



The Dispatch

Monthly News From Neighbors Abroad

The Dispatch -- May 2019

Welcome to The Dispatch, a monthly newsletter from Neighbors Abroad of Palo Alto. The Dispatch brings current news from our sister cities, and their connections to Palo Alto.

We continue our 2019 membership campaign, if you have not renewed or joined, please do so now at our [membership page](#). Our 2019 budget of over \$50,000 supports programs of student exchange, children's programs and welcoming international travelers to Palo Alto.

[Renew Your Membership](#)



Marching in Palo Alto's May Fete

Palo Alto California

Parade

Festooned with flags and balloons, Neighbors Abroad marched in the May Fete parade. Our contingent included students just returned from China, musicians of the International Youth Orchestra, and board members. A shoutout to our Board member Jeannet Kiesling for organizing our representation.



Tsuchiura Japan

Welcoming Students, A Marathon Runner and a Tenth Anniversary

A group of 16 Tsuchiura students arrived back home after staying with the host families in Palo Alto last month. Our friends who left are awaiting our arrival of 16 Palo Alto students in June. We will have a Homestay in Tsuchiura where the Palo Alto students will attend Japanese school with their friend and learn all about the lovely city of Tsuchiura. Then Palo Alto group will travel to Hiroshima, Kyoto and Himeji for two days. Everyone is very excited!

Our Palo Alto resident Ed Fike who is a marathon runner was invited by the city of Tsuchiura to run in their famous Kasumigaura marathon this year. He completed all 26 miles in just under 6 hours! What a wonderful opportunity and we are so happy he was able to represent Palo Alto so well!

Also, this year marks the 10th anniversary of our sister city relationship and Tsuchiura has invited a delegation of representatives from Palo Alto to travel to

Tsuchiura in October to attend their world-famous firework competition that is held in Tsuchiura every year. This will be one of the main events as well as a celebration dinner to honor the 10 years that we have been sister cities.



Yangpu District Shanghai China

Palo Alto Students Returning from China

Back from China! The Ohlone Elementary and Greene Middle School student contingent returned from their travels to the cities of Shanghai, Jiaxing and Ningbo.

The students brought gifts and expressions of good will to Palo Alto's sister city

Yangpu District, Shanghai. The students learned more about Yangpu with a visit to the district's Urban Planning Center. The visitors viewed displays of historic and contemporary Yangpu, as well as watched a dynamic 3D presentation that illustrated the geographic features of the district and showcased the technological, educational and economic centers therein.

The Yangpu Foreign Affairs Office also arranged a tour via electric vehicles of the Yangpu Waterfront, which runs along the Huangpu River to the northeast section of Shanghai. The waterfront area is marked by recent extensive renovation, new walkways, green spaces, as well as preserved historic industrial sites. The student group toured the Handan campus of Fudan University, one of China's most prestigious universities. The American students also spent an afternoon at Dahushan Road No. 1 Primary School, where they interacted with student peers in classes, and toured the school with administrators and teachers. The American group found the school staff and students welcoming and friendly, and the school grounds and facilities of high function and design.

During the China trip, the student group also visited a primary school in the city of Jiaxing. The school is part of Jiaxing Nanhu Alliance, a joint private and government venture tasked with developing an "eco-village" on a 1,000+ acres of land. The Alliance is in the process of building out a farm, urban housing, business centers, hospitals, as well a school district that will eventually offer K-12 education. The student group also visited a school situated near the beautiful foothills of Beilun District, Ningbo. Ningbo Binhai International Cooperative School offers K-12 education; half of its graduates prepare for entrance to domestic universities while the other half prepares for studies abroad.

The eight-day trip featured a wide range of other experiences, including using the Shanghai subway to visit Yu Garden and to take in the sky-high views from the 128-storied Shanghai Tower. The group walked along additional sections of the Huangpu River, including the famous Bund as well as its riverbank opposite, the Riverside Promenade. The group also stayed near Ningbo's Chunxiao Wharf and explored the Ningbo Port Museum with Chinese students. In addition, the group visited the lovely Dongqian Lake area. In all, the American students explored various parts of Ningbo by foot, bicycle, school bus, tour bus, as well as public city buses. As summarized by PAUSD sophomore Christopher Tseng, "It was a great trip! This was the perfect group to travel with."

The student group and their parents thank Neighbors Abroad for their assistance and support in making the China trip successful and memorable.



Palo Philippines

Children's Library In Transition

The new children's library is under construction. Neighbors Abroad looks forward to supporting furnishing the library with shelves, books and computers. This year we hope to arrange a visit to checkout the progress, and validate the contributions. We will continue our programs of supporting scholars, librarians and developing curriculum to support learning. Surplus Palo Alto computers are bound for Palo as well.



Oaxaca Mexico

Climate, Computers and Fire Trucks

Sister cities can work for climate protection.

Neighbors Abroad President Bob Wenzlau met in Oaxaca with the state environmental secretary José Luis Calvo Ziga to support initiatives to sequester carbon in Oaxaca forests. Already City of Palo Alto Utilities has used their fund to offset carbon emissions from natural gas to sequester carbon in the San Juan Lachao community. Now the collaboration is poised to extend to five more communities with the support of the state government.

The City of Palo Alto recently finalized the donation of 70 surplus computers to Oaxaca and Palo Philippines. Neighbors Abroad will support the shipping of the computers to their destination where local resources will provision them with a new operating system and software thanks to Microsoft Corporation donation.

A collaboration between the City of Palo Alto and City of Milpitas will result in yet another fire truck being donated and transported to Oaxaca Mexico. We hope for more collaboration with the City of Milpitas and their fire department.

Albi France

A Summer Concert!

This summer marks the sixth music and cultural exchange between the Palo Alto's Aurora Singers and the Chorale Assou Lezert of Albi. In July, a group

of 32 singers plus family members will come to Palo Alto and join the Aurora Singers for a 10-day tour of Northern California, including concerts, wine tasting and home stays with Palo Alto Host families. The group arrives Saturday, July 13, and will meet their host families at a simple reception. We have scheduled an official welcome with the City of Palo Alto to kick off the week before the group heads out to Sacramento and Napa, including touring and concerts. Back in Palo Alto, the groups will perform jointly on Sunday, July 21, at the Portola Valley Church. Mark your calendars for the 7pm concert (tickets at the door).

This music exchange first started through Neighbors Abroad, and has been sustained directly by the two choral groups. The Chorale Assou Lezert was here in 2001 and 2005, and Palo Alto's Aurora Singers have travelled 3 times to Albi, in 2002, 2007, 2016. Neighbors Abroad and the City of Palo Alto are pleased to support the ongoing series of cultural exchange.

Please contact leemerkleraymond@gmail.com if you can help or attend the July 13 evening welcome celebration. Also, plan to attend the joint concert on July 21st at Valley Presbyterian Church (945 Portola Rd, time TBD).

In closing, let us know if you would like The Dispatch mailed to you. We will do our best to accommodate this request.



Checkout the Neighbors Abroad Shop

Add to your wardrobe with Neighbors Abroad threads. Lynn Grant created a fresh Neighbors Abroad logo that now adorns shirts, sweatshirts and bags. Each garment brings a small contribution to Neighbors Abroad and the children's programs.



Neighbors Abroad

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