor Dave Blank, the Scientific Director of MESA+, is delighted about the group's relocation. The Province of Overijssel is investing five million euros. "The high-tech Systems and Materials sector is a key component of our provincial economic policy. In Twente alone, this sector is expected to generate around 10,000 jobs over a 15-year period. This is vitally important to the economic growth of Overijssel and as a means of securing our residents' income", said Theo Rietkerk, provincial executive member for Economy, Energy and Innovation. (*UT website 5/12*)

3D animation of the campus: UT spin off Nymus3D has developed a three-dimensional map of the University of Twente campus and the adjacent Business & Science Park Enschede/Kennispark Twente. The co-founder/owner of Nymus3D is Jeroen Huijben who was an intern at Stanford in 2002 and stayed with me for six months. (*UT website 5/12*)

ENSCHEDÉ—Eight ducklings fell into a deep basin with steep sides. They were at least a meter down, were caught in a dirt trap, were in a hopeless position and could not get out. Two teen-age Enschede brothers gently pulled the ducklings out of the pool of water where they had fallen. The brothers made a ramp from a few boards they found at home and the ducklings eventually walked up the ramp and out of the deep pool.

Tubantia (newspaper)

Enschede ingenuity is not limited to the university!

**Tot ziens,
Joni Reid**

PALO



Mabuhay!

The Good News

Those carefully packed books—574—arrived in Palo on May 1st, and our diligent librarians and scholars unpacked and placed them on appropriate shelves. Thanks again to Bert Torres who stored them at his office prior to shipping. The Library has also benefited from recent donations from three former natives of Palo now American citizens. Thanks to them also.

Sad News

The original GIANT member, Salvador Danding V. Moran died recently at the age of 91 due to an accident. He is remembered fondly by his fellows for his many contributions to the GIANTS Club and through them to Neighbors Abroad. We offer our sincere condolences.

Were you there?

Neighbors Abroad recently hosted a delightful all sister-cities event whose success was due to the hard work by the Evans, the Berendts and many others. As well as enjoying the bountiful goodies representing each sister-city, we were fascinated to hear the words of chef and author Donia Bijan from Iran.

In the News

In 1992 the U.S. left its base at Subic Bay, Luzon where it exercised control for nearly a century--a last vestige of U.S. colonial stance. However due to a new emphasis on China, the U.S. is once again seeking a foothold in the Philippines. This has aroused both agreement and dissension among Filipinos. The last decade has seen U.S. troops located in Mindanao, training and advising on counter-insurgency. We will look with interest for further developments but hope for peace rather than military confrontation.

Happy Anniversary

The GIANTS and GILACS members celebrated their 61st Founding Anniversary May 1st! Hearty Congratulations!

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton

TSUCHIURA



Konnichiwa!

By the time you receive this article, PAUSD students and teachers are away from school and not worrying about setting the alarm clock for 6:30 a.m. However, our 2012-2013 school year will begin on August 16 this year—not after Labor Day.

Thirteen students and three chaperones are going to leave for Japan on July 16 for our two-week visit to Tsuchiura. All of us are very excited to meet with our host families, visit Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima, eat authentic Japanese food and participate in many fun activities with our friends.

The Tsuchiura Committee is preparing for our 2nd “Japan/Tsuchiura Festival” on Sunday, September 23, 2012. It will be held at Lucile Stern Community Center from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The admission is free. Please come with your family and friends and enjoy food and many cultural events at the festival. Students can also participate in the Anime Contest, Cosplay and Origami. If you’d like to help us, email me at tymm4@yahoo.com.

Keith Bechtol, who ran in the Kasumigaura International Marathon in Tsuchiura City on April 15 is writing about his experiences in Japan. Enjoy!

Keiko Nakajima



*At left—
A group of boys at Tsuchiura Elementary School during art class. The cherry trees are the second oldest in Japan!*

*At right—
Group photo at Nikko World Heritage Site. Sato, Keith, Wolfgang, Jens, Ellen, and Manami. Wolfgang and Jens came from Friedrichshafen, Germany for the marathon.*

Impressions of the Kasumigaura Marathon

Running is exceptional in that it is such a simple and universal experience. I think one reason the marathon in particular enjoys such popularity is that the challenge is understood around the world, and the requirements for participation are relatively minimal. More than almost any other sport, the marathon rewards patience over raw athletic talent, and gives ordinary people a chance to take part in something extraordinary.

This past April, my wife and I had the opportunity to represent the City of Palo Alto, California in the Kasumigaura Marathon hosted by the City of Tsuchiura, Japan. With over twenty-seven thousand participants this year, the Kasumigaura Marathon is the third largest running event in Japan, and is one of the major annual events in Tsuchiura. Palo Alto and Tsuchiura became sister cities in 2009, building upon a successful middle school exchange program that began in 1993. In 2011, Tsuchiura had planned to invite a runner from Palo Alto to compete in the marathon, but the terrible earthquake on March 11 caused damage throughout the city and prevented the race from occurring while attention focused on rebuilding. Excitement for the return of the marathon this year was evident throughout the city!



Taken at the "marathon-eve" banquet with the Tsuchiura city mascot, Tsuchimaru. Notice the ears shaped like the lotus root, a local specialty.

We woke up early on race morning to bright sun and a light breeze off Lake Kasumigaura. As we walked from the hotel to the athletic park, we were astounded to see what seemed like thousands of runners warming-up together on the track and stretching in unison on the infield. As the start time approached, I moved toward the front of the crowd and spotted Yuki Kawauchi, one of many world-class Japanese marathoners, and decided he would be a good person to follow in the early stages of the forty-two kilometer event. I figured he would run a carefully calculated pace.

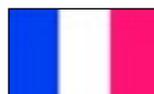
The race began with a single lead pack until a solo runner broke away and started to pull out of sight. I became impatient and sped up to close the gap. The pair of us entered a small village along the lake shore with narrow winding streets just after the half-way mark. Soon thereafter, I found myself alone in the lead, a dangerous position when you know the chase pack is not far behind. By thirty-five kilometers, I had been running head-to-head with Yuki and could no longer keep up the pace. Yuki closed brilliantly, winning in convincing fashion while

I struggled over the closing kilometers and ultimately placed nineteenth. One has to take risks occasionally in order to achieve a personal best, but in the marathon, a healthy dose of humility is a common result.

In addition to our tour of the city via the marathon course, our hosts introduced us to many other people and landmarks of Tsuchiura and the surrounding areas. We visited the Hitachi Headquarters where enormous excavation equipment is assembled and shipped worldwide. We visited Nikko World Heritage Site, and enjoyed views from the base of Kegon Falls. We have memories of playing rock-paper-scissors with a class of fifth graders underneath hundred-year-old cherry trees in full bloom, and learning the tea ceremony rituals from a tea master. The director of the Tsuchiura History Museum even led us on a personal tour. On our last night in Japan, we shared an eleven-course meal with Mayor Kiyoshi Nakagawa and other city officials, enjoying flavors we don't have proper words to describe in the English language. Finally, we remember the kindness and generosity of our hosts from whom we learned so much.

Keith and Ellen Bechtol





Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

July 2012

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

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



Friday, 13th, 4:30—dark
Bastille Day Potluck Picnic:
Mitchell Park, Picnic Area near East Meadow entrance. Bring French-theme dish to share. Food, Songs, Fun.

Call Michel Campas, 650-856-2214 for questions.

Coming in September

2nd "Japan/Tsuchiura Festival" on Sunday, September 23, 2012.

It will be held at Lucie Stern Community Center from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The admission is free.

Enjoy food and many cultural events at the festival.

Students can also participate in the Anime Contest, Cosplay and Origami.

If you'd like to help with the Festival, email Keiko Nakajima at tymm4@yahoo.com.



Next El Chisme Deadline—August 1, 2012

- 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>