

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois
712 - 18th Avenue
Moline, Illinois
(309)762-0167



January 1999

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St. Nicholas Day At The Center

We had an outstanding turnout at St. Nicholas Day on December 5, at the Center. Lots of people showed up for waffles and to see St. Nick. The bake sale brought in over \$180.00! Many thanks go out to **Evelyn VanPuyvelde** for being in charge of the bake sale, and to her helper **Joann Loete**. Everyone commented on how tasty the baked goods were. St. Nicholas visited with the young and old, and passed out oranges and candy canes to all the children. Thanks to his helper, **Dane Loete**, who assisted him in passing out the goodies.

CBC Christmas Party

The Christmas party was well attended and enjoyed by all. winners of the raffle were: **Grace Verpaele**, Wall Hanging; **Gene Fowler**, tin of Belgian cookies; **Mary Koile**, Battered Beat book; and **Leona Rakus**, Beanie Baby Lion. Thanks to all who attended and who donated raffle prizes.

Raisin Bread Bake-off

The Raisin Bread Bake-off has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 11, 1999. The registration form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Editors Note:

My sincere apology to all who were looking forward to receiving their newsletter earlier this month. With the holidays, and so many things going on, I didn't budget my time well at all. So, therefore this is going out later than usual, and later than I wanted it to. Be assured, that this will not happen in the future. Thank you for your kind comments and your patience! - Sharon Loete

CENTER ACTIVITIES

Waffle Breakfast Report for December

The December waffle breakfast was hosted by **Art Holevoet** and **Norma Manning**. The weather was unseasonably warm for December and we had a great turnout. Our total receipts were \$583.00! Thanks to the following workers: **Georgann Benson, Merlyn Boostrom, Bill Fisher, Helen Foote, Elaine Hendrickx, Paul Holevoet, Mary Mortier, Dorene Mummert, Clara Vande Veire, Grace Verpaele** and **Gene Fowler**.

Belgian Roots

Ten people attended our first Belgian Roots genealogy workshop. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 21 at 7:00pm at the Center. Come join us and find out how to find your Belgian ancestors (and live relatives in Belgium).

Winter Hours at the Center

Yes, we are open all year, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 - 4. However, if the weather is bad, volunteers may choose not to drive and the Center will not be open that day. Please call ahead if you intend to visit the Center to be sure someone is there.

Report Well Done!

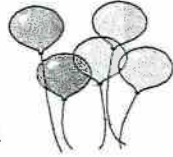
Liz Danner's great grandson, Adam Aranda, San Pedro, CA, asked for her help with a report on Belgium. Liz complied by sending Adam several of our handouts. Adam got an A on his report and his teacher commented that it was the first time a student had reported on Belgium and she was impressed with Adam's report.

Best Wishes

We wish good health in 1999 to **Blanche DeWitte**, who had surgery December 15th; also **Lois DeCoster, Bill Fisher, Al Loete, Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Gen Vrombaut** and all other members who have been undergoing treatment during the past year.

Letter from a member, Blanche DeWitte

Received the Bits from a Battered Beat. I love it. I thank you. My dad, Cyriel Pyssons, came to the United States from "Klerken", West Flanders, Belgium. He built a double house on 18th Ave. & 11th St., where I was born. It is still there. He loved the Olde Towne Area. He helped build Sacred Heart Church. I was baptized there. Lots of memories.....



News about our Members

Frank & Rosemarie VanAcker, Moline, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The former Rosemarie VanParys and Mr. VanAcker were married November 27, 1948 in Moline. Their children and spouses are the Rev. Michael VanAcker, Galesburg; Kathy and Dick Potter, Shirley and Dave DeMuynck, Marcia and Cliff Zerull, Pat and Diane VanAcker and Mary and Jim Vrombaut all of Moline; David and Darcy VanAcker, Rock Island, and Diane and Matt McMillan, Peoria. There are 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mark Beiermann, Moline, celebrated his 80th birthday November 18.

Ed Castelein will celebrate his 90th birthday this month.

Deaths of Members and families

Michael B. Buresh, 46, Moline, formerly of Fort Collins, Colorado, died December 13, 1998. Burial was in National Cemetery, Arsenal Island. He was born April 24, 1952 in Moline, the son of Arnold L. and Dorothy L. Creen Buresh. Survivors include his mother, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Honorary Consul's Comments



If you tour the Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, WI, note the Flemish - Renaissance house build in 1893 by the brewery magnate.

The sister city of Shawnee, Kansas, is Pittem, West Flanders. In Shawnee, KS, there is a monument to the Belgians who lived there in the 1850's. It is called "West Flanders Park - Shawnee, Kansas.

Flanders, the Northern Dutch speaking part of Belgium, is the third best high technology region in the European union. Only two regions in Germany do better.

Coors Brewing Company is being sued by the Federations of Belgian Brewers because of the word "Belgian" in the brand name of an American brewed beer called "Belgian White Ale" by Blue Moon.

Thanks to all who made the anniversary celebrations on November 7th a memorable event!

News in the Belgian Community**Nursing Homes Visited**

Each year members of CBC visit local nursing homes and bring holiday cheer` to our Belgian friends. Making visits this year were: **Lucy DeWaelche**, and **Ruby DeKeyrel**. Among those visited were:

EAST MOLINE GARDEN PLAZA: Florence DeCoster, Dorothy Jansen, Bernice Thomas, Elsie Van Meter, Lil De Bakker, Sarah Proudst, and Emil De Bakker.

CROSTOWN SQUARE: Rachel Bagge, Florence Bonamie, Alice DeWitte, Alice Osterlinck, Augusta VandeWaele, Erma Veys, Gladys Dumolin, and Madeline Dhaenens.

MANOR CARE: Irene Staes

ASPENWOOD: Margaret Smet, Leona VanderEechen, Art VanVooren, Maurice De Buysee, Dorothy Deschipper, and Adeline Hendricks.

FOREST HILLS: Lisa VandeBerghe, Genevieve Vyncke, and George VanHecke.

ROSEWOOD: Louise VanVooren, Alice Van Damme, Mary Ellen Mckay, Edward Vershaw, Elsie Vanderginst, and Anna Persunger.

HEARTLAND: Dorothy Lambrecht, Adeline Meyers, Martha Seiter, Anna Dobbelaere, Clara Glockoff, Madeline Sercie, Mary Carlson, Kathryn Dolleslager, Marie Bookman, Mildred Vyncke, Mike Vanderkerhove, Eunice Raes, Ed Van Qauathem, Mary DeBo, and Raymond Roels.

**Fun Facts**

According to research conducted in 20 European capitals and 9 North American cities that was published in August by the British Home Office, Brussels had the lowest homicide rate. Between 1995 and 1997, the Belgian capital had only four murders per million inhabitants, compared with 77 for Amsterdam, 181 for Moscow, and 693 for Washington DC. - Belgium Today

More Fun Facts

According to legend, the name of the city Antwerp (Antwerpen) originates in the story of the giant Druoon Antigoon who levied a heavy toll on traffic on the river Scheldt. If a skipper refused to pay, Antigoon chopped off one of his hands and threw it in the river. Sivlius Brabo, a Roman centurio, killed Antigoon, chopped off one of the giants hands and threw it in the Scheldt as well. (Hand-werpen: "werpen: means " to throw"). The "Antwerps Handje" : symbol of friendship!?!

The Flemish word for motor vehicle is: "snelpaardelooszonder-spoorwegpetrolritjuig".

Congratulations to:

Vic Standaert, for being named Volunteer of the Month for his longtime support of St. Anne School.

Seaton third grade St. Nicholas contest winners: John Mills, Alyssa Bush, and Michael VanAcker.

Raisin Bread Bakeoff - Thursday, February 11, 1999

It's time once again to turn on your oven and bake some raisin bread for our Raison Bread Bake-off, to be held Thursday, February 11th at the Center. Home-made jams and jellies will be judged also.

The Festivities start at 6:00pm and will cost only \$3.00 per person. Shaved ham and drinks will be served to compliment the bread. For further information call Al Loete, 762-9146. Please complete the following and return by February 6 to:

Raisin Bread
 Center for Belgian Culture
 712 - 18th Avenue
 Moline, IL 612265

Please check the following that apply:

_____ I/We will enter our Raisin Bread in the bake-off.

_____ I/We will enter Jam or Jelly in the bake-off.

_____ I/We will be there to eat and judge the bake-off.

Enclosed find a check for _____ (\$3.00 per person) - Entrants eat free!

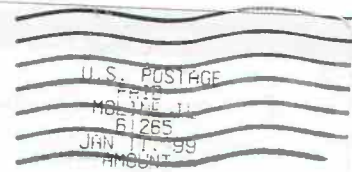
Name(s) _____

Dates to Remember

The Center for Belgian Culture is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 - 4. It is staffed by volunteers. We thank the following, who are serving in January:

Wed., January 6	Al & Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Host Couple and Gift Counter
Saturday, January 9	Mary Rose De Coster, Hostess; Marion Knock, Gift Counter
Tuesday, January 12	Board Meeting - 7pm at The Center
Wednesday, January 13	Al & Joann Loete, Host Couple and Gift Counter
Saturday, January 16	Georgann Benson, Hostess; Denny Maenhout, Host
Wednesday, January 20	Dorene Mummert, Hostess; Bonnie Newman, Gift Counter
Thursday, January 21	Belgian Roots Genealogy Workshop
Saturday, January 23	Lorraine & Harold Krause, Host Couple and Gift Counter
Wed., January 27	Bob Hendrickx & Lucy DeWaelche, Host/Hostess and Gift Counter
Saturday, January 30	Ruby DeKeyrel, Hostess; Maurine Schweitzer, Gift Counter

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.
712 - 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265**



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**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**