

October 2021



Dear Members,

We would like to invite you to one more outdoor event:

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**Sunol Wilderness Dog-Friendly Hike**  
**Sunday, October 31**  
**Sunol, 11:00 am**

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**What:**

This is a beautiful large park in the East Bay. We will hike to the top of Flag Hill. This hike requires a reasonable level of fitness. It is less than 4 miles long, but with a 1000 ft elevation gain. On the way down, there are several options so you can make it a 5 or even a 9 mile hike if desired. Sunol park not only allows dogs but they can be off leash once outside the more crowded park area. As we will be in a group, of course your dog needs to be dog- and people-friendly.

**What to bring:**

- Sturdy hiking / walking shoes
- Water
- Lunch, trail snacks, fruit
- Hiking poles (optional)
- Layered clothing: you'll get warm hiking up, but depending on the weather, coming down can be chilly.
- There are toilets and drinking water at the trailhead, but not at the top. There is a small entrance fee for parking (\$5) and for your dog (\$2).

**Where:**

Sunol Regional Wilderness: [Sunol East Bay Parks](#)

**Directions:**

From the East Bay: go south on 680. From San Jose: go north on 680:

Take Calaveras Rd exit (close to the Livermore or Sunol exits)

Turn right onto Calaveras coming from the south, turn left coming from the north.

After 4 miles, turn left on Pat Geary Road. The park entrance is another 1.8 miles.

We'll get together at the bathrooms, close to the small bridge at the trailhead to Hayfield Trail. Cell phone coverage is very spotty in the park so please get there on time as we won't be able to wait long.

**To sign up:**

Email Dirk at [dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:dirk@bcnc.com) by October 30th. The hike will start at 11 am.

----- See next page for the Belgian Dynasty Celebration -----

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# Belgian Dynasty Celebration Dinner



Saturday, November 13th, 2021 at 5 pm

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You are invited to celebrate Belgium *Feast of the Dynasty* or our *King's Feast* at the *Rock Wall Wine Company* located in Alameda. The King's Feast (Koningsfeest, Fête du Roi, or Festtag des Königs) has been celebrated in Belgium since 1866. We can all feel some special affinity with our current King since he attended graduate school at Stanford University where he graduated in 1985 with an MA degree in Political Science. The *Rock Wall Wine Company* is conveniently located in the old Naval Air Station (NAS) Alameda with plenty of parking and spectacular views of the San Francisco skyline. It is housed in a converted 40,000 square-foot airplane hangar, known as building 24, due north of a defensive rock wall which made up the perimeter of the base to protect the base from Japanese air to sea torpedoes.

**Location:** Rock Wall Wine Company, 2301 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

Intuitive Directions:

1. Take the Webster Tube from Oakland to Alameda
2. Upon exiting the Tube make the very first RIGHT TURN (2 lanes go right) onto Willie Stargell Ave.
3. Go STRAIGHT for almost 2 miles. Street will dead end onto Monarch Avenue.

4. Turn left onto Monarch Avenue.
5. Rock Wall will be on your right, 200 yards down the street.

### **Cost:**

The cost for this festive celebration is \$75 per person for a 3-course meal including appetizer, a main entrée and a dessert, with 2 drinks (selection of wine and non-alcoholic drinks). Tips and tax are included. This is a members-only event.

Make your choices from the following:

### **Appetizers**

1. Stuffed Tomatoes with Grey Shrimps
2. Miniature Yorkshire Pudding with Roast Beef & Horseradish Crème Fraiche
3. Chicories with Poached Pears, Insalata Ricotta & Toasted Almonds (vegan)

### **Main Entrée**

1. Mushroom and Thyme Encrusted Leg of Lamb, Yukon Gold and Fennel Gratin, Brussels Sprouts with Preserved Meyer Lemon
2. Roasted Heirloom Chicken with Achiote Gravy, Mashed Potatoes with Roasted Poblano Peppers, Sautéed Greens
3. Truffle Gnocchi with Wild Mushrooms, Chicories, Oranges, Olives with Fresh Herbs & Vegan Feta, Beets & Belugas (vegan)

### **Desserts**

1. Chocolate Mousse
2. Eclairs
3. Baked Pears Served with Vegan Ice Cream (vegan)

### **Membership**

To become a member, go to [www.bcnc.com/about](http://www.bcnc.com/about) and follow the instructions. Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, your new membership will count for the entire year 2022.

### **Reservation & Payment**

Reservation can be made at [bcnc.com](http://bcnc.com) and select the King's Day Dinner Celebration event and then follow the instructions. Payment is by Paypal online at [bcnc.com](http://bcnc.com) or by check (*made to BCNC*) mailed to: Pierre Smit, 140 Greenwood Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. Specify how many people will be attending and each dish selection.

***Reservation and payment must be received by November 7.***

**Attire:** Anything Royal

For questions, contact Rudy de Walque at 415.307.8646 or [Pierre@bcnc.com](mailto:Pierre@bcnc.com)

**Thank You:**

- We need to thank Harold De Blander for organizing the Oysters at Point Reyes Beach. We had a fabulous time, extremely fresh oysters and delightful talk with old and new friends. In all, we had a blast!!!

## Upcoming:

- **Amici Lovanienses** is hosting an event with Ambassador Sleeuwagen sharing some personal reflections on the European response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal of the conversation is to draw some lessons from our past behavior, and have these guide our future response and behavior. We do hope you might be able to join us.

*Learning from each other*

***Personal reflections on the European response  
to the Covid-19 pandemic***

*A conversation with Ambassador Gunther Sleeuwagen,  
Consul General of Belgium in Los Angeles  
Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7 pm PST*

[Register HERE](#)

- Consulate General of Belgium in Los Angeles is coming to San Francisco, California. A Flying Consul mission is scheduled in San Francisco, CA on November 3 and 4, 2021.

The only purpose of the visit is to take biometrics of Belgian nationals who wish to renew Belgian passports and eID. (We cannot activate the eID during the visit). You need to be registered with a Consulate to participate. All the information is available through this link: <https://bit.ly/3jbBdZc>