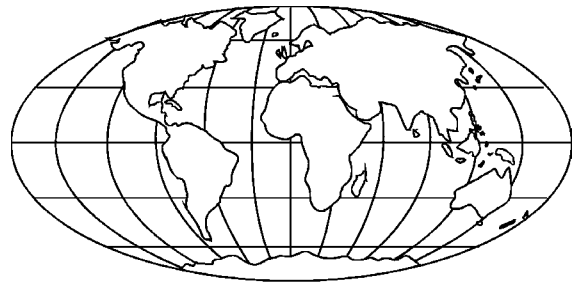


# EL CHISME

## de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 50, Number 6

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

November-December 2012



### *Neighbors Abroad Annual Holiday Gala*

*Saturday Dec. 1 from 4 to 7 pm  
at the beautiful Hardesty-Parker home  
69 Santiago, Atherton*

*Delicious Food – Lovely Holiday Music  
Return engagement by the Holiday Quartet from last year's party*

*Donation: \$25.00 per person  
All proceeds to go to our Neighbors Abroad Children's Projects.*

*Reservations required in advance.*

*Mail checks payable to Neighbors Abroad to  
Ruth Carleton 36 Pearce Mitchell  
Stanford, CA 94305  
Inquiries to 650-324-3635*

## Presidents' Report

Where are the exchange students of yesteryear? We are hoping many of them will be able to attend our golden anniversary kickoff celebration on the afternoon of Saturday, February 9. It would be wonderful if some of you who are former exchange students could actually take part by spending some time at their city's display and reminiscing to visitors about their experiences.



Even as early as November we will be looking for co-sponsorship by different organization in order to spread the word about Neighbors Abroad. And we, in turn, may co-sponsor

events such as World Music Day, where the activity is aligned with the international focus of Neighbors Abroad.

To emphasize the long period during which we have been active, we are thinking of having a time line showing photos from the earliest decade of the 60's to the present. Photos from world events could be grouped with photos of visitors to NA and special events. We would welcome any help in organizing this photo time line.

Although some outlines of this event are being drawn by a committee consisting of Heidi Berndt, Daniele Campmas, Mary Ashley, the sister-city VP's and us, each sister-city will need help in creating their own space. This is a good time to look around your neighborhood and your circle of friends, to find persons from our sister-city countries who, by helping in this project, can become involved in our very special organization.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

### **Dues Increase of \$5.00 Voted by Board**

At the August budget meeting of the Neighbors Abroad Board of Directors, a \$5.00 increase in both single member and family dues was approved.

As announced in the renewal request letter, the increase takes effect for members renewing after November 1.

## OAXACA



It may be Fall now, but planning is already underway for next Summer's student exchange to and from Oaxaca. Last summer's students are eager to spread the word to their friends in the Spanish classes of our local high schools. A Family Information Meeting is set for Monday evening, November 26, at 7:00 p.m. in room A-3 of Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. If you are acquainted with young people who might like to participate in the 2013 exchange, please tell them and their parents to attend the information meeting. A copy of the information letter is on page 7.

It's also time again for the annual request for funding for the service projects Neighbors Abroad supports in our Sister Cities of Oaxaca, Mexico and Palo, Philippines. Remember, we only ask you ONCE A YEAR (unlike various other organizations which send repeated requests). In Oaxaca, the orphanage is working hard to keep up with the needs of the 55 resident children—all of whom need food, clothing, medical care, school supplies, etc., and the Child-to-Child Health Program is spreading health-related information to families in the rural villages in the State of Oaxaca.

We are also reinstating the "Adopt-A-Suitcase" plan whereby people who may NOT be able to visit Oaxaca themselves can make it possible for other visitors who ARE going to Oaxaca to take an extra suitcase to the children in both programs by donating funds for the extra costs incurred nowadays for check-in bags. As usual, we have MANY ready-packed suitcases of clothing, shoes, etc. for the children—we just need a way to get them there. The best way is with travelers. Please ask your Oaxaca bound friends to contact me at (650) 493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net.

While it is not yet definite, we may be hosting visitors from Oaxaca in the Spring, and will no doubt need home stays. Please keep this in mind.

**¡Hasta luego!**

*Marion Mandell*

**SAVE THE DATE!  
Neighbors Abroad  
50th Anniversary  
Kick-off celebration**

**Saturday, February 9th, 2013**



## LINKÖPING

We had a spate of activity in August and September, when Linköping City decided it should reinvigorate the Sister-City connection by sending a delegation from their city (and their neighbors and their county) to our city. Indeed, some re-invigoration was called for. Since our intended great excursion to visit them three years ago fell from seventeen prospects to zero participants we have seen only one, unofficial, visitor come to take advantage of the sister city connection.

The delegation out of Linköping City Hall consisted of six persons, plus my former counterpart, Anders Lindqvist, now retired from city hall. Then there were people from neighboring cities, and from the county, Östergötland, plus people from the Swedish Consulate whom they gathered here. Their intended primary activity was to visit businesses and international social organizations with whom continuing connections might be established. They were looking for cultural groups who might visit, or host. Of course, as the Hagstroms had been at Stanford when they instigated the Sister City relationship, the delegation had contacts with Stanford, and Stanford should offer lines of continuing connection.

They were visiting the City, not Neighbors Abroad, but we participated. Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick hosted the mayor overnight. Several of us were invited to a lunch hosted by the Swedes at the Westin Hotel. (I had a schedule problem and missed it.) To make a good show of participating, Neighbors Abroad, and specifically the Linköping Committee were swept in to organize a dinner for the visitors, the members of Palo Alto government who were involved, and some 30 Neighbors Abroad members, the total slightly over 70 in all. Obviously, there was no point in attempting to do the dinner "Swedish," so we went "Western." We fed them barbecued chicken, beans and salad, and amused them with Barbershop and with Bluegrass. It appeared that a good time was had by all.

The Wilners went away on vacation the day after the dinner. Now we will see how reinvigorated we have become.

**Bruce Wilner**

## Thanks To Great Neighbors Abroad Volunteers

In putting on the dinner for the Swedish delegation, Bruce Wilner, Joe and Barbara Evans had great cooperation from Mary Constantino and her staff at Lucie Stern who set up the tables. Among Neighbors Abroad members, Marilyn Hunwick was especially helpful in making serving decisions. Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick and Valda Tormey of the Linköping committee did the final table set up. Others who contributed were Heidi Berndt, who helped in the planning, Margaret Green, Keiko Nakajima, Jim and Barbara Newton, Laurence Albet-Khatib, Carol and Noel Stevens and Shirley Douglas. Hank Heubach, together with Chris Torres, Tommy Fehrenbach and other Kiwanis members, provided the barbecue chicken. The success of the event was evident in the animated conversations between visitors and locals that followed the dinner.

The Hunwicks and Evanses each had the privilege of hosting a visitor from Linköping and enjoyed the experience greatly. This is a relationship to cherish and we hope that the local Swedish community will join with us in rebuilding the sister-city bond we have with Linköping.



*Palo Alto Mayor Yiaway Yeh, Ann-Cathrine Hjert, mayor of Linköping, and Gail Woolley, mayor when Linköping became our sister city.*



## ENSCHEDÉ

### Hallo Vrienden:

The Enschede Committee and Neighbors Abroad had the pleasure of welcoming four visitors from Enschede the week of October 13-19,

2012: Irene Vernes, the International Advisor for the city of Enschede; Paul Bijleveld, professor of Regional Economic Development-Saxion University; Han van de Meer, Chair Innovative Entrepreneurship-Saxion University; and Kees Scholler, Business Developer Kennispark Twente/Saxion Universities.

This foursome arrived in Palo Alto on Saturday October 13 and on Sunday October 14 I met them at their hotel in Palo Alto and took them to the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. After an enjoyable visit to the museum we went to Sausalito for a lovely lunch and then to Napa. The winery tasting rooms were closed, but a privately owned tasting room in Sonoma was found to be open and they had an opportunity to taste the rich bounty of California wines in a California tasting room. It was a full day.

In the one week they were in the Bay Area they went to San Francisco and met with the Netherlands Office for Science and Technology, the Consulate General, the Netherlands Business Support Office, the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency, and with San Francisco city planners regarding Climate Action Planning.

In Palo Alto they met with a representative of the California Campus Compact, with Thomas Fehrenbach, who is Palo Alto's Manager of Economic Development, with several companies including Tesla and Facebook, and attended a lecture presented at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

On Wednesday October 17, I hosted our four Enschede visitors and 18 Neighbors Abroad members at my home for an evening of fun, food and wine. We had an opportunity to interact with our visitors and with each other.

On Thursday Kees returned to the Netherlands, and Han, Paul, Irene and I were invited to the Kiwanis luncheon by Tommy Fehrenbach. The guest speaker was Stanford University's Women's Basketball Coach Tara van de Veer. After the luncheon Paul and Han went to San Jose State University and I gave Irene a tour of Palo Alto, including a trip to AAA to get her a map of Palo Alto and the surrounding area. They departed for California on Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a successful visit for them and for Neighbors Abroad.

**Tot Ziens,**  
*Joni Reid*



*Dutch delegation at Sonoma Mission: Han van de Meer, Paul Bijleveld, Irene Vernes, Kees Scholler.*



*Barbecue at Joni Reid's house, clockwise from lower right: Marilyn Hunwick, Mary Ashley, Kees Scholler, Roger Ashley, Marion and Joe Mandell, Lynn Hunwick.*



*Left to right: Han van de Meer, Ann and Piero Pianetta, Irene Vernes, Paul Bijleveld*



## ALBI

### Promoting Diversity in Albi

As many of those who still have emotional links with their country of birth (I was born in France), my wife and I enjoy following news and events over the Atlantic, whether political or cultural. This is why we watch TV5, the International French Channel that we get for a few dollars per month in our Comcast cable. This channel displays news, movies, and reports from all the French speaking countries: France, Canada and various African countries. Many of those are subtitled in English (very convenient for us for some French Canadian movies that we do not always fully understand because of the accent and some strange vocabulary from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century). I would encourage all the Neighbors Abroad Francophiles to some day give it a try: a great way to polish or expand your French, and believe it or not, there are NO ads whatsoever!

Last month we were watching a program called *Des Racines et des Ailes* (About Roots and Wings) and to our delight it was dedicated to Albi. It was a pleasure to see all the beautiful places we had visited many times in the past during multiple Adult Exchanges: the 11<sup>th</sup> century bridge (the *Pont Vieux*), the 13<sup>th</sup> century brick Cathedral. We of course heard stories about Lapérouse who famously travelled to the New World and Toulouse-Lautrec, one of the greatest painters of the Post-Impressionist period, both natives of Albi. But we also heard about something I think was worth sharing with you:

In the center of the town, many beautiful centuries-old houses have been restored by the city or through government grants. As can be seen in many cities (Paris comes to mind), these *hotels particuliers* (mansions) have typically been restricted to wealthy people who can afford paying for the luxury of living in the center of town in a beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> century place, creating clusters of upper-class districts. Not so in Albi. Under the leadership of the City Council, it was decided to promote diversity and allow people of various origins and wealth to mingle and live together. Consequently, some of these mansions that belonged to the city were converted to rental flats for low rent housing and one of those, classified as an historic place, even became a nursing home. Some residents were interviewed and talked about their astonishment at seeing the place where they live being open to tourist visits at certain days of the week. Kudos to the Mayor and his team!

## PALO



### Mabuhay!

### An Important Breakthrough in the Philippines

For three decades rebel groups in Mindanao {southernmost portion of the Philippines} have sought independence through fierce guerilla fighting. The animosity between the largely Muslim population of Mindanao and the majority of Christians dominating the national government has persisted for centuries. The violence since before the 1970's has claimed some 120,000 lives and displaced more than two million people. The United States has deployed about 500 troops to help the Philippine military against the most violent and extreme insurgents.

Finally hopes for peace run high as Philippine President Benigno Aquino signed an agreement with the major rebel group on Sunday Oct. 6.

However, the task to achieve peace will not be simple, says David C. Gorman of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue based in Geneva. Gorman, who has worked on this agreement, said, "This is not a peace agreement but a roadmap to peace." Severe challenges remain. Our best wishes and hopes go to those seeking peace in this difficult situation.

### More Natural Disasters in Palo

Our devoted librarian Sheilane Cabag reports a major earthquake of 7.9 intensity struck Palo but resulted in relatively little damage.

### Mabuhay!

*Ruth Carleton*

### Amateur Photographers Exchange

As you may remember we are trying to put together an adult exchange of amateurs interested in photography. We have identified a club in Palo Alto who has showed great interest. I have not heard recently from my French counterpart Jean Pierre Remazeilhes but will follow up and let you know of any progress on this potential exchange.

### À bientôt,

*Michel Campmas*



## TSUCHIURA

### Konnichiwa,

I'm busy looking for Palo Alto host families for Tsuchiura students who are going to visit us during March 9 – 18,

2013. Sixteen junior high school students, 8 girls and 8 boys, are coming.

Tsuchiura City just celebrated its 81<sup>st</sup> Fireworks Festival on October 6. This fireworks festival is the firework manufacturers competition and the award for best fireworks is presented by the Prime Minister of Japan. Yasuo Kishimoto wrote the following article for *El Chisme*:

**Arigato for your support,**

*Keiko Nakajima*

### Fireworks in Tsuchiura

Tsuchiura is famous for manufacturing fireworks and holds a national fireworks competition every year. The manufacturers compete for the best recently developed fireworks. Prizes are awarded by the Japanese Prime Minister as well as by two other Ministers of the Japanese Government and the Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture, where the city is situated. The 81<sup>st</sup> annual competition and exhibition of fireworks took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> this year. A huge crowd of more than 700,000 people came to watch the fireworks displays. More than 600 temporary lavatories had to be provided for the crowds, who watched while more than 20,000 fireworks were detonated.

There are many types of fireworks. The most common is the aerial shell. The shells are cylindrical or spherical canisters of varying sizes, which are placed in mortar tubes and wired to a central control. Once lit and shot into the air, the aerial shell explodes at its highest point and shoots pyrotechnic stars in all direction. Every step is a complex, carefully crafted process. The shell innards include fuel, an oxygen producer, a binding resin and color-producing agents all carefully mixed by competent fireworks makers into recipes that produce various and unique displays.

The most familiar effects of aerial fireworks are the radiant tendrils and plumes that stream up and outward as the shell breaks open. Each of these colorful protrusions has a matching pyrotechnic pellet or "star", an identical seed within the shell. The particular arrangement of the stars within the shell determines how the shell will unfold in the sky. Stars themselves come in many shapes and sizes from round, dough-like balls to pressed pieces. Still other stars can be meticulously hand-packed to generate a rocket-powder effect, sending swarms of color along squiggly trajectories.

There are many other chemicals added to make every individual fireworks shell successful and unique. To keep all of the pieces in place and prevent crumbling, a binding agent such as dextrin is added. A mixture made up of 70 percent potassium nitrate, 15 percent charcoal, and 10 percent sulfur is added to propel the shell into the air. There is also a time-delay fuse tucked into the shell casing's lid. The fuse determines the length of time a shell will soar before exploding. Modern technology has made it possible to make multi-shot displays possible. Nearly 50,000 fireworks can be set off within 30 minutes.

The secret of vibrant colors lies in the star's chemical makeup. For example, calcium salts give rise to a brilliant orange color. A mixture of strontium carbonate and copper oxide produces violet hues. Emerald and olive colors arise from barium compounds, and crimsons and coral from strontium and lithium carbonate.

Using these various techniques and materials, extra-brilliant and large fireworks are prepared for the competition. The fireworks manufacturers in Tsuchiura excel in making these unique large displays and have won many prizes in the annual competition. The competition emphasizes size and brilliance. In the Tsuchiura competition, grand prizes are awarded in three categories. These include Star Mine (quick and continuous firing), Big Ball (biggest size) and Creative Design. The Tsuchiura manufacturers traditionally win many of these prizes. If you are interested in attending this competition in the future, normally the first Sunday of October, Keiko Nakajima and officials of Tsuchiura city will be happily assist you.

*Written by Yasuo Kishimoto*

## NEIGHBORS ABROAD



OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

PO BOX 52004, PALO ALTO, CA 94303 USA

### NEIGHBORS ABROAD 2013 SUMMER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Want to travel to **Mexico** and become a member of a family there? Then apply to go on a summer student exchange to Palo Alto's Sister City of Oaxaca during the summer of 2013.

You can find out how families in another part of the world live by participating in this genuine two-way exchange sponsored by Neighbors Abroad, Palo Alto's Sister City Organization. After you spend approximately three to four weeks with your host family, your Mexican brother or sister will return with you to spend equal time here with your family. There is no better way to sample family life, build new friendships and develop a deeper understanding of other cultures.

**Dates: Mexican exchange: in Oaxaca approximately June 10 – July 5: in Palo Alto July 5 – August 1.** (Exact dates will depend on which days we can get the best fares and the 2013 school closing schedule in Oaxaca, as yet unknown.)

**Cost: Approximately \$1000 plus spending money.** This includes round trip air fare and a prorated amount toward chaperone's expenses. Final costs subject to 2013 summer air fares.

**Eligibility:** Applicants should be high school students at least 15 years old by June of 2013 who are studying Spanish at any level.

**Application procedure:** Pick up an application from your Spanish teacher in November or at the Family Information Meeting below. Applications are due as soon as possible, but no later than January 4, 2013. Students will be contacted about an interview.

**Family information meeting: Monday evening, November 26, 7 P.M. Room A-3, Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.** All interested students and their parents are urged to attend this meeting for full details.

**Questions?** Call (650) 493-3798 or email [marionb@sonic.net](mailto:marionb@sonic.net)



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## November 2012

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

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting. Cubberley Community Center, Room A6, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

Monday, 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Family Information Meeting for Summer Student Exchange. Cubberley Community Center, RoomA3, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

## December 2012

Saturday, December 1st, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Holiday Gala. 69 Santiago, Atherton. Food and Entertainment. \$25 donation to Children's Projects. Reservations required. See cover for details.

Saturday-Wednesday, December 1-5, 2012

Noon-9:00 p.m. daily

The 25th Annual Christmas Creche Exhibit. 3865 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto 94303. Admission is FREE. Come and enjoy 500 nativities from 80 countries in a festive holiday setting with live music daily and special musical programs in the evening at 7:00 p.m. The Children's Room has craft activities, nativity costumes, stories, and marionette shows daily at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. For more information: [www.christmascreche.org](http://www.christmascreche.org).

Wednesday, December 5th, 7:00 p.m.

World Affairs Council – Peninsula and the Los Altos Library present a free public program: "Islam and Muslim Integration in America and Europe." Speaker: Patricia Nabti, visiting lecturer at Stanford and founder/director of the Learning to Care Institute. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Refreshments, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Program. Los Altos Library Program Room, 13 S. San Antonio Rd. Los Altos

**Next El Chisme Deadline—December 10, 2012**

- Send your articles to Mary Ashley
- E-mail: [meashley@pacbell.net](mailto: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 Alto 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>