

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE



Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

February 2001

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Gene Fowler

Flemings in the

World

Art Holevoet

Newsletter

Lois DeCoster

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Publicity

Mary Lorensen

Kleine Winkel

POST INVENTORY SALE: selected sweatshirts, books, beer mugs, etc. all at half their original price. They will be on a table at the entrance of the center. Check them out!

Bloemen Van Vlaanderen

The Callens family has made a donation to the Bloemen Vlaanderen Fund in Memory of their American friends.

In Memory of our
American Friends
Paul & Hilde Callens
Vannieuwenhuyze

Thank You! We want to thank the following people for their recent donations to the Center: **Barb Efflandt** donated an LP record, "Heintje", **Harold Vandewater** made a monetary donation for the Newsletter and **Jim Champion** donated a lace table cloth stretcher. **Anna Browers** brought in lace patterns, that belonged to her mother, Irma DeFauw, who passed away Dec. 30, 2000 at the age of 102. We were also blessed with an anonymous donation of \$200. **Thanks to all for their generosity.**

Lost and Found: someone left a milk-glass dish and a spoon at Butterworth Center the night of our Christmas party. It can be picked up at the Center. It is on the table in entrance area of the Center.

The Center received a Christmas card from Baron Jacobs and Alan J. Blinken, President and Ambassador/Vice President, respectively, of the King Baudouin Foundation U.S., Inc., wishing us the best for 2001. They also acknowledged that they were very pleased to meet and visit with Patrick Van Nevel, the CBC president, last fall.

A committee consisting of Art Holevoet, Celie Donohue and Evelyn Van Puyvelde are recording the archival and donated items at the center. The purpose is to accumulate this information so that volunteers can answer questions when visitors come in. If any one can help us identify some of our museum items, we would appreciate your assistance. Please call the Center at 309-762-0167. Leave your name and phone number if no one is there to answer the phone.

Center's Activities

-Waffle Breakfast-
1st Sat. of each month (except Jan.)
8:00 - 12:00
Open: Wed. & Sat.
1:00 - 4:00

I know that I am running out to space, so I will highlight some of our other board members and volunteers in upcoming newsletters. It is important to stress the importance of our volunteers. Without them, we would be helpless.

After our successful December waffle breakfast/ bake sale, many people commented to me and to other board members that our location is too small. On that particular day, it was indeed too small, but we were able to serve all customers. Is a location too small when we fill up only on special occasions? Let me challenge you and ask you to bring your neighbors, relatives and friends to the Center. Let us increase our traffic, at which time, we can look at extending our hours.

Earlier I mentioned strategic initiatives. We are looking at the long term. What do our members want? What do we need to do over the next decade? To start with, we need to open ourselves to the whole community. We need to make our presence known – not just as a place where we can eat waffles 11 times a year, but also as a place where a tourist can come and be introduced to our heritage. We started with the brochure that we are confident you will like. We need to be a museum and resource center for visitors from all over the country. Some of our senior board members and volunteers are currently cataloguing all items we have on display and in storage. We have had visitors from all over the country and abroad. We are looking at extending our hours but..... we can not burden the same volunteers all of the time.

There is a lot that needs to be done but..... look at what we have accomplished over the past several months! Feel free to drop me line or visit with me at the Center, the first Saturday of each month. Thank you for your continued support.

Patrick Van Nevel
President of the Center for Belgian Culture

Did You Know?

Healing trees, once abundant in Belgium, are now becoming something of a national rarity, although a dozen or so remain. The sick, in an appeal to the "life force" of the trees to grant them healing, hammer nails into, or attach requests to, the bark of these symbolic trees. These practices still continue today, especially in Herchies and Stambruges, two villages between Mons and Ath. The tree is nealy 15 metres high, and its trunk is entirely covered with rags, bandages, photos, socks, stockings and even shoes. People visit the tree in the hope of obtaining a cure for warts, boils, migraines or ulcers. They rub the sick part of their body with a piece of cloth, attach the cloth to the tree and "hammer their illness" into the tree with a nail.



On Monday, March 19th at 6 p.m., the Board Members of the Center invites you to come and enjoy Flemish Beer Stew, "Carbonnade a la Flamande". The cost will be \$5 per person. Send your reservation and payment to the Center for Belgian Culture, 712 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265. You can do so by filling out the form below. If you u have any questions, call 762-0167 or 764-8042.

Yes, we will be there for the dinner, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. Please reserve _____ seats for

(Names) _____ Enclosed is \$ _____



From the desk of the President

Remember the expression "Time flies when you are having fun"? Time certainly does fly by and as far as the fun is concerned, it has indeed been a pleasurable experience since I became president of the Center last summer. I want to thank our volunteers, our board and you, our members, for continued support of our Center. Our newsletter provides you with updates on various activities and we will continue to provide you with information about ongoing and upcoming events.

Over the past few months we have embarked on a number of activities and dedicated numerous hours on strategic initiatives. Also, I would like to add that December was indeed a Christmas month for us even though the bad weather slowed our Kleine Winkel sales. I'd like to list just a few items we have been working on, as well as, some of the results:

- Preparation and design of brochure (expected to go to print in one month).
- Application for matching grant to fund cost of brochure.
- Establishment of two (2) \$150 scholarships.
- Donation of \$500 from Cy and Eleanor DeBuysere.
- Receipt of an anonymous gift of \$200 to increase the scholarships to \$250 each.
- Application and receipt of a \$1,000.00 donation from the Deere Wiman family Trust to defray part of the cost of the brochure.
- Appearance on Paula Sands Live Show, resulting in record attendance at the December breakfast.
- Application for grant for museum software and computer (through the office of Rep. Brunsvold.)
- Donation of various family momentos and heirlooms.
- Over 80 attendees at our annual Christmas party at the Butterworth Center.
- Participation in the Olde Towne Street Fest

It is gratifying to experience the enthusiasm among the board, volunteers and members. I believe it was our secretary, Lenore Knock who suggested we contact Paula Sands Live. I don't know how our publicity chairperson, Mary Lorenzen got it done, but sure enough, a couple of weeks later we were on! Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Art Holevoet attended an Illinois Heritage Association seminar where they learned how an organization such as ours can organize and catalog its many pieces. Evelyn headed the initiative to apply for the grant mentioned above. The board established a scholarship fund and charged a committee headed up by Lenore Kock to establish proper criteria. Following approval of the criteria by the board, the Scholarship Committee was assigned the responsibility to evaluate and award the scholarships. Celie Donohue continues to assure that we have ample Belgian products at the Kleine Winkel. Bonnie Newman again did an outstanding job organizing the Christmas party and... she's working on another party for this spring. Our waffle chair, Gene Fowler, together with his group of volunteers, is always there for our monthly waffle breakfast. Even when we triple the normal attendance, like we did in December, they handle it.

Congratulations: Ellizaeth Knock, daughter of Mike and Lenore Knock, made the Jordan 8th grade honor roll

Upcoming Events

- February** - "Share a Heart" waffle breakfast - Feb. 3
- March** - St. Joseph's Day Flemish Beef Stew Dinner - March 19
- April** - Volunteer Dinner - date to be announced
- May** - Gourmet Belgian Beer & Dinner - date to be announced
- June** - Annual dinner/meeting - date to be announced
- July** - Picnic / golf outing - date to be announced

Watch future newsletters for details and possible additions.



Note: The next waffle breakfast will be February 3, from 8 - 12.

Special, heart-shaped waffles will be served in observance of St. Valentine's Day. Please come and "Share a heart with your Sweetheart", with any one you wish, or just join us for waffles and conversation.

Note: The lacemakers will meet at the Center in the afternoon to demonstrate their art.



Pictured above is Patrick Van Nevel, receiving a \$500 check from Cy and Eleanor DeBuyssere.



In the picture on the left, Dorothy McNulty is showing off the beautiful St. Nicholas she won at the CBC Christmas party the Butterworth Center in December .

Volunteers

Please be sure to sign the "Volunteer" ledger, noting the number of hours you have worked. The amount of volunteer hours is an important factor in the future, when the Center is being evaluated for grants.

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, Feb. 3	Bonnie Newman – a.m.	Barb and Patrick Van Nevel – p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, Feb 10	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeViere
Saturday, Feb 17	Joanne Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Wednesday, Feb. 21	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, Feb. 24	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraet
Wednesday, Feb. 28	Bev Francque	Stan Francque

Welcome to our newest volunteers: **Bill and Margaret Wadsworth**. Thank you for coming forward to add to our list of dedicated volunteers. If YOU would like to be a volunteer, please call Celie Donohue @ 792-8246 or Norma Manning @ 788-8586.

NOTE: During the winter months, when the weather is inclement, volunteers may not be able to get in to work, so please call the Center ((309-762-0167) before you come in to make certain that it is open.



In Memoriam

Irma De Fauw died Dec. 30, 2000. Irma Heytens was born Dec. 15, 1896, in Pittem, Belgium. She married Julian De Fauw, Feb. 14, 1953. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Edward Brouwers, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Irma was a member of the Center for Belgian Center, where she made Belgian lace and taught others the art.

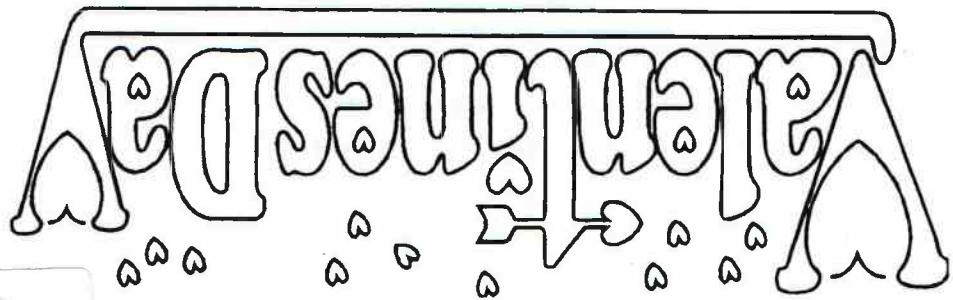
The February board meeting will be Monday, February 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Center.

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 leave the information in the Newsletter drawer at the Center. Please submit any information you wish to have published in the newsletter by the 15th of the month in order to have it in the next issue.

If someone is ill, please notify Celie Donohue at 792-8246 or e-mail her at c.j.donohue@att.net and in case of a death, call Grace Verpaele at 764-2304, so cards can be sent from the Center.



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