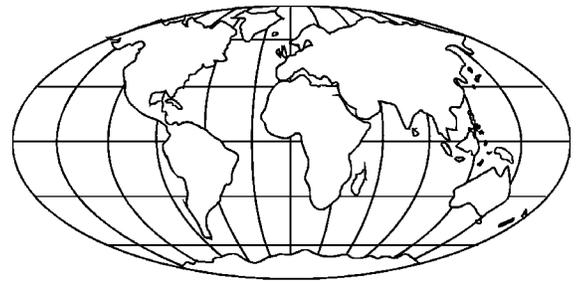


# EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 51, Number 1

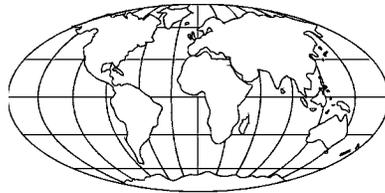
SISTER CITY PROGRAM ■ PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA U.S.A.

January-February 2013

# Around the World in Six Cities



NEIGHBORS ABROAD'S  
CELEBRATION  
OF FIFTY YEARS  
OF SISTER CITY FRIENDSHIP  
FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY



**FUN  
GAMES  
DISPLAYS  
REFRESHMENTS  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013  
2:00-5:00 PM  
LUCIE STERN COMMUNITY CENTER  
BALLROOM  
1305 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD, PALO ALTO**

## Presidents' Report

We thought this silly picture would get your attention! Yes, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Neighbors Abroad is upon us



and our first event is the February 9 Festival: Around the World in Six Cities. We have only a little over a month to prepare for it. A small group of people can plan an event but it takes the whole

organization to produce it. It is MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER that you look to your neighbors and friends not only to publicize it but to identify people who can help set up and assist with activities.

We will have other events celebrating the anniversary of Neighbors Abroad, including an official reception for the mayor of Palo in April, which may also be attended by the mayor of Oaxaca and other dignitaries. But your committee has chosen to focus the first event on young families in Palo Alto, who we hope will be part of the future of Neighbors Abroad. By providing adults with as much information as we can about each sister city, while providing games and activities for the youngsters, we hope to show the value of a sister-city organization.

Each of our sister cities has its own special character and culture. It also has commerce and industry that is a very important part of everyday life. When we think of these cities, we should be aware that their traditions are only part of their culture. Their businesses and their universities define much of it also. As we think of showcasing our sister-cities, let's look behind costumes and dances, charming as they may be, and see the life of the 21<sup>st</sup> century city as both interesting and informative for us. We can learn from several of our sister cities that have strong "green" credentials, for instance.

Although Neighbors Abroad has diminished in membership in recent years, many of us feel that the sister-city relationship is still of great value. One aim in producing our festival is to draw younger families into our orbit and see if a future Neighbors Abroad can be built on the interest of this century, rather than last. If we can somehow highlight the total life of a sister city, including

research that's being done there, products that are being built there, and the ways they provide service to citizens, and if we can build bridges of knowledge between our spheres of endeavor and theirs, we will be able to illustrate the possibilities inherent in the sister-city relationship.

Please think about the sister city you know best and what you think the rest of Palo Alto should know about it. Then call (650) 856-0618 (or email [evansbanjo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evansbanjo@sbcglobal.net)) and share your knowledge and ideas with us.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

## Sister City Palo celebrates Diamond Jubilee Year

On November 28, Palo began a year-long celebration in recognition of 75 years as Diocesan seat of the Diocese of Leyte. The town of Palo is known as one of the most historical towns of Leyte. It is considered as the seat of Catholicism in the island not on account of its predominantly practical Catholic population but rather on its rich historical background.

The Papal Nuncio Giuseppe Pinto led the celebration of the Eucharistic Mass on Nov. 28 at 9:30 A.M. at the newly renovated Metropolitan Cathedral. Attending the opening of the year long Jubilee celebration were some 60 prelates from across the country lead by Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma. A year later the same Church dignitaries are expected to visit Palo again to celebrate and witness the closing ceremonies of the Jubilee Year. See page 7 for pictures and an account of Palo church history compiled by Pabbles Dolina.



*Palo GIANTS Club at their October Meeting*

**A BRIEF NEIGHBORS ABROAD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 7:15 P.M. BEFORE THE PROGRAM. PLEASE COME AT 7:15 TO TAKE PART BEFORE THE 7:30 P.M. PROGRAM.**

## **Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Guinea: An Eyewitness Account**

*by Judy Kramer, local photographer and AAUW member. She is the Eliminate Project coordinator for the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto. Judy's slide show and talk will be followed by a question period and refreshments.*

**Friday, January 11, 2013**

**7:15 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Lucie Stern Community Center**

**Fireside Room**

**1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto**



**A**lthough tetanus is unknown in the developed world, mothers and 60,000 newborns die from it every year in the remote regions of the world. The causes of maternal and neonatal tetanus are lack of immunization and unsanitary birth practices, especially when the umbilical cord is cut. Through an effort called the Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate this deadly yet preventable disease in the 31 countries where it is still a threat. The keys are immunizing women of child-bearing age and educating women about clean birth practices. In September 2012, Kiwanis Club



of Palo Alto and AAUW member Judy Kramer traveled to Guinea in West Africa to observe and photograph the Eliminate Project in action.

Judy has long had an interest in international women's issues, but she feels that this is the most direct project she has ever been involved with: "In the 21st century, no baby or mother should die of this excruciating disease. On this trip, I saw lives being saved right before my eyes." Come to this inspiring presentation and learn how a global campaign is protecting and saving women and babies at their most vulnerable time.

For more information, go to Judy's web site at <http://www.earthwitnessphoto.com>

**This General Meeting is co-sponsored by AAUW, Palo Alto Branch; Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto; and UNA-USA Midpeninsula Chapter**

## ALBI



### Preparing for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

You may already have heard the news from friends, in *El Chisme*, or on the Neighbors Abroad Web site ([www.neighborsabroad.org](http://www.neighborsabroad.org)): Next year, Neighbors Abroad will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year of existence! As for all the other cities, the Albi Committee has started brainstorming on ideas for participating to the multiple events planned over the year. The objective for Albi will be to highlight the extensive relationship between Albi and Palo Alto since they became Sister Cities back in 1994, and all what makes Albi an attractive city for all the Francophile Palo Altans. As we make progress, information on the agenda of the events will be posted on the NA Web site starting in January covering the planned activity for our six Sister Cities. Stay posted!

### Holiday Season the French way

The month of December is very special in France. Contrary to the July-August period when all French people take to the road (all at the same time!) to go on vacation, December is the time to celebrate. As in many places in the world, there are two back-to-back events: Christmas and New Year. However, each has some special French flavor that I would like to share with you.

Christmas is in France similar to what Thanksgiving is in the US: an important time for families to be together, and a time where children are the kings and queens of the universe. Père Noël (a close collaborator of Santa Claus) is expected to bring presents during the night, climbing down the chimney and putting presents under the Christmas tree (not in a sock!) for the kids who have been particularly nice during the year.

Adults also have a special Christmas Eve tradition: Those who are Catholic go together as a family to the Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass). This is special, since fewer and fewer people regularly go to church during the year. But Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is an age-old tradition no one misses. The next day, the children discover their toys (under the tree) and the adults prepare for what they do very well: enjoy themselves with gourmet cuisine. This translates to spending long hours around a large family table enjoying each other's company and feasting on many delicacies. These vary from region to region, but typically include champagne, raw oysters from the Atlantic Ocean and snails from Bourgogne in the center of France. You may understand now why most, if not all French, crave these small beasts after years of

## LINKÖPING



After the intense flurry of activity associated with having Linköping's mayor visit Palo Alto in early September, things have returned to their usual somnolence. There has been no communication, in either direction, since the mayor left. I have some questions to ask Lars Drougge, with whom I maintain a slow-moving correspondence, but even this has no direct relevance, as he no longer holds any office in their Sister City organization. Half of the lack of communication is, of course, mine. They would likely have some interest in our weird weather and the garden facts that my narcissuses are blooming and an azalea bush is at the end of its spring bloom.

*Bruce Wilner*

training since they were toddlers!

The second year-end holiday celebration, New Year's is more of an adult event. Couples will typically find a sitter (or the grandparents) to take care of the children go out to restaurants or private parties, treating themselves again to good food (that may include champagne, oysters and snails) and checking their watches to kiss everyone in sight (on both cheeks, the French way) at midnight and share wishes for the year to come.

One tradition I also notice to be different between the U.S. and France is the timing of the "New Year Wishes" cards that people send to each other. In the U.S., you will typically receive them (and of course send them) before Christmas. In France people are real procrastinators on this matter and you may be lucky to receive them before year end. End of January is the unwritten acceptable deadline!

*À bientôt,  
Michel Campmas*

## TSUCHIURA



### Konnichiwa,

The City of Tsuchiura is preparing to send their students' profiles for our 2013 exchange program. They are going to visit Palo Alto between Saturday, March 9 and Monday, March 18, 2013. Nine male and seven female middle school students have been chosen to be the next year's exchange students.

Meanwhile, my Japanese class students at JLS and Jordan have overwhelmingly responded to welcome them as our guests. As soon as I received the profiles, the matches will be made and we'll start organizing our week-long hosting schedules. Our welcoming party will be on Saturday, March 9, 2013 and we are planning to have a barbecue picnic at Mitchell Park again around noon. Please join with us to welcome our friends from Tsuchiura! More details will be announced in our next *El Chisme*.

Our trip to Japan 2013 is also set already. Our guests from Tsuchiura will be hosting Palo Alto students who hosted in June, 2013 reciprocally. Since PAUSD finishes its school year at the end of May, we have decided to visit Tsuchiura in early June instead of July when the weather is too hot.

The year of 2013 celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> year of our exchange program between Palo Alto and Tsuchiura and Niihari Village, which started this program back in 1995. Niihari Village was consolidated with Tsuchiura in 2006. The City of Tsuchiura has carried on this exchange program for the benefit of young people for both cities. The City of Tsuchiura and Palo Alto became sister cities based on this exchange program in 2009. Unfortunately we had two interruptions due to the U.S. terrorist attack that happened on 9/11/2001 and the Japan earthquake that happened on 3/11/11.

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

*At Right, Palo Municipal Hall,  
currently undergoing renovation.*

## OAXACA



By now all of you have received the once-a-year appeal letter for funding for the projects for children in Oaxaca, Mexico, and Palo, Philippines, which Neighbors Abroad supports. Thank you to those of you who have already responded. We hope the rest of you will soon include these service projects in your end-of-year contributions. You know that the projects are VERY WELL run and are a tremendous help to the needy children of these Sister Cities. And, of course, your contributions are completely tax deductible!

Little by little we are hearing from students who would like to participate in the 2013 summer student exchange to Oaxaca. Please encourage any teens you know to send in an application as soon as possible so that we can arrange their interviews and receive their teacher references. While our students do not need visas to go, their Oaxacan brothers or sisters will need visas, so it is important to complete the family arrangements as soon as possible, so the Oaxacan students have time to get their visas from the United States consulate in Oaxaca. (It often takes quite a while!)

Please remember to ask anyone you know who is planning a trip to Oaxaca to contact me first! We have so many suitcases, ready-packed with wonderful things for the children! The best way to get them there is with travelers! Please ask!

Thanks.

**¡Hasta luego!**  
*Marion Mandell*



## ENSCHEDÉ

### Hallo Vrienden:

I have heard from our friend Irene Vernes, Enschede's International Advisor about the Glass House in Enschede. Oh yes, the Glass House.

It seems every year the DJs of The Netherlands gather for one week in a select city and live in a Glass House. As Irene wrote to me:

"For a couple of years one of the Netherlands' main national radio channels organises (sic) a special event in the week before Christmas, called Serious Request. A couple of dj's (sic) are locked up in a glass house on a square in one of our cities and the audience can request for a song to be played in exchange for some money. The dj's are not allowed to eat or get out of the glass house. The money they collect during the week goes to a good cause, chosen by the Red Cross. In addition to the money collected by listeners paying for having their requested song broadcast on the channel, many people all over the country organise (sic) activities to collect money to donate to the good cause. Last year nearly 9 million euro was collected.

"This year, Enschede will host the glass house. It will be placed on the Oude Markt. The good cause for this year is fighting child deaths, one of the UN Millennium Goals. You can't imagine how many people in Enschede and the rest of the country, lots of them children, are organizing(sic) activities to raise money.

"I was thinking how great it would be if we could also get some people in Palo Alto, as our friends across the ocean, involved in this event! It is a good cause that also the people in Palo Alto must think warmly of."

I told Irene the Enschede Committee is most definitely interested in participating in this endeavor. Irene and I will work out the transfer of money and we will go on, from here and there.

Gabriele Loosen has kindly donated two pieces of art to the Enschede Committee. The first is an engraving of Enschede, which was owned by Ralph White, who was a longtime member of Neighbors Abroad. He was instrumental in initiating the sister city relationship between Palo Alto and Enschede which culminated in the formalization of the relationship in 1980.

The engraving was made by a master engraver in Enschede. The engraving was fixed with temperatures of more than 600 degrees centigrade and is lightfast and scratch resistant. The double gold rim adheres to the piece up to 600 degrees centigrade. This beautiful engraving is part of a limited series executed by this engraver.

The second piece is a framed print of, "The Jester", by the famous Dutch artist Judith Leyster. Judith Leyster was



born in 1609 in Haarlem and died in 1660. She produced about 35 works during that splendid period called the Golden Age of Dutch Art. The Enschede Committee is grateful and wishes to thank our friend and supporter Gabriele Loosen for her kindness and generosity.

This is an announcement of the Fraggles latest concert to be held in Enschede on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are calling it, "Swinging Lazy Sunday Afternoon." Just picture yourselves in a lovely café in the heart of our beautiful sister city Enschede relaxing with a glass of wine or even better a bottle of Enschede's finest, Grolsch Beer. Could anything be better? Oh, by the way, admission is free!

**Tot Ziens,  
Joni Reid**



*Gabriele Loosen holding the two gifts she presented to the Enschede Committee. The one of her right is an engraving of Enschede and the one on the left is a framed print of Judith Leyster's "The Jester."*



## PALO

### Mabuhay!

#### Holiday Benefit

Once again many of us enjoyed the Holiday Gala at the beautiful Hardesty-Parker home. As usual Nancy and John decorated their lovely house to be most warm and welcoming. So many thanks to them, [19 times!] and to all the volunteers who provided the delicious goodies—as well as the fine quartet of the McDevitts and Salters. They donated their many talents to the Children's Projects.

#### Children's Projects

That time has come around again when we ask each of you to stretch beyond local and national limits to help with the needs of our children in Oaxaca and Palo. Times are difficult everywhere and we are all so blessed.

#### Typhoon Bopha

The strongest typhoon of the year struck the southern Philippines—mostly Mindanao—but surely had residual effects upon Visayas where our sister-city Palo is located. We share grief for the loss of life there. Previous typhoons caused severe flooding in Palo and did significant damage to the books in our Children's Library. Increasing intensity and number of storms are being felt throughout our earth as only minimal efforts are being attempted to reduce the effects of climate change. What can we do?

#### Best Wishes for the New Year!

### Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton



## A Bit of Palo History –

The province of Leyte to which the Archdiocese of Palo belongs was the scene of the first Holy Mass in the Philippines celebrated by Fr. Pedro Valderama on March 31, 1521, an Easter Sunday. The exact spot where a cross was erected is the small Limasawa island on the southern tip of the island of Leyte.

The Palo Church, the forerunner of the present Palo Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lord's Transfiguration parish, was constructed in 1596 under the direction of the Jesuits who founded Palo. The Jesuit Fathers were the founders of the Parish. They came in 1595 and immediately constructed a church of light materials. The first was inaugurated in 1598. By 1600 there were an estimated 6,000 people in the Palo Community with 1000 having been baptized. The Palo cathedral has been rebuilt twice – first in years prior to 1897 after it was damaged by fire and tropical storm, and later in 1897 when a strong tropical storm unroofed the church, damaged the convent and other houses in town.

In those days violent Moro raids were not uncommon. The object of the raids was to capture the local settlers and later sold as slaves in Malaya, Macassar, or Java, to inflict physical damage to the towns and countryside, and to carry away any crop or booty. The first major raid on record was made on October 28, 1603, composed of seventy ships and two thousand men. Palo and another town were burned, and several settlers were as captives.

In 1768, when the Jesuits were ordered to leave the Philippines, the Augustinian friars took over the Parish. In 1843, the Franciscans succeeded them, until the outbreak of the Philippine revolution against Spain in 1898. The church was repaired by Fr. Agustin de Consuegra, who built the twin towers in 1859, and continued by Fr. Pantaleon de la Fuente, who finished the twin towers and installed the facade in 1896 up to March 1900.

Leyte previously belonged to the Diocese of Cebu from 1595 until 1910 and then belonged to the Diocese of Calbayog from 1910 until 1937. The church also housed the first seminary of Palo in 1925.

The Cathedral was temporarily converted into an evacuation hospital by the American Liberation Forces and refuge of civilians during World War II in October, 1944 to March, 1945.

*This historical account and pictures were supplied by Pabbles Dolina, First GIANTS. He states in his letter that "The Jubilee Year celebration is of great importance to the townspeople who are proud of their town and consider their religion and their conservative ways as their birthright."*



Above, Palo Cathedral after 2012 renovation. At left, as it looked pre-1960s, when it was used as a hospital during WWII



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## January 2013

Wednesday, 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting;  
Cubberley Community Center Room A6

Friday, 11th, 7:15 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad General Meeting, followed by "Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Guinea: An Eyewitness Account" a talk and slideshow by Judy Kramer at 7:30 p.m.  
Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto

## February 2013

Saturday, 9th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD IN SIX CITIES, Kickoff celebration of Neighbors Abroad's 50th Anniversary Year. Lucie Stern Community Center Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road. Palo Alto

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

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting;  
Cubberley Community Center Room A6

**Next El Chisme Deadline—February 10, 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>