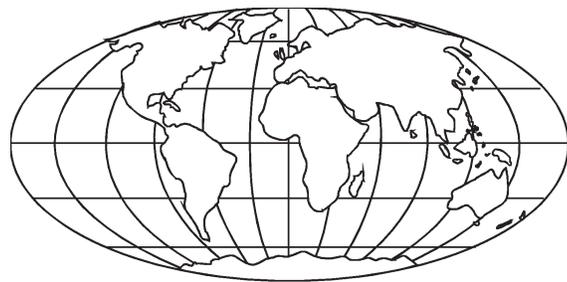


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 52, Number 3

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

May-June 2014

Neighbors Abroad will join with the Santa Cruz-based group Cyclists for Cultural Exchange and their international visitors for a Potluck Picnic.

Saturday, May 24th, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sequoia barbecue area, Rinconada Park,

Middlefield and Embarcadero Roads, Palo Alto

Please join us for this special event.

Neighbors Abroad members are asked to bring a salad or dessert.

Please RSVP to Barbara Evans at 650-856-0618 or evansbanjo@sbcglobal.net with number of guests and potluck preference by May 23.

Read more about the group and event in the Presidents' Report on page 2. We hope to have a good turnout to share an evening with this unique organization during their stop in Palo Alto.



PRESIDENTS' REPORT

We have an opportunity to meet people from other countries and become acquainted with the group from Santa Cruz that organizes trips for foreign cyclists. "Cyclists for Cultural Exchange" will be in town on Saturday, May 24. They will be bedding down for the night at the First Congregational Church on Louis and Embarcadero and have suggested that we join them in Rincónada Park for a potluck barbecue Saturday evening.



Joe and I have accepted their invitation as an opportunity to experience the way other organizations are reaching out to international visitors. We are hoping that, even though

it is a holiday weekend, there will be enough Neighbors Abroad members around town to help us and to welcome these visitors. "Cyclists for Cultural Exchange" will provide barbecued chicken if Neighbors Abroad members will bring other items to share such as salads and desserts. Please let us know if you will be available to attend or to help provide food. We would ask you to save receipts for any food you buy so that you can be reimbursed by NA.

It is heartwarming to know that others are working for the same purpose as Neighbors Abroad: the opportunity to meet and visit with people from other lands in very personal way. We hope that some of you will take advantage of this chance to meet the organizers of "Cyclists for Cultural Exchange" and welcome their visitors.

We can definitely use help! Please email us at evansbanjo@sbcglobal.net or phone (650) 856-0618 to offer!

Joe and Barbara Evans

LINKÖPING



Palo Alto had some visitors from Linköping in April, and members of the Linköping Committee entertained them:

Ola Neselius, the oldest son of Lars and Gudrun Neselius (who are former visitors to Palo Alto and hosts in Linköping to members of Palo Alto delegations) arrived from Linköping via quick stops in New York and San Francisco. Ola enjoyed a 2-day stop in Silicon Valley on his round-the-world trip with visits to Google and the Computer History Museum on his first day arranged by Barbara and Joe Evans. On his second day, Ola went on a walking tour of Stanford University, got a view from Hoover Tower and checked out the Cantor Art Center with his hosts, Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick, before he left for New Zealand late afternoon.

Dr. Hans Ringertz, Consulting Professor of Radiology and his wife, **Dr. Britt-Marie Ringertz** are returning to Sweden after his 6-month appointment as a visiting professor in the Department of Radiology, Stanford University Medical Center. A Professor Emeritus from Karolinska Institute, Dr. Hans Ringertz is Professor and Board Chair of the Center for Medical Imaging Science and Visualization at Linköping University. His wife, Britt-Marie, a medical doctor, works in a Youth Clinic near Stockholm and was here for a visit. Well-known at Stanford, Dr. Ringertz is founder and co-director of the Center for Biomedical Imaging at Stanford. Although they do not live in Linköping, Hans Ringertz has helped plan for a visit by Palo Alto's delegation to Linköping and he and Britt-Marie, over coffee with the Hunwicks and the Evanses, shared ideas for continuing exchanges with the two sister cities. Dr. Ringertz will return to Stanford in October.

Bruce Wilner



SAVE THE DATE!

The Albi Committee's Bastille Day picnic will take place on Sunday, July 13 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the East Meadow group picnic site at Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Bring something for the potluck picnic and join in the celebration and singing (lyrics provided).



ALBI

Bastille Day Celebration is coming...

Following decades old tradition, we will be celebrating soon *La Fête du 14 juillet* (14th of July Celebration), known in the US as "Bastille Day" (the "Bastille" was this famous citadel in Paris whose fall started the French Revolution in 1789.)

This year, July 14 falls on a Monday, which is not convenient for those who work. Therefore we will be celebrating on the eve of Bastille Day on July 13th, as most of the French do anyway. As for last year, we will have our party at 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 on East Meadow Street. Kudos to the City of Palo Alto who allows us to reserve this site again at no cost for Neighbors Abroad.

We will be having a Potluck Picnic with many opportunities for you to sample or share some French delicacies and/or drink French wine while singing French folkloric and patriotic songs. There will be paper copies of the lyrics, so all will have the opportunity to practice their (basic) French on our Grand Classics: *La Marseillaise*, *Frère Jacques*, *Au Clair de la Lune* and more. Utensils and soft drinks will also be provided.

We are looking forward to see you and celebrate together the French Revolution anniversary! Mark your calendar for Sunday July 13th at 4:30 p.m.

Latest News on Adult Exchanges...

There is not yet any new news on potential exchanges with cyclists or photographers.

However for an exchange involving amateur tennis players, we have made some good initial progress: the concept was presented to the Board of the Palo Alto Tennis Club and we got approval for starting advertising this idea to the hundred and twenty plus members of the Club to probe their level of interest. We will also provide an overview of the various past exchanges to help them realize all the potential of such an adventure.

There is also very encouraging news from the Aurora Singers Choir who in the past has been visiting back and forth many times with the Assou-Lezert Chorale from Albi. Chorist Amar Singh, who is taking the lead on this, extended an invitation to Emmanuelle, the Director of Assou-Lezert Chorale for the French Group to come to the US in 2015, and she reciprocated by inviting the Americans to come to France in 2016. However, this was too short a notice for many French and it was finally decided to invite the French to the US in 2017 instead. So nothing should happen in 2015, but the following two years will be packed with wonderful events!

À bientôt,

Michel Campmas



PALO

Mabuhay!

We have not yet received news from our counterparts



in Palo. We can only imagine how such devastation as Typhoon Haiyan would affect us and the months it would require for us to get "on our feet". Betty Duran, committee member, has sent us word of the hard work being done by Palo's Mayor Remedios Petilla on behalf of her suffering city. She has begun a program to build community and encourage citizens in their efforts to clean up the devastation by offering prizes to those who achieve the greatest success in cleaning up and removing the ubiquitous debris. Best of luck to all of them!

News from the Philippines

Population difficulties make a huge impact in the Philippines where according to The Economist Magazine government statistics reveal that close to one quarter of the population live in poverty. To help address this problem the Congress passed a law late last year "obliging the government to offer contraception to poor Filipinos." This law endorsed by President Aquino has recently been upheld by the Supreme Court. Polls indicate that 72% of Filipinos support this act,

Meanwhile the accord between the government and the Muslim majority in Southern Philippines--Mindanao continues to hold in spite of occasional out breaks by splinter groups.

There are indications of increasing tensions between China and the Philippines over disputed islands in the China Sea.

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres



Celebrating Bastille Day at Mitchell Park, 2013



ENSCHEDA

Carlijn Soer is the first student intern from Enschede since the 2007 Economic Alliance Agreement between Palo Alto and Enschede was signed. She arrived in Palo Alto on March 5th and will be returning to The Netherlands on May 29th. Carlijn is working toward completing her Bachelors degree at Saxion University in Enschede. She will earn a degree in Marketing with an emphasis on Commercial Economics. Carlijn is staying at my home while she is in our fair city. I am making sure she sees as much as possible of our area.

Early on in her stay here Carlijn met up with a Dutch friend in San Francisco and toured around that wonderful tourist-friendly city. I took Carlijn to Half Moon Bay and then we drove south on the beautiful Coast Highway to the little town of Pescadero. Carlijn was quite impressed with our exquisite countryside. I also took Carlijn to the Walt Disney Museum in the SF Presidio, Palo Alto's Foothill Park and we hiked in another park in San Jose.

Carlijn has been busy with her work in city hall and she has made some friends here in Palo Alto She has already visited the Gilroy Outlets and has gone Swing Dancing in San Francisco. My daughter Jenna has allowed Carlijn the use of her car when she is not in Palo Alto and Carlijn drove to Santa Cruz.

Welcome Reception for Carlijn



Carlijn Soer with Dutch Consul General Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt

The city of Palo Alto and Neighbors Abroad held a Welcome Reception for Carlijn Soer on April 17th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center. Tommy Fehrenbach (Economic Development Manager of Palo Alto) organized the event and the city provided a lovely table of bites

and beverages. Neighbors Abroad extends many thanks to Tommy Fehrenbach for his time and effort.

The reception was chaired by our vice mayor, Liz Kniss. Attendees included the Consul General of the Netherlands (San Francisco) Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Palo Alto city manager Jim Keene, our library director Monique leConge

and friends of Neighbors Abroad. Mr. von Meijenfeldt spoke of the ties between the USA and the Netherlands, and Ms. Kniss and Mr. Keene recognized the 34 year sister-city

relationship between Enschede and Palo Alto. Mr. Keene characterized Enschede as a Smart City and well matched with Palo Alto. They vowed to strengthen the ties between



April 17 Reception with Vice Mayor Liz Kniss and Carlijn Soer in the front row.



Attendees at April 17 Reception for Carlijn Soer

our two cities and he acknowledged the 2007 Economic Alliance Agreement between the two cities.

Joni Reid gave a brief history of the city of

Enschede introduced and our guest speaker, Carlijn Soer. Carlijn told us about her interest in Palo Alto and Silicon Valley and her goal to complete her internship in our city. She gave us a visual and verbal tour of Kennispark Twente and of the scientific work that is being done at the University of Twente and in Enschede.

King of the Netherlands opens Innovation Center the Gallery

On Wednesday April 2nd King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands was present at the opening ceremonies of the Innovation Center of the Gallery at Kennispark Twente in Enschede. The Center includes: office space and facilities for companies, innovation centers and service providers. King Willem-Alexander visited an interactive exhibit which demonstrated the marriage of scientific research and commercially viable innovative companies. Presentations were made by entrepreneurs, scientists and researchers.

The University of Twente was prominently visible at the Hannover Messe, the world's largest technology fair that took place from April 7 to 11. Under the motto Global Challenges, Smart Solutions, the Netherlands and the University of Twente presented exhibitions related to

the international and interdisciplinary collaboration of creative and technological solutions. Two hundred thousand visitors to the fair included the Netherland's Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Among the University of Twente exhibits were MESA+ Nanotechnology Terminal that showed the research conducted at MESA+, the internationally renowned institute for nanotechnology, and Fun Robotics Outdoor Guide (FROG).

This unique campus robot explores the environment



King Willem-Alexander with the FROG robot

and independently guides groups of people while monitoring the behavior of his audience and adapting accordingly. FROG has been used to lead tours in cultural centers. The campus robot's focus is social interaction with a small group of people. (*University of Twente News. April 2014*)

Dutch Consul General Hugo Von Meijenfeldt writes

a monthly blog which is available on the web. For his February 2014 blog he wrote about the celebration of the Netherlands's first King's Day. Queen's Day has been changed to King's Day since Queen Beatrix abdicated the throne last April. King's Day is a national holiday. The Counsel General wrote: "The feel to this national holiday, can best be compared to the Fourth of July as it is a day of Orange madness that people of all ages celebrate. The day is celebrated on the streets and in parks throughout the Netherlands. Delicious Dutch food, such as raw herring, cheese and snacks are sold. It attracts more than a million visitors each year, making Vondelpark (in Amsterdam) as vibrant as Golden Gate Park with children's games, music, drinks, and food.

Tot ziens,

Joni Reid

OAXACA



Last edition you all got to meet one of the exchange students going to Oaxaca this summer. Now here is our second fine student.

Nirel Jones Mitchell lives in Palo Alto but is a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in San Jose. She has been studying Spanish for three years. One



of the reasons that she is eager to go to Oaxaca is because she has heard so many stories about the wonderful time her father, Bill Mitchell, had when he went to Oaxaca as a part of the Neighbors Abroad student exchange in 1979. Photos and stories from her father plus hearing about the experiences her friend, Katie Russell, who went last year had, confirmed her

genuine interest in Spanish language and culture and increased her desire to become even more fluent and work in a Spanish speaking country after college.

Nirel is on her school's track team, founder of the school welcoming committee and is a counselor in training for a Christian Music Theater. She likes singing, dancing and reading. Her teachers are confident that she will have a successful experience in Oaxaca because of her well-rounded, multi-talented personality.

Plans for the June 50th Anniversary trip to Oaxaca are heating up as the date gets closer. Joining the group are our Mayor, Nancy Shepherd, along with her husband and grown children, our Vice Mayor, Liz Kniss and her husband, Councilman Greg Scharff plus his wife and son, and City Manager Jim Keene and his wife.

We are very please to tell you that our local Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs are giving very generoues donations to be used to repair the roof on the orphanage building.

And, of course we will bting with us many suitcases of clothing for the children of the orphanage and the child-to-child health program.

¡Hasta Luego!

Marion Mandell



TSUCHIURA

The Tsuchiura report in this issue includes letters and pictures of the March student exchange by some of the participants.

Arigato,
Keiko Nakajima

Dear Palo Alto,

We had a very good time in Palo Alto!

First of all, 16 students from Tsuchiura had good experiences from your kindness and hospitality. You took them to many beautiful places, and you gave them many chances to speak English. The students had a variety of foods. For example steaks, big hamburgers and clam chowder in a bread bowl!!

Secondly, you supported 16 students in communicating with each other. By studying culture, food, education, history and so on, they can get a lot of results.

Finally, we saw many wonderful views. In Japan, we can only see San Francisco through an English textbook. We were all surprised by the real views.

Thanks to your support through this program, our 16 students can grow in ways they could not before. This June, you will come to Tsuchiura. We're looking forward to meeting you.

Thank you very much, everyone. Thank you very much, Palo Alto. Thank you very much Neighbors Abroad!!

Hiroshi Fukushima
Tsuchiura Chapereone



Sayaka (l), Amira (r) and Kiran (c), Amira's brother at Welcoming Picnic at Mitchell Park on 3/15/14

This is from Ito Emi (translated by Yasuo Kishimoto):

I was fortunate to be selected as a member of a team representing 8 junior high schools in Tsuchiura, Japan, to visit Palo Alto, our sister city. I learned a lot by direct contact with host students, their families, and people of Palo Alto. I feel this experience tremendously helped me to grow up as a human being.

Most impressive experience was on the difference in customary daily life between United States and Japan. Some of these are;

* Students in Jordan do not wear uniforms.

* They eat 50% more than Japanese do.

* In Japan, teachers move classrooms, where students stay in the same room. On the other hand, American students move classrooms where teachers stay at the same room.

* Palo Alto students wear clothes with more exposure.

* More carbonated drinks are available in America.

* More sweet candies, like chocolate, are available in U.S.

* Farmlands are much bigger than Japan's.

* Car drivers sit on left side, while Japanese sit on right.

* Buying lunch is optional in Palo Alto.

* Some Palo Alto students use skateboard for commuting.

* Some people do not use the bathtub.

* Unlike Japanese, they do not take off shoes inside the house. Occasionally, I noticed some American take off.

* American people eat much more meats. They eat more fatty foods than Japanese.

* American people are much more friendly than Japanese. Strangers even greet each other.

There are much more differences I cannot describe here. To us, we feel these are sometimes good and sometimes bad.

In Japan, everybody live more or less similar life. I was astonished to find that each Americans conduct quite different daily life and eat differently. Although organization of countries are similar each other, people of U. S. and Japan appear to be quite different.

Although life and culture are quite different each other, I felt that U.S. and Japan are well connected. I found American cultures spread widely in Japan and Japanese cultures are also getting popular in U.S. I noticed that Sushi, Tofu, Ninjya, Anime, and Manga, and many other Japanese culture are popular among Americans. By coming to Palo Alto and compared lives of Palo Alto and Tsuchiura people, I rediscovered that how Japanese culture is also wonderful. I thought that U.S. and Japan are exchanging their culture regardless how far, over several tens of thousand kilo meters, we live. I wish our countries can further exchange our cultures and help each other to become better countries. My experience in this exchange program convinced me that how it is important to contact and understand different foreign cultures. I would like to continue absorbing foreign cultures and help me to become better human being.

Amira's Hosting Experience

On March 15, 2014 the sky was blue and the sun shone brightly onto the parking lot where I stood. Surrounded by my friends, we jumped up and down, excited for a bus of sixteen exchange students from Japan to arrive. I knew it was going to be amazing, but I had no idea of all the new experiences and memories I would gain.

Sayaka Iida is the name of the girl who would be staying at my house for one week. When I first met her, neither of us knew what to say, then we smiled and laughed. Over the next week, we became very close friends, almost sisters. Together we went to many places, including Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, a tour of Silicon Valley, and ice skating at Winter Lodge. She also went with me to school for two days, ate meals with me, and played games with my family. Every night we would talk using the limited language we had, and she would tell me about the differences between America and Japan, and showed me photos of her friends and classmates. We had many inside jokes, such as she thought the word for "smile" was "CHEESE!!" She turned out to be a very enthusiastic, caring, funny, and energetic person. We laughed together and cried together, I wish she didn't have to leave. I hope this connection will last forever.

This experience gave me a better understanding of Japanese culture, and opened me up to the world we are in. I am inspired me to continue to learn and expand my international awareness. This summer, many other host students are travelling to Tsuchiura, Japan. I am looking forward to reuniting with Sayaka and experiencing her culture. Thank you so much to Sensei Nakajima, Neighbors Abroad, and everyone else that made this come true.



At left: Sayaka (c) with Amira's family

Below left: Hana (r) and Rina (l) at Macy's

Below right: Claire (l) and Nagisa (r) at Bingo Night on 3/21/14



At left: Charlotte (Lau's sister), Rina, Sydney, Hinako, Lau, Kanako at Bingo Night on 3/21/14



At left: At City Hall on 3/17/14 Ms. Wada holding the Proclamation at the center with Mayor Shepherd

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

May 2014

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

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

Wednesday, 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad members and friends are invited to a program on "International Humanitarian Law: Investigation Violations and Implications" with Eric Stover, Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council. Site: Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Free to all. Co-sponsored with American Red Cross. For info., call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757.

Saturday, 24th, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Potluck picnic with "Cyclists for Cultural Exchange" Sequoia Barbeque Area, Rinconada Park, Palo Alto. See cover and Presidents' Report for details.

June 2014

Wednesday, 11th, 7:00 p.m.

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

July 2014

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

Bastille Day Picnic, East Meadow Group Area, Mitchell Park. 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. See Albi column on page 3 for details.

Next El Chisme Deadline—June 20, 2014

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