



NEWSLETTER

1/2004

Calendar

Sunday, May 16
Jet Propulsion Laboratories
Open House

Saturday June 12th
Brunch
L' Auberge Restaurant
Ojai

Saturday, July 17th
Belgian Day Sailing Trip
Belmont State Shore Beach
Long Beach

July 19—25
WTA JP Morgan Tennis
Tournament
Carson

Saturday September 25th.
Bowling tournament
Woodland Hills

Sunday October 17th.
Petanque
Los Angeles

Saturday, November 6th
Annual Dinner & Dance
The AVIO Club
Anaheim

November 10th—15th
WTA Tennis Tournament
Staples Center

Dear Friends,

Yet another year is flying by. We are now in May and we are about to host our 5th event of the year this month. Our New Year's reception was attended by more people that we ever had before. We had over 160 members show up for this event hosted at the residence of our Consul General Frank Geerkens. At this event we award a person (non Board member) that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help the club that year or in the past. The Van Der Mersch award was given to the Consul General Frank Geerkens. For those who have not had the honor of meeting our Consul General, Frank has been a strong support of our club over the last 4 years. It is with deep sadness that he will be leaving Los Angeles for his next post. He will be deeply missed, but he did promise to come and visit as often as he could. Some of our members also walked away from this event with some nice raffle prizes donated by local Belgian stores, Restaurants and Hotels.

But we still have lots of events planned for this year from Beach Parties to Tennis Events to our annual Petanque Tournament, to a wonderful brunch, and last but not least our fantastic annual Dinner Dance on November 6th. This is one event you don't want to miss. We just booked Grand Master DJ Peter Bulcke to provide the Belgian Music and also Chef Pascal Dropsy. For those who attended last year's event, you know how wonderful Chef Pascal's food is.

This will be the first full year that we are going under our new name. (Belgian Club SoCal) I also hope that most of you have looked at our website at www.belgianclubsocal.org. There you can find out information on our upcoming events, links to Belgian radio, TV, Newspapers, government agencies, our sponsors, and we also have a bulletin board to post any concerns, items, or just to say hello. We even got a comment from someone in Japan the other day. Again I would like to thank Dirk Van Peteghem for all his time and effort that has gone into building this fantastic website. For the people that do not have access to the web, we will try to keep our telephone information center open at (714) 757-BCSC or (714) 757-2272. From time to time we get information on other events at the last minute that we have been sending out by email. If you have not gotten any emails from us within the last month on events, please send us an email to info@belgianclubsocal.org and let us know what your email address is. It seems that lots of people's e-mail addresses have changed over the last year and we still have your old address.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our events planned for the future. Please let us know if you would like to help us organize an event, or if we can help promote your event as well.

See you soon,
Alain Missoul

Trip to JPL's Open House
 (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) Pasadena
Sunday, May 16

Come join our friend and compatriot, Dr. Didier Keymeulen, who, with the help of some of his coworkers, will show us his exciting place of work during the annual open house at JPL. . You will see exhibits, displays, and demonstrations about new technologies, solar system exploration, spacecraft communication, and last but not least, all the information on the expedition to Mars. The open house is a fun and educational experience for children too, with special hands-on activities designed for kids. Space souvenirs, NASA and JPL merchandise, food and drinks will be available.

We'll meet at the main entrance of JPL at 10:30 a.m. The entrance and parking is **free** and all children are welcome. The directions to get there are as follows: Take 210 Freeway North or South, exit on Berkshire, go East one block to Oak Grove Drive and turn left. Drive straight to JPL West side parking and then walk to the main entrance. Please wait for the arrival of all the Belgians and non-Belgians from our group to start the tour. Make sure you arrive by 10:30 because the tour will start at that time.

David from Lucky Baldwin's will be expecting those of us who choose to stop by after the visit around 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. He will reserve the upstairs for us, and most likely will have mussels on the menu.

Some helpful websites related to your visit to JPL:
 JPL Open House: www.jpl.nasa.gov/psd/oh.html
 Maps to JPL:
www.jpl.nasa.gov/about_JPL/maps.cfm
 Directions:
www.jpl.nasa.gov/about_JPL/directions.cfm

To reserve a place in the group:
 Leave your name and the number of people attending at (714) 757-2272 OR
 E-mail us at Belgianclubsocal.org.

www.
NeoRealEstate.com
 Michael Stark, Realtor
Residential & Commercial Properties
 714-444-0768 626-580-4195

Mon Grenier -Belgian restaurant
is celebrating 34 years in business

Two weeks only May 6, 2004 - May 22, 2004
(serving the Belgian specials)

Along with your old favorites, salmon in crust, crrrrrrispy duck, filet green peppercorn sauce, etc., we will be featuring some of Belgium's finest ales and we will be having a few Belgian specialties such as:

- filet americain
(steak tartare)
* * *
- roulade bruxelloise
(belgian endive in cooked ham, gratinee)
* * *
- bouillabaise "mer du nord"
* * *

- waterzooi de poulet
(a la gantoise)
* * *
- carbonnade flamande
(belgian beer stew)
* * *
- tomate crevette ostendaise (belgian grey shrimp)
* * *
- scampi escoffier "andre style"
* * *
- and of course filet of ostrich

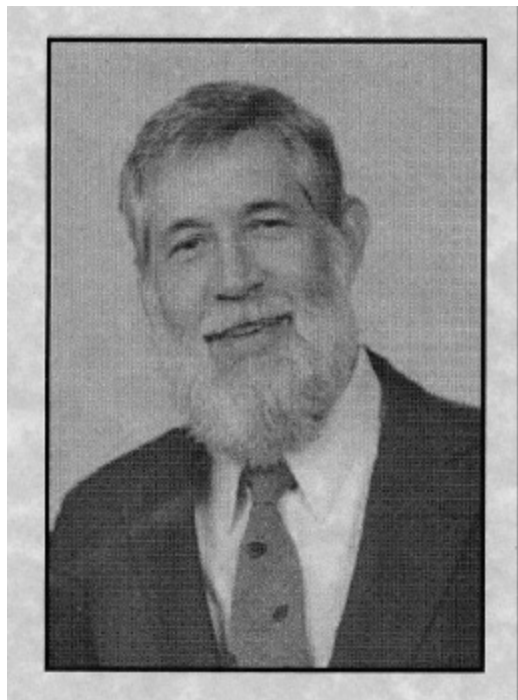
*Don't forget to save room for
 Chrissy's homemade desserts*

Please call to make your reservations (only)
 (seating is limited, so don't forget to call)
 18040 Ventura Blvd. Encino
818-344-8060 mongrenier18040@aol.com

Thank you for all the good years.
 Andre, Nelly, Chrissy and the gang at Mon Grenier.

IN MEMORIAM

Walter Gasper, L'Hirondelle Restaurant Owner



On Monday, March 22, 2004 at around 10:00 AM we lost a cherished friend and fellow member. Walter Gasper suffered a massive heart attack and passed away just two weeks before he and his beloved wife Raymonde, a Belgian native, were to retire. Together they had owned and operated the wonderful restaurant L'Hirondelle in San Juan Capistrano for over 22 years. Their motto was simply, "A Little bite of Belgium in Capistrano."

Both Walter and Raymonde previously opened their business and hearts to the Belgian Club on many occasions for various events. Pascal and I had the pleasure of eating and visiting with them over brunch at L'Hirondelle just one day prior to his passing. They were both very excited about their upcoming retirement and talked of finally having some time to travel, relax and enjoy themselves.

Walter was known by many, as the kindest, sweetest and most giving man they had ever known. He was very active in his community and was very dedicated to supporting the local animal humane societies and adoption centers. Gasper was 67 years old and is survived by his wife Raymonde, his treasured white poodle Chablis and a daughter, Karen Potter, a son-in-law, Marvin Potter and grandson, Taylor Potter, 21, all of Placentia, CA. A memorial service was held in his honor at Mission Basilica, San Juan Capistrano on Saturday, April 3, 2004. He will truly be missed.

Jannette

Jean-Luc Dehaene Meets the Belgian Community in Los Angeles and Visits Stanford University

On Friday February 27th, the Consul General of Belgium, Mr. Frank Geerkens, organized a reception in honor of his Excellency Mr. Jean-Luc Dehaene, former Prime Minister. Jean-Luc Dehaene is the actual Vice-President of the European Convention.

The Belgian Community had the opportunity to meet and speak with Mr. Dehaene about the aspects of living in California and in Belgium, but also about the future of Europe

or about the Belgian movie industry in Hollywood. The discussion and ambiance were very friendly.

This reception was part of a trip that brought the Former Prime Minister to San Francisco, Stanford and Los Angeles from February 24th to February 28th. At Stanford University, Jean Luc-Dehaene was invited by the Stanford Institute for International Studies to speak about the European Integration and the prospects of a European Union Constitution. In his speech, which took place on February 25th, the Vice-President of the European Convention focused on the need for a constitution and the major challenges posed by the upcoming enlargement on May 1st when 10 new countries will join the existing Member countries.

Soccer standings as of April 30, 2004

1.	Anderlecht	74	7.	Germinal Beerschot	41	13.	Beveren	34
2.	Club Brugge	63	8.	Lokeren	37	14.	Bergen	33
3.	Standard	61	9.	La Louvière	37	15.	Cercle Brugge	33
4.	Moeskroen	55	10.	Lierse	36	16.	Antwerp	26
5.	RC Genk	53	11.	Sint-Truiden	35	17.	Charleroi	26
6.	Westerlo	48	12.	AA Gent	35	18.	Heusden-Zolder	25

Double nationality: the actual situation

Before the Federal Elections of May 18, 2003, the 4 major French-speaking parties (P.S. 'Socialist Party', M.R. 'Liberal Party', C.D.H. 'ex-Christian Party' and Ecolo 'Green Party') agreed to make a change on double nationality by suppressing the loss of Belgian Nationality when voluntarily obtaining a foreign Nationality.

After the Elections, three propositions of Law have been introduced to the Belgian Senate by Philippe Mahoux and Jean-François Istass from P.S. (Proposition Nr11), by François Roelants du Vivier from M.R. (Proposition Nr 42) and by Clotilde Nyssens, Christian Bratcorne, Luc Payne and René Thissen from C.D.H. (proposition Nr 461)

No actions were taken from the Flemish Deputies and Senators until an article was published in the newspaper 'Le Soir' on August 14, 2003. The article mentioned the possibility that Kim Clijsters will lose her Belgian Nationality if she would have decided to take the Australian nationality of her future husband Leytton Hewitt. Therefore the Flemish-Speaking Press questioned the Flemish parties and 2 new propositions were recently introduced to the Senate by Sabine de Béthune from C.D.V. 'ex-Christian Party' (Proposition Nr 320) and by two Senators from S.P.-A. 'Socialist Party' (Proposition Nr 469).

The Justice commission of the Senate met once and decided to find the number of Belgians who will be concerned by this problem. It seems that around 100 Belgians lose their citizenship every year. Some recover it, some don't.

Unfortunately, the Justice commission has decided to postpone its discussions on the subject until further notice.

If you want more information on the subject, don't hesitate to contact any of the Belgian political parties which are part of the discussions at the following websites:

P.S. <http://www.ps.be>
M.R. <http://www.mr.be>
C.D.H. <http://www.lecdh.be>
S.P.-A <http://www.s-p-a.be>
C.D.V. <http://www.cdenv.be/>

And you will also find more information on the Senators on the website of the Senate: <http://www.senate.be>

The Federal website of Belgium <http://www.belgium.be> will give you all the links to these parties and institutions and many other connections.

BCSC Brunch l'Auberge Restaurant in Ojai

Date & Time: Saturday June 12, 2004 at 12pm

Address: 314 El Paseo, Ojai, CA 93023, at the corner of Rincon

US 101 North to Ventura, Merge onto CA-33 N towards Ojai, Turn slight left onto N Ventura Ave./CA-33, Continue to follow N. Ventura Ave., which becomes W. Ojai Ave./ CA -150, turn sharp left onto Paseo Rd.

Owner of L'Auberge: our fellow Belgian, Paul Franssen.

The menu and further details will be sent by e-mail. If you have no access to e-mail, please call (714) 757-BCSC or (714) 757-2272.

Belgian Day Sailing Trip in Long Beach

Date & Time: Saturday July 17: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Address: the Belmont Shores in Long Beach.

Enjoy a nice corner of Southern California with the Sailing Master Jean-Philippe Beauvois!

Further details will be sent by e-mail. If you have no access to e-mail, please call (714) 757-BCSC or (714) 757-2272.

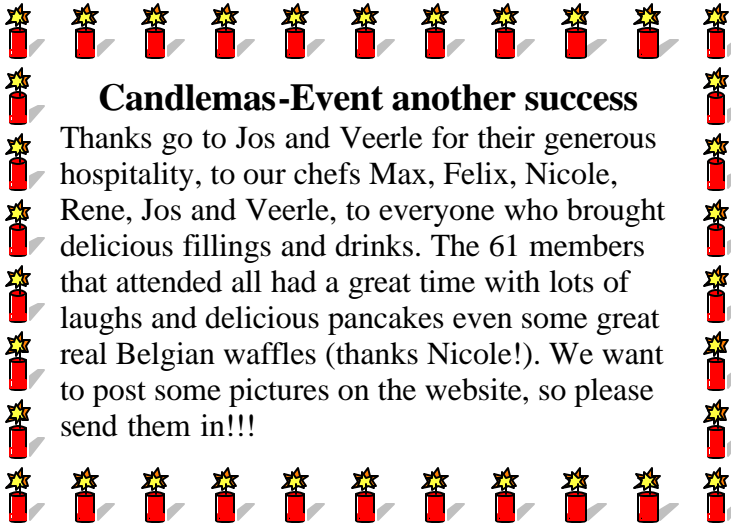
**Details for the other upcoming events
will be published in our next newsletter and on our website!!**



What will happen in California, in Belgium and in the World in 2004

Dates	In California & the World	In Belgium
Sunday May 16	BCSC Visit JPL: start 10:30 am at entrance.	
Thursday May 20 and Friday May 21		Ascension Holidays
Monday May 24 to Sunday June 6	Tennis French Open with Kim Clijster & Justine Henin-Ardenne	
Monday May 31	Memorial Day	Whit Monday
Saturday June 12	BCSC Brunch L'Auberge Restaurant Ojai: start 12:00 noon	
Sunday June 13		Belgian Regional and European Elections
		Belgians living abroad do not participate
Saturday June 12 to Sunday July 4	European Soccer Championship without Belgian team :-(
Monday June 21 to Sunday July 4	Tennis Championships Wimbledon with Kim & Justine	
Wednesday June 30		Beginning of School vacation
Thursday July 1	Beginning of European Presidency by the Netherlands	
Saturday July 3 to Sunday July 25	Tour of France - Cycling	
Sunday July 4	Independence Day in the United States	
Sunday July 11		Flemish Community Holiday
Saturday July 17	BCSC Belgian Day Sailing Belmont Shores: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.	
Monday July 19 to Sunday July 25	JP Morgan Open Tennis Tournament in Carson	
Wednesday July 21		Belgian National Day
Friday August 13 to Sunday August 29	Summer Olympics Games in Greece	
Monday August 30 to Sunday September 6	Tennis US Open with Kim Clijsters & Justine Henin-Hardenne	
Wednesday September 1		Back to School
Monday September 6	Labor Day	
Saturday September 25	BCSC: Bowling tournament in Woodland Hills	
Monday September 27		French-Speaking Community Holiday
Monday October 11	Columbus Day	
Sunday October 17	BCSC Petanque Tournament: start 9:30 am sharp.	
Sunday October 30	Daylight Saving Time Ends	
Monday November 1 & Tuesday November 2		All Saint's Holiday
Tuesday November 2	Election Day	
Saturday November 6	BCSC: Annual Dinner and Dance	
Wednesday November 10th - 15th	Tennis WTA Tour Championships: Staples Center	
Thursday November 11		Veterans' Day
Monday November 15		King Day
Saturday December 25		Christmas
Friday December 31, 2004	Last day to exchange Belgian coins to Euro coins	
Saturday January 1, 2005	Beginning European Presidency by Luxembourg	





Candlemas-Event another success

Thanks go to Jos and Veerle for their generous hospitality, to our chefs Max, Felix, Nicole, Rene, Jos and Veerle, to everyone who brought delicious fillings and drinks. The 61 members that attended all had a great time with lots of laughs and delicious pancakes even some great real Belgian waffles (thanks Nicole!). We want to post some pictures on the website, so please send them in!!!

New future member born in Los Angeles.

We would like to congratulate Tarcis and Grace from the store Chocolatt from Belgium on the birth of their new son Aiden Lief Verfaillie.
 He was born on March 29th, 7lb2oz...19 inches. He could not wait until his due date was April 16th. See what Tax day does to you!!
 Both Mom and Dad are doing fine. Maybe a little lack of sleep. Next time you go to their store, at 12008 Wilshire, ask them about Aiden. ...

Your Club's Sponsors for 2004

Export Vlaanderen – Jos De Clercq
 KBC Bank – Ivan Vertenten
 Labatt USA / Interbrew - David Medley
 Legrand Realty, Inc. – Max & Gisele Legrand
 Jacques Welche, CPA., Inc.
 Helene Sienaert

Advertise with us

1/8 page \$25
 1/4 page \$45
 1/2 page \$70
 Full page \$100

Please send your camera ready art to
 BCSC
 PMB 333
 2060 Avenida de Los Arboles, # D
 Thousand Oaks, CA
 91362-1376

Your 2004 Board

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 Alain Missoul
 Vice-President
 Romano Zihla
 Dirk Van Peteghem
 Secretary-General
 Pascal Dropsy
 Treasurer
 Annie Rahier
 Directors
 Marc Mayeres
 Marie-Noëlle Malevez
 Jean-Philippe Beauvois

Belgian Club of Southern California

PMB 333
 2060 Avenida de Los Arboles, # D
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-1376

Message Center: (714) 757 2272
 e-mail: info@belgianclubsocal.org
 www.belgianclubsocal.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To: