

Orthodontist will bring smile to China

A DELEGATION OF ORTHODONTISTS from across the country will embark this week on a 13-day journey to China to exchange information about the latest treatments and procedures.

San Ramon orthodontist **Sandy Bigman** joins about 40 colleagues in this exchange program, as part of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program, which provides foreign educational travel experiences for professionals in education, science and technology, social sciences, law, arts and humanities, agriculture, business and cultural programs, as well as medicine.

Bigman said he was thrilled to be invited to join the delegation. This will be his first trip to China.

China is the most populous country in the world, but there are many underserved areas where children are lacking dental and orthodontia care. This has led to a severe problem of malocclusions, or misalignment between the upper and lower teeth. The delegates will learn about the problems, the state of orthodontics in the country, training available to them and more.

An orthodontist in San Ramon for the past 19 years, Bigman said he is looking forward to being with colleagues from other parts of the country and the world and exchanging information.

"I bet there will be more similarities than differences," he said. "We can build on the those similarities."

The ambassador program was started by President Eisenhower in an effort to pave a path to international understanding. Personal exchanges and individual, firsthand experiences in other cultures are the keys to the program.

According to the People to People Web site, Eisenhower believed that "ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, could solve their differences and find



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a way to live in peace."

Bigman said he is eager to share orthodontic treatments and procedures and learn about the problems and challenges in dentistry that the people of China are facing.

Bigman said he believes in the importance of a smile.

"A smile gives you confidence," he said. "Wouldn't it be great to have more self-confidence in the world?"

SPEAKERS FROM WARDROBE FOR OPPORTUNITY will be guests at Thursday's meeting of the San Ramon branch of the American Association of University Women, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wardrobe for Opportunity, the AAUW San Ramon's community outreach program, is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that provides free professional clothing, image enhancement and career support to low-income job seekers in the Bay Area.

The meeting, at Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive in Danville, is free and open to people who might be interested in joining AAUW. Refreshments will be served. More information about AAUW San Ramon is available at www.webbit.com/aauw.

JUST LIKE "THE JERSEY BOYS," the engagement of the San Ramon farmers market has been extended. Or, as farmers market Manager **Harv Singh** said, "It's not over yet, folks."

You have three more Satur-

days until the end of the market's first season and a lot to enjoy at the market and Forest Home Farms this month with the Oktoberfest, pumpkin patch and scarecrow contest.

There will be plenty of fall produce available, including apples, Bartlett pears, acorn and butternut squash, pomegranates and, of course, pumpkins.

The farmers market will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays until Oct. 27.

LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS were honored at a recent Older Girl Recognition Ceremony at the San Ramon Library. Twelve Senior Scouts received their Gold Award.

The highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award was earned by Scouts for their leadership skills, organizational skills, sense of community and commitment and community projects. The ceremony was organized by Kathy Berner, and Troop 535 presented the opening flag ceremony.

The Gold Award recipients were **Anagha Iyengar, Brittany Bland, Jessica Boyd, Alyssa Butruce, Noelle Carter, Alanna Casey, Stefani Kawabata, Christie Lew, Amy O'Hanlon, Rachel Perry, Sarah Quincy and Dana Reik**. The girls are members of Troops 223, 277, 581 and 592. Each girl was pinned by her mother or troop leader.

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