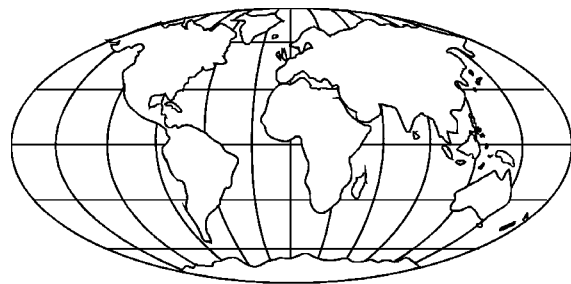


# EL CHISME

de Neighbors Abroad



Volume 51, Number 4

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

July-August 2013

*Bastille Day Potluck Picnic*  
*Sunday, July 14 • 4:30 to Dark*  
*Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow, Palo Alto*  
*East Meadow group picnic area*



*See Albi article on page 9 for directions or*  
*Call Michel Campmas (650) 856-2214)*  
*for questions or information.*

## Presidents' Report

### A Visit to Linköping.

What a joy it was to discover the beauties of this Swedish sister city and to meet so many good people. This is a relationship that truly should be cherished and reaffirmed.



When Mayor Anna Christina Hjerdt and International Relations Officer Kerstin Rejmstadt visited Palo Alto in September, 2012, they expressed interest

in renewing the connection between our two cities and encouraged us to visit them. When Joe and I made plans to travel to Linköping in May of this year, we were invited to meet with a number of people in areas in which we had expressed interest. Anders Lindkvist, who has been a prime mover in revitalizing this sister-city relationship, drew up a two day program in which we met with a number of city staff in those areas.

Interested in encouraging girls to study science, I have had a long-standing concern with gender stereotyping, so I asked about programs in that area and met with Ulrike Johansson who works with the educational department NTA. They provide training and materials to teachers and also do research projects. They are very concerned with providing "gender neutral" toys and experiences because their research suggests that by age 10 children have already decided what type of career they can expect. Because of those findings, NTA is creating a preschool curriculum that encourages observing, questioning, developing and testing hypotheses to encourage a habit of inquiry among both boys and girls.

Joe has had a long-standing interest and involvement with environmental projects and he knew all of the city buses now run on methane generated from biomass. Anders had arranged a meeting with Helena Kock Åström to hear how that project was managed. Joe learned that while the technology is not new, the implementation required political will and the cooperation of a number of parties, including farmers who purchase the compost created by the gas generation project.

One difference between their city's political system and ours is that while they have a large city council (79 members, who break up into sub-councils to handle different issues), their mayor is elected for a four year term. Mayor Hjerdt is currently facing many of the same housing needs as Palo Alto and she is hoping to negotiate for housing assistance from some companies that would like to locate in Linköping.

Knowing a little about Avenidas Village, a program

in Palo Alto, which provides services to help elderly people remain in their homes, I wanted to hear about their eldercare program. We were introduced to three of the city staff who work in that area. Emma Ljunggren is a "guide" who helps the elderly find the services they need. These ranged from cleaning help to home renovation, all on a sliding scale of payment. Maria Lindahl is the ombudsman, the neutral party who will listen to problems and keep track of complaints against a particular provider. Eva Svensson is the administrator who was in charge, both of the service providers but also of Aspen House, where people come to socialize and enjoy a meal. Besides its social function, Aspen house is a showcase for many aids that the elderly can use to remain self-sufficient. I was impressed with the fact that all these activities were part of one organization and were closely coordinated.

Although Swedish-style socialism shows its value in the areas we visited, Sweden is not completely immune to the problems of poverty and unrest among its immigrant population as recent riots in Stockholm showed. In May, magazine articles had described the plight of Romanian immigrants especially and I heard several expressions of sympathy for some of these people who were begging on the street.

*Barbara and Joe Evans*

## FIESTA DE BIENVENIDOS

**A Welcome Party for Exchange Students from Oaxaca and Palo Alto will be held on Monday, July 8, 6:00 P.M. in the Arbor Area of Mitchell Park. YOU and your family are invited to attend. Please bring a large salad or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided by the Palo Alto exchange student family and Neighbors Abroad.**

**Please let us know if you are coming and how many. Call or email one of the following: Lynne Russell, 650-858-0864, or lynnerussell1@gmail.com or Marion Mandell, 650-493-3798 or marionb@sonic.net.**

***Mark your calendars and contact one of us TODAY!***

# OAXACA



I have been getting a lot of questions about the 2014 50th Anniversary trip to Oaxaca. Therefore, please fill out the Trip Interest Form included in this edition of *El Chisme* and send it in. (This is NOT a reservation form for the trip—it is a way for us to find out how many of you are interested in going). The visit will take place during the first week of June, 2014 and will cover one week to ten days. Costs and exact dates will be available later, but the cost will include round-trip airfare, hotel, guided tours and visits to points of interest, some gratuities and some meals. Day and time of travel will depend on air fares (not available yet for next June) which often differ by day of travel. We want to work on the trip details ASAP so please let us know if you are thinking of going. Thanks!

Katie Russell, our exchange student to Oaxaca this summer, is having a marvelous time there. Please see the photo at right of her welcome at the Oaxaca Airport by not only her Oaxacan family but a large contingent of Sister City Committee members in Oaxaca. Katie also took a large suitcase of clothes and shoes to the Albergue (see photo of the orphanage visit on the next page.) You can't miss Katie, the tall Palo Altan.

Katie's Oaxacan sister, Sofía Morales, will come to spend time with Katie's family in Palo Alto in July. You will be interested to know that Sofía's father, Eloy Morales, came to Palo Alto on the exchange twenty one years ago, in 1982. See photo of Sofía and her family, taken at her

*Quinceañera* (15th birthday party) on page 4.

A group of Stanford students, under the direction of Ann Banchoff, Director of the Stanford University Office of Community Health, is in Oaxaca now doing course work for their studies in community health in Oaxaca to assist with and compare to studies in community health in our area. This group also kindly took eight suitcases of clothing and shoes with them for both the orphanage and the Child-to-Child Health Program, which Neighbors

**OAXACA** continued on next page



*Katie Russell (under star), Palo Alto exchange student, is greeted at the Oaxaca airport by her Oaxacan sister and family, and members of the Sister City Committee.*

## INTEREST FORM – OAXACA 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIP - JUNE 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Others in your party: (names) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be bringing any children? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If so, Names and ages \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first trip to Oaxaca? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If you are traveling alone, would you like to be assigned a roommate? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ or

I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_ or I prefer my own room Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*Please return this form ASAP by mail to : Marion Mandell, 250 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto, 94306 or email the information to marionb@sonic.net or call 650 493-3798 .*





Katie (tallest in back row) and her Oaxacan sister Sofía (to the right of Katy in the picture) with committee members and some of the children displaying their new clothes.

## OAXACA continued

Abroad helps to support in Oaxaca.

(P.S.—We still have more, ready-packed, for YOU to take!!)

Are you sorting through your treasures from around the world to discover what you want to donate to the famous “International Store” at Neighbors Abroad’s Family Fun Day International Fair on Sunday, October 6, in the Lucie Stern main courtyard? Remember, we only do this every two years and all proceeds go to the Childrens Projects in Oaxaca and Palo. Also remember, we are all volunteers, the items to sell are all donated, and the CHILDREN WIN!

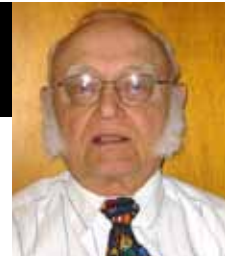
¡Hasta luego!

Marion Mandell

Katie and Sofi, (her Oaxacan sister) being welcomed by the Oaxacan Presidente Municipal (the Mayor) with all of the Sister City Committee there in their blue uniforms.



## LINKÖPING



Barbara and Joe Evans visited Linköping in May and have first-hand information to report. Please read their impressions in the Presidents’ Report on page 2, and their comments on possible exchanges below.

### Bruce Wilner

Bruce has ceded this spot to Joe and me so that we can mention some possible future exchanges with Linköping. While visiting there we met Anna Granlund, who is leader of a choral group that is trying to arrange an exchange with our local Aurora singers. Another group that is interested is the YMCA men’s choir that is headed by Rolf Varstedt. We have friends who are in a barbershop quartet and they are currently exploring that kind of exchange, but the Swedish men’s group may still want to promote the idea of a full chorus exchange.

We are also talking to people in Western Wheelers about the possibility of a cyclists’ exchange with Linköping. There are some long distance rides in the Linköping area that would challenge our cyclists and we also have great cycling terrain here to offer a group of Swedish cyclists.

Nuri Aslan of Linköping has expressed interest in making contact with a Palo Alto YMCA and we have put him in touch with the people at Ross Road Nuri is with KFUM which is the Swedish equivalent to our “Y”.

### Barbara Evans

Katie’s Oaxacan father, Eloy Morales, was an exchange student to Palo Alto 21 years ago in 1982. This picture is from Sofía’s Quinceañera party (15 th birthday). L to R: Mother Angy, Sofía, Father Eloy, two little brothers in front, Alex and Luis





## PALO



### An Outstanding Visit!

On May 30, 31 and June 1st we welcomed Mayor Remedios "Matin" Petilla from Palo. We held a Reception at the Patio of the Art Center and were honored by the presence of Tim Quigley representing Sister Cities International, Palo Alto City Councilman Mark Berman and Tom Fehrenbach of Palo Alto City International Relations. We were inspired by each of these speakers. Mr. Quigley gave us an up-date on the current state of affairs with our sister-city groups around the country and emphasized the somewhat new stress on helping sister-cities to adapt to our computer-centered age. Councilman Berman read a proclamation from the mayor and City of Palo Alto. (See text of this proclamation on the next page.) Mr. Fehrenbach detailed the hopes of Palo Alto in reaching out to the economic needs of other cities beyond the U.S. and Mayor Petilla detailed some of the measures she advocates for the people of Palo. Recently re-elected as mayor, she has been active in environmental issues from flood abatement to the creation of model agricultural centers to improve crop development. Not only is she an outstanding leader, but we learned that her family has been involved in service to the country, province and the city of Palo for many years!

### Thank You!

Several people helped to make things run smoothly for Mayor Petilla's visit. She was warmly hosted for two nights by Debby and Tom Martin. Hank Heubach was her official "chauffeur" on Friday and escorted her to a Kiwanis Lunch on Thursday. Tom Fehrenbach and Hank treated her to lunch and helpful discussion on Friday. Then Hank took her and our Betty Duran to the Computer Museum on Friday followed by a delightful dinner at the home of Jim and Barbara Newton. After a delicious dinner, Mary Ashley treated us to a beautiful cake. On Saturday Bert and Caridad Torres took her to the "Hackathon" in downtown Palo Alto—fascinating for all concerned! Betty Duran was helpful on all counts especially since she was a long time friend of "Matin". So many thanks to the Evans who were there whenever help was needed.

We just wished our friends from the GIANTS Club had been with us on this occasion of our 50th Anniversary with our first sister city Palo!

### Mabuhay!

*Ruth Carleton*



*Left to right: Betty Duran, Mayor Petilla, and Caridad Torres at one of the Palo Alto Hackathon displays.*



*Bill Murray, left, composed theme music for Mayor Matin Petilla at the Palo Alto Hackathon, June 1, 2013.*



*Mary Ashley and Ruth Carleton present Mayor Petilla with a congratulatory cake at the Newtons' dinner*





*Mayor Petilla addressing the gathering at the Art Center Reception in her honor on May 30, 2013.*

*At right: Mayor Petilla accepting the proclamation declaring Palo-Palo Alto Friendship Day from Councilman Mark Berman.*



*Below: Mayor Petilla (with flowers), Mark Berman to her right, Palo Vice President Ruth Carleton to her left, and other members of the Palo Committee.*



**Text of Proclamation presented to Palo Mayor Remedios Matin Petilla during her visit to Palo Alto**

**CITY OF PALO ALTO  
PROCLAMATION**

May 30, 2013

Palo, Philippines-Palo Alto Friendship Day

**WHEREAS**, Palo, the Philippines and Palo Alto have enjoyed the status of sister-cityhood for 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the GIANTS Club of Palo and Neighbors Abroad have worked together for the benefit of both cities; and

**WHEREAS**, Neighbors Abroad in 1997 for nine months at the Children's Museum of Palo Alto presented a vision of Palo which enhanced our sense of diversity and appreciation of the culture of Filipinos in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the GIANTS Club of Palo has overseen the management and up-keep of the Children's Library, under the tutelage of its two fine librarians, Rebecca Maglinte and Shielane Cabbag; and

**WHEREAS**, the then Governor Of Leyte Province, Remedios Petilla visited Palo Alto and invited the medical group, Interplast, to visit Palo for three consecutive years to give surgical aid to children with cleft palates and hare lips; and

**WHEREAS**, the GIANTS Club under the capable leadership of Pabbles Dolina and Neighbors Abroad have sponsored scholarships for deserving students in Palo.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, H. Gregory Scharff**, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto, on behalf of the City Council do hereby welcome Mayor Remedios Matin Petilla and Ms. Cynthia Nierras, the Regional Director of Trade and Industry and proclaim this day May 30, 2013 as Palo-Palo Alto Friendship Day.

Presented: May 30, 2013

**H. Gregory Scharff  
Mayor**

## ENSCHEDÉ

### Hallo Vrienden:

This Dutch news was too late for the April edition of El Chisme:

This April 30, 2013 Queen Beatrix of the Kingdom of the Netherlands abdicated her throne. The official investiture of her oldest son Prince Willem-Alexander took place in the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church-built in 1408) on Dam square in Amsterdam.

King Willem-Alexander and the new Queen Maxima have three daughters, Catharina-Amalia, Princess of Orange, (2003), Princess Alexia, (2005) and Princess Ariane, (2007.) Their eldest daughter, Catharina-Amalia, becomes Princess of Orange and is next in line to the throne. Willem-Alexander, a 46-year-old water management specialist, is expected to bring a less formal touch to the monarchy together with his wife, a former investment banker from Argentina.

*(DutchNews.nl, 04/30/13)*

Once again, thanks to the Dutch Consulate in San Francisco Queen's Day (Koninginnedag) festivities were held at Murphy's windmill (molen) in Golden Gate Park. Even the weather was cooperative by offering us some Dutch weather: cloudy skies and a pretty cool breeze.

Lots of people (mensen) came dressed in orange: orange hats, scarves, and even shoe-laces. Of course there were lots of Dutch treats. The food booths opened at 11:00 a.m. The line for the fresh herring (haring) was the longest line. I totally enjoyed the two pieces (twee stukjes) of fresh Dutch herring I ate. I followed that with bitterballen (like meatballs, but better) and of course a bottle of Grolsch (made in Enschede!) beer (bier.) A band played old tunes from the Netherlands, and everyone seemed to be having a very good time. Starting 2014, the holiday will be known as Koningsdag (King's Day).

On 5/8/13, I received an email from Hilda Ferwerda informing me the new King and Queen had been to Enschede on April 26<sup>th</sup> while they were still Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Maxima. They visited two schools in Enschede, Het Palet and De Triangel. These schools



*The new Dutch king and his family with his mother, the former Queen, at top left.*

won a national contest with their interpretation as to how this Queen's Day should be celebrated at their schools. As a reward Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima opened the Nederland national games by blowing the opening whistles in Enschede. Hilda wrote, "The King's Day will be a sports day for everybody in the Netherlands. Willem Alexander was a member of the International Olympic Committee, and strongly promotes children to start sporting at a young age."

On another note, Silicon Valley is the home of the Tesla electric automobile company and the use of electric vehicles has not escaped the Dutch either. The Netherlands is promoting electric cars almost routinely. The Dutch government is expanding the availability of charging stations and "offers owners of electric vehicles free street parking and charging." Last year 7,500 electric vehicles were registered in the Netherlands (a country with almost 17 million people). The Dutch are progressive in encouraging the use of electric vehicles: Dutch stores and restaurants provide parking places with charging outlets. (*New York Times*, 02/10/13). Don't you think that is such a great idea? Now you can shop until you drop and fuel your closet, stomach and car all at the same time.

I am going to be in The Netherlands from July 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the states on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'll be in touch via *El Chisme*. Veel plezier voor zomer.

**Groetjes en Tot Ziens,**  
**Joni Reid**



*Crowd in Dam Square in Amsterdam on Queen's Day 2013.*





## TSUCHIURA



We received a beautiful reception and were greeted by happily-reunited students and smiling families when we arrived earlier this month to Tsuchiura. Our Japanese hosts provided us with incredibly gracious hospitality—they opened their homes to our students, their hearts to us, and our eyes to the beautiful country and culture of Japan.

From the heights of the Tokyo Sky Tree to the serenity of the Zen Meditation Ceremony, from the history of the Temples at Nikko to the beauty of Kyoto and Himeji Castle, from the flavors of soba noodles to the sounds of bustling train stations, our visit to Japan was rich with adventure, excitement and enthusiasm.

Our children lived with and learned from their host families. Our students gained insight and knowledge from the Tsuchiura schools. And all of us created memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

We are so grateful for our sister-city relationship between the City of Palo Alto and the City of Tsuchiura and hope that this exchange program will continue to provide opportunities for both our children to learn and the partnership between our two communities to strengthen indefinitely.

Arigato gozaimashita,

Diana Nemet  
Parent Chaperone



*Diana Nemet and her daughter Stephanie in Kyoto*



*Juyon and Audrey with Tsuchimaru kun, the City's mascot*



*Palo Alto students in Asakusa, Tokyo*





*Kobe made Soba noodles from scratch*



*Chris in Tsuwa Junior High uniform with his Mom, Jennifer and Grandma Nancy*



*Jenna, Nicole, Nic and Stephanie in Zen Meditation at Kojoan Temple*

# ALBI



## Time for Our Annual Bastille Day Celebration...

As it is our tradition every year, we will be celebrating La Fête du 14 juillet (14<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration), known in the United States as "Bastille Day" for the name of the Citadel whose fall was a major milestone of the French Revolution that led to the end of the centuries-old French monarchy.

This year, July 14 falls on a Sunday, which is very convenient for those who have to work during the week. As we did last year, we will have our party at Mitchell Park, at the East Meadow Group Picnic Site. This is a great location which can hold up to 60 people, is in the shade, and provides ample parking space close-by on East Meadow Drive. All my thanks to the City of Palo Alto who allowed us to reserve this site again at no cost for Neighbors Abroad.

We will be having a Potluck Picnic with many opportunities for you to sample or share some French delicacies or drink some French wine (we have a permit!) while singing French folkloric and patriotic songs. This year, past Albi Vice-President Carol Stevens will be with us to lead the singing. There will be paper copies of the lyrics, so all will have the opportunity to practice their (basic) French on our Grand Classics: La Marseillaise, Frère Jacques, Au Clair de la Lune and more. Utensils and soft drinks will be provided.

We are looking forward to seeing you there to celebrate this important event of the French Revolution!

**À bientôt,  
Michel Campmas**



*Preparing to sing Au Clair de la Lune at the 2012 Bastille Day party*



# Neighbors Abroad Plus Community Events Calendar

## July 2013

Monday, 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Fiesta de Bienvenidos for Oaxaca and Palo Alto exchange students. Arbor Group Picnic Area, Mitchell Park, 600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Bring dessert or salad. See details and RSVP information in the box on page 2

Wednesday, 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Neighbors Abroad Board Meeting; Cubberley Community Center Room A6, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Sunday, 14th, 4:30 p.m. to dark

Bastille Day picnic and celebration. East Meadow Group Picnic area. See page 9, Albi column, for details.

## Looking Ahead:

**Sunday, October 6, Lucie Stern Courtyard**

**Neighbors Abroad Family Fun Day**

**International Fair and International Store.**

**Contact Marion Mandell 650-493-3798 or**

**email marionb@sonic.net to donate your**

**lightly used International treasures to benefit**

**Neighbors Abroad Children's Projects.**

**Next El Chisme Deadline—August 15, 2013**

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

## EL CHISME de Neighbors Abroad



Neighbors Abroad  
P. O. Box 52004  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
U.S. A.

NEIGHBORS ABROAD is a volunteer organization which maintains and carries out the activities of the City of Palo Alto's officially recognized Sister City Program with Palo in the province of Leyte in the Philippines, Oaxaca in Mexico, Enschede in the Netherlands, Linköping in Sweden, Albi in France, and Tsuchiura in Japan. Its activities have served and continue to serve the community interests of international and intercultural understanding.

Barbara & Joe Evans, Co-Presidents	856-0618
Jim Newton, Treasurer	854-4360
Mary Ashley, Newsletter	494-1829

<http://neighborsabroad.org>