Celebration Banquet
A GALA EVENT

By: Brad Reinert, Communications Manager

When I posted the guest list on my Facebook page, one of my ‘friends’ called me a hobnobber. But hey, that’s how I roll...

Seriously, having to work the banquet doesn't mean I get to hobnob... I’m too busy setting this, checking that, wrangling media and tracking down other stuff. It was pretty cool though asking the Governor to follow me to an interview and Doris Kearns Goodwin to please step into the light for photos. The guest list included at least six current and former state legislators, one senator, two former ambassadors, and truthfully, the banquet was an ideal spot for hobnobbing.

It was held Friday, Oct. 23 at the Hotel in Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. The venue was amazing. The front lobby was a glass-walled atrium with modern water sculpture and plenty of space to mingle until the banquet hall doors opened. A side conference room served as a private meet and greet reception area for top table sponsors and other donors. Doris Kearns Goodwin graciously shook every hand and signed every book presented.

The ballroom featured a hanging centerpiece with drapes reaching the far corners of the hall and four large projector screens so guests didn’t have to strain their necks to follow crisp messaging in support of the speakers.

The evening began with board president, Charlie Becker, welcoming the group and then introducing Pete Swisher, Supt. of Hoover National Historic Site, as the invocation speaker. A salad, sirloin, chicken, vegetable medly and cheesecake followed.

Jerry Fleagle, executive director of the Foundation, took the stage after the meal, thanking sponsors and recapping the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit. Allan Hoover III followed with the acknowledgement of the Uncommon Public Service Award winners, State Rep. Helen Miller and State Sen. Wally Horn.

Governor Terry Branstad and Ambassador Kenneth Quinn paid a heartwarming tribute to Uncommon Iowan Gov. Robert Ray. You can read all about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thomas Schwartz, director of the Presidential Library-Museum, introduced keynote speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin, who had the audience in the palm of her hands during her nearly hour-long speech about presidential leadership. At the end, she took questions from the audience and ended up staying over to greet even more fans and sign a few more books.

From my vantage point, I saw many satisfied faces leaving the hall that night, and heard many positive comments come into the office in the days following. With our staff of five, putting on six events in three consecutive days, and with the help of some very gracious and willing volunteers, it all went very well, if I do say so myself.

Above: The banquet hall was among the best we’ve had.
At left: Doris Kearns Goodwin signs a book at the VIP reception.

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Highlights of the last member trip!
And a sneak preview of next year’s adventure!
My relationship with the Hoover Presidential Foundation began in 1993, when Bill Quarton received the first Hoover Humanitarian Award. I had a long relationship with WMT radio and television, so I always had the utmost respect and admiration for Bill. Once every few months Bill would take me out for lunch and I would sit there, spellbound as he would spin stories of the past.

Shortly after that, I was asked if I would be interested in being on the Board of Trustees for the Hoover Presidential Foundation. I said I would be extremely humbled and honored. Eight years ago I started the journey of four years as Vice-President and four years as President of the Hoover Presidential Foundation. And now, at year’s end, a person whom I have the utmost respect and admiration for, Bob Downer, will take over as President. Bob will lead the Foundation to its greatest accomplishments ever and I’m looking forward to the coming years with great excitement.

Over these years I have referred to the Hoover Presidential Foundation as a stool with five legs. I would like to take this final column to comment on that stool.

1. The Community of West Branch
I love this town. I have enjoyed attending the various community fund raisers, from the Volunteer Fire Dept. to the Scouts and everything in between. The outpouring of support for the Hoover Hunger Project, when the community and friends banded together to prepare 80,000 meals for those in need, was remarkable. It gave us all a sense of what it was like for President Hoover to feed millions during WWI. How proud the folks of West Branch can feel about their community!

2. The Hoover Family
The Hoover Family is a wonderful group of good and caring individuals… the President would be so pleased. During my years as board president I always felt the support and genuine appreciation of each the President’s family members. They come from the West Coast to the East Coast, and many locations in between to be an active part of the Hoover Campus and the Community. They are a humble family and are so very grateful for all that so many do to remember the President. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to get to know them. They are as good as they come!

3. The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
How fortunate we are to have the National Parks distinguish a large part of Hoover’s past, as part of the National Park System. They do an incredible job of preserving the national history of the community Hoover always called home. Under the leadership of Park Superintendent Pete Swisher, the Park continues to grow. We are fortunate to have such a good and caring staff, overseeing this national treasure.

4. The Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
What a great Library and Museum we have in West Branch! Folks travel from around the world to explore and research Herbert Hoover’s life. I think the most common comment is, “it is so much more than I ever dreamed it would be… and Hoover did so much more than I ever realized.” He was “The Great Humanitarian” of our time. It is extremely unlikely anyone will come close to accomplishing what he accomplished in a vast variety of ways and saving so many lives, world-wide. The Library and Museum has had a tremendous list of exceptional directors. Tom Schwartz joins that list bringing some wonderful ideas, knowledge, and dedication to the facility, backed up by a hard working staff, that genuinely love what they are doing…and it shows.

5. The Hoover Presidential Foundation
The Board of Trustees of the Hoover Presidential Foundation and the dedicated staff, have made so many major inroads over the past years. I am humbled to call them dear friends of mine. It is great to have Jerry Fleagle, as director, back home in West Branch, leading an organization he grew-up with. His enthusiasm, dedication, and love of Hoover has taken the Foundation to heights never before reached. Nothing is out of reach. Delene McConnaha, as Membership and Academic Programs Manager is a precious jewel. The Foundation’s longest serving staff person, Delene has experienced the ups and downs that come with any organization, but she never bailed, for which I will always be indebted to her. Ryan Johnson as Financial and Facilities Manager, has made huge strides in the area of the Foundation’s Finances. Not only does he have a good handle on the finances, his keen sense of financial direction and willingness to take on and help with any project, has been a great boost. Brad Reiners, as Communication Manager, was a great find! He understands relationship building and has opened hundreds of doors, never opened before. Joan Maske, Administrative Assistant, is the Foundation’s newest staffer. Starting part time, we quickly realized we needed her to go full time. Super dedicated, she has enlisted her entire family to be a part of the Foundation.

We have a great team of staff and trustees in place to take on the world. With everyone’s help, there are no limits to what can be accomplished.

I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve…
I look forward to continuing my dedication to the preservation of Hoover’s ideals and these great facilities.

— Charlie Becker, president, Hoover Presidential Foundation
The Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit held over to Jan. 3

The Hoover Presidential Foundation and Hoover Presidential Library-Museum announced an extension of the current indoor special exhibit, The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I, through Sunday, Jan. 3. The Belgian Village, an outdoor component of the exhibit, closed as scheduled at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 in anticipation of winter weather.

“Visitors have raved about the interactivity of the special exhibit which places you in a replica of a trench under battle conditions,” said Hoover Presidential Library director, Thomas Schwartz. “Along with a new nine minute video that is projected along 180 degrees of screens, you don’t want to miss your chance to experience the trench and learn about Herbert Hoover’s heroic humanitarian work during the war.”

Young and old alike seem to enjoy the special effects in the trench. One parent exclaimed, “My son enjoyed the realistic war area where you can get in the trenches with the soldiers.”

“It’s fascinating (for me) to see people from across the United States visiting the exhibits,” said Jerry Fleagle, Foundation executive director. “Most of them say some variation of the same thing, I never knew Hoover saved so many people from starvation!”

Hoover Helper Fund Drive

We’ve worked hard to keep expenses down in 2015, which may sound odd because we’ve spent more than ever! The special exhibit and the Celebration Banquet were large expense items! But we’ve kept a close eye on daily expenses and took steps to make the Yellow House more energy efficient and our operations as streamlined as possible. We’re doing so to ensure all possible funding goes to programs in support of new and exciting exhibits and their promotion, and other special items like the member trip, Celebration Banquet, Uncommon Students, and Hometown Days. We hope you noticed the quality of these programs this year!

We have budget buckets for everything, Uncommon Student Award scholarships, Hoover’s Hometown Days, special exhibits like the Making of the Great Humanitarian, and general operational funds. The operational fund helps pay for the salaries of the staff, keep the lights on and the water running, maintenance on the Yellow House and basic office equipment to get the job done. These funds are ‘unrestricted’, meaning we can use them in the area of greatest need. In the last 12 months, operational funds were used to:

- Increase communications to keep Foundation members and the public better informed
- Host another successful Hoover’s Hometown Days celebration, including the Hoover-Ball National Championships, Youth Hoover-Ball, the Celebration of Life and Member Picnic on Foundation grounds
- Promote the Library-Museum and the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit state-wide
- Staff the Uncommon Student Awards program- don’t forget there’s a two-day event for students in June
- Support the Institute for Civic Engagement, a partnership with the University of Iowa designed to train Iowa teachers in the high school classroom how to engage students for civic betterment

- Provide Uncommon Public Service Awards to two deserving Iowa state legislators, which honors them for outstanding public service and the new Uncommon Iowan Award, which went to long-time trustee Gov. Robert Ray.
- Support research travel grants and school bus grants
- Provide numerous speaker programs at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
- Host a Celebration Banquet program featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin, with appearances by Gov. Terry Branstad and Amb. Kenneth Quinn

These programs are all funded by the Hoover Presidential Foundation and cannot be done without your support! There is something here for everyone to participate in and enjoy. Can you image the Library-Museum and National Historic Site without these events?  The Foundation uses this message; and I understand the importance of these programs!

When you support the Foundation, you support Iowa’s youth – the uncommon students who are making a difference in their community, and the world, by raising awareness of pediatric cancer, building a storehouse of clothing, school supplies and hygiene items offered free to low-income students, and mentoring area youth to improve grades and money management skills. You help keep state legislators focused on serving their constituents. And you teach our state’s youth that anyone can raise up and make a difference. Will you rise with us?

Making a donation to the annual operations fund is easy. Contributions can be mailed to us at PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358; you can donate online at HooverPresidentialFoundation.org. Look for the ‘Donate to the Foundation’ banner in the top right corner. Or, you can simply call us at 319-643-5327.

We can make all kinds of plans, but we can’t make them happen without your help. We’ve made great strides and we need you to help keep the momentum going! ★

☐ YES! I want to help keep thing moving forward!

My check is enclosed for $ ____________________________

Name: __________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________

Please clip and mail to: Hoover Presidential Foundation • PO Box 696 • West Branch, IA 52358
Executive Director’s Message

Jerry Fleagle, IOM, CAE

Where are we going, and how will we know when we get there? That question sounds almost like something my kids would ask me when we would take trips in the car to a destination they were not familiar with! However, those are two of the questions the Board of Trustees are in preparation for the Planning Retreat they are holding in mid-November.

If you stop and think about it, they really are two good questions. Every organization needs to know where they are going. Indeed, it is one of the most important roles a board does—because if they don’t, how will they know when they get there? First, we should note where we have come from:

Under Charlie Becker’s board presidency in just the past two years alone, the Hoover Presidential Foundation has:

- Increased and improved communications to Foundation members and constituents, increasing the number of American Road issues from 2 to 3.
- Started a complimentary Foundation member picnic on the lawn of the Yellow House foundation offices during Hoover’s Hometown Days under the shade trees.
- Had a Special Exhibit at the Iowa State Fair that directly touched over 22,000 visitors to the Exhibit, and has resulted in residents of Polk County now accounting for one of the top five counties in attendance at the Library-Museum.
- Played a major part in organizing the “Making of the Great Humanitarian” exhibit, the largest ever on the Hoover Campus, and raised over $ 500,000 to cover the cost of the exhibit.
- Started a complimentary Foundation member picnic during Hoover’s Hometown Days under the shade trees on the lawn of the Yellow House foundation offices that has grown 50% in attendance in just two years.
- Experienced membership growth (by units) of 34% in 2015 alone.
- Programming: increased the number of applicants to the USA program from 38 to 75 in the past two years, and increased the number of teachers in the Institute for Civic Engagement from 10 to 25 in the past two years.

We have accomplished a lot under Charlie’s watch, and with a successful planning retreat this November, we hope to get off to a fast start under new incoming board president Bob Downer!

What will that be? How will we get there? Who will step up to do the necessary things to keep pushing the Hoover Presidential Foundation forward? And when will we get there?

The Board of Trustees will determine a plan and then it will be up to the board, staff, volunteers and members to carry it out. It is great to dream, but best to put a plan in place to achieve the dream. The dream and the goals need to stretch us, yet be achievable.

Best of all, we have some excellent leadership to look forward to under Bob Downer, plus being able to continue to draw upon Charlie Becker’s wisdom as Charlie will stay on the Foundation Board of Trustees. Which leads to the best question: When can we get started? ★

— Jerry Fleagle, Executive Director, Hoover Presidential Foundation

69 Immigrants Became American Citizens on Constitution Day

A heavy downpour on Thursday, Sept. 17, didn’t dampen the plans for 69 immigrants from 31 countries, as they took the U.S. oath of citizenship at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. It did move the ceremony indoors to the Figge Auditorium, though.

The Honorable Jon S. Scoles, Chief Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Iowa, presided.

American Legion Post 514 of West Branch presented the colors and the vocal group, Extension Chords, sang the National Anthem and other selections.

This ceremony was made possible by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, Des Moines Field Office, the Hoover Presidential Foundation, the National Park Service-Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum.

Over the past eight years, 604 immigrants have taken the oath of citizenship at the museum. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said it will welcome more than 36,000 new citizens across the country by September 18 in honor of Constitution Day, which marks the day the Constitution was signed in 1787. ★

LEAVE A LEGACY®

At the Hoover Presidential Foundation, we value you and appreciate every bit of your current support. We hope you have found that we are good stewards of the resources you provide to us to preserve the life and times of Herbert Clark Hoover.

We would like to extend an invitation to discuss the possibilities a charitable bequest could have for the Hoover Presidential Foundation where we preserve the past, promote the present and hope to prevail for future generations. With your support we will accomplish our mission and goals.

Contact Jerry Fleagle at 319-643-5327 or email JFleagle@hooverPF.org to discuss the possibilities.
Sources of Hoover’s Conservative Thought

By Thomas F. Schwartz
Director, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

George N. Nash, the foremost biographer of Herbert Hoover and historian of American conservative thought, wrote: “Often is seems that Herbert Hoover is the Rodney Dangerfield of American politics: He gets no respect.” This is especially true of Hoover’s contribution to the development of modern conservative thought. A recent study contrasting the political views of Herbert Hoover to Franklin Roosevelt indicated Hoover’s indebtedness to the political philosophy of Abraham Lincoln without clearly identifying its inspiration. A careful examination of Hoover’s *American Individualism* to Lincoln’s writings clearly establishes the direct link. Hoover’s main argument in the seminal 1922 publication is that a unique American individualism separates the United States from the rest of the world. Claiming:

“Individualism cannot be maintained as the foundation of a society if it looks to only legalistic justice based upon contracts, property, and political equality. Such legalistic safeguard are not enough. In our individualism we have long since abandoned the laissez faire of the 18th Century—the notion that it is ‘everyman for himself and the devil take the hindmost.’ We abandoned that when we adopted the ideal of equality of opportunity—the fair chance of Abraham Lincoln.”

What is Lincoln’s idea of the fair chance? Lincoln clearly delineates it in his special message to Congress on July 4, 1861: “This is essentially a People’s contest. On the side of Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders—to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all—to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life.” Lincoln expands upon the idea in an address to the 166th Ohio Regiment on August 22, 1864: “It is not merely for to-day, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children’s children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours. I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has. It is in order that each of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations. It is for this the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birthright—not only for one, but for two or three years. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel.”

If Hoover’s idea of American individualism was rooted in Lincoln’s notion of the “fair chance,” it embodied both the distinctive self-governance of the American republic along with the implied responsibilities of the individual in maintaining that form of government and preserving individual liberty. Such beliefs would not abide the slavery of blacks in Lincoln’s day or constraints to individual freedom that Hoover saw in governments espousing communism, socialism, fascism, and collectivism. Russell Kirk, the influential conservative writer and theorist of the late 20th Century, critical of the power of centralized government and how it erodes individual thought and reflection of political leaders, still found Hoover unique. “The last American president to do his own thinking,” wrote Kirk in his classic study, *The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot,* “was Herbert Hoover; the last British prime minister of intellectual distinction was Arthur Balfour.” Kirk’s comment hints at Hoover’s greater influence on conservative thought than is usually recognized. ★
The Hoover Presidential Foundation hosted a gravesite service at Noon, Thursday, Oct. 23 on the grounds of the Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch. The weather again was perfect. President Hoover died 51 years ago on Oct. 20, 1964.

The keynote speaker for the event was Leslie Hoover-Lauble, great-granddaughter of President Hoover.

Musical selections were provided by the vocal group Onyx. Special guests included Brigadier General Steven A. Altman, Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and Patrick Van Nevel, Honorary Consul of Belgium in Moline. West Branch Hoover Elementary students from the second, third and fourth grades also attended the service.

During the ceremony, wreaths were laid by Brig. Gen. Altman, representing the White House, Patrick Van Nevel, on behalf of the kingdom of Belgium, and by members of the Hoover family. Hoover’s grandson, Andrew, and great grandchildren Allan and Alexander Hoover, were in attendance as well. ✪
Gov. Robert Ray named first Uncommon Iowan

Former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray was presented the inaugural Uncommon Iowan Award on Friday, Oct. 23 at the Hoover Presidential Foundation annual Celebration Banquet in Cedar Rapids. Governor Terry Branstad made the presentation and Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president, World Food Prize Foundation, accepted on Ray’s behalf. Ray was unable to attend due to health reasons.

“Beginning in 1975, the Ray administration encouraged Iowans to assist with the settlement of Southeast Asian refugees in our state,” Branstad said. “He served the people of Iowa well. I know, because I was his third Lt. Governor.” Ray had spent 14 years in the Governor’s office. He has continued to be extremely active in public affairs in Iowa since leaving the governorship, serving as interim Mayor of the City of Des Moines, President of Drake University, and leading several statewide educational awareness efforts and fundraising campaigns. Ray is a life-term trustee of the Hoover Presidential Foundation and has been involved with the Foundation for over 30 years.

“Governor Ray is a great example for all…” said Branstad, “when he said, and I quote, ‘I think what it shows is that everyone can do something and make a difference in this world. We might not be able to do it all but we can do something, and isn’t there great satisfaction in that? The happiest people I know are people who are doing things for other people.’” Branstad continues, “Governor Ray is a great example of a wonderful humanitarian who made a real difference and continues to make a difference. I am honored to be presenting this Uncommon Iowan Award to Ambassador Ken Quinn, the president of the World Food Prize Foundation, the aid to Governor Ray that helped make it possible to bring all these refugees to the state of Iowa, on behalf of Gov. Ray.

“It was one of the great privileges in my life, to spend four years working for Gov. Bob Ray,” Amb. Kenneth Quinn said. “Here’s why he is justifiably the uncommon Iowan. 1975, 130,000 people fleeing from Vietnam, Laos, and they’re coming to America. Each state is going to take its share. But there’s one group called the Tai Dam. They have their own distinct culture, language, kinships, history and they’re about to be scattered and all that is going to be lost. And they write a letter to every governor in the United States of America saying, ‘please take us as a people.’ Only one governor ever wrote back, Gov. Bob Ray.” Quinn continues to describe how Ray went to Washington and lobbied the Health Education and Welfare Department and the State Department, “and they said OK, you can have all the Tai Dam. They’re still in Des Moines, they’re still in Iowa,” reports Quinn.

Quinn also related a story of a trip to Thailand in 1979 with Gov. Ray to look at refugee camps. When they got there, they were rushed to the border because the first 30,000 Cambodians had just escaped the Khmer Rouge. They walked through an emaciated group of starved people who were dying at the rate of 50 to 100 a day. The governor took photos back to Des Moines and told his story to the Des Moines Register. The next day the headline in the paper read, ‘I watched people die. – Ray.’ According to Quinn, that led to the formation of Iowa SHARES, who raised $600,000 between Thanksgiving and Christmas. On Christmas Day, the first truck left Iowa loaded with relief supplies, followed days later by groups of doctors and nurses. SHARES stands for Sends Help, Aides Refugees, Ends Starvation.

In his parting remarks, Quinn relates another story of the trip to Thailand where a group from Tai Dam met with Gov. Ray and wanted to show them their symbol of hope. “They brought us into a small thatched hut and said ‘inside here is our symbol of hope.’ We thought it must be some statue or item from their history.” Quinn said. “They brought us in and there, tacked up on the wall, was the Iowa Department of Transportation highway map, with pins in it where their people had gone. The man who

“Governor Ray is a great example of a wonderful humanitarian who made a real difference and continues to make a difference.”

– Iowa Governor Terry Branstad
Taking a walk down memory lane with our members, we’ve been to Springfield, IL, Independence, Mo, Abilene, KS, Boston Ma, and Hyde Park, NY. Where oh where shall we go next?

Rumor has it that a short trip to Michigan in the early summer of 2016 might just hit the spot. On the horizon is a trip to California and one to Belgium. But in the meantime, we thought we would share some of the highlights and memories of our last member trip which took place at the end of August to the east coast and the JFK and Roosevelt Presidential Libraries. What fun we had! ★

By Delene McConnaha, Membership and Academic Programs Manager
Membership Update

By Delene McConnaha, Membership and Academic Programs Manager

Our members are the best!! Remember the line from the movie, Field of Dreams? “Build it and they will come.” Well that’s exactly what we did.

Over the past few years we’ve “built” new and more fun opportunities for our members: summer picnics, trips (near and far) special VIP receptions to peek at new exhibits, and volunteer opportunities for various events.

And they did come and we’re having more fun than ever. Some members even like to help the staff around the Foundation offices.

We didn’t do it by ourselves. With our members help, they brought along their friends and family to help build the numbers. Our membership has grown 35% over the last few years with a remarkable retention rate.

We certainly don’t want to lose the momentum now. If there is something you would like to have happen or see, please share your thoughts. We are always looking for new opportunities and open to new ideas.

We’ve also made a concerted effort to stay in touch. Whether you live close to the Hoover Campus or clear across the country, you may have received a postcard, an email, or even a phone call. We think of our members as family and we like to touch base with you now and again.

How can we help you be a better member? How can we involve more members in activities? How can the Foundation better serve our members?

Let’s raise our glasses to our current members, work together to share Hoover’s legacy and take pride in building our foundation. They will come.
Evelyn and Albert VanPuyvelde, of Bettendorf, Iowa, have been married 66 years (yes, to each other). They are both 93 years old and proud of their Belgian heritage. “We both came from Belgian families,” said Evelyn. “Albert lived in Rock Island, and I grew up in South Bend, Indiana. We met at a gathering of Belgian families,” she said. They’ve been together ever since.

The pair is known for their dancing ability. “We used to travel all over,” Evelyn said. She and Albert would perform traditional Belgian dances at festivals and other venues back in the day. Evelyn told us about several Belgian traditions, including Speculoos, a molded cookie depicting various aspects of Belgian culture. And the reason for their visit.

Evelyn and Albert donated seven carved, wooden cookie molds by renowned Belgian artist Jan Vande Voorde. The speculoos is a typically Belgian pastry belonging to the large family of honey cakes and breads. It has come down through four or five centuries. The dough is made of flour, butter, brown sugar, powdered cinnamon, eggs and cloves. It is placed in molds to give the speculoos a variety of forms. The most common form is that of good Saint Nicholas, where good little boys and girls would find it in their shoes in celebration of the Christmas holiday on Dec. 6th.

In the carving of St. Nicholas presented by the VanPuyvelde family, the depiction shows three heads at the feet of the Saint. The story is that three innocent young men had been condemned to death by an evil magistrate named Eustathios, who was trying to extort a bribe from the men or their families. When St. Nicholas saw what was happening, he grabbed the beheading sword and stopped the execution. St. Nicholas demanded that the men be immediately cleared, and the magistrate complied, fell to his knees, confessed his crime and begged the saint to forgive him, which he did.

Symbolism is abundant in the carvings Evelyn and Albert donated to the museum. Another carving is called ‘Op Signor.’ It represents a symbol of male irresponsibility, and was the mascot of the town of Mechelen. Every year it was customary to create a dummy to be paraded through the streets and tossed up and down in a sheet.

The stories and the carvings are fascinating, and we thank Evelyn and Albert for sharing them through their thoughtful donation.

Wednesday, Aug. 26 started out like any other day at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. Visitors from around the U.S. would come and go, as usual. Then the Library-Museum received a call. “I have some items I’d like to donate to the Museum,” the voice said. And within an hour, they arrived.

“Cookie Boards Bring Delicious History

We felt it was time to pass the cookie boards along to someone else who would appreciate them,” said Evelyn. “Our reason is because Mr. Hoover did so much for the Belgian people during World War I,” that they felt a connection with his Presidential Library-Museum.

A third carving depicts four men riding a horse. “It’s said they always won the battle because it was four against one,” in horse to horse combat, Evelyn told us. Other carvings depict a woman with a papoose, a hunter, and a Belgian man and woman.

The stories and the carvings are fascinating, and we thank Evelyn and Albert for sharing them through their thoughtful donation.

(L. to R) Evelyn VanPuyvelde points out the intricacies in the Op Signor carving to Marcus Eckhart, curator, as Albert looks on.
Annual Giving Report

We thank all of those who contributed generously during fiscal 2014. Contributions help the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site remain one of our nation’s most valued heritage sites. Listed on the following pages are gifts received between Oct. 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

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<td>Matthew Howard III</td>
<td>Marvin Moody</td>
<td>Pete Sizwder</td>
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<td>Brian Claesys</td>
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<td>Robert Downer</td>
<td>David Johnson</td>
<td>Sally Noverzke</td>
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Foundation Builders

Since the Hoover Presidential Foundation was established in its initial incarnations as the Hoover Birthplace Society in 1939, many individuals, foundations and corporations have provided major gifts that substantially improved the programs and services of the Foundation. Among these are those who have contributed cash, art, real estate and other property valued at $100,000 or more. The Board of Trustees proudly recognizes them here as a token of our deep appreciation for their commitment to philanthropy and to the Hoover Presidential Foundation, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and the Hoover National Historic Site.

The Hoover Cabinet

The Hoover Cabinet honors those who contribute $1,000 or more annually to any of the gift opportunities at the Hoover Presidential Foundation. Following are the members of the 2014-2015 Hoover Cabinet:

$5,000 or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruth M. Altermart</th>
<th>Waldo Geiger</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene and Joy Anderson</td>
<td>Walter Hansen</td>
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<td>Shelley and Bruce Barnhart</td>
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Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Northeast IA Charitable Foundation

Arch W. Shaw Foundation

Voorhees Family Foundation

The McIntyre Foundation

The Fred Maytag Family Foundation

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- Acciona Windpower North America, LLC
- Alliant Energy
- Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation, Inc.
- Iowa Farm Bureau Foundation
- RBC Capital Markets, LLC
- River Products Company
- The Williams Companies, Inc.

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- Case’s General Stores, Inc.
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- Maytag/Whirlpool Corporation
- Foundation
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- Quizno’s/L.D. LLC.
- Rockwell Collins
- Von Maur Stak Family Foundation
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- West Branch Friends Church
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- Eric Thomsen
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Jed and Patricia Hand

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Jerry Wolf

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Jed and Patricia Hand

In memory of Richard Anderson
Sue Patrick and Oscar Chamberlain
Ellyn and Richard Paulus

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LuAnn and Richard Wolken
Eddie Yerington
Harlan and Mary Yoder
Victor and Donna Zender
Jerry Zimmerman
Mike and Ginny Zimmerman

Wayne Noring
In honor of Eloise Wright

In memory of Richard Anderson
Marie Anderson

In memory of Richard Anderson
Keith and Katherine Ervin

In memory of Richard Anderson
Ken and Helen Fawcett

In memory of Richard Anderson
Jed and Patricia Hand

In memory of Richard Anderson
Jerry Wolf

In honor of Robert Downer
Charlie and Patricia Becker

In memory of Pete and
Meredith Hoover
Jed and Patricia Hand

In memory of Diane "Q" Geiger
Waldo Geiger

In memory of Donald McQuillen
Sandra McQuillen

In honor of John Raisian
Shirley and Duncan Matteson

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
Charlie and Patricia Becker

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
Ellen M. Colony

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
N. D. Denseny

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
Mike Hammer

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
Wyonna Hartwig

In memory of Jeanne Swisher
Sue M. Tietz

In honor of Eloise Wright
Wayne Noring
Two Cedar Rapids area students and one Muscatine student were selected from a pool of 14 Uncommon Students to receive a $5,000 scholarship as part of the Uncommon Student Awards by the Hoover Presidential Foundation. They are Sydney Rieckhoff of John F. Kennedy High School, Emily Montelius of Jefferson High School and Joshua Pautz of Muscatine High School.

The Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award is a $30,000 scholarship program for Iowa high school students, who apply for the program in their junior year. The program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school students who propose and then accomplish a project of their own choosing and design. Grades, test scores, essays and financial need are not evaluated. Each of the finalists receive a $1,000 cash award at the completion of the program.

The students work their program during the summer between their junior and senior year. On October 24 this year, they presented the results of their efforts before a panel of judges and three students were selected to win an additional $5,000 in scholarship money.

Rieckhoff is the daughter of Robyn and William Rieckhoff. Her project, ‘Cash Class,’ taught financial literacy and entrepreneurship twice a week to at-risk students at the Henry Davison Youth Center. Through interactive activities and a variety of worksheets tailored to individual students’ needs, fifteen young people received helpful tips on how to create a bright and financially successful future.

“I have a passion for financial literacy,” Rieckhoff said. “I hope to continue on with Cash Class and help those to whom this knowledge is vital to improve their financial situations.”

Montelius is the daughter of Liz and Randy Montelius. She set up ‘J’s Closet,’ a take-what-you-need pantry with clothes, school supplies and hygiene items for students in need of such items.

“At my high school, 50% of the students are living in poverty. Through donations, my project provides these items at no charge throughout the school year,” Montelius said. “J’s Closet is a no questions asked, judgement free environment dedicated to helping kids feel confident at school, knowing they fit in with their peers.”

Pautz is the son of Angela and Jeffrey Pautz. His project was a peer tutoring program for Muscatine High School students. “My goal is to provide struggling students with a reliable, personal, instructional resource and to create an opportunity for academically successful students to serve their fellow students,” Pautz said.

Erin Kuba, also from Jefferson High School, won the Mariah Becker Award, a $250 stipend given to the winner’s project to help keep it going when the student moves on to college. Kuba’s project is called, ‘Kickin’ Cancer,’ developed to raise awareness, money, and to inspire others to support cancer research. Her efforts are receiving national attention from a major insurance provider who would like to see her project expanded.

Every student in the Uncommon Student Award program receives a $1,000 cash award. Other students in the 2015 class include:

- Hayley Buettell, Mediapolis High School, Mediapolis
- Hannah Dettmann, Fairfield Community High School, Fairfield
- Sean Eilers, Scattergood Friends School, West Branch
- Emma Hochfelder, Harlan Community High School, Harlan
- Layel Hofmaster, Home School, Cedar Rapids
- Trygve Lien, South Winneshiek CSD, Calmar
- Bailey Lukavsky, West Branch High School, West Branch
- Beau Ragland, Marshalltown High School, Marshalltown
- Bethany Schmieder, Calamus Wheatland, Wheatland
- Chrissy Vinton, Glenwood High High School, Glenwood

Attention High School Juniors: earn up to $6,000 for college with the Hoover Presidential Foundation Uncommon Student Award! Applications due March 15 – start planning now! • Visit HooverPresidentialFoundation.org for details.
Looking for that Special Gift?

Why not consider giving a gift membership to the Hoover Presidential Foundation?

A one-year gift membership awards the recipient free entry to not only the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, but to all 13 Presidential Library-Museums in the National Archives and Records Administration.

Membership in the Association is an investment in our heritage and a pledge to keep the history alive for future generations. Help us to share the story of Herbert Hoover, the humble son of Iowa who fed hundreds of millions of people in more than 57 nations across two world wars. In addition, members in the Association receive special benefits, such as invitations to VIP Members Only Exhibit Opening Receptions at the Hoover Library-Museum, discounts at the Hoover Library-Museum Gift Shop, and our tri-annual newsletter, The American Road.

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Calendar of Events

Dec. 4, 5
- Christmas Past
  The Young Footliters, a children’s acting group, will perform, Aesop’s Fable-ous Christmas Tree, Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening.

Jan. 3
- The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI exhibit closes Sunday, Jan. 3.
- Lecture Series: Geology of the National Parks
  Dr. Richard Baker continues his series of lectures with a presentation about Death Valley. The lectures are free and last about one hour. Meet at the Visitor Center at 7 p.m.

Jan. 23 - March 27
- Alaska and the Voyage of Understanding
  Herbert Hoover traveled with President Harding to Alaska in June of 1923. His trip was called the “Voyage of Understanding” - this exhibit explores the Alaskan trip. An exhibit preview event for members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation will be held Friday evening, Jan. 22.

April 22 - Oct. 23
- Ain’t Misbehavin’? The World of the Gangster
  An exhibit exploring the Prohibition Era, 1920 to 1933 - the time of Al Capone, gangsters, jazz, speakeasies and the G-man. An exhibit preview event for members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation will be held Wednesday evening, April 21.

Find all of the events at the Library-Museum, National Historic Site and Hoover Presidential Foundation at HooverPresidentialFoundation.org, under the Calendar of Events tab!