

July 2020



Dear Members:

Reinventing socializing in the year 2020 is exciting while missing quite a bit the get-togethers we have been doing over the years. But opportunities are here to be found. So far during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had Face-to-Face presentations. Now, we are going to have the chance to interact together in our new version of the BCNC Belgian Independence Zoom Social Gathering.

The best part of a picnic is circulating around, catching up with all your friends. We cannot have a picnic for our Belgian Independence Day celebration this year, since it is not safe. But we can still circulate around virtually and catch up with other members!

Belgian Independence Day Celebration
Your home, Your Computer, Your Participation
Sunday July 19, 2020 3 - 5 pm

To facilitate this and allow us to gather, BCNC will host three different Zoom meetings. Members who register will receive the link to all three meetings. So there is no presentation. You are encouraged to drop in, chat with whoever is there for a while, drop off, and drop in on the next one. Just like you would circulate around at the picnic. Or, you can hang out in one place for the whole time. It's up to you! Do your own personal party style!

Here are a few topics to get the conversation started and help you decide where to drop in first.

1) What have you been drinking lately? Show us your beer collection!

Hosts: Philippe and Carina, Dirk and Marina

2) What's been cooking in your kitchen these days? Tell us your holiday recipe....or any other recipe...

Hosts: Marcia and Saskia

3) Arts & Crafts Party Room, with all Ages Audience Participation

Hosts: Pierre and Herb

If you or a family member plays some musical instrument, this is your stage.

If you paint or enjoy photography, let us see it.

If your creativity has resulted in beautiful craft pieces, we love for you to share it..

If you are a dancer, let's dance!

If you like a Belgian painter we love to listen about how to understand his/her art.

And the same is for the creativity of your children. This is the Art & Craft room for all ages.

Let's make this a fun and exciting Independence Day celebration.

We look forward to seeing you then!

The BCNC Board

Note: This is going to be a live event that will not be recorded. When you register, you will receive 3 Zoom meeting links 24 hours prior to this event. You will be able to navigate from one meeting room to the other as much as you like.

Cost: This event is free to BCNC members!

Non-Members are welcome to join with a \$10 donation.

Registration and Donation: please go to our website www.bcnc.com and select **Belgian Independence Day 2020** under "Events". For non-members, you can pay by credit card, Paypal or mail check to: Fabienne Sowa, 2820 Willow Creek Trail, Cool, CA 95614. For membership sign up, visit bcnc.com and select "Become a BCNC Member".

Deadline to register: Friday, July 17.

Announcements

- *Thank you* to Anne DeGheest for the most comprehensive and detailed presentation on Covid19 Insights. Recording can be seen at <https://youtu.be/hlBvIXzNb50?t=1>.

- *Thank you* to Marcia Saecker for making the arrangements for the Face-To-Face with Anne DeGheest.

- We have the sad news of the passing of our member Joseph Boukaert on July 7, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

- A little bit of history: We welcome you to visit the website of the Battle of the Bulge Association, honoring the veterans, preserving their legacy at <https://battleofthebulge.org/2020/04/14/new-member-spotlight/>

- Join our BCNC Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5421040815/?ref=bookmarks> where you will find a series of posts on:

- sharing a place, museum, treasure or building in Belgium that you know about and that is not-so-well known...we all want to learn about it.
- sharing your way to remain in good spirit and productive during the shelter-in-place...we can all learn from it.
- sharing your best pictures of the shelter-in-place moments

Save the dates for the *Oyster Feast on the Beach* on October 11, and the *Belgian Dynasty Dinner* on November 14. These are just a few upcoming events to add to your schedule now. Other happenings will be announced in future newsletters as it gets developed.

Stay safe and healthy,
The Board

BCNC is a social club to enjoy being with other Belgians & friends. If you are in Northern California for a day, a month, a year or a century, you can participate! If you know of something happening in or with our Belgian community, or if you know of a “special” Belgian visiting the Bay Area, let us know with a simple email to Board@bcnc.com, or on our Facebook page. Thanks to members sharing information, members have had the chance to enjoy an evening, a beer or a meal with consuls, ambassadors, entrepreneurs, scientists, athletes, singers (Stromae and Johnny Hallyday) and even prime ministers such as Jean-Luc Dehaene and Guy Verhofstadt. To become a member, simply sign up now at BCNC.com.