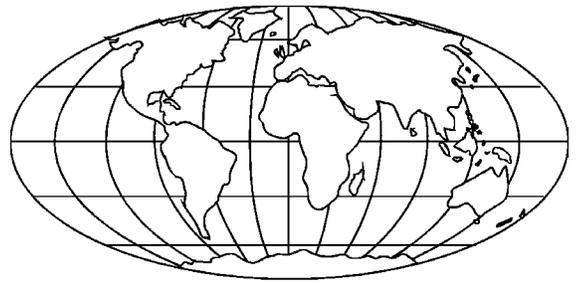


EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 52, Number 2

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

March – April 2014



You are invited to join host families, city officials and others to greet the 2014 exchange students from Tsuchiura, Japan and welcome them to Palo Alto.



**Saturday, March 15th
12:45 pm**

**Pine Grove Picnic Area
Mitchell Park
600 East Meadow Drive
Palo Alto**

In case of rain, the welcome will move to the JLS Middle School Multipurpose Room, 480 East Meadow Drive in Palo Alto

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The big excitement this year, of course, will be the 50th anniversary of our sister-city relationship with Oaxaca, Mexico. A large delegation from Palo Alto, including the mayor and several council members will be traveling to Oaxaca in June to take part in the celebrations there.

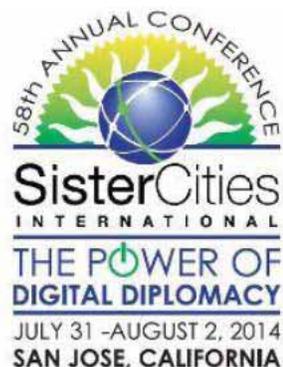
Meanwhile, the Tsuchiura committee is preparing to welcome this year's exchange students when they arrive in the next few days. We are all invited to join in the welcoming picnic at Mitchell Park on March 15 (12:45 p.m. in the Pine Grove Area.



While the community has been generous in donations for Palo Relief, we know there will be years of rebuilding ahead for The Philippines. The Children's Library in Palo has been a project of Neighbors Abroad for many years. It withstood the typhoon with some significant damage and while the damage left its contents exposed, some valuable computer equipment was stolen. Preliminary plans are being discussed for further fund raising to aid in the renovation of the library and the replacement of books and computers. Those willing to help put on this event should contact Ruth Carleton or Chris Torres, Co-Vice-Presidents for Palo.

We will be planning a general meeting for later this spring. We hope to have a report on the situation in Palo from those who have been there recently.

Barbara and Joe Evans



Sister Cities International, the umbrella organization for sister-city pairings, will hold its annual conference in San Jose this summer. This is a chance to meet with fellow citizen diplomats and learn about best practices and innovations in the sister city network!

Join Sister Cities International, elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, and business leaders right in our local area to discuss "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". For complete information visit <http://www.sister-cities.org/annual-conference>.



PALO

**Mabuhay!
From Palo**



Recently I spoke with Pat Petilla, daughter of Mayor Remedios Petilla of Palo. She had spent two months in Palo visiting her mother and helping there. She reported that the "basics" were pretty much taken care of and that the difficult task of rebuilding Palo had begun. She mentioned the courage and resolve of the Paloans.

We have not yet received further word from Pabbles Dolina regarding status of the Library. We hope that it might be used for a community center until the time comes for retooling the library.

Pictures and Description of Conditions in Palo by Dr. Enoch Choi

At our last Board meeting Dr. Enoch Choi of the PAMF showed us a stunning video of Palo and environs. We saw the Cathedral which has served as a morgue, refuge and spiritual center for the citizens of Palo. Prior to leaving for the Philippines, Dr. Choi and fellow volunteers, including N.A. members helped pack medical supplies which they took there. Dr. Choi was able to enter the Children's Library through the kitchen door and could assess the damage to books and other equipment. Looters had stolen some computers and other items after the storm.

Encouraging News from the Philippines

On Saturday January 25 the Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim insurgency group negotiated the final details of a peace accord. It is hoped that this may end 40 years of violence that has killed tens of thousands of people. According to the accord, an autonomous Muslim-dominated region will be created in the south (Mindanao) in a predominately Christian nation. However several groups have refused to join the accord so much remains to be done to insure peace. Teresita Quintos Delos, Presidential adviser on the peace talks said, "In a world looking for peaceful solutions to all troubles, we are grateful that we have found ours." N.Y. Times-Jan.26.

Mabuhay!

Ruth Carleton and Chris Torres

ALBI



Working on Adult Exchanges with Albi to Celebrate our 20th Anniversary

I have recently been in contact with Jean Pierre Remazeilhes, president of Terre d'Union, my counterpart in Albi. As we are reaching the 20th anniversary of the Albi-Palo Alto sister cityhood (1994!) we would like to do something special to mark this anniversary.

We are exploring multiple exchange possibilities involving Albi and Palo Alto citizens sharing the same passion. Some themes were already very successful in the past, other are new:



- Cyclists exchange: multiple successful visits, both ways occurred in the past. The latest was the trip to Albi in 2011 by the Western Wheelers cyclists. It would be time to follow-up on the invitation we extended to the French at the end of the stay and have our Albi friends bicycle with us here in the Bay Area.



- Tennis Players exchange: this would be new. As I am now involved with the Palo Alto Tennis Club, I have started working on this with this club and some other Palo Alto tennis clubs. Jean Pierre believes that among the 200-250 players in Albi, he could also raise a lot of interest.



- Photographers exchange: We started working on this a couple of years ago. I successfully contacted the Palo Alto Camera Club whose members showed a lot of interest. This fell apart as the people contacted by Jean Pierre on the Albi side did not follow-up. Jean Pierre who is himself an avid amateur photographer is actively working on it again.



- Singers exchange: In the past, Neighbors Abroad initiated an exchange between the Albi Assou-Lezert Chorale and the Palo Alto Aurora Singers Chorale. This was immensely successful and they ended up visiting each other and singing together many times with the sponsoring of Neighbors Abroad. It now would be time for a visit from the French. Amar Singh, a long time chorister with the Aurora Singers is actively driving this with the strong support of Karen Boyd, Aurora Singers President and Dawn Reyen, Chorale Director. He has contacted Emmanuelle, the Assou-Lezert Chorale Director and there seems to be a good possibility to have them come to Palo Alto in 2015.

We are also exploring some others tracks, such as a possible exchange involving the Rotary Club in Albi and Palo Alto. I will keep you posted in my next articles on the progress on all these fronts.

À bientôt!

Michel Campmas

ENSCHEDA

In December 2013, I received an email from Paul Bijleveld that "Palo Alto and Enschede have agreed to have a joint internship for a Saxion student." Paul gave the student my email address and in early January 2014, I received an email from Carlijn Soer. Carlijn is the intern from Saxion University in Enschede who will do part of her internship in the city of Palo Alto. She will arrive in Palo Alto on March 5th and depart on



May 29th.

Carlijn is 20 years old and comes from Oldenzaal, a small city in the province of Overijssel that is about 20 minutes from Enschede. Carlijn will spend three months here; I will fetch her from the SFO on March 3rd and she returns to the Netherlands on May 29th.

Carlijn is studying Commercial



Carlijn Soer

Economics at Saxion University and will receive a Bachelor of Business Administration when she completes her studies. Her major emphasis is Marketing. While she is in Palo Alto she will work on projects that are involved with start-ups in the hopes of encouraging those companies that are interested, to consider Enschede as a hopping off point to enter the European market.

In her spare time Carlijn enjoys playing field hockey and she volunteers with the LEO Club (Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity) the young Lions in Enschede. As Carlijn wrote, "Enschede has a lot to offer!"

On January 14th I met with Thomas Fehrenbach (Economic Development Manager City of Palo Alto) to talk about any plans the city might have in mind to welcome our first Enschede/Palo Alto intern and how

the cities of Enschede and Palo Alto might endeavor to develop activities/projects to enliven the sister city relationship.

As I have mentioned in previous Enschede reports for El Chisme, in 2007 the cities of Enschede and Palo Alto entered into an Economic Alliance Agreement. As noted in the 2007 memo from Palo Alto city hall the objective of the Economic Alliance Agreement, "... aims to improve quality of life in our cities through economic growth... to invest in its citizens' and their well being and ensure the city's long term fiscal health. The economic partnership agreement aims to benefit the entire region to which our cities belong."

Some examples of the Economic Alliance Agreement between City of Enschede and the city of Palo Alto include:

- Promotion of "business partnerships"
- Organization of "business seminars and workshops at both locations"
- "Support exchange" of "students of universities."

Carlijn is our first student to participate in this unique cooperative Economic Alliance Agreement.

In 2013 representatives from both cities met in Palo Alto and developed Opportunities for Cooperation: "...the topic of sustainable urban mobility and the development of plans and actions to improve the traffic situation in Palo Alto." Actions to "facilitate, persuade and connect" were discussed:

- "Facilitate- the city of Enschede developed a bicycle plan ...aimed to get more people to cycle: a network of connectivity and safety; parking facilities for bicycles; and communication/ marketing" to encourage bicycling.
- "Persuade- "We (Enschede) combine traffic data with a multi-model route planner" to advise people "how to travel to get a personal gain."
- "Connect- Develop attractive, diverse and innovative bicycle hiways between key commercial, industrial and educational sites. The developments can be physical-picnic spaces, technological (wi-fi spots) and beautiful (art displays).

We are looking forward to Carlijn's visit, we wish her success with her internship in Palo Alto and we anticipate innovative developments in Palo Alto to improve the quality of life in our city.

I received an email from Dirk van der Linden that I thought might interest some of our readers:

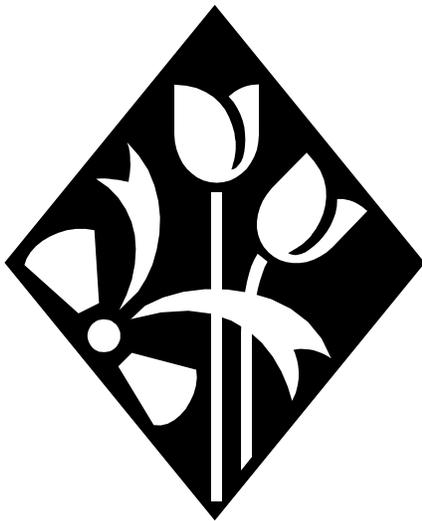
"About six miles from Maastricht in the Netherlands lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who

died in 'Operation Market Garden' in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall and winter of 1944-5. Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries has been adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of 'their' American soldier in a place of honor in their home. Annually on 'Liberation Day' Memorial Services are held for 'the men who died to liberate Holland.' The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always 'IL Silenzio', a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since.

This year the soloist was a 13 year old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by André Rieu and his orchestra (the Royal Orchestra of the Netherlands). This beautiful concert piece is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer Nino Rossi."

You can enjoy this concert on your own computer:
<http://www.flixy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>

Tot ziens,
Joni Reid



**You are invited to a Welcome Reception
 for Carlijn Soer,
 Enschede/Palo Alto Exchange Student/Intern
 Thursday April 17, 2014, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
 RSVP to Joni Reid by Thursday, April 3
 at 650-322-1378**

Sponsored by the City of Palo Alto

LINKÖPING



There has been no interaction with Linköping. I supposed I might send drought reports to Anders just to assure that there is a line of communication.

Bruce Wilner

TSUCHIURA



Konnichiwa,

I would like to introduce myself to you and invite you and your Neighbors Abroad members to our Japanese Student Welcome party.

My name is Diana Nemet and I am assisting Keiko Nakajima this year as the Host Family Chair. My family and I hosted a Japanese student last Spring and plan to host another student again this year. I also helped to chaperone the trip to Japan last summer and will assist Sensei Nakajima in chaperoning the trip again this summer.

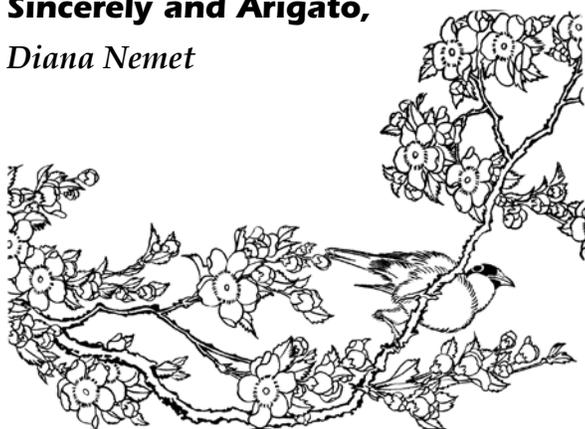
We are planning to greet our Japanese students on Saturday, March 15th at 12:45 p.m. at the Pine Grove picnic area at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto located at 600 East Meadow Drive. We would be delighted if you would join us, and we would be grateful if you would please extend this invitation to your Neighbors Abroad members.

My family and I thoroughly enjoyed our experience with our Japanese host student and are incredibly grateful for the sister-city relationship Palo Alto has with Tsuchiura. Thank you for all you do to encourage and support this and other sister-city relationships.

I look forward to meeting you and I hope you'll be able to join us in welcoming our Japanese students on March 15th.

Sincerely and Arigato,

Diana Nemet



Palo Alto chooses runner to compete in Tsuchiura

My name is Dr. Zachi Baharav, and I will be honored to have the opportunity to represent Palo Alto in the upcoming Tsuchiura Marathon. It is a great way to strengthen the relations between our Sister Cities through sport activities.

About myself: I have been a resident of Palo Alto for the past 11 years. I am 50 years old (male), married, with 2 kids. I am very much involved in the city and community through the education system (Fairmeadow, JLS, and Gunn schools), volunteering in schools (JLS chess club for the last 7 years), longtime member of the Palo Alto Run Club, Boy Scouts, and more. I have been involved with City Council activities, taking part in meetings and discussions.

Professionally, I am a Professor at Cogswell College, and have been in various research and management roles in high-tech for all my professional life (most of it in Palo Alto: HP/Agilent Labs, Corning West Technology Center).

On a personal note, I have been to Japan quite a few times in the past, on business and on family travel. I've mainly stayed in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kamakura, with short day visits to other locations. I have never visited Tsuchiura, and am looking forward to seeing the beautiful city during the Cherry-Blossom season.

About running: As long as I can remember, I always enjoyed hiking, running, backpacking and orienteering. However, it took me almost 40 years to run my first road marathon in 2001. That year, I was introduced to the local community of trail-runners. Enjoying the new-found company, as well as the beauty of the Bay Area, I embarked on ultra-marathon events. From 50k runs, to 50M, and then 100k and 100M. I ran Western States, one of the most well-known 100-mile races in the world, and finished in under 24 hours. This qualified me for the unique silver finisher buckle. I've also run other road marathons, including New York and San Francisco.

In the past 6 years, I haven't run many races, but have been dedicated more to community events, including organizing sport activities for the local scouts, and unique runs for the local running community. The most celebrated of these special runs I have established is our annual (Palo Alto) Bay-to-Breakers. This run starts from Palo Alto Baylands, goes through old Palo Alto historical sites, proceeds through Stanford and Woodside, and ends in Half Moon Bay.

OAXACA

We would like to introduce all of you readers to our fine exchange student to Oaxaca for the summer of 2014.



Julia Axelrod is a sophomore at Gunn High School. She has been studying Spanish for three years and while she is quite fluent now, she would like to improve her Spanish skills by living with a

Oaxacan family and gaining insight into a different culture. She says that being immersed in Oaxacan culture in this authentic way, is far better than being just a tourist. She is looking forward to bringing her exchange partner home with her to introduce her to the Palo Alto culture. She is thinking up many places to go and things to do to make her Oaxacan's



Julia Axelrod

stay in Palo Alto a memorable experience. Julia is active in theatre at school, takes voice lessons and plays the violin. She also tutors children at a local elementary school, ran a summer day camp with some friends, does community service, likes to read, swim, bike and listen to music. We know that she will have a wonderful time in Oaxaca!

If you are able to spread the word to more high school students, age 15 or older, who are studying Spanish at any level, about the summer exchange, they may still apply, if they contact me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Call Marion Mandell, (650) 493-3798, or email marionb@sonic.net.

And, speaking of Oaxaca, the plans for the 50th Anniversary trip to Oaxaca are progressing nicely. In addition to many "regular" Neighbors Abroad travelers, Palo Alto's Mayor, Nancy Shepherd,

Vice Mayor, Liz Kniss, and City Councilmember Greg Scharff are joining the group for part of the time. Because of city business here they cannot stay the whole time, but will be present for the special events concerning the 50th Anniversary. The Sister City Committee in Oaxaca is very happy about this, as are we here in Palo Alto.

And of course, we will be taking ready-packed suitcases of clothing, shoes, etc, to the children at the Orphanage and the Child-to-Child-Health Program.

Hasta luego

Marion Mandell



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL LECTURES

MARCH

Neighbors Abroad members and guests are invited to attend a free public lecture sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council on Thursday, March 20th on "Russia and Putin: Perspectives and Relations" with Andrei Tsygankov, Professor of Political Science, San Francisco State University. Site: Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. For information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757.

APRIL

On Wednesday, April 16th a panel of Knight Fellows from Stanford University will speak on "Meet the International Press", including Tayyeb Afridi of Pakistan, Aela Callan of Myanmar, and Kennedy Jawoko of East Africa. Same site and time.

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

March 2014

Wednesday, 12th, 7:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, 15th, 12:45 p.m.

Welcome for Tsuchiura exchange students. Pine
Grove Area, Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive,
Palo Alto. No RSVP necessary. See page 6.

April 2014

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

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

Thursday, 20th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Reception for Carlijn Soer, Intern from Enschede;
Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield
Road, Palo Alto. RSVP necessary. See page 5.

Next El Chisme Deadline—April 15, 2014

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