

December 16, 2009



Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of the BCNC would like to take this opportunity to extend its best wishes to you for a happy, healthy, and a more peaceful 2010. To start off the New Year, we have planned our annual New Year's reception.

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**New Year's Reception  
on Sunday, January 24, from 5:00 till 7:00 pm  
at the International House in Berkeley**

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This event is made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mr. Geert Criel, Consul General, and Mr. Pascal Faidherbe, Consul, at the Consulate General in Los Angeles, and Mr. Frédéric Delbart, Trade and Investment Commissioner at the Wallonia Investment and Trade Office in San Francisco. We will be honored by their presence.

**Place:**

International House in Berkeley on 2299 Piedmont Avenue, on the University of California campus at the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Bancroft Way.

This year, our reception will take place in the "Chevron Auditorium".

**RSVP:**

Please return the enclosed reservation slip before January 18. You must register ahead by mail. Phone reservations and walk-ins will not be accepted. Adults only at this event. If questions, contact Ann Van Thielen at (650) 625-0210 or [ann@bcnc.com](mailto:ann@bcnc.com) after January 8.

**Directions and parking:**

Parking is hard to find and limited. We encourage you to carpool or to take BART. Visit <http://pt.berkeley.edu/park/public> for parking information.

We would also like to invite you to one of our annual events:

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## Ski Weekend in South Lake Tahoe

### Friday, January 29 through Sunday, January 31

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Due to limited accommodations, there will be only 16 lucky people to enjoy this weekend. This popular “do it your-self” formula is low cost but requires some hands-on participation such as cooking. Duties will be assigned when all reservations are made. People who have participated in the past are well aware that this weekend turns out to be very gastronomical too!

- Where: chalet in South Lake Tahoe, a couple of miles from the casinos and Heavenly. The chalet has 6 bedrooms, a large kitchen, 4.5 baths, an outdoor hot tub, pool table and views of the lake. Linens are supplied, no cleaning is needed. We just bring the food and some firewood. For pictures: visit [www.tahoevacations.com/zephyr/106a.html](http://www.tahoevacations.com/zephyr/106a.html)
- When: Friday evening, January 29 till Sunday evening, January 31.
- Cost for the cabin: approximately \$90 per person for two nights lodging on a 16 person occupancy basis. If less participants, the cost will be equally divided. Food and cooking duties will be arranged later.
- Transportation: your own. Car pools will be arranged once we get closer. This cabin has lots of parking so it will be easier than on our previous ski trips. Maps will be distributed later.
- Skiing: Heavenly Valley. Discount tickets are available at Lucky/Save Mart.

Please call Dirk De Mol at (408) 720 8837 after December 29 to make reservations or email him at [dirk@bcnc.com](mailto:dirk@bcnc.com). First come, first serve. Priority to members.

### **Membership**

The BCNC will try again to bring many interesting programs in 2010. In order to do so, we need your support. Please, pay your membership, let us know your ideas of activities, and give us some feedback on our events. Our web page [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com) gives you all the information on how to contact us.

This letter has been mailed to everybody on our mailing list. The following newsletters will only be sent to paying members. Please return the enclosed membership form with your check, payable to BCNC. It is your membership fee that makes these and other events possible. For many years now, the BCNC has organized the Belgian National Day picnic, and many other social, cultural, and sports events. You can see a list of our activities on our web page, [www.bcnc.com](http://www.bcnc.com).

## **Thank You**

- Saint Nicholas, a.k.a. Mark Jacops and his helpers, a.k.a. Theo Dewitte and Nicolas Braem, for making 34 kids very happy at the annual Saint Nicholas visit. We also like to thank Hilda Jacops and Sofie Vandeputte for their coordinating support.
- Leslie Desaeyere and Erwan Allanic for offering their club house to host the Saint Nicholas event.
- All BCNC volunteers who made it possible to offer the various activities in 2009. Without your help, the variety of events would not be possible.

## **Announcements**

- The Duck Club restaurant of the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa is organizing a Belgian Beer dinner on January 29, 2010.  
Guests can stay overnight at the hotel at a special rate for BCNC members.  
Please contact Tony Eichers at 925-299-4330 for further information.

## **Did you know that**

- The Van Schuylenberg family, former Belgian Club members when they lived in the Bay Area and now living in Vorselaar, Belgium, are seeking a family with whom they can arrange a house swap or do house sitting for several weeks during the months of July and August, 2010. In a house swap situation, they are offering their very comfortable house (30 min. east of Antwerp), fully equipped for a family with children, and hope that, in return, they can occupy the house of the visiting family for several weeks. As house sitters, they can take care of your pets while you are traveling. If interested, please contact Lut Engelen at [lut.engelen@gmail.com](mailto:lut.engelen@gmail.com)

## **Upcoming Events**

- The Belgian Beer, Fries and Waffle event will be held on Saturday, March 27. We are already looking for items for the silent auction, especially items that can only be found in Belgium. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

Happy Holidays,

The Board

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER 2010**

Name: .....

Address/City:.....

Tel.:..... E-mail:.....

Favorite BCNC activities:.....

Least favorite BCNC activities:.....

Suggestions/comments:.....

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Yes No

I would prefer to receive the BCNC newsletter by e-mail. We encourage our members to choose for this option in order to save on mailings. When choosing the letter by email, make sure that Spam filters don't block our emails. Last minute events by other organizations will only be announced by email.

Dues: Couple/Family \$30.00  
Single: \$20.00  
Student: \$10.00

Please make check payable to BCNC.

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**NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION ON 1/24/10**

(Adults only, maximum 2, for additional guests, please check with Ann for availability)

Name(s) .....  
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Phone: .....  
Email: .....

Please return to BCNC, before 1/18/10.  
Mail to BCNC, 1300 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, Ca 94301.