

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE



Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

May 2001

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Editor's Note: what did you think of my April Fool's joke – the upside down pages? Believe me, it wasn't planned! When I opened a newsletter to check it, I realized it was too late to have the printer redo it in time for it to be in your hands by the first of the month. This one won't make it by May 1st because we will be out of town from Apr. 26th to 30th. Sorry about the delay.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 5** Waffle Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – noon
- May 11** Gourmet Belgian Dinner details below
- May 14** Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- May 28** Waffles served at Memorial Day Celebration in Old Towne
- June 26** Annual dinner/meeting/auction drop off items for the auction at the Center any time
- July ?** Picnic / golf outing date to be announced

Belgian Gourmet Dinner



When: May 11, 2001
Where: Rock Island Arsenal
Time: Cocktails @ 6 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner @ 7 p.m.



Belgian beers will be served with dinner and beer is an ingredient in each entrée. As noted in the last newsletter, there are two entrees from which to choose; Mock Lobster, Flemish Style and a Pork Loin with Westmalle Dubbel. Appetizers include; Belgian meatballs, mussels in beer, chicken liver mousse. If you have not yet sent in your reservation, please contact Bonnie Newman at 309-476-8604 **NO LATER** than Friday, May 4. The cost of the mock lobster is \$43 per meal and the pork loin is \$40 per meal. This cost **includes** tax and gratuity, as well as appetizers, soup, salad, entrée (served with beer) and dessert. Special guests will include the Consul General, Dirk Loncke and Luc Fabry from Belgian Foreign Investment Office.

Center's Activities

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

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, May 2	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, May 5	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, May 9	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeViere
Saturday, May 12	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, May 16	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, May 19	Marian Knock	Mary Rose DeCoster
Wednesday, May 23	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, May 26	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraete
Wednesday, May 30	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger

Volunteers: Don't forget to enter your hours into the volunteer folder by the phone. Thank you.

In Memoriam - Loss of two lace makers



Alida Poma, 100, formerly of Rock Island, died Sunday, April 15, 2001 at the Marion County Nursing Home in Bull Shoals, Arkansas. She was born in Pittem, Belgium and married Joseph Poma in 1921. Shortly after the marriage, they moved to the United States, settling in Rock Island, IL. Joseph died in 1981. Alida was a charter member of the Belgian Bobbin Lacemakers in Moline. A son and daughter-in-law, Albert A. and Minnie Poma, one grandson, two great grandsons and three great-great grandsons survive her.

Margaret Wancket, 87, died April 16, 2001. She was born June 17, 1913 and married Victor Wancket in 1933. He died in Feb. of 2001. Survivors (and spouses) include daughters; Rose Mary (LeRoy) Crogaert, Annawan, Patricia (Mike) Kaiser Houma, LA, Mary Ann Wancket, LaPlace, LA, Jane (Jerry) Isaacson, Princeton, sons; Arthur & Richard, both of Annawan and daughter-in-law, Lorraine Wanckert, Annawan. 27 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

The April Waffle Breakfast was held April 7, 2001. It was a warm but windy day. There was a very good turnout, especially in the first two hours. Workers included: Mary Mortier, Gene Donohue, Ron and Bev La Salle, Maurine Schweitzer, Marian Knock, Louie and Georgia Slininger, Barbara Michalek and, of course, our esteemed Waffle breakfast chairman, Gene Fowler. Gene should be commended for the great job he does with the waffle breakfasts. He also chairs breakfasts outside the Center, such as the one he put on at Sacred Heart Church, April 29. He is always looking for people to share the duties, so please give him a much-needed break and volunteer to chair one of the breakfasts. It's a very organized and well-running machine, so it's not as much work as you may think. Give Gene a call.



A special celebration also took place at the April waffle breakfast. John Welling celebrated his 51st birthday. Candles were placed in the waffles and sausage! The Center presented John with a "Being Belgian is Beautiful" bumper sticker. Those attending the party were: John & Mickey Welling, Amy Armstrong, Helen Bisby, Mary Welling, all of Rock Island, Harry Coopman, Moline, and Dick & Gail Fisher, Taylor Ridge.

"Bloemen Van Vlaanderen "

There are some plaques available. For \$100 or more, you can have the name or names of loved ones engraved on a brass plate, to be placed on our Bloemen Van Vlaanderen plaque. Since Memorial Day is just around the corner, this may be a nice way to memorialize your loved ones. For more information call Celie Donohue at 792-8246 or e-mail her at c.j.donohue@att.net.

Congratulations!!

A longtime board member for the Center for Belgian Culture in Olde Towne and the Olde Towne business Association, Dolores Bultinck, owner of The Flemish Lion, was among 218 women in Illinois last month to receive "Woman of Achievement" awards from Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood. Moline Mayor Stan Leach nominated her for the honor. "She's been very dedicated to this area," the mayor said recently. "She was one heck of a good college teacher. She's just been so much a part of the community." Dolores is also a past president of the Belgian Center. The daughter of poor Belgian immigrants from West Flanders, Dolores was the first in her family to complete college, a B.A in commercial teaching from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D in higher technical education from the University of Iowa. In 1973, she became the first female honorary consul of Belgium in the United States, a post she still holds. She has been decorated by the Belgian government, and has received the medal of merit from King Albert II.

Excerpts from Dispatch article

PLEASE NOTIFY US WHENEVER A MEMBER OR RELATIVE GETS MARRIED, GIVES BIRTH, BECOMES ILL, OR DIES, SO WE CAN PUBLISH IT IN THE NEWSLETTER. E-mail Lois DeCoster at ldecoster@juno.com , call her at 309- 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.

L.A.C.E.'s Vendor Day

Looking for an interesting day trip? L.A.C.E.'s Vendor Day will take place June 16, 2001 in Downers Grove, IL at St. Andrews Church, 1125 Franklin Grove. Supplies, threads and books for making various kinds of lace, including bobbin lace, tatting and the needlelaces will be available. Vendors that plan to attend are: Lacemaker of Ohio, Lacy Susan from Virginia, John Aebi from Indiana, M&M Lace Network from Georgia, Unique Expressions from Missouri and Cindy Heineman from Illinois. Maureen of M&M Lace Network will be giving a program called "**Bobbins Around the World**" and Susan Groh of Unique Expressions will be demonstrating smocking. John Aebi will be turning bobbins on his lathe throughout the day and L.A.C.E. members will be demonstrating lace making techniques. Bring your own lunch or maps for local restaurants will be available. Admission is **FREE**. **For more information and directions, contact Jane at 1-815-485-2684.**

Traveling to Belgium this summer? The Flanders Festival International will be held from June to November. Limburg presents Monteverdi's "Vespers" on June 1, and on June 9 the Paco Pena Group and Choir offer "Miss Flamenca" by Pena. On June 12, Handel's "Messiah" is heard in Sint Truiden, and on June 26, Emma Kirkby joins the London Baroque Ensemble in a program of Handel Cantatas. The Netherlands Chamber Chorus performs Rachmaninoff's "All-Night Vigil" on June 29, and on July 3, the Hanoveer Band with Richard Egarr, organist, and Lynne Dawson soprano, perform motets and organ concertos by Handel. Gustav Leonhardt brings harpsichord music from the 17th and 18th centuries to Brugges on Aug. 7, and the Oslo Vocal Ensemble performs the Bach Magnificat on Aug. 10. A mass written in 1503 in Vienna by the Flemish composer Heinrich Isaac is performed by Hilliard Ensemble in Antwerp on Aug. 25, and on Aug. 27, the group presents the mass "De Beata Virgine" by the Flemish composer Josquin des Prez. For more information about the remaining events – Box office: Festival van Vlaanderen, Ravensteinsraat 60, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium; (32-70) 770-000, fax (32-2) 548-9590; or www.festival-van-vlaanderen.be

Belgian "Tidbits"

- 1. With 800 foreign correspondents, Brussels can boast of the world's largest press communities, second only to Washington D.C.**
- 2. According to statistics published by the German "Statistisches Bundesamt", Belgium ranks 10th on the world list of the largest exporting countries.** Considering its size, this is quite an achievement.

On January 1, Sweden took over the six-month, rotating presidency of the European Union. Sweden will pass the torch to Belgium on the 1st of July. Because Belgium is a member of the Eurogroup – the twelve countries that have adopted the euro as their common currency – and Sweden has not yet joined, Belgian Finance Minister Didier Reynders has already assumed the chair of the Eurogroup. Reynders will have the primary responsibility of overseeing the physical introduction of the euro in Belgium and of assuring the coordination of its debut in all 12 participating countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Austria, Finland and Greece. Owing to its strategic position halfway between the Mediterranean and northern Europe, Belgium – a naturally hospitable land – has become a magnet, a melting pot of cultures and a busy meeting place for artistic, cultural, economic, political and technological activity. As a founding member of the European Union, Belgium is fully tuned in to European issues. It is determined to deploy its considerable assets to ensure that its presidency of the Council of the European Union is once again a resounding success.

A Random Choice of Facts and Figures about Belgium

67 km / 42 miles of seashore - 90% of the population has cable TV - 2 European citizens out of 3 live within 350 km around Brussels - 20% of book releases are comics - 1 Belgian out of 2 owns a car - 21 International schools in Brussels - "The Smurfs"

Belgian Carbonnade a la Flamande

St. Joseph day - - March 19th was celebrated by the Center with a great deal of enthusiasm. Sixty persons filled the center to capacity. The meal began with beer and wine, Belgian Beer Stew and many desserts. Board members and volunteers came in on Sunday to help prepare the vegetables and also serve the meal on Monday evening. Our thanks go to all who assisted: Bev & Stan Francque, Bonnie Newman, Celie & Gene Donohue, Pat & Barb Van Nevel, Dorene Mummert, Evelyn & Al VanPuyvelde, Mary Carmack, Mary Kay Lorensen, Stella Hendricks, Alice Dohogne, Dolores Bultinck, Mary Mortier, and Gene Fowler. A "Thank You" to all who attended and made the event a pleasant occasion.

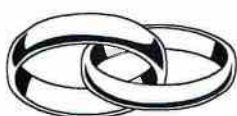
Submitted by Evelyn Vanpuyvelde

April 17, 2001, approximately 50 people attended the Annual Volunteer Dinner at the Center. This dinner is the Center's way to thank all the people who volunteer in any capacity at and/or for the Center. Delicious sandwiches, cole slaw and potato salad from the Belgian Village Inn were served, as well as a relish tray, cherry salad and desserts brought in by volunteers. Patrick Van Nevel and Celie Donohue both thanked everyone for making it possible to keep our organization a viable, active museum and a place to promote our heritage and socialize with friends. Two gift certificates from the Belgian Village Inn were the door prizes and were won by Stella Hendricks and Georgia Slininger. Congratulations!



Dorothy McNulty donated genealogy book to the Center.

Evelyn Van Acker stopped in the Center recently and donated some Peter Coppens chips. Since I hadn't a clue as to what they are, I gave her a call and learned that Peter Coppens had a tavern on 7th Street, where people would get together and often the guys would play cards. The winner would receive a "chip", which had Peter Coppens name it. It was worth 5 cents and could in turn be used to purchase a bottle of beer. It's amazing what one can learn when one's curiosity is tweaked!



Gary and Diane Krumdieck announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Tracy, to Michael Schnell, son of Gerald and Marilyn Schnell. They will be married June 16, 2001 @ 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Moline, with reception at the Rock Island Arsenal. Tracy is a senior at Western Illinois and will graduate in May. She has been on the Dean's list. She is the granddaughter of George and Mary Krumdieck and Jean Ducey, CBC members.

Membership: Anyone who has allowed their membership to lapse and would like to renew it at this time, the length of that membership will extend to July 31, 2002 - a real bargain!

Have you checked out the web page yet? More will be added as time goes on. Just click on www.belgeanmuseumquadcities.org to see what is there so far.



On the left: Art Holevoet with his Nubian goats.



On the right: Betty Freeman demonstrating the intricate art of lace making at the Center

Both pictures appeared in the Dispatch recently.



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