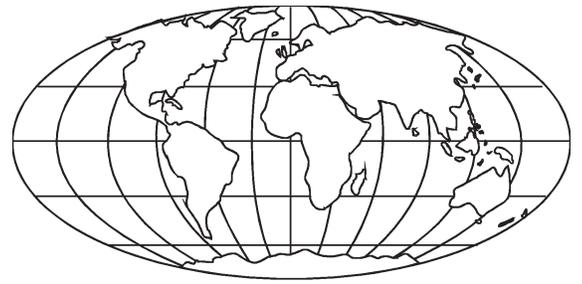


# EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 51, Number 5

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

September-October 2013

# Family Fun Day

## International Fair

**Sunday, October 6, 11 am to 5 pm**  
**Lucie Stern Community Center Courtyard**  
**1305 Middlefield Road. Palo Alto**

**Games**

**Face  
Painting**

**Storytelling**

**International  
Food**

**International  
Fashion Show**



**Crafts**

**Pocket Lady**

**International  
Store**  
*(items from  
around the world)*

**and MORE!**

**Come have FUN while you help to raise funds for the children's projects of your Sister Cities: the Child-to-Child Health Program and the Children's Orphanage in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the Children's Library in Palo, Philippines.**

**Co-sponsored by Neighbors Abroad and the City of Palo Alto. Questions? Call 650-493-3798**

## Presidents' Report

On August 19, the Palo Alto City council met to act on several items of interest to Neighbors Abroad members. The council was asked to approve a "Smart Cities" agreement with Heidelberg, Germany



and that motion was approved by the council. There were several other items but the one of most importance to us was the fourth one which would

have directed the city staff to work with Neighbors Abroad to introduce Smart City elements to the relationships with our existing sister cities. To our disappointment only Vice Mayor Nancy Shepherd and council member Liz Kniss voted to support this.

Besides the two cities in which we have service projects, we have three European cities and Tsuchiura, all four of whom certainly rank as "peers" of Palo Alto in all ways that Palo Alto citizens value, from educational assets and green technology to a welcoming international outlook. We can undoubtedly learn from each of them.

Visitors from Heidelberg would be welcomed and Neighbors Abroad would be happy to have a role in hosting them but we and a number of others question the leadership role that seems to have been ceded to that city. It is very hard for us to accept that Palo Alto should form a "Smart City" alliance excluding some very successful and advanced cities that are already affiliated with Palo Alto.

Attending the council meeting for Neighbors Abroad were Mary Ashley, Michel Campmas, Betty Gerard, Marion Mandell, Joe and Barbara Evans. Ruth Carleton, Keiko Nakajima and Jim Newton had joined us earlier that afternoon to hear a little about the Smart City concept from Thomas (Tommy) Fehrenbach.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

### PHOTOS:

*At near right, Carol Stevens leads the songs at Bastille Day.*

*Middle right, Michel Campmas tells the Bastille Day story.*

*Far right, Ruth Carleton, VP for Palo, Leyte Governor Matin Patilla, and Debbie Martin, Governor Patilla's hostess in Palo Alto, share a pleasant moment at the Art Cnter reception on June 30*

## LINKÖPING



It has been another quiet couple of months on the Linköping front. They would like us to find a performing group who would like to perform there, and so far we have not succeeded. We will continued to poke around.

We obviously have not and will not put on a crayfish feast this year. We are hoping to do a Linköping Day next spring. This more or less requires a real Swede to speak a few (or many) words, and we don't have one in hand at the moment, but we have some prospects.

*Bruce Wilner*

### Family Fun Day is Coming!

**We need your international treasures for the International Store on October 6, but we need them AHEAD OF TIME.**

**Please bring them to Marion Mandell, 250 Parkside Drive in Palo Alto, or contact her at (650) 493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net to arrange to have your donations picked up.**

**We also need helpers to bake treats, price store items, and to sell tickets, snacks or cashier at the store. Call Marion Mandell (above) to volunteer.**



## ALBI



### Bastille Day Celebration

As announced in our previous article, we celebrated Bastille Day (*fête du 14 juillet* in French) on July 14th in Mitchell Park in Palo Alto. As every year, this was a great success and everyone enjoyed the good food, the great wine and the pleasure of being together again for this event. As always, I had the opportunity to tell the audience about what happened that day and the dire consequences of this event: not less than the French Revolution! One key figure of the time was the Marquis de LaFayette, well known by most Americans for his decisive contribution to the American Revolution. The Bastille was dismantled but its huge metal keys were preserved and later given to Georges Washington by LaFayette. All can see them today when visiting Washington's home in Mount Vernon!

Back to Mitchell Park, all were waiting for the special moment of this celebration: singing together old French songs under the direction of former Albi-VP and choir singer Carol Stevens! We started with *Alouette* (the Skylark), then *Sur Le Pont d'Avignon*, a very ancient song written 800 years ago to celebrate a famous bridge built in Avignon over the Rhone River (the one and only bridge for hundreds and hundreds of miles at the time). This was followed by *Au Clair de la Lune*, written in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by famous French composer Jean-Baptiste Lully, and *Frère Jacques*, always sung as a round... These songs, well known by all French children, are very easy to sing and all were helped by the numerous French speakers in the audience. We ended, as is the tradition, with *La Marseillaise*, the French Anthem which was created during the French Revolution of 1789.

À bientôt,  
Michel Campmas



## PALO



Mabuhay!

### Word from Pabbles Dolina, First GIANT

"We would like to make mention here acknowledgement and appreciation of the great projects extended by Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto to Palo, Leyte of the Philippines, the home town of the GIANTS Club. The members of the club see to it that minor expenses incurred in carrying out projects such as the maintenance and upkeep of the Library premises, minor repairs on power and water lines, stationery and postage are taken care of by the club."

### A Fond Farewell

Pabbles Dolina, who has been our stalwart and loyal representative as head of the GIANTS Club, has informed us that he will forgo another term in that capacity. How we will miss him! Replacing him will be the First GIANT Frank C. Villaganas, a retired Army Colonel, and Second GIANT Armando Sevilla, son of the late Andres D. Sevilla, one of the club's founding members. Have no fear, however! Pabbles assures us he will be available to Neighbors Abroad should the need arise.

Help!!

We are desperately in need of more children's books and a small place to store them! Can you help us out?

Mabuhay!  
Ruth Carleton



## TSUCHIURA



**Konnichiwa,**

Here is a report from one of the participants in the Palo Alto-Tsuchiura Middle School Exchange Program.

**Arigato for your support,**  
*Keiko Nakajima*

Hello,

My name is Juyon Lee and I recently participated in the Tsuchiura - Palo Alto Exchange Program. Following is the article I wrote on my amazing experience:

To strengthen the sister city ties between Tsuchiura, Japan and Palo Alto, California the two cities send over sixteen students every year on an exchange program to learn the other's culture and language firsthand. A sister city relationship is an officially approved, long-term relationship that advances peace and prosperity through cultural, educational, humanitarian and economic development efforts. On June fifth, fourteen (unfortunately, two students could not go to Japan) Palo Alto middle school students, including myself, flew to Japan with four chaperones and Japanese teacher Keiko Nakajima.

Right from the landing, we were able to experience Japanese culture with the high tech Narita airport and the large Aeon Mall where we ate dinner and shopped. The next day was a great tour of Tokyo and all its grandeur including the thirty-two story, 634 meter high Sky Tree, the wonderful Edo-Tokyo Museum, and the large and historical temple and shopping center of Asakusa.

After a wonderful day in Tokyo, we went to Nikko, but this time with our hosts. In Nikko we saw beautiful temples and the three wise monkeys, and left our sweat stains are now forever on the 207 steps up to the tomb. The majority of our stay was with our host families who graciously took us into their homes. For the three days following our time in Nikko, our host families took complete care of us. Although what each family did was different, I heard many stories of going to places like Akihabara, amusement parks, the sea, and many other fun and exciting places.

We also attended two days of school at one of the eight different junior high schools in Tsuchiura. At the schools, I learned a lot, not only about what the teachers taught us, but about the different school systems, the vernacular of the students, and random facts I picked up from conversations.

The next three days were just as amazing and rich in

## ENSCHEDÉ



**Hallo Vrienden:**

I have been in The Netherlands since July 16<sup>th</sup>. I will be going to Enschede on August 19<sup>th</sup> to speak with Dayenne Smolders, the Senior Advisor for International Business in the city of Enschede and Hilda Ferwerda. Later that day I will meet with Irene Vernes, who had been the International Affair Advisor in Enschede. I will report the results of the meeting in the next El Chisme.

**Groeten and tot ziens,**  
*Joni Reid*

the wonderful Japanese culture as the first part of the trip; We went to Kyoto, Hiroshima and Himeji, with plenty of train rides in between. At Kyoto, we were able to see ancient Japan with the help of two serene and beautiful temples, Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji. The Peace Memorial Plaza along with the museum in Hiroshima, were both very moving and informative. The last day of our road trip took us to the great Himeji castle.

There, we were able to go all the way to the top thanks to the restoration project.

When returning back in Tsuchiura, all the hosts and their families came with us to soba noodle making, where we learned the traditional art of making the delicious soba noodles from a soba-noodle-making master and several of her helpers who all had passed the soba- noodle-making test. After having a delicious meal of cold soba, we went with our hosts to a zen temple in the hills of Tsuchiura. There we had an enlightening zazen session and got to taste the great culture of Japan through the traditional tea ceremony. The final day in Japan was bittersweet, for although the going away party was fun with plenty of games and laughter, we knew that we wouldn't be seeing each other for a while. On a whole, the Japan trip was a memorable experience, for we were able to experience the rich culture, meet many new friends, and learn a great language simultaneously. This is definitely one of my favorite trips, and I hope everyone else enjoyed it as much as I did.

Thank you so very much for this experience.

**Sincerely,**  
*Juyon Lee*



## OAXACA

Well, Katie Russell, our 2013 Palo Alto exchange student to Oaxaca, and Sofi Morales, Katie's Oaxacan sister, had a marvelous time together, both in Oaxaca and in Palo Alto. It was a

good experience for all family members. We hope more students will plan to participate next summer. Watch for a Family Information Meeting date either in November or early December and tell all of your friends and neighbors, your children, grandchildren, etc.

Now we must shift gears to plan for the Family Fun Day International Fair coming up very soon – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 – at Lucie Stern Community Center Courtyard. Show the flyer on the cover of this *El Chisme* to all of your friends. If you can volunteer to help, either in advance or during the day of the event, please contact either Marion Mandell, (650) 493-3798, or Ruth Carleton, (650) 324-3635. We have an infinite variety of jobs to be done to make everything run smoothly: Before the event there's collecting and delivering items for the International Store, sorting and pricing items for the International Store, or making cookies and other goodies for the snack department. On the day of the fair we will need a crew to

supervise the store, sell game and food tickets, help set up and close up, etc.

Again in this edition of *El Chisme* we are including the interest finder for the Oaxaca 50th Anniversary trip in June 2014. We received numerous replies but for those of you who forgot to tell us – please do so NOW. The actual reservation form for the trip will be coming out soon and those who expressed advance interest will be given first choice if there should be an overflow. We will also keep a dated waiting list as necessary.

As you are going through your treasures from around the world to decide what you want to donate to the International Store at Family Fun Day, please remember that donated items do not need to be just from our six Sister Cities, but can come from other countries too – like that tablecloth you bought in Poland or Portugal twenty years ago. Remember that we only do this every two years and all proceeds go to the Children's Projects in Oaxaca and Palo. And of course remember that all of us are volunteers, all items are donated and therefore all money goes directly to the projects. The Children WIN!

PLEASE NOTE: If you have items to contribute, please either bring them to my home in advance (250 Parkside Drive) or call me to have them picked up. PLEASE DO NOT wait and bring them to us the day of the fair. We need to sort and price all items in advance. Thanks.

**¡Hasta luego!**  
*Marion Mandell*

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### INTEREST FORM – OAXACA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIP - JUNE 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Others in your party: (names) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be bringing any children? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If so, Names and ages \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first trip to Oaxaca? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you are traveling alone, would you like to be assigned a roommate? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ or

I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_ or I prefer my own room Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please return this form ASAP by mail to : Marion Mandell, 250 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto, 94306 or email the information to marionb@sonic.net or call 650 493-3798 .



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## September 2013

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

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

Sunday, 15th, 2:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad members and friends are invited to the World Affairs Council Peninsula Chapter Fall Kick-off on "Turmoil in the Middle East" with Joel Brinkley, former Pulitzer Prize winning foreign correspondent for the N.Y. Times and White House Correspondent. Site: Atherton estate, 75 Tuscaloosa Ave. Check in: 2:30 pm; Program: 3:00 pm; Reception: 4:30 pm. Members WAC; \$10; Non-members: \$15; Students: \$5. Make reservations by Sept. 12; call (415) 293-4600

## October 2013

Sunday, 6th, 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Family Fun Day and International Store. Lucie Stern Courtyard, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. See cover for details.

Wednesday, 9th, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Next El Chisme Deadline—October 15, 2013**

- 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>