

NAADV BELGIAN BEER PARTY 2011

On a rainy afternoon in September, beer aficionados and food lovers and their kids gathered for a sampling of Belgian beer and foods in the presence of good company at the Florax family residence in Delaware.

We all had a great time and the kids also enjoyed many activities. Many thanks to the Florax family for hosting the event, Ronald Nijssen for making sure a steady supply of bitterballen en frieten was enjoyed by all, and Erwin van Zanten for preparing delicious mussels with garlic mayonaise.

EB



Sinterklaas: December 3, 2011

The Sint will be paying us a visit again in December! Due to the usually large turnout, this event is open to members only, so make sure your membership is up to date. The NAADV cannot accept late registration or unregistered "binnenvallers" at the door. Sinterklaas Committee contact:

Deb Heerkens

EXTRA

BELGIAN

EDITION

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP AND UPCOMING NAADV EVENTS:

Becoming a member of the NAADV has many advantages. The NAADV is a club that is open to all who are interested in Dutch/Flemish culture and reside in the area.

Our recurring events ensure that our members and their families or friends have plenty of occasions to meet and connect regularly throughout the year. In addition, we strive to publish each year 4 issues of De Brug to connect with our members and keep them informed about what we have done in the past quarter as an organization. Becoming a member of the NAADV also gives you access to all of our events, as some are open to members only. Your membership dues also help us sponsor to a certain extent most events of the club or keep additional fees to certain events accessible for most. However, we can only fulfill our goals if all of our members keep current in their membership dues. We try to keep our annual membership fee democratic so that membership is within reach of most. However, should you experience some kind of financial hardship, you can always reach out to Cisca Jansen or Stefan Lint.

To check on your membership status or pay your dues, please email Cisca Jansen at cisajansen@gmail.com or Stefan Lint at stefan.lint@gmail.com.



New Belgian Dutch friendships were made at this years beer party...

Holiday Borrel: December 18, 2011

This event has now become a classic on the NAADV calendar to end the year on a festive note. This event is open to all Dutch/Flemish people. Location is at the Manayunk Brewery and Restaurant. More information will be send out to all members of the club.

Holiday borrel contact: Elisabeth Boeynaems,
eboeynaems@yahoo.com

November 5, 2011 Indonesische Rijsttafel

The annual Rijsttafel is coming up! This very popular event is a "gezellige" avond for adult NAADV members and their friends to socialize with each other while sampling great Indonesian fare in Center City.

Attendance to this event is as always limited and priority will be given to members who are current with their membership dues. A flyer and mail-in form to sign up for this event has been mailed to all current members. If you have not received a flyer by the end of October and you wish to attend the event,

please check your membership status. Contact Indonesische Rijsttafel: Sicco Popma, shpopma@hotmail.com



BELGIAN BEER PARTY 2011

Introducing Michiel Florax and Family

The Florax family recently joined the NAADV, although Michiel Florax and his wife Joelle have been living in the United States for a long time. The Florax family generously hosted the 2011 Belgian Beer Party which was a true treat for all Belgian beer and food enthusiasts and adepts of “gezelligheid”. We caught up with Michiel and asked him about his background and how he and his family came to join the club.

Where do you originally come from in the Netherlands?

I was born and raised in Ede, Gelderland and moved to Brabant when I was 8 years old. I lived right outside of S’Hertogenbosch in a little town called Sint Michiels Gestel. I enjoyed Brabant voor ondermeer het fantastic “Carnaval Feest.”

What brought you to the United States?

When I was 16, our family moved to Brazil due to my father’s expat job with Akzo-Nobel. I lived in Sao Paulo for 3 years and when I was 19 I came to the US to study. During my undergraduate studies I liked it in the US, met my beautiful wife, Joelle, and decided to start working on a company sponsored visa. I later entered graduate school to study Economics and International Business, worked for Akzo Salt and Praxair industrial gases advising on acquisitions and was part of the management team that started ING DIRECT in the United States. I currently work for Fidelity Information Services as a consultant to the top 750 Banks in the United States that want to start Direct to Consumer banking.

How do you like it here?

I really like the diversity of the people and the places one can visit. From Delaware to Pennsylvania to Florida to Colorado to California anything can be done and anyone can be met.



Is there anything you particularly miss from the Netherlands?

I do really miss the towns and the “gezelligheid” in the Netherlands. I often travel back to the Netherlands to go sailing with my parents and it is great to travel through Groningen and Friesland particularly to see often old, simple, and relaxed ways of living still exist.

Do you ever consider going back to the Netherlands or not?

I will most likely not go back to the Netherlands to live. I have built a family life now in the United States and have a great relationship with my in-laws. Besides that, my dad says I am a Yankee by now... I also really enjoy my profession in the United States, but perhaps

that gets me into a different country at some point, maybe even the Netherlands.

Why did you become a member of the NAADV?

Although I have been living in the United States for a long time now, I did not know of the existence of the NAADV. I coincidentally found out about it and was glad to realize there were many other Dutch natives who have made a family and life in the United States. It is also great for the kids to mingle with other Dutch/American kids.

What do you like/dislike about the club?

I think the club is well organized and really appreciate the continued events to bring the group together. Kudos for that!

Colophon

“De Brug” is a newsletter for and by members of the **Netherlands-America Association of the Delaware Valley (NAADV)**. Please visit us at <http://www.naadv.org> for more information.

If interested in volunteering or attending a board meeting, please contact President Cisca Jansen: ciscajansen@gmail.com

Elections for board members are held yearly in the Spring at the Annual Meeting.

This Newsletter was kindly printed and distributed by the Lage Landen

Board Members

President
Cisca Jansen
ciscajansen@gmail.com

Vice President
Hans Scholten
jscholten01@gmail.com

Secretary
Sicco Popma
shpopma@hotmail.com

Director of Membership
Stefan Lint
stefan.lint@gmail.com

Director of Finance
Rob Heerkens
rob.heerkens@interimtax.net

Program Director
Elizabeth Boeynaems
eboeynaems@yahoo.com

Director (Member at large)
Antonie Tripp
antonia.tripp@verizon.net

Non-Board Members

Audit Committee
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Nell Daniels

De Brug Layout & Design
Erwin van Zanten
erwin@vanzantendesign.com

Webmaster & Flyers
Shelly Rabuse
poes@aol.com

Sinterklaas Committee Chair
Deb Kowal Heerkens
deborahkowal@yahoo.com

Koninginnedag Committee Chair
Cisca Jansen
ciscajansen@gmail.com

Rijsttafel Committee Chair
Sicco Popma
shpopma@hotmail.com

HOW BELGIANS BECOME GOOD BEER CONNOISSEURS AND EXPERT BREWERS

Beer, religion and Politics

Belgium produces what many connoisseurs consider to be the world's finest beers. Beer became especially popular in the Middle Ages, when the preservative effects of hops provided a much needed alternative to drinking water, which was often contaminated. Brewing, like baking was a requisite skill for a Belgian housewife in those days it seems.

Until well into the 20th century, practically every village had at least one brewery. This was due in part to political reasons. The local mayor was often the owner of a local brewery who needed to win the votes of particularly male voters (women were not allowed to vote in Belgium until 1948). For instance, if a Catholic political candidate owned a local brewery, his liberal opponent had almost no choice but to start a brewery as well. In hopes of winning over voters and the political control over a village, Belgian breweries came up almost incessantly with new and improved beers. This tradition was unique in the world and one of the reasons why the beer culture took off so strongly in Belgium.

However, because of their small scale, many breweries became unprofitable as time passed, resulting in the disappearance of many famous brands. Consequently the number of breweries plummeted from 3000 in 1900 to barely 100 at the start of the millennium. Nevertheless, Belgium still produces nearly 1000 different brews. Economic concentration led to most of the surviving brands of beer being housed with what has finally become



known as AB Inbev. This company has developed into one of the major brewers in the world with outlets in many countries. AB Inbev (unlike Heineken which most Belgians would probably not consider real beer) does not market its own brands worldwide but mainly commercialized local products.

Our own mussels & garlic mayonnaise recipe: With that little note of history in mind, we cannot withhold you the perfect dish to accompany a "frisse pint": Erwin's own mussels & garlic mayonnaise recipe which is a yearly hit at the NAADV's Belgian Beer Party! **EB**



Steamed mussels in white wine

One bag mussels, 10 pound
Serves 8 people
Cooking technique is steaming

Ingredients

10 pound mussels
1 bottle of dry white wine
Onions chopped in rings
Garlic pressed
Parsley chopped
Carrots chopped
Leeks chopped
Sea salt and fresh pepper

Preparation work

If you get the mussels from the fish store take them home on ice and let the cooler lid open a bit for breathing!

At home fill a sink 1/2 full of cold water. Add the mussels and toss them around. Pull the beards from each mussel (inspecting them to make sure that they are tightly closed). Discard any bad mussels! Keep the cleaned mussels in the cooler opened a crack until ready for use. Do not keep them more than a few hours after washing!

Steaming

When you start cooking use 2 big pans and fill each with the mussels, vegetables, salt and pepper and half bottle of the wine. Fill the bottle with water and pour half a bottle of water in each pan. Steam the mussels over high heat until they have opened. Shake the pot to be sure that all the mussels are cooked. When all mussels have opened, they are ready to serve immediately.



I like to serve them with a garlic mayonnaise sauce. I hope that everybody enjoys this. I know all of my friends and family do!

Garlic Mayonnaise Sauce

Mix half yoghurt and mayonnaise in a bowl. Press garlic in the bowl with some salt, pepper and fine chopped up parsley. Let it sit for a few hours in the fridge. **EvZ**

NAADV "Golden Member" Reunion Luncheon

Calling all "Golden Members" of the NAADV!
Please join us for a reunion lunch to catch up
with old NAADV friends!

Saturday, October 22

1:00 – 5:00PM

at the home of Rob and Deb Heerkens
510 St Davids Avenue, St Davids, PA 19087

This event will be free of charge and open
to anyone who was ever connected with the
NAADV. Current membership in the club is
not necessary. If you know of friends who
would also like to attend but are no longer

members of the NAADV, please give them a
copy of this invitation, or include their names
on your registration.

For those who are not comfortable driv-
ing, we are arranging "drivers", who will pick
you up and bring you back home afterward.
Now there is no excuse for staying home!

Your NAADV friends are looking forward
to seeing you! If you would like to attend, or if
you know of others who would like to attend,
please call Rob Heerkens and Deb (Kowal)
Heerkens at 1-610-964-8558, or send an email
to deborahkowal@yahoo.com. **DH**

WANT TO EDIT A BRUG?

Each Brug is overseen by a rotating editor.
This Fall edition was created by Elisabeth
Boeynaems.

The Winter edition will be overseen by
Hans Scholten. Erwin van Zanten is responsible
for the layout and graphic design. If you are
interested in submitting an article, or becoming
one of the editors in 2012, please contact Cisca
Jansen at ciscajansen@gmail.com.

Electronic Mailinglist

Have you received the new NAADV
e-blast yet? Please send an email to
info@naadv.org if you would like to be added
to the mailing list.

Join us on Facebook **Netherlands-America
Association of the Delaware Valley (NAADV)**
for the latest news and updates on events.

Please visit us at <http://naadv.org> for more
information.



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 22: 'Golden Reunion' lunch at the Heerkens Residence
- Nov. 5: Rijsttafel
- Dec. 3: Sinterklaas
- Dec 18: Holiday Borrel
- March: Spring Borrel and Elections
- May: Queensday
- June: Golf
- July: Pool Party
- Sept.: Belgium Beer Party

Be a member, and you receive flyers at your
current membership address for upcoming
events and on the electronic mailing list
from the NAADV.

Publication of the Netherlands-America Association
of the Delaware Valley, Inc.

SECRETARIAT: 201 Brookline Boulevard, Havertown PA 19083

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