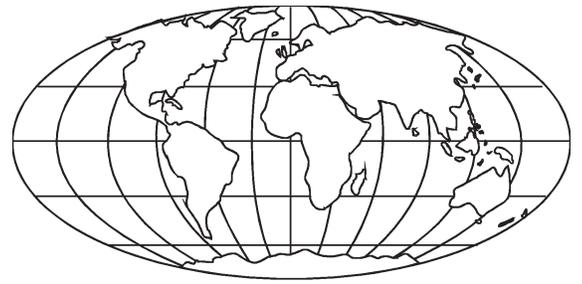


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 49, Number 5

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

September-October 2011

Family Fun Day

International Fair

Sunday, October 2, 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

We want to emphasize the critical importance of the success of Family Fun Day this year. The funds raised go to the Children's Library and Computer Center in Palo, the Philippines as well as to the children's health program (Niño a Niño) and the



Albergue for orphaned and abandoned children, both in Oaxaca, Mexico. In the past, we have been able to support these projects with the help of reserves that were accumulated years ago through one large fund-raising event. These reserves have

run out and we face the possible necessity of drastic cuts in the aid we give to these valuable programs.

Family Fun Day has been our main fund-raiser beyond the yearly solicitation letter that we send out. IF FAMILY FUN DAY IS SUPPORTED BY EACH NEIGHBORS ABROAD FAMILY we may very well make up a sizeable portion of our shortfall. But WE NEED YOUR HELP. Here are some things you can do:

- Donate your international travel treasures to the International Shop at Family Fun Day.
- Publicize the International Shop at your church or place of business. Emphasize that ALL proceeds go directly to Children's Projects in Mexico and the Philippines.
- Tell your friends about Family Fun Day. Invite them to bring some money and come to the event with you. Bring your own children or grandchildren!
- Distribute posters of the event in your neighborhood. Tell your neighbors about Family Fun Day. Give them a flyer. You can find flyers on the website www.neighborsabroad.org or Marion Mandell will be happy to provide you with some. Call Marion at 650-493-3798.
- Look for likely places to post a flyer about Family Fun Day. Offer to take one there for posting!
- If you know an interesting activity or game that you could share, please get in touch with Marion Mandell (650-493-3798). She will be contacting girl scout troops to help with the children's activities on that day.

Many members gave generously to the appeal for Tsuchiura, Japan, relief. At this point they may find it hard to think about the financial needs of our own service projects in Palo and Oaxaca, but those projects are an essential part of what we do as Neighbors Abroad. Many children are depending on our help.

Now we are experiencing a significant shortfall in what we have usually been able to do for them. Although the sister city committees in Palo and Oaxaca are also active contributors, they count on our regular support as essential for maintaining their programs. With your active help on Family Fun Day we hope to greatly increase the amount that this event can provide for the Children's Projects of Neighbors Abroad.

Barbara and Joe Evans

Tsuchiura and Palo Alto compared:

Tsuchiura has as many similarities as differences with Palo Alto. Tsuchiura is located about 40 miles north of Tokyo, the capital of Japan. It is served by frequent express train service that takes about 50 minutes ride. When compared, Palo Alto is about 35 miles south of San Francisco, the regional center, and takes about 60 minutes by Caltrain.

Tsuchiura is situated on the nation's second largest lake, Kasumigaura, just as our Palo Alto is on the shore of San Francisco Bay. In fact, the view of Kasumigaura from Tsuchiura resembles that of the bay from Palo Alto.

The population of Tsuchiura is 144,400, more than double of Palo Alto, which now has 64,400 residents. Since the area of the City of Tsuchiura (43.9 sq. mi.) is almost twice as that of Palo Alto (25.8 sq. mi.), the population density is nearly same in both cities. But since Tsuchiura includes many farm lands, one could guess that the residential area is much more dense than that of Palo Alto. One remarkable difference in the population profiles is the number of foreigners. Only 2000 residents in Tsuchiura, a little over 1% of total population, are foreigners while Palo Alto has a high number of foreign-born citizens. Palo Alto has Stanford University, while Tsuchiura is next to Tsukuba University, the nation's prominent scientific research university.

Perhaps the largest differences between two cities are their climate, history, and culture. While Tsuchiura has distinctive 4 seasons—cold winter, mild spring with a lot of beautiful cherry blossoms, hot and humid summer, and crisp autumn—Palo Alto, as we all know, has basically only spring and autumn-type weather, with no extreme heat or cold.

Although the area had been used as a campsite by native Americans for hundreds of years, the Palo Alto area was first visited by Europeans in 1769 and the city was not incorporated until 1894. On the other hand, archeological evidence shows people's settlement some 12,000 years ago in Tsuchiura. History shows that the area was already a regional center in about 1185 AD. During the Tokugawa era (1600-1860 AD), it became headquarters of a relative of the Shogun, Tsuchiya family. After the Meiji Revolution until presently, Tsuchiura has been the area's center of commercial activity. Reflecting this history, it has many cultural treasures and annual activities, which are always anticipated and enjoyed by the citizens of Tsuchiura. In the next issue of El Chisme we will focus on Tsuchiura's history.

Yasuo Kishimoto

TSUCHIURA



Konnichiwa,

By the time you read this publication, PAUSD schools will have started for the 2011-2012 year. I hope this year's student exchange program will be carried out as planned: Tsuchiurans' visit in March and Palo Altans' visit to Japan in July, 2012.

I'd like to share the following news just arrived from Tsuchiura:

"Although many house roofs around the city damaged in the March earthquake are still wrapped with blue plastic tarps, the numbers are gradually decreasing. We are sending "before and after" photos of the damage at Manabe Elementary School. (see below and page 6) Donations from Palo Alto citizens have been used for these recovery efforts and we are very appreciative for your heartfelt support.

"Regarding the aftershocks, they are lessening indeed, but a quite big shake came last night. Our daily life in Tsuchiura, however, has almost returned to normal.

"We are very excited to be able to open our 80th "Fireworks Completion Festival" to be held on October 1st. Many of the city's events have been cancelled since March 11, but we are hoping that this firework event will cheer up the spirit of Tsuchiura."

Arigato for your support,
Keiko Nakajima



At left: Damaged Hallway Wall 3/11. Below: Repairs complete 7/11



**See more
"before and
after" photos
on page 6**

OAXACA



Be sure you all read Gunn High School student Jennifer Chang's description of the group's recent service trip to Oaxaca, below, with her photos. They all had a fabulous experience and we certainly appreciate all the good work they did both for the Albergue Infantil Josefino (orphanage) and the Programa Niño-a-Niño (Child-to-child health program). It began with their surprise at being greeted at the airport in Oaxaca by a large crowd of Sister City members with welcoming banners! See Jennifer's account right after a few reminders from me about other stuff.

1. **Family Fun Day International Fair** is coming up on Sunday, October 2, at Lucie Stern Community Center main Courtyard, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We need your donations of items from around the world for the Famous International Store. Your contributions will become someone else's treasures! We will need volunteer workers for the store and other jobs. Call or email me: (650) 493-3798 or <marionb@sonic.net>.

2. We still have LOTS of ready-packed suitcases of clothing, etc., for both the orphanage and the Child-to-Child Health Program. If you or anyone you know is going to visit Oaxaca, please contact me first to help transport the items. Also, if you are not traveling, but want to help with the current extra luggage fees, why not join "Adopt-a-Suitcase" and contribute toward sending items with other travelers.

3. Madre Alicia tells me that there are seven new residents at the orphanage, four girls and three boys, all little ones. (In fact two of the four-year-old girls are so small, due to extreme malnutrition that they look like two year olds, but they are working hard to bring them up to good health.) So they now have a total of fifty-five children. Costs of everything in Oaxaca have risen, so they were absolutely delighted to receive the nineteen suitcases of clothing which we sent to them along with the Gunn High School student group.

¡Hasta luego!
Marion Mandell

**Be sure to see
Jennifer Chang's
article and photos
on pages 4 & 5
of the Gunn High
service trip to
Oaxaca.**



Group Photo of Gunn High School students at Mitla Ruins

¡Hola!

As you may have read in the previous edition of *El Chisme*, sixteen of us Gunn High School students went to Oaxaca in June and had an absolute blast! Unfortunately, we were still busy adventuring through the streets of Oaxaca as the July/August edition of *El Chisme* was being printed—I know you've all been anxious to hear about it, so now that we're back, here's a recap of our trip:

From June 13-23, sixteen students, two Gunn teachers, and one parent chaperone traveled to the beautiful city of Oaxaca, Mexico. Lauren Cory, history teacher at Gunn, led the trip planning efforts and recruited a four-student planning committee (Jennifer Chang, Karen Camacho, Cara Lai, Emma Marriott), which began work early last September. We were also very fortunate to have joining us on the trip James Lubbe, Dean of Students at Gunn.

To help fund the trip, students sent donation request letters to family and friends, contacted local Rotary clubs, and organized churro and pearl milk tea sales at our school. The Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto made a generous donation that went towards our scholarship fund.



At the orphanage: teaching kids how to fold paper cranes

We participated in two service projects in Oaxaca—Niño-a-Niño and Albergue Infantil Josefino.

Each day, we split into two groups; half of us went to Niño-a-Niño while the other half went to the Albergue. Directed by Patricia Molina, Niño-a-Niño promotes and educates locals about health and sustainable community building. Albergue Infantil Josefino is an orphanage where director Madre Alicia creates a safe and nurturing home for abandoned and orphaned children. Before the trip, we organized clothing drives at local elementary, middle and high schools to give to the orphanage.

Upon arrival at the orphanage, we were immediately greeted by smiling children that took our hands and led us inside. We were amazed to see how happy all the children were, and it was so heartwarming to see their welcoming smiles. At the orphanage, the goal was to get the children more active through organized activities—including crafts, reading, and sports. We led various crafts such as origami cranes, lanyards, friendship bracelets, and picture frames. Additionally, we read English storybooks to help the children improve their English, played games of soccer and basketball, and taught them how to play American football.



Albergue children hold up a decorative lanyard that they made.

Even those who were unfamiliar with Spanish were still able to thoroughly enjoy interacting with children at the orphanage. Thomas Gorden said he "had a great time playing with orphans and expanding past language barriers." Yuka Sakazaki described her experience, saying, "It was a challenge trying to teach kids how to make a friendship bracelet when I didn't know the language, but it was rewarding to see their enthusiasm." Apart from working with the kids, we brightened up the orphanage by painting a colorful mural of exotic animals.

Through Niño-a-Niño, we visited rural villages to plant organic gardens and teach healthy habits such as brushing teeth (Nimbus® generously donated 400 toothbrushes). The villagers were always very gracious and thankful for the help. Asha Bucklin thought that "the people we talked to and visited seemed genuinely happy to see us." For example, at a rural mountain village called Pensamiento, we spent the day farming and planting organic vegetables for the community. After, the village invited us to a lovely

home-cooked meal using materials paid for by donations from villagers. At both the villages and the Albergue, we were most amazed by the *hospitalidad* that the Oaxacans showed towards us.



Students busy farming at Pensamiento village.

The other focus of the trip was cultural immersion. In order for us to experience and understand the colorful culture of Oaxaca, we ate the food, walked the streets, shopped the markets, and (attempted to) speak the language of the local Oaxacans. In the evenings, we had a chance to explore the city—one of the go-to places was the Zócalo, or town square, a bustling city center with restaurants, delicious food stands, colorful street vendors, and live banda music. Rachel Mock said that when we had time to explore, “it was really fun walking around the Zócalo and getting to know other students at Gunn,” while Lee Zhao especially “liked the food.” On weekends and mornings, we visited historical sites such as Monte Albán and Mitla, as well as cultural museums such as textile and stamp museums.



Happy after planting a garden of organic radishes, carrots, and cilantro.

To end the trip, we had the privilege of meeting with the mayor of Oaxaca, the Comité de Ciudades Hermanas (Committee of Sister Cities), and the Comité director, Soledad Osogobio Cuevas, in a reception and traditional dance performance. There, we had the opportunity to thank all the people who worked so hard to make our trip

possible and our experience as wonderful as it was.

For all of us students as well as the

Oaxacans whose lives

we touched, the trip was a cultural learning and service experience we will never forget.

Muchas gracias for your continuing support!
Jennifer Chang



Lauren Cory with the Mayor and Comité de Ciudades Hermanas



Lauren Cory and students with Patricia Molina and Comité de Ciudades Hermanas

We need YOUR help with Family Fun Day to continue to support the wonderful projects you've read about in this article.

- Check your garages and closets for treasures for the International Store.
- Volunteer to help in the store or another booth for a few hours at the event.
- Publicize Family Fun Day by distributing posters and inviting friends, neighbors and family members to attend.

Contact Marion Mandell, 650-493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net

After the devastating earthquake in Japan in March, Palo Altans donated to an earthquake relief fund for Tsuchiura organized by the students at Jordan and JLS whose exchange program had to be cancelled. We've heard from Tsuchiura that the funds were used to repair Manabe Elementary School in Tsuchiura. Here are before-and-after photos. See the Tsuchiura article and another photo on page 3



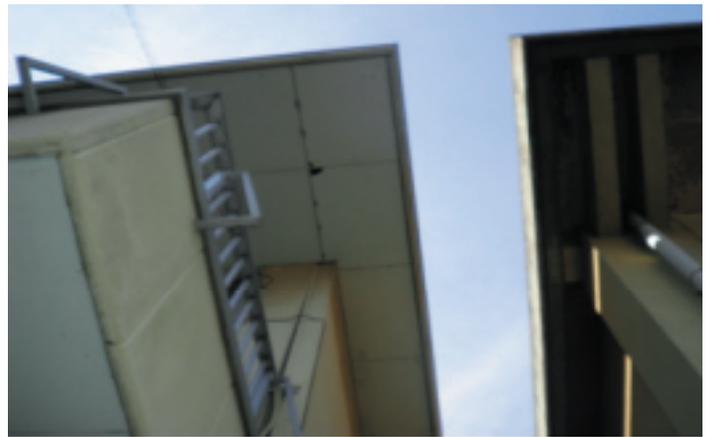
Cracked wall 3/11



Repaired 6/11



Broken eaves 3/11



Repairs completed 6/11



Classroom ceiling 3/11



Refinished 6/11

ALBI



Trip to the Albi Region coming soon

By the time you read this article, the group of 19, which includes 10 cyclists, will be packing and getting ready for the journey to the Dordogne Region, near Albi. We already know who will be hosting who and numerous emails are flying over the ocean to get in touch early and start working on the logistics. Our group is planning a get-together preparation meeting at the end of August. When we are back, you will hear our story and see numerous pictures here in this article and on the Neighbors Abroad Web site, I promise.

Bastille Day was a great success

As indicated in our previous article, July 14th was the day for celebrating Bastille Day. More than thirty people came join the party. What was remarkable was the fact that we had many guests and visitors had heard about it via word of mouth or local publications. And some indicated that they were willing to join Neighbors Abroad as they had lot of fun and appreciated the friendship, the food and the ambiance. In retrospect, I was not too excited by the new location we tried, Seale Park instead of Ramos Park where we used to go. The sitting was not as convenient with these spaced smallish square tables and we will probably consider going back to Ramos Park next year. We surprised and entertained our guests with French songs selected, as usual, to be easy to sing without being an Opera tenor or a fluent French speaker. Come join us next year and you will see and hear for yourself!

French Madness on the Road

You may have heard about it in the news on the third page of your newspaper: The traffic jams on the French roads reached an unprecedented peak of more than 500 miles at the end of July, not bad for a country no bigger than California. One cultural fact you have to consider is that for the French, vacations mean summer and more specifically July and August, period. You have indeed two categories of vacationers: the Juilletistes (Juillet meaning July) and the Aoûtistes (Août meaning August). There is of course always a weekend sitting at the end of July or the beginning of August. On these two days, millions of Juilletistes on their way back are crossing millions of Aoûtistes on their way out to the beaches. Therefore the 500 miles of bumper-to-bumper vehicles previously mentioned. All intentionse by the government to spread the vacation period via school schedule adjustments

LINKÖPING



The discussion of having a 28 piece string orchestra come from Linköping next year has gone very quiet, as has all official correspondence with Linköping's Palo Alto Committee. On the other hand, we just got a bright spark of unofficial connection. A resident of Linköping, Sven Sevegran, was coming to Sacramento with his son, Håkan, in early August, and he decided



Linköping visitors Sven Sevegran, right, and his son Håkan on their visit to Palo Alto.

to take advantage of the Sister City connection. We had them for lunch and gave them a tour of the town (and of Stanford) before they went off to see the

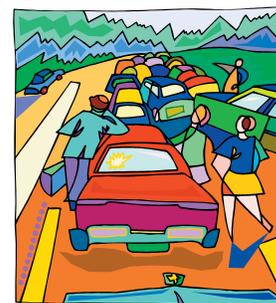
Golden Gate Bridge. We were glad to have them come. We hope they were glad that they came.

As of the date of this writing, August 9, we have only 25 places at the Crayfish dinner paid for. The nominal size of the party is 40, often pushed to 42. Checks for \$30 per place, payable to Neighbors Abroad, must come into my hand to assure a reservation.

Bruce Wilner

or other means have miserably failed. The situation is so extreme that many companies just close from mid-July to mid-August for lack of personnel and/or lack of customers. Just do not try to do business with France during that time; you would probably be negotiating with an answering machine.

*À bientôt,
Michel Campmas*



PALO



Mabuhay!

Natural Disasters

As we here are just beginning to understand the effects of global warming, [aka climate change] the violent storms and pursuant flooding in the Philippines send a word of warning to all low-lying communities throughout the world. Due haste is crucial here as politicians work to get legislation to curb man-made emissions that hasten horrific scenarios.

A Relevant Note from the past

Vangie Canonizado Buell was born in California. Her parents were from Luzon. President of the East Bay Filipino-American Association, Vangie has been working on a history of Filipino-Americans. Here is an essay she wrote which has relevance for today as we search for meaningful ways to deal with immigration:

I am a Loyal American Filipino, 1940's

During World War 11 when I was a little girl, nine years old, I remember having to wear a large button printed in red, white and blue with the words, "I am a loyal American Filipino." We could not leave home without it. Grandma worried about us especially when we forgot our buttons. We had several for us to wear on our jackets and sweaters. At that time people could not tell one Asian from another, and we were sometimes mistaken for Japanese.

Our Japanese friends and neighbors had recently been taken to internment camps. Needless to say, we were still very shaken by the traumatic experience of seeing them leave. Grandma was grief-stricken for a long time.

One day I did the inevitable. I left home without my button to go shopping. The clerk at the grocery store called me a "Jap", and told me I could not buy rice. Another sold me some inferior rice. I felt humiliated wearing the button, but when I didn't I was discriminated against.

Racial profiling, required identity cards etc.—Today's "buttons" ???

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton

In the photo at the right, Ronna Gonsalves on the left, and Joni Reid on the right stand with the Enschede artifact display at Palo Alto City Hall

ENSCHEDÉ



Dutch Art Exhibit

On July 13th, six Neighbors Abroad members went to the San Francisco Legion of Honor to see the world-famous collection of Dutch and Flemish Art from the Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo collection. It is a remarkable exhibition of more than 70 paintings by illustrious Dutch artists including: Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Jacob van Ruisdael, Gerrit Dou, and more. The van Otterloo Collection is considered



Neighbors Abroad group in the Legion of Honor courtyard

a superior collection of works definitive of the Golden Age of Dutch Art.

Here are some of our comments about this extraordinary show:

Madeleine Smeets: "De moeite waard." (Worthwhile)
Ann Pianetta: "Don't miss it."
Susan Carson: "Beautiful pieces with excellent explanations."
Edie Trevino: "Extraordinary."
Mary Beth Train: "I saw the exhibit at the Salem-Peabody Essex Museum and I had to see it again."
Joni Reid: "A visit to 17th century Netherlands in San Francisco."

This exhibit will run through October 2. Also, *Golden:*



Dutch and Flemish Masterworks from the Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo Collection (Peabody Essex Museum) by Frederik J. Dupard is available for loan in the main branch of the Palo Alto Library. This beautifully illustrated book includes works on display at the Legion of Honor.

City Hall Display

As a tribute to our sister city relationship with Enschede The Netherlands, in July 2011, with the permission of Neighbors Abroad's city hall liaison Ronna Gonsalves, I put many of my Enschede artifacts in a lovely glass cabinet in the lobby of Palo Alto City Hall. The items are in view for all who enter city hall. In 1980 a large wooden name plate was carved by a member of our sister city in Palo the Philippines to commemorate the Enschede/Palo Alto sister city relationship. This year 2011 marks the 31st anniversary of this relationship.

Visitors

On June 22, 2011 I invited two students from Saxion University in Enschede, Daan Storthelder and Luuk Lentferink to join Gerwin and myself for dinner. Daan and



Daan, Luuk, and Gerwin at dinner.

a Dutch view of bicycle travel in this most hilly of cities. Daan and Luuk devised the bicycle route taken by many people as part of the Queens' Day celebration held in San Francisco in April.

On July 7, 2011 I hosted Janneke Hoedemaeker, who is in the throes of her internship at the Dutch consulate in San Francisco. I asked Janneke to tell us a bit of what she is doing in San Francisco. She wrote: "I am an intern at the Netherlands Office for



Janneke and Joni

Luuk are studying the use of bicycles in San Francisco, and are offering the city of San Francisco

Science and Technology (at the Dutch Consulate) in San Francisco. I am working on a project exploring science and technology developments in the field of nanotechnology in the bay area. The goal of this project is to map out excellent Nano research centers and identify possibilities for collaboration between the US and the Netherlands. I studied Applied Physics and the Philosophy of Science and Technology & Society at the University of Twente in Enschede. I have a particular interest in the governance of science and technology as related to international research collaboration, and the embedding of new technologies in society."

I had the pleasure of meeting Marion Hemsing, her husband Matthias Wessling and their two children Marie and Marten. They are from Enschede and are living in Menlo Park for three weeks this summer. Matthias is on the faculty of the University of Twente. They know many of our Neighbors Abroad friends: Paul Bijleveld and his wife Hilda Ferwerda, Dave Blank and Jos de Smit. I will plan on seeing all of our Neighbors Abroad friend when I go to Enschede this year.

Twente football stadium collapse

On July 7, 2011 one person was killed and others seriously injured when part of football club FC Twente's stadium collapsed during building work. Seven construction workers were hospitalized following the collapse.

The stadium was being expanded. Initial reports say it appears several support beams collapsed at one end of the stadium. Enschede mayor Peter den Oudsten, told a television news show on Thursday evening that it is difficult to say what caused the collapse. One eyewitness said several people were on the roof of the stadium when it began to sway and collapse, it went down "like a pack of cards. We thought it was an earthquake."

DutchNews.nl July 7, 2011

I emailed Irene Vernes, Enschede's Neighbors Abroad contact, to express our concern and condolences. Irene replied: "Dear Joni: Your message is highly appreciated. Thank you. It was indeed a great shock when we heard the news



View of stadium damage.

yesterday afternoon. A terrible thing to happen, especially for the construction workers and their families."

**Tot Ziens,
Joni Reid**



Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

September 2011

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

Fall kick-off of the Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council at an Atherton garden estate with an hors d'oeuvres/wine reception. The topic is: "Making a Difference—The Peace Corps at 50" with Dr. Peter Grothe, former foreign policy advisor to Senator Hubert Humphrey & Deputy Director of the UN Division of the Peace Corps, and a panel of former Peace Corps volunteers. World Affairs Council Members: \$10; Non-members: \$15; Students: \$5. Pre-paid reservations required by Sept. 8. Call (415) 293-4600. Check In: 2:30 pm; Program: 3:00 pm; Reception: 4:30 pm. Site: 75 Tuscaloosa Ave., Atherton. For info., call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757

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

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center, RoomA3, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

September x to x

Albi trip for cyclists and others.

October 2011

Sunday, 2nd, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Family Fun Day and International Fair. Lucie Stern Community Center Courtyard, 1305 Middlefield Rd.

Wednesday, 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center, RoomA3, 4000 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto

Next El Chisme Deadline—October 10, 2011

- 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
Ann Pianetta, Membership	424-9070

<http://neighborsabroad.org>