

# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE



Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167



November 1999

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Al Loete

### Vice President

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## CBC President Al Loete 1937 – 1999

It is with great sadness and deep pain in my heart, that I write of the death of the CBC President and my father, Al Loete. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, and his leadership at the Center will not soon be forgotten.

Albert James Loete, Moline, died Sunday October 10, 1999 at his home with his wife and children around him. He was born April 23, 1937, in Moline, to Albert A. and Lois Suiter Loete. He lived in Moline his entire life. He married Joan Waline in 1956.

Al's family was very important to him. He loved his children and grandchildren. He was very involved in his children's activities when they were growing up. He was well known for his sense of humor, and was quick to tell a joke to brighten your day. He was also very wise and could be counted on to give advice and comfort in times of need. Along with being the current president of the Center for Belgian Culture, he was also treasurer of the Olde Towne Business Association.

He was a member of Christ the King Church, and was a lector and cantor. The 8 o'clock Mass goes will miss his singing on Sunday mornings, but what a wonderful voice to add to the choir of heaven! He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in barbershop choruses and quartets.

Survivors include his wife Joan; children and spouses, David and Darcy Loete, Lynne and Glenn Collier, and Sharon Loete, Moline, and Matt and Gina Loete, Normal, IL; nine grandchildren, Eric Diehl, Angie Diehl, Stephanie Loete, Kristin Collier, Joseph Collier, Amanda Busboom, Lindsay Loete, Rebecca Loete and Dane Loete; a stepgrandson; two stepgreat-grandchildren; his mother Lois Loete, Bettendorf; sisters Laura Rummans, Sherrard, Mary Meier, Las Cruces, NM; and brothers, Lawrence, Apple Canyon, and William, Moline.

We will miss the twinkle in his eyes, and the way he could make us laugh. We'll remember him as St. Nicholas, passing out candy canes and oranges to the children. We'll never forget his singing voice, and his wonderful gift of public speaking. May he forever rest in peace.

**CENTER ACTIVITIES**

**October Waffle Report**

**Maxine Lambrecht** was in charge of the October waffle breakfast. A big THANK YOU goes out to the following helpers: **Mike & Mel Lambrecht, Jim Lambrecht, Sharon Loete, Dane Loete, Lynne Collier, Steve & Cathy Lambrecht, Dave & Darcy Loete, and Stephanie Loete.** It was a beautiful sunny day and receipts were over \$500.00. Thanks to everyone who helped.

**Card Party**

Despite the small turnout, the card party was a lot of fun for all that attended. Thank you to **Gen Vrombaut** and **Lynne Collier** for getting us the table favors. Also a big thank you to the following who donated door prizes: **Kathy Paulsen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Gen Vrombaut, Lynne Collier, Dorene Mummert, Celie Donohue, Mary Mortier, Grace Verpaele, and Jo Gosline.** The raffle prizes were: a \$25.00 money bag donated by **Joan Loete**, a gingerbread plaque from the **Flemish Lion**, and an Isabel Bloom purchased with the money donated by **Eleanor DeBuysere.** An extra special thanks to **Dorene Mummert, Dane Loete, and Kristin Collier** for all the help with setting up and cleaning up. Your help was much appreciated.

**Al Loete Memorial Scholarship fund**

In memory of Al Loete, a scholarship fund has been established. The following donations to the CBC have been deposited in this fund. You are welcome to contribute in memory of Al.

Paul Allaert	Harold & Lorraine Krause
LaNeva Birkel	Larry & Mary Lorensen
Schar Blevins	Marie Loete
Chickie Bollaert	Paul & Autumn Loete
Mary Lou Brenstrom	Tom & Nancy Maere
Dorothy Buresh	Barbara Jo Michalek
Liz Danner	Mary Mortier
James & Marjorie De Decker	Dorene Mummert
Diana De Meyer	Joel & Bonnie Newman & family
Gene & Celie Donohue	Anne Riepe
Emil Dupont	Maurine Schweitzer
Marian Dupont	Dean Stephenson
Helen Foote	Vic Standaert & family
Joyce Haskins	Robert & Betty VandeVoorde
Bob & Elaine Hendrickx	Pat & Barb Van Nevel
Art Holevoet	Al & Evelyn VanPuyvelde
Carol Johnson	Jim & Mary Vrombaut
Millie Kale	John & Gen Vrombaut & family
Kathy Knobloch	Margaret Wauters
Marian Knock	Tony & Norma Zelnio

News in the Belgian Community
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## Happy Birthday



**Robert Verstraete**, East Moline, was recently honored in observance of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Verstraete was born Sept. 25, 1914, in Aarsele, Belgium.

**Elizabeth Ockee**, Rock Island, was honored Oct. 3 in observance of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The former Elizabeth Willems was born Oct. 2, 1909, in Maldegem, Belgium.



### Deaths of Members

**Hilda Fleischman**, 93, Moline, died Monday, Oct. 18, 1999, at home. She was born March 12, 1906, in Wingene, Belgium, the daughter of Adolf and Clemence Verkest Boens. She married Leo Fleischman in 1935. He preceded her in death in 1988. Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Therese and Paul St. Ledger, East Moline, and Mary K. and Lawrence Lorensen, Moline; grandchildren, Suzanne Brocka, Jean Chumbley, Jane Morrissey, Stephen St. Ledger and Julie Brewer; and great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Katlin Chumbley, Zachary, Ethan and Spenser Morrissey, Melinda and Bennett Brocka, and Delaney and Arden Brewer.

### Deaths in the Belgian Community

**Arthur Polfliet**, Erie, died Sept. 27, 1999 at home. He was born March 11, 1916 in Geneseo, the son of August Polfliet and Mary Taets. He married Caroline Peterson in 1941. She died in 1977. Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Denise (Jon) Swenson, Mahomet, IL, Trisha Polfliet, Moline, and Renee (Troy) Gabbard, Philo, IL; a son and daughter-in-law, Gary (Joan) Polfliet, Rapids City, IL; a sister and brother-in-law, Elsie (Forrest) Claybauch, Moline; a brother, Edward Polfliet, Moline; and great-grandsons, Ryne and Dalton.

**Phillip 'Flip' VanDeVelde**, 91, Moline, died September 18, 1999, in West Jefferson Ohio. His wife of 55 years, Helen Larson VanDeVelde, his parents, Edmond and Louise VanDeVelde and brothers, Cyril, Maurice, Harry and Raymond, preceded him in death. He is survived by a son, B.J. VanDeVelde, Columbus; a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Keith Ferrier, Tampa; a grandson, Blair Ferrier and his wife Michelle, West Point N.Y.; a great-grandson, Ian; a brother, Albert VanDeVelde, Moline; and three nieces and four nephews.

**Camiel Roets**, 84, Rock Island, died October 18, 1999 in Moline. Mr. Roets was born Oct. 29, 1914, in East Moline, the son of Julius and Clementina Sompeis Roets. He married Eleanor Ackerman in 1937. Survivors include his wife; sons and daughters-in-law, Tom and Joan Roets, Rock Island, Terry and Pam Roets, Coal Valley; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters, Vera VanGoethem, East Moline, Margaret Carr, Rock Island; and a brother, Archie Roets, Naples Fla.



### Deaths in the Belgian Community

**Dean Teerlinck**, 72, Geneseo, died Sept. 25, 1999 at his home. Dean was born Oct. 16, 1926, in Annawan, the son of Edward and Alma Marie (DeSutter) Teerlinck. He married Marion DePorter in 1949. Survivors include his wife; sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Gail Teerlinck and Scott and Jill Teerlinck, Geneseo; a daughter, Bonnie Swanson, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; brothers, Walter Teerlinck, East Moline, and Ralph Teerlinck, Andover; a sister LaVonne Davis, DeWitt; grandchildren, Brent, Brandon and Brittany Teerlinck, Curstin Melan and Brock Swanson; and a great-grandchild, Tyler Melan.

**Frances Cone**, 81, East Moline, died October 6, 1999 in Silvis. Mrs. Cone was born August 14, 1918, in East Moline, the daughter of August and Virginia (DeBock) Cant. She married Charles Van De Voorde. He died in 1974. Later, she married Dean Con in 1975. Survivors include her husband; stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Marilyn and Kent Arp, Davenport, Paula and Jim Maltby, Silvis, Karen and Greg Poquet, Moline, Teresa and Bill Witter, Coyne Center; 10 grandchildren; and a sister, Leona Hutten, Moline.

### Belgian Born Deaths

**Irma VanMieghem**, 97, formerly of Moline, died September 30, 1999 in Davenport. Irma Deckers was born Jan. 9, 1902, in Asseneda, Belgium. She married Theophil VanMieghem in 1922. He died in 1980. Survivors include a son, Richard VanMieghem, Honduras, Central America; 12 grandchildren, including Barbara Aldridge, Indianola, Iowa, whom she raised; seven great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and half-sisters, Louise Deckers and Ida Brennan, Rock Island.



## Center News

### Lace Makers

Don't forget the lace makers will be at the center Saturday afternoon, November 6.

### Book Signing

On Saturday, December 4 from 9am to 11am, Bill Wundrum will be at the Center signing his new book "A Time We Remember". These books are on sale at the gift counter for \$34.95 and showcase the wonderful history of the Quad Cities, including our Belgian heritage on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Ethnic Communities Gala Reception

On October 5, 1999, Albert and Evelyn VanPuyvelde attended a reception "**Honoring The Ethnic Communities of Illinois**". The reception was hosted by Corinne Wood, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois. The entire program was focused on Ethnic communities. It was a pleasure to be part of the large group in attendance. The closing remarks were made by Cardinal George of Chicago. Albert also took a number of pictures and will display them at the Center. – *Evelyn VanPuyvelde*

*On behalf of the Center for Belgian Culture, I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Al Loete. Al bravely fought his battle with cancer but lost his life to the disease on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. I learned a lot about Al at his visitation and funeral. You know, I thought we had a monopoly on his time and energy, which he gave so freely to the CBC, but we were just one beneficiary of his generous nature. He was a devoted family man, Christian, musician and public servant. He will be greatly missed at the Center as our president but will always be fondly and respectfully remembered. **Salut Al.***

*Joan, Lynne, Sharon, and the rest of the Loete Family, our thoughts and prayers remain with you....Bonnie Newman*



**Belgium – Fifth On List Of Best Places To Live**

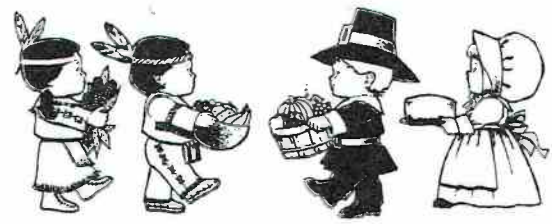
Life is better in Belgium than in any other European Union country, according to a recently released United Nations Development Program report that ranks 174 countries. The Human Development Report on how people live, which factors in health care, life expectancy, access to education and average income, puts Belgium near the top of its list. Only Canada, Norway, the United States and Japan placed higher. - *Belgium Today*

**Belgian Priest Beatified**

Edward Joannes Maria Poppe (1890 – 1924), a rural Belgian priest and former soldier was beatified in a ceremony October 3, by Pope John Paul II during a Mass in St. Peters Square. Calling them “faithful workers in the Lord’s vineyard,” Pope John Paul II also beatified five Italians. Some 20,000 Italian and Belgian pilgrims joined the pope for the sunny outdoor ceremony. Pope John Paul has beatified 938 people during his 21-year pontificate.

**Some Actual Headlines**

- Survivor of Siamese twins joins parents...
- Farmer Bill dies in house...
- Iraqi head seeks arms...
- Prostitutes appeal to Pope...
- Eye drops off shelf...
- Teacher strikes idle kids...
- Squad helps dog bite victim...
- Something went wrong in jet crash, experts say...
- Enraged cow injures farmer with ax...
- Stolen painting found by tree...
- Miners refuse to work after death...
- Juvenile court to try shooting defendant...



## 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 November:

Wednesday, November 3      **Dorene Mummert, Hostess; Gen Vrombaut, Gift Counter**

Saturday, November 6      **Waffle breakfast**  
**Celie & Gene Donohue, Host Couple and Gift Counter**  
**Lace makers at the Center 1 - 4**

Tuesday, November 9      **Board Meeting 7pm at the Center**

Wednesday, November 10      **Joann Loete, Hostess and Gift Counter**

Saturday, November 13      **Clara VandeVeire, Hostess; Marion Knock, Gift Counter**

Wednesday, November 17      **Georgia & Louis Slininger, Host Couple and Gift Counter**

Saturday, November 20      **Evelyn & Al Van Puyvelde, Host Couple and Gift Counter**

Wednesday, November 24      **Bob Hendrickx & Lucy DeWaelsche, Host and Hostess & Gift Counter**

Saturday, November 27

Remember those who served our country on Veterans Day, November 11.

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



**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*  
**ONE AND ALL**

Paul & Marie Callens  
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AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION