

# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

SEPTEMBER 1999



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## Back to School

School is back in session already. Where did our summer go? Please drive carefully when around schools and watch for children crossing streets. Don't forget that the Center has lots of handouts and information for those students studying Belgium and Belgian heritage. To help some students defray the costs of their schooling; the Center for Belgian Culture will be awarding scholarships in the near future. Please watch upcoming newsletters for details.

## Thank You

Celie Donohue received the following note. It just goes to show how helpful our volunteers are.

*Dear Celie,*

*Just a note to thank you and the Belgian Culture Center for all your help to Dean & I. I really appreciated your help last year on getting me the 2 lukken makers I needed for my sister in Colorado. Also, our grandson had to do a term paper on Belgium. He lives in MO - and we got such friendly help from the people who work for you.*

*Thanks again,*

*The Jacquin's - Dean & Joanne*

## Belgian Roots Workshop

The Belgian Roots workshop will begin again in September. Come join us Thursday evening, September 16 at 7pm at the Center and learn how to find your Belgian ancestors.

## Flanders Magazine

Learn about what's going on in Belgium. The June issue of *Flanders* includes: Scientific Research of Flemish Universities - an article about Baron Paul Buysse - a tribute to Flemish artist James Ensor - an article on tapestries - The Best Flemish Festivals - and other interesting articles. The magazine can be found on the coffee table in the gathering area at the Center.

## Membership Renewal

The membership renewal invoices have all been sent out and many returned. **Please note that this will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed your membership.** If you have not received a renewal invoice, please contact **Lynne Collier** at 797-8164.

**CENTER ACTIVITIES**

**August Waffle Report**

Bonnie and Joe Newman hosted the August waffle breakfast. It was a rainy day, which might have helped bring in the gardeners and golfers. The first shift was busy, but the second shift only served about 10 people. Our total receipts were \$460.00. Thank you to the following workers: **Gene Donohue, Mark & Bernice Beiermann, Mary Lou & Dale Andrae, Mary Mortier, Stan & Bev Francque and Marion Knock.**

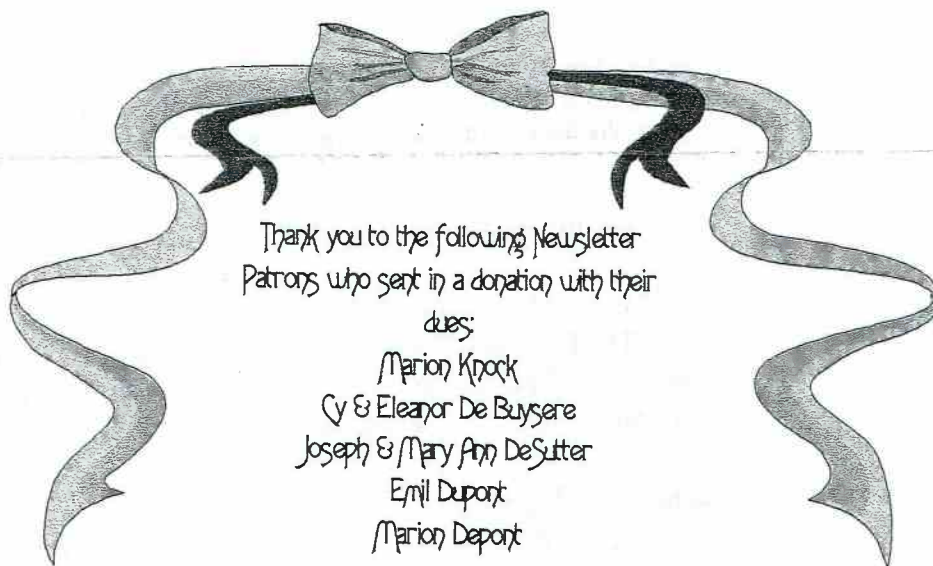
**Gift Counter News**



The Gift Counter is featuring the plush stuffed animals the month of September. Find the coupon in this newsletter and get the Spink for just \$10.00 (regular price \$12.95) or the lovely stuffed lion for \$12.00 (regularly \$16.95). Get a head start on your Christmas shopping at the Kleine Winkel.

**????? Information Wanted**

A picture (8X10) was left in Celie Donohue's file at the Flemish Lion. It's of the team of the Belgian American Brotherhood baseball team, dated 6/25/32. Does anyone have any information on the players or who brought the picture in?? Please call Celie at 792-8246.



**Belgian Monks**

Only 66 of the 4,628 male monks in Belgium are younger than 30 years. 67% are older than 65 years, and 50% are older than 75 years. Monks seem to live very long. Must be the beer.

This is an enormous opportunity for young religious Americans: Become a Catholic monk in Belgium, and revive centuries old convents, maintain and protect some of the most valuable art treasures of the world (paintings, tapestries, statuettes, books, religious art pieces...), and continue the art of brewing and enjoying fabulous and authentic beers with a centuries old tradition. There might be one negative though: you have to renounce sex. But, with all good beers... - *Global Beer Network Newsletter*

## News in the Belgian Community

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



**David & Arlene Vercautren**, East Moline, observed their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary August 13. The former Arlene Beernaert and Mr. Vercautren were married Aug. 13, 1949 in East Moline. They were honored at a dinner-reception given by their children and spouses at the Abbey Hotel, Bettendorf.

**Congratulations**



Best wishes to **Jennifer Lambrecht** and **Thomas Ryerson** who were united in marriage August 14. Jeni's parents are Center members **Mike & Mel Lambrecht**, and she is the granddaughter of CBC board member and treasurer, **Maxine Lambrecht**. We hope Mr. & Mrs. Ryerson share a long and happy life together.



### Deaths in the Belgian Community

**Marvin DeBlieck**, 75, Geneseo, died Friday, July 23, 1999 in Geneseo. Mr. DeBlieck was born Aug. 1, 1923 the son of Evo and Augusta (Van Norway) DeBlieck. He married Carlene Wigant, in 1972. She died in 1981. Survivors include stepdaughters and their husbands, Patricia and Joseph Fritsch, Geneseo, Linda and Craig Klavon, Geneseo; stepsons and their wives, Billy Wigant, Geneseo, Jerry and Monica Wigant, Neosho, Mo., and David and Chona Wigant, San Jose, Calif.; nine stepgrandchildren; a stepgreat-granddaughter; sisters, Ann De Capp and Helen Descamps, East Moline; and brothers, John DeBlieck, East Moline, Roy DeBlieck, Alexis, and Ray DeBlieck, Geneseo.

**Frank DePauw**, 77, Moline, died Saturday, August 14, 1999 in Moline. He was born July 19, 1942 in Moline, the son of Charles and Amelia VanDyck DePauw. He married Melissa Neal in September 1945. Survivors include his wife, daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Dean Mandle, Rock Island; daughter, Charlene DePauw, Rock Island; son and daughter-in-law, Charles "Mike" and Jean DePauw, Rock Island; son Dennis DePauw and special friend, Molly Forslund, Rock Island; son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and JoAnn DePauw, Andalusia; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a sister and brother-in-law, Rachel and Donald Schopp, Ocala, Fla.

**Selma VanHerzeele**, 85, Geneseo, formerly of Atkinson, died Sunday, August 15, 1999 at home. Selma was born Aug. 25, 1913, in Atkinson, the daughter of Camiel and Leona Catour Windy. She married Paul VanHerzeele in 1937. He died in 1998. Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, James and Nancy VanHerzeele, Campbell Hill Ill., and Joseph and Vicki VanHerzeele, Atkinson; a daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Gary Schultz, Buffalo Grove, Ill.; a sister, Mary Hulslander, Geneseo; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



### Local Man Becomes Citizen

**Roland DeGryse**, 59, was born in Belgium, but has lived in Moline or East Moline nearly his whole life and speaks English as his native language. However, because of bureaucratic red tape and mix-ups with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Mr. DeGryse did not become a full-fledged citizen until Thursday, August 12, 1999.

Known to his friends as "Belgie", he first applied for citizenship in 1955, again in 1979, again in the mid-80's and for the last time in 1996.

He was born in a small town in Belgium, the eldest of three sons. He remembers hiding under the kitchen table as German bombs fell on his town in World War II.

His father was a baker, born in Moline of Belgian immigrants. They moved back to Belgium when he was a toddler. "Believe it or not, he never forgot about Moline, and his dream was to come back and be a baker," Mr. DeGryse recalled. "He left first and came to Canada. My mother, brothers and I came over later on the New Amsterdam luxury liner." That was in 1953.

In 1955, at the age of 17, Mr. DeGryse applied for citizenship for the first time. He was denied because he wasn't 18. That didn't, however, prevent the Air Force from accepting him. "I joined and served two years. Back then you could be in the military and not be a citizen," he said.

After his honorable discharge, he thought his military service would be sufficient to grant him citizenship. He was wrong. "I went to work at the old Five-Point Bakery in Moline because I had baker's blood in my system," he said. "I didn't think about citizenship for a long time. I was running around, enjoying my youth. It skipped my mind during those years."

He applied again in 1979, and never heard back about his application. "We didn't hear a thing for many, many years," he said. I just dropped it and went about my life." The topic was dropped until the mid-80s, when he learned he could apply for citizenship at the federal building in Rock Island.

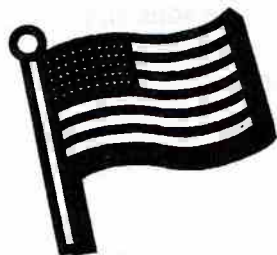
They gave me more papers to fill out, had my picture taken and made me send in another application," he said. After a while, I got a letter back saying I had to go to Chicago. I went there, and the office was closed. I got discouraged, so I dropped it again."

Then in 1995, he got to thinking about citizenship again. "So I got more papers and another application, and didn't hear anything for some time," he said. I finally got a letter telling me to get my fingerprints and a picture taken. I went to the East Moline police and had my fingerprints done and they said they would send my paperwork to the INS office in Omaha."

In August of 1998, two years after his last application and more than 40 since his first, the INS wrote Mr. DeGryse a letter reading, "We appreciate your patience while we are processing your application." There was a catch, however. Somehow, they never got his fingerprints.

After more confusion and more lost papers, and more applications, he finally received a letter telling him to report to the Rock Island courthouse for a citizenship interview. More confusion reigned when he went there and he had to get a new picture taken and complete yet another application. He was finally given the citizenship test, which he aced, and was told he could participate in the ceremonies on August 12.

We congratulate Mr. DeGryse on his now status as an American citizen.





Card Party



The card party will be held Sunday afternoon, October 24. Lynne Collier and Sharon Loete are hosting it again this year. Raffle prizes and door prizes are still needed. If you have something you would like to donate please call Sharon at 797-8200 (evenings, or leave a message). Make your reservations today by returning the form below or call Lynne at 797-8164. Just \$3.00 per person for an afternoon of FUN!!

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (\$3.00 per person): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Center for Belgian Culture, 712 - 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Moline, IL 61265

**RAFFLE TICKETS FOR CARD PARTY DRAWING (Do not need to be present to win)**  
.50 cents a piece or 3 for a dollar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Winners for the raffle will be drawn at the card party October 24. You do not need to be present to win, but why miss out on the fun?!?



## 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 September:

Wednesday, September 1	<b>Dorene Mummert, Hostess; Gen Vrombaut, Gift Counter</b>
Saturday, September 4	<b>WAFFLE BREAKFAST - Gene Fowler, Host; Lynne Collier Gift Counter Mary Koile &amp; Georgann Benson, Afternoon Hostess and Gift Counter</b>
Tuesday, September 7	<b>Board Meeting 7pm at the Center</b>
Wednesday, September 8	<b>Al &amp; Joann Loete, Host Couple and Gift Counter</b>
Saturday, September 11	<b>Mary Rose DeCoster, Hostess; Marion Knock, Gift Counter Lacemakers at the Center</b>
Wednesday, September 15	<b>Clara VanDeViere, Hostess; Bonnie Newman, Gift Counter</b>
Thursday, September 16	<b>Belgian Roots Workshop 7pm at the Center</b>
Saturday, September 18	<b>Georgia &amp; Louis Slininger, Host Couple and Gift Counter</b>
Wednesday, September 22	<b>Bob Hendrickx &amp; Lucy DeWaelsche, Host and Hostess &amp; Gift Counter</b>
Saturday, September 25	<b>Celie &amp; Gene Donohue, Host Couple and Gift Counter</b>
Wednesday, September 29	<b>Evelyn &amp; Al VanPuyvelde, Host Couple and Gift Counter</b>

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE  
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712 - 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265**



**AIR MAIL  
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