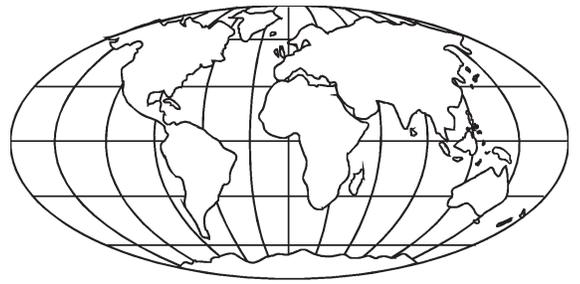


# EL CHISME

## de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 49, Number 6

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

November-December 2011



### *Neighbors Abroad* *Annual Holiday Gala*

*Saturday Dec. 10 from 4 to 7 pm*  
at the beautiful Hardesty-Parker home  
69 Santiago, Atherton

*Delicious Food - Lovely Holiday Music*

*Donation: \$25.00 per person*

All proceeds to go to our  
Neighbors Abroad Children's Projects.

**Reservations required in advance.**

**Mail checks payable  
to Neighbors Abroad to  
Heidi Berndt  
755 Holly Oak Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94303.**

**Inquiries to 650-207-7828**

## Presidents' Message

We are pictured here beside the river Tarn with our French hosts, Chantal and Jean Claude Calmels. Joe and I were lucky enough to be part of the recent exchange with our sister-city of Albi, France. Chantal and Jean Claude had been our guests in 2009 when a French cycling group visited Palo Alto. While Jean Claude and the other



French cyclists joined the Americans in LONG rides in the coast mountains and down the Big Sur coast, we followed their route in a much less strenuous mode.

The warmth and generosity of all our French hosts must be acknowledged. All the plans had been organized for our sight-seeing pleasure, although there were some days when we perhaps needed a "day off" to absorb all we had seen and done. Besides the planning of the French, we were fortunate to have the leadership of our VP for Albi, Michel Campmas who acted as translator for our group besides keeping us on schedule.

Many of us have various degrees of facility with the French language and since most of our French hosts do not admit to speaking English—I think when they do know some English they are just not as willing to make foolish mistakes as we Americans are—it was useful to be able to communicate, at least on a basic level. I have often wondered if having more fluency in the language would really be a benefit or not. When one can only say things simply one tends to concentrate on expressions of warmth, thankfulness and agreement. Perhaps our politicians might get more done if they could be similarly limited.

Of course, while our French hosts are to be thanked profusely for all they did for us, a good part of the reason for their warmth and kindness is the on-going nature of this exchange, a collaboration between Western Wheelers and Neighbors Abroad, which has a history going back to the 1990's. Also important is the relationship built up over the years by our former VP for Albi, Carol Stevens, who spent ten years seeking out and organizing various exchanges between our two areas. Michel has taken on the job enthusiastically and, in his turn, added these innovations such as providing cyclist and non-cyclist activities. All of us who took part in the trip owe thanks to Carol and Michel for their work both past and on-going.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

## Please Continue To Support Neighbors Abroad

Thanks to all of you early responders who have sent in your renewal check.

We worry that some renewal packets may have gotten "lost" among all the other mail you receive each day. You know that the money you provide in your dues is an important part of the funding for our Children's Projects in Palo and Oaxaca. Because people gave generously to the Japan earthquake appeal, they may find it harder to write that check now, but the needs in Mexico and The Philippines are still acute.

Although we support these projects in the name of the city of Palo Alto, the city does not give money to support them. The money sent to the children's home, the children's health project, the computer center and library—all comes from you through dues and responses to a one-time appeal at the end of each year, and from the community in general through fundraising events, such as those organized by volunteer leaders Ruth Carleton, Marion Mandell and Keiko Nakajima.

Please renew your membership in Neighbors Abroad for 2011-12. If you need more information or a new renewal packet, call us (Joe and Barbara Evans) at 650-856-0618 (home) or 650-380-3617 (cell).



**"KIDS WHO READ SUCCEED"**  
VISIT OUR  
**PALO CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**  
A JOINT PROJECT OF  
**NEIGHBORS ABROAD AND THE GIANTS CLUB**  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

**Memberships and donations help support the Palo Children's Library**

## ALBI



*I was planning to relate our recent bicycle exchange trip to France (see our previous articles on the topic) when I found that Danièle, my wife, who was part of the trip, had recounted her impressions of this biking adventure as a close insider in a very humorous way for our French hosts. So I thought it would be a good idea to translate it (the best I could as she is a teacher in French Literature and her French is very elaborate and colorful) and share it with you.*

You probably remember the key date of 1994, when Albi, a small town in southwest France, and Palo Alto, in the heart of Silicon Valley, became Sister Cities. Over time, many many adult exchanges took place around various centers of interest: dancing, painting, cooking, hiking, and of course, biking. In 2009, the Palo Alto Western Wheelers and the San Luis Obispo cyclists, with the active involvement of Neighbors Abroad Albi Committee members, hosted the French cyclists (CODEP 81) from the Albi region. In September 2011, answering a warm invitation from the French cyclists, 18 Americans, including 10 cyclists, 4 of them from San Luis Obispo, flew to Albi. Some took their folding bikes, others were relying on bikes lent by their French counterparts that had been carefully selected based on their size and level of expertise. The French are real pros when it comes to advanced amateur biking!

In addition to the American bikers, nine "non-bikers" were part of the trip. They had hosted the French in 2009 and had been deeply involved in the associated logistics and entertainment activities. The whole group was led by Barbara Eandi from the Western Wheelers.

Our French hosts included the bikers who were pushing on their pedals and the non-bikers who were taking care of all the other "miscellaneous" duties compared to the real important thing which was pedaling: filling hungry bellies after many kilometers on steep slopes, hosting, driving around to carry bikes, bikers and non bikers, synchronizing simultaneous biking and non-biking activities, etc. all under the leadership of Robert and Carmen Bousquet.

The Americans had secretly prepared a great gift for their hosts: we had packed all the California blue sky and heat we could fit in our bags and had released it for the complete length of our stay: no one in France could remember such a long period of blue sky without ANY clouds so late in the fall. To be truthful, the first day had been a little misty and all the bikers had courageously jumped on their bikes with their protective raingear, but this was not to happen again for the 15 days of our stay.

At first sight, one could see a clear difference between American and French cyclists: In France, the vast majority

of bikers are men: there were no women among our host bikers while we had four female bikers in the American group. One could wonder until one realizes that France is the country of the *Tour de France*, a men-only ordeal! This is serious business and it shows!



*Robert Bousquet and Francis the Knight*

the protection of Francis, the knight of the team, whose charter was to not leave anyone behind, no matter what. He was mostly, but not always, successful at this, as you will hear later. This was a real challenge; in contrast to the California back country roads, France is composed of an incredible maze of narrow roads connecting small charming villages hidden on wooden hillsides. When going from point A to point B, there are so many combinations that each cyclist could ride on its own itinerary and never see anyone else.

In this maze, numerous signs were supposed to help at each intersection, but ended up being very confusing when checked against a detailed map carefully prepared by the French cyclist in charge of the trip of the day. There are of course major roads which are much more direct but carry a heavy traffic of cars and trucks not always respectful of the defenseless

bikers on their tiny machines. The French had carefully avoided ever using such roads so that the bikers could enjoy the small roads, smell the fragrant flowers, stop by the beautiful *pigeonniers* (dove cotes) spread in the countryside, admire beautiful thirteenth-century castles perched on the top of the hills or contemplate old villages whose centuries-old houses are a reminder of the rich historical past of this



*A pigeonnier in Périgord countryside*  
 A reminder of the rich historical past of this pays d'Oc (Occitan Country).

In fact, this is an embellishment of the truth: real bikers don't waste time sightseeing or smelling flowers; they are too busy pushing hard on the pedals to swallow mile after mile of grey asphalt. Happily, the non-bikers were there to remind them of pleasures other than exercising their leg muscles. At lunch time, we always found a way to be together to enjoy the moment and share our discoveries of the day. The non-bikers were riding by car, spending more time visiting beautifully restored *bastides* (towns from the Middle Ages specific to the region with a very modern pre-designed perpendicular street layout), castles fiercely erected on the top of steep hills, and Roman and Gothic churches in the old towns of Albi, Gaillac, Lavaur, Sarlat and more.

We took advantage of some non-biking days to visit the town of Albi, recently added to the list of UNESCO World



*Ready to ride the Tarn backroads*

Heritage sites, learn about the Albigeois Crusade where the King of France and the Pope took the weak pretext of fighting heretical thoughts to indiscriminately kill most of the local population and transfer their rich and prosperous properties to the crown of France. We learned about the sad story of the end of the Knight Templars whose treasure, accumulated when fighting in the Far East was never recovered (some people are still actively looking for it), and the Hundred Years War where the French and the English fought for more than 130 years for the control of this very rich region.



*Group visit of Périgueux*

town of Périgueux, was the highlight of our stay. We were all hosted in the *Auberge du Terroir* inn, and for six

We went to the Périgord and visited many castles and prehistoric caves. Indeed, the Périgord region, a 50 mile radius around the ancient medieval

days American and French bikers and non-bikers shared gargantuan meals prepared by a lovely 84-year-old lady, all based on local ingredients from her own farm, and



*Ready for a gourmet meal*

cooked the old fashioned way: *foie gras*, pork, chicken, duck, goose meat, omelet with local wild mushrooms, all served with delicious local wine. This was real gourmet food and we all enjoyed it day after day after day.

Numerous visits had been organized by our hosts especially for the non-bikers in a region so rich in history that we only scratched the surface: the old town of Sarlat dating from the ninth century, the castle of Hautefort where the guide mentioned that after this visit we would be left with only 1199 other castles to choose from, the site of La Roque Saint-Christophe, a one-mile-long deep gash high inside a cliff overlooking a river, which was continuously inhabited from the prehistoric ages to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A little bit like Mesa Verde, Colorado but over a much longer period.

We got a great guided tour of the Périgueux old quarter dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and had the privilege to visit a private home and climb a large stone stair still in its original condition that had been built by a rich merchant many many centuries ago.

Of course we would not have missed for anything the world famous prehistoric paintings of the Lascaux caves. The originals can no longer be seen as the paintings were degrading because of the carbon dioxide exhaled by the visitors. They have been meticulously reproduced for all to see in another cave. Extremely impressive and done by Cro-Magnon people who had fully mastered their art 17,000 years ago: each and every stroke appears to have been done once and only once with



*Some foie gras for lunch*

no trace of any redo, and this while being perched on primitive scaffolding under the light of an oil candle.

Our journey was peppered by various unexpected events mostly due to the challenge of synchronizing the biking and non-biking groups at predefined meeting points, especially at lunch time where we were enjoying what had been originally presented by the French as bag lunches. There were really no bags *per se*, but instead



Having a bag lunch the French way

huge dishes carried in cars and filled with mushroom omelet, duck breasts or other delicious hearty meals.

There were a couple of unexpected

events that everyone fondly remembers, which indeed could have turned out very badly but fortunately did not. At the end of our stay in Périgord, Don, who wanted to exercise a bit, tried to lasso a stone lion perched on a pedestal. Bad move: the 150 pound lion ferociously retaliated by falling on Don's head, opening impressive wounds which later required not less than four stitches after we rushed him to the closest hospital. Our amateur gladiator spent the rest of the stay hiding behind a pair of large black glasses to mask his ordeal.

Later the same day, the van which was carrying nine of us in the middle of nowhere decided that enough was enough and started to exhale a thick white smoke through the front vents. Fortunately, thanks to the magic of the cell phones that most of our hosts were equipped with, others cars rushed to the rescue and no one was left stuck in the countryside.

Finally, during the last bike trip, we "lost" Barbara. She seemed to have disappeared without a trace. Instant panic among the French and American bikers and non-bikers. How could she have escaped her husband's attention and the careful monitoring of Francis the protector knight? We may never know. We were considering the worst scenarios including a possible UFO abduction. She spoke a bit of French and was barely equipped with a little map sketching the trip of the day. Connected by cell phones, all the group started combing the road maze around the location she was last seen. We finally found her waiting for us at the planned meeting point. She had met two very courteous and helpful French cyclists who had gave up their own riding plans and stayed with her to make sure she would safely reach our meeting point. Kudos to the

French cyclists!

At the farewell party, we were honored to host the American Consul in Toulouse who highlighted both in French and English how wonderful these exchanges are to foster lasting friendship and cultural understanding. Everyone wholeheartedly agreed and we ended up the evening with French and American folk songs that had been secretly prepared by each group.

The unforgettable American Biker Team included:

From San Luis Obispo:

- **Mike Balster** whose smile and good humor was a great substitute to the few French words he knew;
- **Marian Balster**, a real Jeannie Longo twin, proudly part of the fast bikers group;
- **Chuck Waldrop**, the representative of the American muscle team, who loved the steep slopes much more than the guided visits (even when in English);
- **John Rogers**, who realized the very first day that France was not a flat country and joined the non-biker group.

From Palo Alto:

- **Barbara Eandi**, the American team leader whose ordeal on the back roads will mark this 4<sup>th</sup> bikers exchange which will forever be known as "the year we lost Barbara;"
- **Dick Eandi**, who is still wondering how Barbara succeeded in escaping despite the vigilant attention of Francis the knight;
- **Don Lapin**, who courageously kept biking despite the four stitches he got as a result of his encounter with the Table du Terroir's stone lion;
- **Bruce Ishimoto**, our Lance Armstrong, asleep during the visits, but waking up with a big smile as soon as he stepped on his bike;
- **Vikie Romo**, our gracious dragonfly whose very contagious *joie de vivre* was as remarkable as her smile and her biking skills;
- **Karin Nelson**, our youngest biker, whose First Aid skills proved invaluable for Don just after his rough encounter with the lion.

*Congratulation to all!*

*Hip hip hip, hurrah!*

*Cocorico!*

—*Danièle Campmas (Translation by Michel)*

And a huge THANK YOU and all my appreciation to the French Cycling Team, the host families and in particular Jean Pierre Remazeilhes, my correspondent from *Terre d'Union* who all helped organize and offer us such a wonderful and memorable stay beyond our wildest dreams.

**À bientôt!**

*Michel Campmas*

# PALO

**Mabuhay!**

**From Palo**



Today's *El Chisme* features photos of the repair and renovation of Palo's Children's Library. As you may be aware, recent flooding has wreaked havoc on much of the Philippines including our Sister City Palo. There has been a great need to renovate much of the library. With plans for a Palo Town Festival, there is a sense of urgency to complete the renovations before the festival.

**Budget, Budget everywhere!**

Our counterparts in Palo are careful stewards of funds received from Neighbors Abroad. We here are confronting the realities of economic downturn as we struggle with our budget derived mainly from memberships, as well as special events such as the recent Family Fun Day, our annual appeal for funds for our vital Children's Projects in Oaxaca and Palo, the annual Holiday Gala and other concerts.

**Our Annual Holiday Party**

Once again we will gather at the lovely home of Nancy Hardesty-John Parker on Sat. Dec. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. to celebrate the joys of the holiday season. We look forward to the usual delicious fare representing our six sister-cities and special musical entertainment. Please join us there! All proceeds go to our Children's Projects.

**Mabuhay!**

**Ruth Carleton**



*Children's Library building and grounds abut F. Montejo St. BEFORE picture taken a few days into the repair/renovation project. There used to be a huge Talisday tree planted at the front left of center of the Library building which we cut down for safety reasons as the tree was already crowding out the Library building. Also take note of the old faded green roof paint and the weakened CHB fence. Except for limited ventilation the whole front is enclosed making the wide front grounds non-functional.*



*The initial work on the ground for the repair/renovation of the childrens library has just started. The weakened low CB fence at the far end will be demolished and replaced with a new reinforced much higher CHB fence. The trunk of the Talisday tree we cut down (lying on the ground) was sliced up and made into trellis to support our polycarbonate cover to save cost on lumber. Please take note of the faded surface of our "Kids who Read Succeed" poster and the failing metal on its underside with its electrical wiring inside damaged and no longer working. Except for the iron posts, we have it all replaced.*



*This picture was taken when work was at 98% complete. What is lacking here is the plastering of pebbles where the three logos are installed at the far end (gray portion) of the wall. Shown here is the new replacement of "Kids Who Read Succeed" sign, new porch supported by beams, new windows and the fully-working sliding tinted-glass door*



*Shown here is the full length of the completed front CHB fence along F. Montejo St. taken from the south end of the fence.*

## TSUCHIURA



### Konnichiwa,

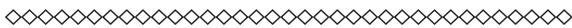
First, thank you, Palo Alto friends! Jim Newton, our Treasurer, has remitted an additional Earthquake relief fund of \$3,329.49 to Tsuchiura City last week. This fund was raised after our first distribution of \$12,744.50 in April. A total of \$16,073.99 has been used to support a part of their recovery efforts. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Secondly, I'm currently looking for 16 host families for students who are going to visit Palo Alto in March, 2012. A few of my Japanese Language class students have already applied for hosting, but if you or you know someone who is willing to host, let me know. It is best if they have a child who attends JLS or Jordan.

Ms. Saori Sagawa, a Senior at Gunn High School, is going to help start a program of exchanging letters between senior residents at Lytton Gardens and the seniors in Tsuchiura. I'm planning to extend a program to exchange paintings among seniors as well.

Lastly, our second "Japan/Tsuchiura Festival" is tentatively scheduled on the last Sunday of September 9/30/2012. More details will follow.

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



GIANTS taking a break during their July 17, 2011 meeting for a photo opportunity at the newly repaired/renovated Library frontage. Also present, but not in the picture were Gt. Dading V. Moron, the two librarians and eight scholars. American Peace Corps volunteers Holly Lovejoy and Celia Hudson are in the front. They will be helping with Saturday story hours in the library.

## History of Tsuchiura

by Yasuo Kishimoto

Our sister city, Tsuchiura, has a long history of development. Japan was traditionally developed by importing cultures from its western neighbors, such as China and Korea. Consequently its civilization spread from west to east. Located in the northeastern part of Japan, development of Tsuchiura was relatively late compared with central and western regions of Japan. Nevertheless, archeological evidence suggests that there was already considerable population in the area 14,000 years ago. Civilization gradually expanded and, in 4-7 centuries, there were already kingdoms which had a close relationship with the Japanese central government located in Nara and Kyoto. This relationship resulted in the spread of their culture and Buddhism to the Tsuchiura area.

Tsuchiura, which means inland port, was developed along with Japan's second biggest inland lake, Kasumigaura, and became an important port city, as well as a significant inland transportation center. During the 10th to 16th centuries, Tsuchiura was caught in political instability and violent wars among many warlords. Peace was finally arrived when Ieyasu Tokugawa established a central Government in the 17th century. He gave his authority to govern the area including Tsuchiura to his relatives, the Tsuchiya family. Tsuchiura then enjoyed prosperity as an important transportation and commercial center in northeastern Japan until the Tokugawa shogunate gave up its authority in 1868 to the new imperial Government (Meiji Revolution).

Under the new government, Tsuchiura became a part of Ibaraki prefecture and established its municipal government in 1889. It continued as an important commercial hub in its area. During the turmoil during years of war against China, United States, and other powers, Tsuchiura, because its location near Kasumigaura, became an important navy air force center and received severe damage due to air attacks from American air forces. After the war, Tsuchiura reestablished its significance as a commercial center from its proximity to Tokyo, abundant availability of water, and scientific expertise available from Tsukuba University located in the adjacent city, Tsukuba. It began the exchange program for middle school students with Palo Alto in 1996 and became sister city in 2009.

## OAXACA



Well, another successful Neighbors Abroad Family Fun Day International Fair is over for another two years and we want to express a HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who helped before, during and after the event. Neighbors Abroad members and friends and our local Girl Scouts and adult and teen Service Clubs always come through to help, spread the work and ensure that the public has a good time and Neighbors Abroad's projects benefit. Thanks to all of you who donated items for the International Store—we had an amazing array of donated goods to sell. We earned close to \$2500 for the Children's Projects. For those who could not attend or who came and missed out on buying a favorite item, we still have some lovely art left which we would be pleased to show you to help you in your holiday shopping. Call or email me.

Our annual once-a-year appeal for funds for Neighbors Abroad's Children's Projects is coming up very soon—watch for your letter. The needs are greater than ever and the income is diminishing. As you know, the committees in our Sister Cities work hard to support the projects too, just as we do! But the economic situation in Oaxaca and Palo is very much like our own, costs have risen and income is down. As you all know, since we are all volunteers, and NEVER hire paid fund raisers, all contributions go directly to the Children's Projects. And you only receive the appeal letter once a year, not every two weeks like some other non-profits. Gee, don't I wish that we were lucky enough to have members and friends who can pledge matching funds like some organizations do! You know, match your donation with an equal one to double it! Anyway, please be as generous as you can—the children NEED you!

We really would like to reinstate the High School Student Summer Exchange to Oaxaca for the summer of 2012. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, neighbors, etc. to pick up an application from their Spanish teachers and send it in as soon as possible.

Also, remind both the students and parents to come to the information meeting.

And of course, if you or anyone you know is going to Oaxaca, we ALWAYS have ready-packed suitcases to go to both the Orphanage and the Child-to-Child Health Program. Call or email me!

**¡Hasta luego!**  
*Marion Mandell*

## ENSCHEDÉ



Hallo Vrienden:

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> I met Edith Sommers, a Palo Alto and Neighbors Abroad member, in Amsterdam. Edie and her friend from Redwood City, were traveling in Europe and made a visit to Amsterdam. They invited me to dinner along with Edith's friend from Croatia, Ljerka Maryanac, who made the dinner.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> I made a visit to Enschede's centrum to see Bart Bijleveld.

Bart, his wife Ilona and daughter Wieke joined us for lunch. Bart and the Fraggles Jazz Band visited Palo Alto in 2005. We spoke about



*Ilona & Bart Bijleveld, Joni Reid, Wieke Bijleveld*

a repeat visit by the Fraggles in the near future.

Bart met me at the Enschede railway station and as we walked into the centrum we passed the Lego church, part of the KUNSTENFESTIVAL GRENSWERK which was held from September 24 to October 2, 2011. It is an International Festival featuring theater art, sculpture, film, and music. The church is temporary and various activities take place in the structure. The festival is organized by the citizens of Enschede.



*Lego church in centrum*

I met with Irene Vernes, Enschede's International Advisor, and Jos de Smit on Friday September 30 in Enschede city hall to discuss how the Gemeente Enschede sees itself in the picture of a sister city relationship. Irene was enthusiastic and interested about the sister city relationship. I explained that Neighbors Abroad is Palo Alto's sister city organization and that although we operate under the auspices of the city of Palo Alto Neighbors Abroad is a distinct organization and is not part of a city agency, a city department or the city government. We design and develop our own programs and although the city government and officials may be invited to Neighbors

Abroad activities, Neighbors Aboard is a 100% volunteer organization.

I added we are a member of Sister Cities International (SCI) with the same goal of SCI—we endeavor to strengthen the ties of the citizens of our sister cities with cultural and educational exchanges between the people of the both cities. Irene is of course quite aware of the Palo Alto/Enschede Economic Alliance that was implemented in 2007.



*Enschede's International Advisor  
Irene Vernes*

Irene said she and the Enschede city government are working on a policy regarding sister cities. They have a close relationship with the Chinese city of Dalian. Some years ago Xin Wan, a University Twente physics intern/student from Dalian, stayed with me in Palo Alto. It is indeed a small world.

Irene said Enschede acknowledged and appreciated the engagement between our sister cities. She said "our partners should be active." She said although exchanges and activities are initiated by the sister city committee and not by the government of Enschede, the city of Enschede was supportive of such endeavors and might be able "help by promoting with publicity."

Jos asked her if the Enschede city government might also consider using the city's web site to publicize Enschede/Palo Alto exchanges. Irene indicated this is something she would look into and bring up to her government.

It was a very pleasant and productive meeting.

On Friday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup> Jos and Ellen de Smit invited Paul Bijleveld and his wife Hilda Ferwerda for dinner. I stayed with Jos and Ellen Friday evening.

Paul Bijleveld is a professor of Regional Planning at Saxion University in Enschede who was involved in the initial planning stages and was instrumental in establishing the



*Jos de Smit, Hilda Ferwerda, Paul Bijleveld,  
Ellen de Smit*

Enschede/Palo Alto Economic Alliance in 2007. Paul, Hilda and their seven year old son Hugo plan on coming to Palo Alto this year or early next

year for a two month visit. Paul will be working with Stanford University and San Jose State University in the development of clean technology. Hilda is completing her Masters degree in museum administration and is interested in learning more about, visiting and perhaps working in one of the many museums in the Palo Alto area.

## LINKÖPING

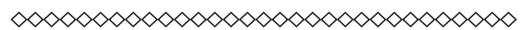


Things have been very quiet on the Linköping front, no "official" communication at all. In "social" communication, Lars Drougge, who headed the Linköping/Palo Alto organization for many years, pointed out that those now responsible haven't yet called their annual meeting. He thinks there may not be one. We will have to maintain our social and casual connections.

In mid-September Lars was out boating around the archipelago, enjoying a patch of nice weather. (By now it must surely be autumnal.)

I, personally, participated in Family Fun Day, peddling Swedish (IKEA) meatballs to those attending. Although it was interesting as a new experience, it was not very successful and didn't put much money into the pot for the Oaxaca charities. I can't think of any fun-for-kiddies activity that is characteristically Swedish that we might add to Family Fun Day. Perhaps the kids could catch live crayfish in a wash tub?!

*Bruce Wilner*



On Saturday October 1, Paul, Hilda and Hugo took me to the charming village of Oot Marsum. It is a village devoted to art—the making, selling and enjoyment of art. As a special treat they invited me to



*Hilda Ferwerda, Joni Reid and Paul Bijleveld at tea*

join them for a High Tea at the "Theeschenkerij Engels' tuin" (English tea room in the garden). It was a special treat indeed!

On Saturday evening Paul and Hilda drove me to the home of Barbara Schrock and Berend Lomulder. Barbara and Berend are long time friends of Neighbors Abroad. I first met them in 2000. On a visit to Palo Alto some years ago (with the now defunct Enschede group VIBE) they stayed with Bruce and Elinor Wilner, so the Wilners are also long-time friends of Barbara and Berend.

*Tot Ziens,  
Joni Reid*



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## November 2011

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

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center, Room A3, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

## December 2011

Saturday-Wednesday, 3rd-7th, noon - 9:00 p.m.

The 24th Annual Christmas Creche Exhibit; 3865 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; 450 hand wrought creches from a multitude of countries, continents, and cultures. Live holiday music daily with special musical programs in the evening at 7:00 p.m. Children's Room has nativity costumes, craft activities, and marionette shows. For more information (650) 856-3781 or [www.christmascreche.org](http://www.christmascreche.org). Admission free.

Saturday, 10th, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Party to benefit the Children's Projects of Neighbors Abroad. Hardesty-Parker Home, 69 Santiago Avenue, Atherton. Food-music-fun. \$25.00 per person; Reservations and payment to Heidi Berndt, 755 Holly Oak Drive, Palo Alto, 94303. Inquiries (650) 207-7828.

**Next El Chisme Deadline—December 10, 2011**

- Send your articles to Mary Ashley
- E-mail: [meashley@pacbell.net](mailto: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>