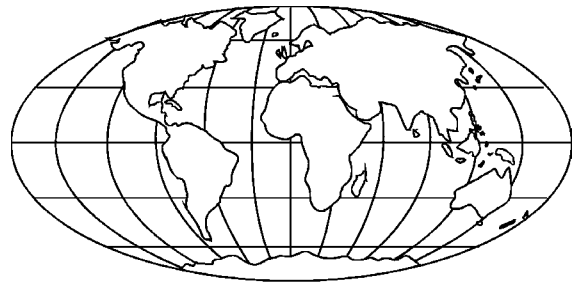


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 50, Number 2

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

March-April 2012

Carmencita Aspiras
World Acclaimed Pianist
will perform at the
Hardesty-Parker home

Saturday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.
69 Santiago Ave.
Atherton, CA

following the performance,
enjoy delicious
refreshments in a
Salon-like setting

\$40 per person to
benefit the
Children's Library
in Palo, the Philippines

To reserve your place,
please send checks payable to
Neighbors Abroad to:
Ruth Carleton
36 Pearce Mitchell, Stanford, CA 94305



Presidents' Report

March will be a busy month for many of us on the Neighbors Abroad board. On March 12, we have been asked to make a presentation to the



city council. We hope to give them a brief over-

view of the sister city mission, its history in our own city and some plans and hopes for the future. We will be showing our new web site, www.neighborsabroad.org on a large screen to showcase its use in finding out about us and our activities. As you see from Keiko Nakajima's Tsuchiura news, this is the same evening that the Japanese students will be greeted in the City Council Chambers. We are encouraging members to come and support our Neighbors Abroad presentation and to join the mayor in greeting the students from our newest sister city of Tsuchiura, Japan.

Another opportunity to recruit new members and publicize our programs will occur on Sunday, March 25, at the "Mayor's Challenge:" a city-wide ping-pong competition which encourages neighborhoods to find their best players to compete in one of several venues throughout the city. Neighbors Abroad will have an exhibit there to showcase our various activities. We should be thinking of finding members who have taken part in Neighbors Abroad exchange trips and events to take a shift at our table.

In another piece of good news for Neighbors Abroad, Mayor Yiaway Yeh who served as council representative on the NA board last year has appointed himself to continue to be on our board. We are grateful to Mayor Yeh for his support and look forward to working with him again this year.

Joe and Barbara Evans

Community Partner: Palo Alto Adult School

PALO ALTO



ADULT SCHOOL

Palo Alto Adult School is committed to excellence in providing a broad range of educational programs that meet the diverse lifelong learning needs of our community. Celebrating its 90th year anniversary, Palo Alto Adult School offers classes for English learners, parents, job seekers, travelers and hobbyists.

Visit PAAAdultSchool.org to view available classes.

Palo Alto Adult School Partnership

Palo Alto is a small city but a cosmopolitan one. Its schools attract families who have heard of our fine school system. Its businesses attract talent from all over the world.

And Neighbors Abroad reflects the international outlook of Palo Alto citizens. So when the Palo Alto Adult School chose Neighbors Abroad as its Community Partner this spring, it was a perfect fit. At least three of the world languages taught at PAAS are the languages of our sister cities: French, Japanese and Spanish. And all of our sister cities will benefit from the increased visibility provided by this partnership.

But beyond the match with some of our sister cities, the whole concept of an adult school resonates with Neighbors Abroad members. We are interested in many subjects and even those who are retired—in fact especially those who are retired—find continual challenge in broadening old skills and acquiring new. From food to languages to photography, you can probably find a NA member who is currently a student.

This year marks the 90th year anniversary for the Palo Alto Adult School. Our local Adult School was established by the Palo Alto Unified School District in 1921. Palo Alto Adult School is committed to excellence in providing a broad range of educational programs that meet the diverse lifelong learning needs of our community.

As part of Palo Alto Adult School's 90th year celebration, the school created a Community Partnership Program. Each quarter, Palo Alto Adult School will recognize a local organization that shares the goal to improve the lives of the community through the delivery of high quality services or education. This spring, Palo Alto Adult School recognizes Neighbors Abroad for its leadership in promoting citizen diplomacy and international friendship to cities in six countries.

Palo Alto Adult School is self-supporting and annually serves a student population of more than 8000 students. Spring 2012 class registration began February 24, 2012. Spring classes start in March 2012.

We urge you to watch for the Adult School Catalog or to go on line to view current offerings. For additional information on Palo Alto Adult School, call 650-324-3752 or visit the Palo Alto Adult School web site at www.PAAAdultSchool.org. Also, find them on Facebook at facebook.com/PaloAltoAdultSchool.

Don't delay – sign up for a class today!

Joe and Barbara Evans

Welcoming Party for the 2012 Japanese Exchange Students from Tsuchiura

Sunday, March 11, 2012
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
J. Pearce Mitchell Park
600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto



Palo Alto host families are preparing a barbecue lunch for you to enjoy on this special occasion.

This year, the Welcoming Party will also coincide with the planting of a commemorative cherry blossom tree donated from Japan. Please join in and celebrate this memorable moment with us.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a finger food.

RSVP to Keiko Nakajima at tymm4@yahoo.com or 561-9771.



TSUCHIURA

Konnichiwa,

The Palo Alto host families of the 2012 Japanese exchange students would like to have the pleasure of your company at our welcoming party. This is the 20th year for our PAUSD students who are studying Japanese at JLS and Jordan to host Japanese middle school students from Tsuchiura City in Japan. City of Palo Alto and Tsuchiura City became Sister Cities in 2009 because of this exchange program.

Sixteen Japanese students visit Palo Alto in March, and our Japanese class students and chaperones will be visiting Japan in the summer. This exchange program has given wonderful opportunities for both Palo Alto and Japanese middle school students not only to experience a different culture and customs first hand, but also to establish strong ties and friendships over the years. In order to continue this wonderful exchange program, we sincerely ask for your support, and your presence

would be most welcome in representing our schools and community.

This year, the Welcoming Party will also coincide with the planting of a commemorative cherry blossom tree donated from Japan. The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco wrote:

"100 years ago, the people of Japan gave 3000 cherry blossom trees, a beloved symbol of Japan, to the United States as a gesture of goodwill. The trees were planted in Washington DC's Tidal Basin, where they still blossom today, as part of First Lady Nellie Taft's efforts to beautify the nation's capital. Together with the Statue of Liberty, the cherry blossom trees represent the largest foreign gifts ever made to the United States.

"As part of the centennial commemoration of this gift, Japan is once again donating cherry blossom trees to locations with significance to the friendship between the US and Japan. Because you have given a huge support to Tsuchiura, your sister city, during their difficult time after March 11 disaster, we think that this may be a good timing and good way for our thanking your support and, at the same time, celebrating your effort to bring closer both citizens."

**Arigato for your support,
Keiko Nakajima**

Cultural Events in the City of Tsuchiura

The City of Tsuchiura has many cultural and traditional events throughout a year. It begins with a Firemen's Exhibition early January. Local firemen present traditional songs and acrobatic performances that attract many people. Also in early January, Dondo Fire will be held on the bank of Sakuragawa (Cherry Blossom River). A huge bonfire will be kindled. Residents bring in all sorts of materials used to celebrate happy new year and burn them to pray for good health throughout the year.

In mid-February to early March, various events are held for Girl's Festival. Many different kinds of hina dolls (dolls in traditional kimonos) are exhibited throughout the city. Some of these dolls are inherited from the merchant families of Edo and Meiji periods, They are handmade of colorful crepe fabrics as well as from lotus seed cup. These materials are a speciality of the city of Tsuchiura.

In mid-February, a Flower Exhibition will be held in huge shopping center. Flowers which have been lovingly raised by local farmers are exhibited. The event

celebrates the arrival of spring, It features a flower show and sale. Flower arrangements are exhibited and donated to charities.

In late March to early April, residents enjoy the pale pink cherry blossoms and their smell in throughout city. Many of these places are illuminated and various events are held to attract many people.

The Yabusame (horseback archery) Festival is held on the first Sunday in April at the Hie Shrine. Yabusame is deemed a prefectural intangible cultural property and this festival is one of the the big Yabusame events in Japan. While riding on horseback, a rider in armor shoots an arrow at a target which represents a monkey. The festival is intended to rid the area of monkeys and bring a good harvest and peace.

The Kasumigaura Marathon (see the previous issue of El Chisme) is held annually in spring. This is one of the biggest marathons in Japan. The event includes a marathon for blind persons, the first marathon in Japan authorized by the International Blind Sports Federation.

Kasuo Kishimoto

(To be continued in the next issue with information on summer and fall festivals in Tsuchiura.)

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD

Expand Your Horizons!

PALO ALTO ADULT SCHOOL
90 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

2012 SPRING QUARTER SCHEDULE

Registration begins Friday, February 24, 2012
PAAAdultSchool.org (650) 329-3752

Find us on Facebook.com/PaloAltoAdultSchool

Computer Pages 5-9

Music Pages 22-23

Cooking Pages 10-12

Palo Alto Adult School
Palo Alto Unified School District
50 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 329-3752
Fax: (650) 329-8315
PAAAdultSchool.org

- 🌐 International Cooking
- 🌐 World Languages
- 🌐 Music
- 🌐 Photography
- 🌐 Arts and Crafts
- 🌐 Literature and Writing
- 🌐 Plus more...

Spring Quarter/March 19–June 4, 2012 🌐 **Registration Begins February 24**
Sign Up Today!
Information and Registration: www.PAAAdultSchool.org 🌐 **(650) 324-3752**



ENSCHEDA

According to the November 25, 2011 Palo Alto Weekly newspaper, "A pending lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union is having far-reaching effects on school field trips around California including Palo Alto." The suit, which was filed in 2010, alleges that the state has not "enforced sufficiently the 'free school guarantee' by allowing districts to charge illegal fees." This suit has prompted Palo Alto School officials "to make sure they are not illegally imposing mandatory fees for educational trips to destinations both local and abroad."

In the past students whose families could not afford to pay for a trip could appeal to a school "booster" club (such as the JLS Connections program) for a "scholarship." The newspaper's November 25, 2011 article indicated, "...A Gunn High School Jazz Ensemble trip to the Netherlands with help from a music boosters group...will continue."

I have since received an email from Mark Dungan, the Gunn High School Jazz Band teacher: "We just don't have the money to cover all students in need. We believed we would have the funds until our family surveys came back. The amount was just high for our budget to handle. With an extra year to plan and raise funds, maybe, but we would need full payment to the travel company by February. Just not enough time. The music department budget is keeping us from going." Sadly, there will be no jazz band exchange this year. I hope such a trip can be planned for the future. Mark was quite enthusiastic as was our Fraggles Jazz band leader, Bart Bijleveld.

Severe weather in the Netherlands



Heavy snow in the Netherlands

Heavy snow covered the Netherlands causing severe alterations in the country's transportation system including disruptions to the rail system and air traffic at Schiphol airport. It was reported 800 km of traffic jams and numerous accidents on Dutch roads.

Thermometers in the eastern region of Twente dipped below -10 Celsius for the first time this winter.

I received an email from Hilda Ferwerda (Bijleveld). You may recall I visited Hilda and her family when I was in Enschede last summer. Hilda, Paul (professor at Saxion University in Enschede and lead delegate from the Enschede/Palo Alto Economic Alliance) and son Hugo

will be spending several weeks in Palo Alto next summer. She wrote to me her family is enjoying the cold and this week her son and friends will go ice-skating. Hilda added, "I have asked at the high school for students that would be interested for an exchange. They are having problems because of the financial crisis. Many people are very careful at the moment."

Michel Zoontjes (a Twente University physics intern who stayed with me 1 ½ years ago) sent me an email about the weather: "It is really freezing here. About -15 degrees at night (5 degrees F). Fingers crossed for the 'Elfstedentocht'. The biggest ice skating event in the world. The last one happened in 1997. If that happens it will be the biggest event in Holland that can happen."

Marion Hemsing writes that she and her family will be back in Palo Alto also this summer from July 24 to August 16. That is great news to have two Enschede families come to our fair city. Marion's son Marten will also be attending Hidden Villa Camp along with Hugo Bijleveld.

Mirije van Dyke told me, "It's still freezing cold here. Around 20F during the day and 10F at night or worse. Not a lot of snow, at least not in Twente, my sister has about 15 cm of snow in Utrecht. It is extremely dry here too, after a very wet period. We'll see what kind of weather we get next. For now, we ice skate (even Owen) and enjoy ourselves."

Ginger and Dirk van der Linden are and will be in Palo Alto for a couple of months. Dirk had knee replacement surgery on January 31. Dirk is currently recuperating at the VI skilled nursing facility which is located behind Stanford shopping center.

I will be meeting with Palo Alto's Public Libraries Director this month to begin the planning stages discussion for a possible librarian exchange between Palo Alto and Enschede. More to come about the exchange at a later date.

**Tot ziens,
Joni Reid**



European Cheeses

cooking class at Palo Alto Adult School. Join us for a cheese sampling from around the world, along with some special recipes from the owner of the Milk Pail Market.

Date: Tuesday, April 24 (6:30pm - 9:00pm).

ALBI



Amateur Photographers Exchange

As indicated in our previous article, we are making progress on the idea of an Albi-Palo Alto exchange involving amateurs interested in photography. Bringing together people with a passion for spotting and capturing beautiful landscapes, unusual sceneries and interesting characters would allow sharing and communicating even when not speaking the same language. It is a common adage to say that a good picture is worth a thousand words...

Since we started talking about this topic, I have received numerous emails, in particular from members of the Amateur Camera Club of Palo Alto with whom I am planning to meet early March at their next board meeting. I would be briefly presenting some of the theme-based past exchanges (painters, dancers, hikers...) as a starting point for preliminary discussions on the potentials of a photography-based theme, something never considered so far. I am also in contact with Jean-Pierre Remazeilhès, my Albi counterpart from Terre d'Union, to find people in the Albi region who would also express an interest. If an exchange occurs, this would likely be in 2013 at the earliest, But still we would need to start planning this year.

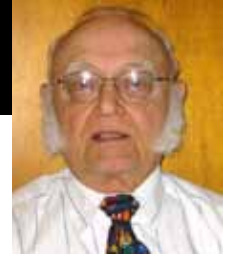
I will keep you posted on progress in my next article. You are welcome to email me at michel.campmas@gmail.com if you are personally interested or know someone who may be.

À bientôt,
Michel Campmas

Get ready for an exchange program involving amateur photographers! Sign up for one of Palo Alto Adult School's Photography classes including:

- Fundamentals of Photography
- Beyond Fundamentals of Photography
- Advanced Black and White Darkroom
- Beginning Photoshop Elements

LINKÖPING



The news from Linköping is that the city will be sending a delegation here, September 10 to 16, to try to re-invigorate the connection. The delegation will include their mayor. The stated object is to establish business to business connections. A possible connection between Rotary clubs has been mentioned.

Locally, we can't seem to get any Linköping Day in motion for April, so that won't happen. There is discussion of trying to do a Midsommar festival on June 23, but we do not wish to tread on the July 14 festivities. So far it is all just talk. We need a venue and a program. Stay tuned.

Bruce Wilner

"I've taken Spanish at the Palo Alto Adult School from Leonardo McCord Salazar over the years. They've been some of the most enjoyable and memorable classes I've ever had. My lessons with Leonardo have served me well on trips to our sister city Oaxaca and other parts of Mexico."

Barb Mackraz, Neighbors Abroad member

Palo Alto Adult School

Communicate with Our Sister Cities...
Sign Up for a Language Class Today!




Having fun studying Spanish.

Spanish Language (4 levels)

- Beginning Spanish
- Low Intermediate Spanish
- High Intermediate Conversation
- Advanced Spanish—Conversation and Literature



Et Si Nous Parlions Français?

French Language (5 levels)

- Beginning French
- Advanced Beginning French
- Low Intermediate French
- Intermediate French
- Advanced French—Conversation



Konnichiwa!

Japanese Language (2 levels)

- Beginning Japanese I
- Beginning Japanese II

★ Information and Registration: PAAAdultSchool.org ★ (650) 329-3752

★ Citizenship ★ Computer Skills ★ Cooking ★ English as a Second Language ★ Health and Fitness ★ Home and Environment ★ Music ★
★ Parent Education ★ Photography ★ Woodworking ★ World Languages

OAXACA

Long range planning is good, right? Well, here's a really long range idea for you to put in your "planning department"! We have been getting questions about whether there will be a 50th Anniversary trip to Oaxaca in 2014. Well, 50 years of being Sister Cities is a LONG time and we certainly should mark that milestone. So, YES, we will plan a trip for the summer of 2014—probably in June (and NO, we haven't set dates yet, nor costs, nor schedule!) But start saving now—both the time and the money! Details will take a little longer to get to you...

We are pleased to announce that we have one exchange



Arik Singh

student to go to Oaxaca this summer. Arik Singh is completing his Freshman year at Gunn High School and is really excited about going to Oaxaca. He wants to improve his Spanish, make a new friend (and brother and family) in Oaxaca and learn about a different way of life. Arik is enthusiastic, energetic, kind and friendly. He is involved in community service here in Palo Alto and would like to help in Oaxaca. Arik's teachers note that he is an excellent student who is adaptable, creative, resilient and will fit into a new family very well.

Coming from Oaxaca to be Arik's "brother" is Rodrigo Galindo Medina. He is the same age and grade as Arik and is as excited about the opportunity to come here to Palo Alto as Arik is to go to Oaxaca. Rodrigo is the middle child of three. He likes to make new friends, help people, engage in sports and outdoor activities and pass time listening to music. Both exchanges this year are the sons of physicians. We think these students will get along very well together.

The Palo Alto Fire Department will be helping their counterparts in Oaxaca again. Palo Alto has five computers, of the kind that are mounted in our local paramedic vans, that are surplus, but cannot be sold, but can be donated to the "Bomberos" (Fire Department) in Oaxaca and which Chief Manuel Maza in Oaxaca will be delighted to receive and put to good use there. They will be going down there in probably ninety days.

Please remember to tell anyone you know who is



PALO

Mabuhay!

Don't miss a Fabulous Evening!

On Saturday April 14th at 7:00 p.m. we will once again have the opportunity to enjoy an outstanding piano concert by Carmencita Aspiras. Internationally acclaimed Carmencita will perform in a salon-like setting at the lovely Hardesty-Parker home. Rarely do we have a chance to enjoy such piano virtuosity in a beautiful, intimate venue while benefiting our Children's Library in Palo. Delicious refreshments will be served. Don't miss this special evening!

Book Packing

Katy Obringer brought her unique talents at book packing to the office of Accountant Bert Torres. Books were donated through private collections—Melissa Carleton gave many of her favorites in prime condition, Heidi Berndt gathered many at the Friends of the Palo Alto Libraries and Betty Duran gathered many from the San Francisco School District. It is fascinating to watch Katy place books of many sizes to optimize every inch of space—like putting together a three dimensional puzzle!

The Population Problem in the Philippines

As in many parts of the world—the U.S. included, the problem of exploding population growth is an important and confounding one in the Philippines. A recent program on PBS television vividly depicted the dilemma of increasing numbers as the competition for land and food increases. Environmentally destructive methods of fishing such as underwater explosions and the use of cyanide deplete the fish habitat (fish being the main source of protein in the Philippines.) Family planning runs counter to the dictums of the Roman Catholic Church, hence the difficulty of confronting this problem in the largely Catholic Philippines.

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton



Rodrigo Galindo Medina

traveling to Oaxaca to contact me first—as usual we have MANY ready-packed suitcases of clothing and shoes for the children in both the Albergue (Orphanage) and the Programa Niño-a-ñino (Child to Child Health Program).

By now you have all received the once-a-year appeal for funds for these projects. If you have not had time to send in your contribution, please do so now—the need is great!

¡Hasta luego!

Marion Mandell





Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

March 2012

Sunday, 11th, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Welcoming party for visiting Tsuchiura students and dedication of cherry blossom tree. Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive Palo Alto. See page 3 for more information and RSVP info.

Monday, 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad presentation to Palo Alto City Council and introduction of Tsuchiura students. Palo Alto City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Palo Alto.

Wednesday, 14th, 7:30 p.m.

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

April 2012

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

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

Saturday, 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Carmencita Aspiras Benefit Piano Concert for Palo Alto Children's Library. Hardesty-Parker home. \$40 per person. Refreshments served. Reservations required. See cover for full information.

Spring Classes begin the week of March 19 at Palo Alto Adult School. Music lovers can study guitar, piano, ukulele, or join the Symphonic Band. View available classes and register at PAAAdultSchool.org

Next El Chisme Deadline—April 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>