

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

May, 2000



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We've just added to our inventory, beautiful quality China mugs featuring a picture of a cheese maker at a cost of only \$4.95 each. Come in and see our large selection of interesting items.

Albert Loete Memorial Scholarship



We are still accepting applications for this Scholarship. Those who wish to apply, need to submit an essay, titled "My Belgian Heritage". It may include family customs, or other ways you and your family celebrate your Belgian Heritage. Pictures or any other visual aids may be included and will be returned to you upon request. Please submit a cover page with your **name, address, phone number, birth date, social security number, the school you will be attending, and your affiliation with the Center for Belgian Center, i.e., parents or grandparents who are center members.** Essays must be received by **May 15th** and the scholarships will be presented at the annual June dinner-meeting, June 13th. Winners will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to the CBC. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact **Lynne Collier** at **(309) 797-8164** or e-mail to **Collier@qconline.com**. Drop off or mail your essays to:

The Center for Belgian Culture
712 - 18th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

The CBC Scholarship Committee will judge all entries. They will be judged on content, neatness and originality. Good luck to all entrants.

Found: a beautiful hydrangea named **MISS BELGIUM**. You gardeners can find this gorgeous specimen on page 17 in your spring issue of the 2000 Burpee catalog.

FYI: Ten Years Ago, April 15, 1990. In Belgium, King Baudouin I gave up his throne for two days rather than sign a law legalizing abortion in the first three months of pregnancy. Government officials declared the 59-year-old Catholic king unable to rule, assumed his powers and promulgated the law, after which the legislature voted to reinstate the monarch. The move left Ireland the only country in Western Europe where abortion was still illegal.

Perfect for WWI and WWII Buffs, or anyone looking for an informative trip: Beaches to the Bulge Tour, run by Eurostar Tours, will land you on Omaha Beach on June 6th to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day. The 12-day trip through France, Belgium and Luxembourg, focuses on WWI and WWII history and visits GI foxholes in Belgium, invasion beaches and cemeteries in Normandy and battlefield monuments in Paris. The June 3-14 trip is priced at \$3,195 and includes round-trip airfare from Detroit to Paris (for Chicago departures, add about \$40), lodging in first-class hotels, motorcoach transportation, bilingual guides, breakfast daily and most dinners (800-622-4004).



The Volunteer Dinner was held at the Center April 13th. Over 30 people were in attendance. It was a delightful evening, with good food, conversation, and a stimulating presentation on the Belgian artist, James Ensor, given by William Hannan, professor of art from Blackhawk College. The food was catered by the Belgium Village and the whole event was planned by Bonnie Newman, Norma Manning and Celie Donohue. Each volunteer received a nice favor and Mary Brunning won the door prize, a nice Belgian sweatshirt. She was thrilled! Gene Fowler was presented with a "birthday mug" because he had the closest birthday to date of the party. Fred DeCoster brought in 3 bottles of his homemade wine, which was enjoyed by many of those present. Thanks again to the committee – outstanding!!

Don't forget to sign in the volunteer book, when you donate your time to the center. The book is located by the telephone. Sign your name, date, and hours worked.

Our membership is up to 310. If you know someone who would like to be a member, have that person call Lynne Collier at 797-8164 and she will send him or her a welcome letter and membership form.

Newsletter Patrons: Gen & John Vrombaut and Doreen Mummert

The May schedule for gift counter and host/hostess volunteers is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, May 3	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, May 6	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Wednesday, May 10	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeViere
Saturday, May 13	Marian Knock	Mary Rose DeCoster
Wednesday, May 17	Maurine Schweitzer	Ruby DeKeyrel
Saturday, May 20	Lorraine Krause	Harold Krause
Wednesday, May 24	Lucy DeWaelsche	Bob Hendricks
Saturday, May 27	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Wednesday, May 31	Bev Francque	Stan Francque

The March Waffle Breakfast was held April 1.

Gene Fowler, Lucy DeWaelsche and Bob Hendricks set up and prepared the batter on Friday. Workers for the breakfast included: Gene Fowler, Mary Mortier, Stan & Bev Francque, Micky Kindheart, Maurine Schweitzer, Dave & Stephanie Loete, Louis & Georgia Slininger, and Dorene Mummert. Many thank to all those who helped.

The next Waffle breakfast is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 6th from 8-12.

Waffle Breakfast Hosts/Hostesses are needed. Contact Gene Fowler at 788-0676 if interested in volunteering



We would like to thank **Louis Coopman** for bringing in the poignant story about the donkey "Jules" and the important role he played in the Coopman family, when he pulled the family "Ice Cream Wagon" in Belgium in 1914. It's a touching story of life that was interrupted by war and how it impacted families at that time. It illustrates the strength and courage of many of our ancestors in the face of very difficult circumstances. The story is available at the Center and worth taking the time to read.

Thanks are also in order to **Alyne Demeurisse** for the magazines on the Royal Wedding, the former king and new king of Belgium. The magazines came from Alyne's relatives in Belgium.

On behalf of the **Center for Belgian Culture**, a donation of six Anton Pieck pictures, a book, "Old Friends, the Netherlands and America" and information on St. Nicholas was donated by Art Holevoet, to the Fulton, Illinois Dutch Windmill Committee. Art Holevoet and Chuck Tomas decorated a window, featuring Anton Pieck for Dutch Days in Fulton. Dutch Days will be May 5th and 6th.

A special thanks is also extended to the following persons: Gene & Celie Donohue, Gene Fowler, Harold Krause, Barb VanNevel, Marian Knock, Doreen Mummert, Stella Hendricks, Gen Vrombaut, Bonnie Newman and, of course, the co-chairpersons, Evelyn & Albert VanPuyvelde. They all helped to prepare and serve the Flemish Beer Stew (Carbonnade a la Flamande) for our St. Joseph's Day dinner. "Thank you to those who came to enjoy the special occasion.

Did You Know?

Belgian Workers, A healthy Bunch!

Among German, French and Dutch, the Belgians loose the least amount of working days to illness: 4.4% compared to 6.1% in Germany, 5.4% in France and 10% in the Netherlands.

West Flanders' population dwindling?

According to a prognosis of the West-Flemish Economic Study Bureau, there will be fewer Wet-Flemmings in the year 2010 than now. In 1997 the province's population was 1,125,000. Taking into account, foreseen evolutions, deaths and migrations, there will certainly be fewer inhabitants. Not counting migration, the population will decrease because the mortality is larger than the number of births. With smaller families, the number of women of fertile age also diminishes after at least 15 years. The most pessimistic prognosis foresees that the number of West-Flemings by 2010 will go down under 1,110,00. In recent times, the increase in immigration was mainly with-in the ages 55 to 67. In the year 2010 one of every five inhabitants in West Flanders will be of ages between 60 and 80.

Letter from the Governor

The Center recently received the following letter from George H. Ryan, Governor of Illinois.

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I would like to congratulate your publication, "Center for Belgian Culture Newsletter" on 40 years of serving our communities.

Illinois is comprised of many ethnic communities that join to form a great state while also maintaining their rich cultural individualities. Your Publication serves as a vital link to the Belgian American community. Not only are your readers educated by its contents, but they benefit by affirming an invaluable connection to their heritage.

On behalf of the people of the State of Illinois, I commend your participation in the Belgian American community. The hard work that goes in to each and every publication is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan

Upcoming Events

The lacemakers will be at the Center May 6th from 1-4 p.m. Please come see them demonstrate their talents.

May 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m., there will be a reception at the center, to meet and congratulate the Flemish Class taught by Patrick Van Nevel at Black Hawk College. All members are invited.

The dinner to introduce the new officers and board will be June 13th.

Mark your calendar and save this evening to welcome the new board. There will be **NO** meeting, just a social evening with a pleasant dinner and **AUCTION**. Dig through your attic and find a few treasures to be auctioned. If you can't find a white elephant or "Lion", in our case, then, why not bake a loaf of raisin bread? Would you believe a loaf of Harold Krause's raisin bread went for \$10.00 at our Carbonnade a la Flamande dinner? There will be more information and a reservation form in the next newsletter.

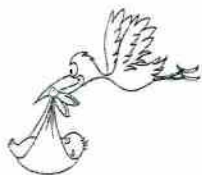
Congratulations!!

Campbell James Donohue, of Littleton, CO, received the Genesee Grange-St. Patty's Day Talent Show Music Award on March 12th. Campbell plays piano and his selection for the contest was the Theme from Star Wars.

Patrick Aaron Donohue Wren, Moline, received the St. Patrick's Society Scholarship at the Gathering of the Clan Dinner on March 17th. Patrick is a senior at Moline High School. Both Campbell and Patrick are grandsons of Celie and Gene Donohue.

Chris Knock and **Katie Cornelis** were among the four Alleman High School students selected as Alleman Pride Students for the second quarter of the 1999-2000 school year. Chris is a junior and the son of board member, Lenore and Mike Knock and grandson of Marian Knock. Katie is a sophomore and the granddaughter of Walt and Ellen Cornelis.

Rachel Heiar, Granddaughter of **Al and Judy DePorter**, was a member of the winning Sherrard 5th grade school basketball team.



Congratulations to Lynne & Glenn Collier on the birth of their granddaughter, Anna Kristine, (6lbs. 5 oz.) born to Kristin Collier, April 7, 2000. Anna's Great Grandma is Joan Loete.

Get well wishes and prayers go out to: Frank VanAcker, Laverne Kastelic and Father Lee as well as anyone else who may be ill or recovering.



PLEASE NOTIFY US WHENEVER A MEMBER OR RELATIVE GETS MARRIED, GIVES BIRTH, BECOMES ILL, OR DIES, SO WE CAN PUBLISH IT IN THE NEWSLETTER. Call or e-mail Lois DeCoster @ 799-3433 or ladecoster@juno.com or leave the information in the Newsletter drawer at the Center.

The Center for Belgian Culture is looking for someone to edit our newsletter. If you enjoy creative writing with a dab of commercial art and have word processing skills, this would be a perfect opportunity to expand your interest into the Belgian community. It requires about eight hours per month to assemble the news that has been contributed by CBC members. A local printing house does the printing and members help with the labels and the mailing. So, if you or someone you know is interested (age is no restriction), please contact Lois DeCoster at 799-3433 or Celie Donohue at 792-8246.

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