



The Dutch Burgher Union

Newsletter – July 2007

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President's Message

Dear Member,
The success of the DBU is dependent both on its leadership, commitment and dedication of the President and the General Committee to achieve its objectives. Thank you to my competent Committee on their untiring efforts to achieve our goals.

I am happy to say that the DBU has now become a focal point for community development and a place where we can meet in amity and fellowship. We are fortunate in that we have within us the capacity to adapt to change. The present time is the most opportune to meet these challenges.

We look forward to seeing more members and guests at our theme nights and Wednesday nights at the Bar/Lounge upstairs.

With best wishes,
Kem Martenstyn

Editorial

July is already upon us, and we often hear people say "My goodness, half the year is already gone by!". In the past three months that the present General Committee has been in office, a lot has been achieved with a lot of hard work being put in. The bar/lounge is becoming a popular place for a quiet drink or a game of billiards, or even to watch cable TV. Excise regulations are strictly complied with.

On Wednesday nights the place comes alive with music for singing and dancing by Darlan. The monthly Theme nights (our President's specialty!) are so popular that we sometimes even have to turn people away due to the lack of space! An independent caterer will take over the kitchen this month, on a trial basis, and we hope to have an improved menu shortly.

The social work programme continues, in collaboration with the 80 Club of Melbourne



and your sponsorships, taking care of some of the needs of the less advantaged members of our community with regular pensions to the elderly and financial support to the children. The higher educational needs of the young folk are met through the legacy of the late Mr A.E. Christoffelsz to the DBU for this purpose. The St Nikolaas Home also benefited from this magnanimous legacy, and soon the much needed renovations and refurbishments of its buildings will commence. Vast improvements have already been made in the administration and meals in the Home and the Residents are very satisfied and happy.

Further improvements to the DBU building and garden will shortly be underway, no sooner we have the adequate funding. The Royal Netherlands Embassy has been extremely generous to us in this area.

A DBU website is presently under construction, taking us into the 21st century! The Newsletter, as you have observed, has been transformed and has also been taken into the world of E-technology. Thank you to all those who wrote in/called us about the new Newsletter – we are truly encouraged by your response.

The “Karaoke Night” brought out the hidden talents in our members and their guests! Cherry blossoms decked the hall, whilst Ornella and Rolando won prizes for the best costumes in their Japanese Kimono and Karate outfits respectively. The prizes for the Karaoke singing were won by Joe de Silva, Prakash Butani and Michelle Gunasekera.

You have 3 weeks to get saddled up and ready for our “hoedown” on the 20th, where lots of Wild West fun awaits you!

See you there!
Anne-Marie Kellar
Secretary

Honorary Life Membership awarded to Johannes Leembruggen

Mr Johannes Leembruggen, who joined the DBU in 1936 when he was 20 years old, is probably the Union’s longest standing member. He served as Secretary of the DBU in 1945/46 and was at the same time Editor of the Monthly Bulletin.

Mr Leembruggen worked in the Government sector for 17 years and became Controller of Exchange during 1950-1952. He was Chairman of Mackwoods from 1980 to 1991 and was President of the National Chamber of Commerce in 1983.

The President and General Committee of the DBU are proud to confer on Mr Johannes Leembruggen, an Honorary Life Membership, and wish him good health and God’s blessings. ■

VOC Chamber of The Hague

The DBU recently established contact with the VOC Chamber of The Hague, and its members were made “Temporary Honorary Members” of the DBU when they visited Sri Lanka recently.

A letter to the DBU from the Secretary of the Chamber invited our members to visit the Chamber in the Netherlands at any time, “especially during one of our festivals”.

There is now an established “chain” of the four “companies” which honour the memory of the VOC history by coming into contact with each other:

- We, the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon
- The VOC Chamber in Antwerp
- The Foundation VOC, Cape of Good Hope
- The Chamber of The Hague.

We are happy to have Mr Hein Princen, former Dutch Ambassador in Sri Lanka, as our contact person with the Chamber. ■



Reminiscing...past President Harold Speldewinde

by Anthea Muller

Harold was the President of the Dutch Burgher Union for an unbroken period of 10 years from 1989 to 1999 where he strived hard and successfully to uplift the lives of the less fortunate of our community. His period of



stewardship will go down in the history of the DBU as a golden era, and during this period he was able to participate in the celebrations of the 90th year of the Union.

Harold walked this earthly stage like a Colossus moving around with the upper crust of society both nationally and internationally. Harold was God fearing and a sincere and loyal friend, and always moved about in a brisk manner wanting everything done to perfection.

He had a special niche in his heart for St. Nikolaas' Home and performed his duties with much ardour, zeal and unselfishness, very often sacrificing time he could have been spending with his family at home.

I still have not been able to come to terms that Harold is not amongst us, as his passing away was so sudden. He telephoned me the night before his demise and related his exhilarating moments at his Grandson's

birthday party, where he too was part and parcel of all the fun.

This was the person Harold was, enjoying company of both young and old. Harold was with us in good times and bad. His home was open to his friends and relations as he was a perfect host and besides his and his wife Bab's birthday parties, he unceasingly, each year had a lavish party on Christmas Eve, where besides a sumptuous spread and the usual Christmas pudding, we saw in Christmas amidst the fireworks which lit up his lawn and garden.

Harold is another Dutch Burgher we should all be proud of, as his genuineness to serve his community was rare, and I should say "One in a Million". ■

St. Nikolaas' Home

by Anne-Marie Kellar



This lovely Home for the senior ladies of our community, is situated down a quiet by-lane off Sri Saranankara Road, Dehiwela.

Gifted to the DBU by the reputed surgeon/author Dr R.L. Spittel in the year 1951 to be used as a comfortable Home for elderly Burgher ladies, the DBU still fulfils Dr Spittel's cherished wishes. Over the years, several improvements and additions were made to the building, with a brand new "Medical Wing" constructed, funded by the



Royal Netherlands Embassy. Here, ladies who are indisposed have a quiet and restful environment in which to recuperate.



At present there are 45 residents in the Home, with a resident Matron Christine Perera and an Assistant Matron Aloma Casie Chetty. The oldest resident of the Home, Mrs Brenda Don Paul passed away recently at the age of 98, and was, almost to the end of her life, busy crocheting, sewing, playing the piano and always with a big smile on her face.

If one was to visit the St Nikolaas' Home on an evening, one would be pleased to see the ladies seated out on the garden seats in the beautifully manicured lawn, or watching television in the hall, playing cards or "Thyam Chonal", or even gathering around the piano for a "sing-song". Everything is so serene, and away from the din and dust of the busy streets.

The DBU endeavours to give elderly ladies of our community who need a Home away from home, a comfortable life, good, clean nutritious food, a doctor on call, and all other amenities at a rate they can afford. This is all possible due to the DBU subsidizing the steeply rising costs largely out of contributions received from generous donors. On certain days, well-wishers also donate special meals to the ladies of the Home, in memory of loved ones or to celebrate birthdays etc.

Christmas time is eagerly looked forward to by the ladies, as this is the time lots of fun and games and gift giving is organised, with the Matron baking her traditional Christmas cake.

Many of the ladies in the Home are all alone in the world, with most of their family members passed on; some have children who live overseas and so they look forward to visits from anyone who can spare the time to chat with them.

Do try to drop in if you have the time – you will be warmly welcomed and your visit will be deeply appreciated, and I guarantee you will leave with a warm feeling in your heart, knowing that you have brought a smile to the face of someone who knows that you cared! ■

Wonderful ways with Sausages

by Linda Van Schagen

Historically, the sausage was made from otherwise unusable meat scraps such as meat trimmings, bits of offal, fat, salt, water and seasoning, mainly black pepper. Today, sausages are commercially manufactured from beef, pork and chicken and no connective tissue (gristle), bone or organs are used – we hope!

In America, it became a cheap source of food during the Great Depression and in the 50's became established as kids' food and was popularly known as the "hot dog" – a convenient and fast food for busy Moms. Hot dog stands dot the city sidewalks of America and the bun and sausage served with a squirt of mustard or ketchup, or both, has become popular worldwide.

Nowadays, because of health concerns, the humble hot dog is served with sauerkraut, coleslaw, mixed salads and other health food as is done by other fast-food chains like McDonalds and KFC. In Sri Lanka, these food chains, including Pizza Hut, serve a variety of side dishes – mashed potato, tossed salad, coleslaw and potato wedges. Pizza Hut recently introduced Potato Kiev as an appetizer – delicious!



Some trendy restaurants overseas serve hot dogs with avocado relish (guacamole) hummus, foie gras, cucumber and olives, banana chips, and peanut butter.

In Germany and Austria, they are called Frankfurters and, with the immigrants, arrived in America in the mid-1800s. The spicy Salami served with beer is another German speciality. In Scandinavia, the sausage is served on a dollop or creamy mashed potato (a favourite of mine). The British “Banger and Mash” is not complete without hot English mustard, also served with the traditional and incomparable English Breakfast sausage bursting with delicious goodness.

The “Lingus” was a popular sausage in days gone by. Made with a bit of pork and pork fat and heavily spiced, it was available at the Butcher’s stall and was a popular rice puller.

We used to string these over the hearth and the smoky flavour gave them added piquancy. The Lingus is manufactured on a large scale now, but are bland and unappealing in my personal opinion.



We are spoilt for choice as the ubiquitous sausage in all its shapes and sizes has become a globalised food. There is a type of sausage I particularly would recommend – Chicken with Cheese and Onion; lovely to serve with drinks, cut up in chunks on toothpicks

with pieces of Bell pepper and pickled red onion-colourful and attractive. The versatile sausage can be grilled, boiled, fried or barbequed and continues to be sought after because it can be cooked in a jiffy. You can serve it at any mealtime, as it is, or devilled or curried, with a vast variety of side dishes. Unfortunately, as its popularity soars, so does its pricing as the humble sausage in days of yore eaten by the poor has become a gourmet’s delicacy.■



Birthday Greetings!

We wish all our Members celebrating their birthday in June
 Good health and happiness

Ms Michelle De Kretser, Miss Mary Helen Koelmeyer, Mrs Catherine Mack, Mrs Eugenie Kumara, Mrs. Rosemary Outschoorn, Mrs. Heather Pompeus, Mrs. Trudy Reza, and Ms Nadira Madurapperuma, Messrs. Michael Daniels, Scott Dirckze, H.W.L. Foenander, Travin Gerryn, Darryl Isaaks, David Jansze, Jnr. Dylan Kelaart, Fidel Moldrich, Tony Martenstyn, Peter Prins, Jnr. Terrence Pendigrast, Christopher Raymond, Dominic Sansoni, Desmond Vandersay, Dr A.F. Mowjood, Patrick de Silva, Jaliya Devendra, Rukman de Fonseka, L. Jayawickrama, Dr. Srilal Perera, and Nishantha Wedagedera.

Welcome!

We also warmly welcome the members who joined in June 2007...

Member by Invitation Mr Derrick Juriansz
 Overseas Member Mr Glen Wambeek





Crab Lunch & Bingo!

**Sunday 15th July 2007
commencing 11.00am**

This is a “first” and if successful we will have this more often. Please make your bookings before 12th July 2007 and avoid disappointment.



Buffet lunch with freshly cooked lagoon crabs, steamed rice, with an assortment of seasonal vegetables, malluns, dry-fish, papadam and other accompaniments, including dessert.

All this for only Rs 400 per person



JULY EVENTS - IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE DBU!

Show Down in the Wild West

COUNTRY AND WESTERN EVENING

Friday 20th July 2007 at 8.00pm



Just Rs 650 per person

So hop on your wagon, saddle up your horses and come on down to the wildest Western evening of them all. A prize for the best dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl awaits you. We also have a crazy fun-filled game and a quiz with prizes to be won. A scrumptious Barbecue dinner including dessert has been planned by our new Caterer, Mr Gerryn.



We look forward to seeing you and your guests.

Tickets must be purchased early from the DBU to avoid disappointment as accommodation is limited – *Kem Martenstyn, Chairperson – Entertainment & Events*