

November 2019



Dear Members,

We would like to invite you to our next two events:

In good tradition, Saint Nicholas will soon be on his way to the Bay Area and promised us a visit.

Visit of Saint Nicholas in Palo Alto Saturday, December 7th, 2 pm



Where:

Oak Creek Apts clubhouse, 1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304. Please note that parents are responsible for their child(ren) at all times during this event.

Cost:

Children: \$18 per child.

This is a members-only event. If you are not a member, please pay your (family) membership first. Your membership will be active for the entire year 2020. For more information on how to become a member, please visit www.bcnc.com/about.

Important:

Please do not forget to bring a small gift for your child(ren). The gift should be wrapped and labeled with first and last name of your child. After arrival at the clubhouse, please hand off your gift(s) to one of the organizers and place the gift(s) in one of the bags.

Registration:

- Sign up on our website or by writing a check made payable to BCNC, mail the check to Philippe Jansen - 647 Torrington Drive - Sunnyvale, CA 94087 before Monday, December 2nd.
- Email the name and age of your child(ren) and a brief text (<10 lines) for each child that you would like Saint Nicholas to read (what he/she did well, things that need to be improved, etc) to philippe@bcnc.com by Monday, December 2nd.
- The text can be in Dutch, French or English.
- We would like to inform you that we adhere to the “Pietenpact”, agreed to by a number of Flemish organisations and toy/food companies.
- When payment and email have been received, you will receive a confirmation email.

In another good tradition, Doris Davis, one of our members, would like to invite you, your family and friends to

Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge Saturday, December 14th, 11 am



Meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Golden Gate Chapter

Date: Saturday, December 14th, 2019. Start Time: 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 12 Noon

Location: Ft. Miley Medical Center, 4150 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA 94121 Auditorium (2nd Floor).

Our Guest Speakers: Honorary Consul of Belgium, Nathalie Delrue-McGuire and the Consul General of Luxembourg, Pierre Franck.

How To Register: RSVP by December 7th to Doris Davis at doris@dordavis.com or call her at (650) 654-0101 and leave a message. Please mention the number of people in your party so we can plan an adequate amount of food. Family and friends are welcome!

Our Members - Our Community - For Humanity

November & December 2019

November is here and it's that time of the year to be thankful and share. Some members of our Belgian Club community in Northern California have worked for many years in helping others in amazing humanitarian ways. Some created non-profit organizations, while others dedicate so much of their time and energy to non-profits. But, when they started their effort, each one of them wanted to make a difference in this world for the less fortunate.

So this year, as the Board of the Belgian Club of Northern California, we are so proud to share with you briefly their stories, and present to you their organizations. We hope you will find some inspiration, you may want to contribute by volunteering, or even by sending a generous donation in the name of BCNC to one, or more, of these incredible non-profits during this 2019 season of sharing. In advance, we thank you to support the efforts of our BCNC members.

JW House - The Knapen Family

Diagnosed with Leukemia as a child, then with a brain tumor as a teen, JW Knapen was no stranger to hospitals and the intolerable amount of time treatments kept him away from his family, especially his little sisters and brother. So, when JW's tumor worsened, he joined forces with his oncologist and dedicated himself to raising money to build a "home away from home" near his hospital in Santa Clara, so that families could be near one another during difficult medical stays. JW's motto was "Never, Ever Give Up!", and he also believed in the power of talking together, loving together, and sharing good feelings. JW's dream didn't take long to blossom into an international project - with money raised from around the world.

Since its grand opening in 2008, JW House has provided families with loved ones undergoing medical treatment a welcoming place to get a good night's sleep, a home cooked meal, or just a shower, a listening ear, or a decent cup of coffee (and a cookie, of course). As JW envisioned, the House provides a safe place for families to face the challenges of illness together, inspiring hope and allowing for the respite and self-care needed during tough times.

BCNC Members Anne Marie and Geert Knapen would be happy to show you around JW very special house (www.jwhouse.org/tour)! For more information, making a gift, or even volunteer, please visit the website at jwhouse.org. Thanks for your help!

Sahaya International - Koen van Rompay

In 1997, BCNC member Koen Van Rompay, a Belgian veterinarian and HIV/AIDS researcher at UC-Davis traveled to a conference in India to present his research. Outside the conference halls, Koen was shocked by the poverty, and felt he had to do something. At the conference, he met an

Indian social worker who had started a grassroots organization to help people in his rural area. Koen decided to help him. His efforts grew and in 1999, together with friends, he started in California the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization Sahaya International (Sahaya means “help” in Sanskrit).

While their initial focus was India, over the years they also started to support programs in Vietnam, Kenya and the Philippines. Programs include orphan sponsorship, education, HIV/AIDS, schools for special children, formation of women self-help groups with entrepreneurship, vocational training, and construction of simple homes. For more info or giving opportunities, visit www.sahaya.org. You can also watch the short inspiring documentary, “Sahaya Going Beyond”, narrated by Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons, at <http://vimeo.com/65517422>. Thank you!

Superatec - Herman de Kesel

SUPERATEC is a Venezuelan non-profit founded in 2002 by BCNC member Herman De Kesel (d. 2004).

A Spanish acronym for Personal Growth through Technology, SUPERATEC combats Venezuelan poverty by offering computer literacy and personal development training in low-income communities throughout Venezuela, based on three basic pillars: citizenship, technology and employment.

The foundation’s 25 training centers operate in underprivileged areas of Venezuela’s nine states. By year-end 2017, nearly 40,000 SUPERATEC students - youths and adults - had completed the program, enhancing their employability and workplace productivity. As a result, impoverished communities throughout Venezuela enjoy reduced unemployment, better incomes and a higher standard of living.

For more information about SUPERATEC, visit <https://superatec.org.ve/>.

Donations can be made online (<http://resourcefnd.org/>) or by check payable to The Resource Foundation (SUPERATEC in memo), 237 West 35th St., Suite 1203, New York, NY 10001. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

African Library Project - Sofie Vandeputte

African Library Project has set up children libraries for schools and communities in Ghana, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Kenya. Each library consists of 1,000 books. Volunteers, such as ongoing BCNC member Sofie and her family, helps African Library Project by actively collecting lightly used children books in English (fiction/non-fiction up to reading level of 8th grade).

Got Children Books? If your family has outgrown them, contact Sofie so she’ll work with you to get these books to children in rural Africa who will have a chance to enjoy them as much as your children did. To participate in this effort in other ways, we welcome your online donations at AfricanLibraryProject.org for assistance including shipping costs. The cost to ship one box is approx. \$25; an entire library \$600. For answer to any questions you may have or to set up a time to

pick up books around the Bay Area, contact sofie_vandeputte@yahoo.com. Thank you!

SF Turkey Drive at St Emydius - Pierre Smit

The SF Turkey Drive was started in 2012 by BCNC member Pierre from his house inviting neighbors and friends to bring turkeys so he can bring it to the St Anthony's Dining Room to feed the hungry. The following year, St Emydius Church joined his project. Now, the SF Turkey Drive is an important part of the food collection for the poor and homeless families in San Francisco.

Donations include turkeys, hams and fresh vegetables in the parking lot of St. Emydius, PLUS a 2-month fundraiser from anyone anywhere. All food collected is brought to St Anthony, and all online donations made from our website are linked on our page at St. Anthony website. In the past 2 years, SF Turkey Drive has contributed enough turkeys and hams to serve over 45,000 meals for folks who depend on this organization for healthy meals. St. Anthony's mission is to feed, heal, shelter, clothe, lift the spirits of those in need, and create a society in which all persons flourish. This mission is guided by five values: healing, community, personalism, justice, and gratitude.

We welcome everyone to make an online donation, or to come to the drop off site on Saturdays Nov. 23 and Dec. 21 from 9 am till noon. Location: 350 De Montfort Avenue, San Francisco. For more information, or to make an online donation, visit SFTurkeyDrive.com. Volunteers are welcome. HUNGER SHOULD NOT EXIST...AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP. Contact: SPierre@aol.com. Thank you!

[All of this information is also on our website under "Our Community"]