

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE



Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

March 2001

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Editor's Note – due to the “hospitalization” of my computer, the newsletter may arrive a little late this month. Even after I got it back, I still had trouble getting it to work with me. I’m sure it’s not the computer, just the operator, but that’s another story. At this time, I’m unable to retrieve or send e-mail, so I hope I haven’t missed some important information for the newsletter. You may reach me by calling me at 799-3433. Hopefully, by next month, things will be back to normal. Thanks in advance for your patience.

Thank You! Thanks to the generosity of many people, the Center acquires many items, for which we are grateful. Recently we have received coasters and posters from **Lucrece DeMuyne** (Aatery, Belgium). Lucrece is the cousin of Al VanPuyvelde. **Lucy DeWaelsche** brought in some Belgian lace and **Mary Hensberger** (daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Englebert Colpert) donated post cards and booklets. **Margaret (Somers) Connors** gave the Center prayer books, post cards and other memorabilia. From the estate of Gen Errico, **Marguerite Errico** donated a charcoal sketch of Brugge, a DePoorter family tree book and a letter opener. **Mary Ann (Viscioni) DeMeyer** donated the following items that belonged to her uncle, Gerard DeMeyer; First Notes Band Marching Band music, clippings, St. Cecilia Programs, Anniversary program from the Belgian/American Club, 1930 and a Notes Band program from 1927. Belgian beer bottles were also donated by **Margaret and Bill Wadsworth**, as well as one by **Ernest Hauman**. In the process of straightening up and cleaning, many articles were found whose donors are not known. We wish to thank them also, and are sorry we cannot acknowledge them by name. **Thanks to all for your generosity.**

Help Needed!! During the above-mentioned sorting and cleaning, a painting was found. It was signed by the artist, G.A. DeKeyser '25. If anyone has any information concerning the painting, the artist and/or the donor, please contact the Center.

Congratulations! Ella M. Kochuyt observed her 95th birthday Feb. 18, 2001. The former Ella M. Saltau was born in Traer, Iowa. She married Edward Kochuyt Feb. 14, 1929 in Moline. She has a daughter, Joan A. DeClerck, Moline, 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She is a member of Sacred Heart Church, Moline and the Altar and Rosary Society of the church. She also is a member of the Center for Belgian Culture, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Moline Eagles, and Friends Circle Club.

Center's Activities

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

Upcoming Events

- March 19** St. Joseph's Day Flemish Beef Stew Dinner
- March 24** Old Towne's Open House – **The Center will serve dessert waffles from 12 to 3**
- April 17** Volunteer Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – details to follow
- May 11** Gourmet Belgian Beer & Dinner - details to follow
- June 26** Annual dinner/meeting/auction – Drop off items for the auction at the Center
- July -** Picnic / golf outing - date to be announced

Watch future newsletters for details and possible additions.

The February Waffle breakfast was a success, even though the snow and ice mounds made it difficult to get to the sidewalk. Al & Evelyn VanPuyvelde donated their heart shaped waffle iron to make it possible to serve our Valentine treats. Volunteers who helped were; Kim Kochuyt, Mary Mortier, Joel Newman, Al & Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Clara VanDeVeire, Mickey Kindheart, Scott Raes, Maurine Schweitzer and Gene Fowler. Art Holevoet, Pat & Barb Van Nevel helped clean up. Thanks to all, including Bob Hendrickx and Lucy DeWaelsche for all they do to make the waffle breakfasts get off to a great start every month.

Note: *The next waffle breakfast will be March 3, from 8 - 12. The lacemakers will meet at the Center in the afternoon to demonstrate their art.*

The lacemakes plan to be at the Center every first Saturday afternoon of the month from now on.

Dessert waffles will be served at Old Towne's Open House Celebration, March 24, from noon 'til 3 pm.

On Monday, March 19th at 6 p.m., the Board Members of the Center invite you to come and enjoy Flemish Beer Stew, "Carbonnade a la Flamande". The cost will be \$5 per person. Send your reservations and payment to the Center for Belgian Culture, 712 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265, or just drop them off at the Center. You may use the form below. If you 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 \$ _____

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, March 3	Celie & Gene Donohue – a.m.	Barb and Patrick Van Nevel – p.m.
Wednesday, March 7	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, March 10	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, March 14	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeViere
Saturday, March 17	Marian Knock	Georganne Benson
Wednesday, March 21	Bev Franque	Stan Francque
Saturday, March 24	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Wednesday, March 28	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, March 31	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraete

In Memoriam



Julius A. “Caesar” DeBruyne, 77, Pompano Beach, Florida, formerly of Rock Island, died Dec. 3, 2000. Survivors include his wife, Shirley, daughters, Jo Ann DeShinckle, Rock Island, and Bobbie McCallister, Phoenix and three grandchildren.

Emiel Engels, 89, Rock Island, died Sat. Feb. 17, 2001. He was a lifelong resident of Rock Island, having been involved in politics in the city and served as alderman for 12 years. Emiel was a charter member of the former Belgium-American Brotherhood, Rock Island. Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law Patricia and Robert Nederbrock, Rock Island; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Julie Engels, Rock Island, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Kleine Winkel

Come and see our Manneken Pis all dressed in green for St. Pat’s Day! Maybe you’d like to purchase a lace shamrock pin (\$5.95) or a framed lace shamrock (\$11.95) in honor of this March holiday.

POST INVENTORY SALE; there are still some selected sweatshirts, books, beer mugs, etc. all at half their original price. They are on a table at the entrance of the center. Check them out!

Did you Know? Much of our Center news is published in the only Belgian newspaper in America, the Gazette van Detroit. We send our newsletter to them and parts of it can often be found in this publication, as well as other interesting articles.

Do you know anything about the teen singer Michael Junior? He was on a PBS program recently, and was sensational. His real name is Michael Verschuere. He was born near Brugge, Belgium in 1986. Apparently Michael attended a Helmut Lotti concert and went backstage for an autographed picture of his idol. The bold teen began to sing and Lotti was so impressed he took him under his wing. They sang a duet of “Panis Angelicus” on a CD, followed by an appearance together at a 1998 Christmas concert in Belgium. The teen’s career soared in Europe – enough to warrant PBS to air a video of Junior’s performance before a sold-out crowd in Hanover, Germany, for its fund-raising programming.

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



✓ Paul & Marie Callens
Waterstraat 18 8740
Pittem
Belgium,



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

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Announcement!! Kay and Gabe Verstraete have agreed to take over Membership. We thank them for coming forward and also thank Jill Rakus for serving the Center in that capacity. We wish to welcome to the board, Bev Franque as the Center's genealogist. A more detailed description of her capabilities will follow in future newsletters. **CHECK IT OUT!!** The Center is entering the 21st Century with a computer web page. It is in it's infancy, a work in progress, but you can go to www.belgianmuseumquadrilles.org and watch it grow.

Making travel plans? Mary, Our Lady of Peace Church, Orion is sponsoring a fabulous 14 day tour of Great Britain Sept. 9-22, 2001. Meet the people and experience their charm. Discover the best of England, Scotland, & Wales at a leisurely pace from England's beautiful Lake District and the Cotswold's to the rugged Scottish Trossachs where Rob Roy McGregor live. Visit ancient Stonehenge, medieval Chester and York. Feast at a Medieval Castle Banquet, enjoy a London Theater performance, tap your feet at a Scottish Cabaret, explore the delights of London and more. For reservations call Diane Gelau @ 309-526-3499 or 800-939-4334. Diane is a long time member and supporter of the Center.

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