



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

September, 2001

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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Words of gratitude from Patrick Van Nevel

A couple of weeks ago, Honorary Consul Dolores Bultinck, Celie Donohue and I had the pleasure to visit with Eleanor DeBuysere and thank her in person for dedicating memorials to the Center in memory of her late husband Cy DeBuysere. As most of you probably remember, Cy and Eleanor presented the CBC with a \$500 check at last year's Christmas party at Butterworth Center. They gave us the money "to use at the board's discretion". They did not know that we were in the planning stage for the brochure you have all seen by now. That nice brochure was a big bold step, but that \$500 gave us courage to proceed and prepare a draft or "prototype". Julie Brewer did an excellent job with the design and layout and her prototype enabled us to raise another \$3,000 to almost cover the total cost of almost \$4,200. At the end of our meeting, Eleanor presented the Center with another check for \$500. She repeated to us Cy's strong support of the Center for Belgian Culture. She also shared her wishes to give an example and encourage people to help us build and grow. Eleanor we thank you! We are grateful for your confidence in our commitment to ensure continued growth and services to our community in honor of our ancestors and future generations.

We also wish to thank Al VanTieghem for his donation of \$500. A couple of months ago, Al had renewed his membership for the next five years. I just met Al for the first time in late July and had a wonderful visit with him. He was the CBC accountant until his retirement. We visited about our board retreats and the importance of focusing on history, educational and genealogy services and our role as a museum. Last month he mailed us the \$500 check in support of our initiatives. Thank you Al!

Thank you to all members who renewed their membership and those members who included extra money.
Thank you to the Board for its hard work and openness toward the future.
Thank you to the volunteers – without you it would be impossible.

Other donations have been made to the Center that will be used to further educate visitors about our Belgian heritage. Helen Bisby donated a postcard from Antwerp, Belgium. Fred DeCoster donated a racing pigeon carrier that has been added to the window display. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**



The Center is in need of a Historian.

Any one who would like to check in to this position, please call Patrick Van Nevel at 563-322-8752. It would be an interesting endeavor, and you would learn much about how the Center has grown from its humble beginnings. Please consider this way to serve and improve our organization

Center's Activities

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

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, Sept. 1	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, Sept. 5	Gen Vrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, Sept. 8	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Sept. 12	Clara Vandeviere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Sept. 15	Marian Knock	Georganne Benson
Wednesday, Sept. 19	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, Sept. 22	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Wednesday, Sept. 26	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendricks
Saturday, Aug. 29	Lois DeCoster	Mary Rose DeCoster

Volunteers are needed in the upcoming months to fill slots that will be left open by our "snow birds" who go South for the winter. We are in most need of help on Saturdays from 1 - 4 p.m. If you can spare a few hours, please contact Celie Donohue at 792-8246 or Norma Manning at 788-8586. Also, when you are scheduled to work and can't, for some reason, be sure to call either Celie or Norma at the numbers listed above. It's important that someone be there for all the hours we are supposed to be open. Thank you.

Scholarship Winners



Pictured are: Christopher Knock, Pres. Patrick Van Nevel and Matthew Crosser. Chris and Matt were awarded the Center's 2001 scholarships of \$250 each at the annual dinner meeting on June 26. Christopher, son of Mike and Lenore Knock and grandson of Marian Knock, a graduate of Alleman High School, will attend Drake University this fall to pursue a degree in pharmacy. Matthew, grandson of Julia Balcaen, also graduated from Alleman and will attend Notre Dame University, to obtain a degree in computer engineering.

Congratulations to both young men!!

Bev and Stan Francque must be popping their buttons with pride, as three of their grandchildren have made news recently. Jason Francque, Moline, received a certificate of completion during Lincoln Land Community College's 32nd annual commencement on May 18. Jennifer Frnacque, Moline, was among the 93 students at Augustana College named to Aristela, an honor society, recognizing academic excellence among first year students. Andrew Ryker has been selected to sing with the prestigious Chicago Symphony Chorus for the 2001-2002 concert series. Andrew will be performing nine concerts with the Chorus during the year. He is an Okoboji High School graduate, and will be a junior at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, where he is a vocal music major. Adrew is currently enjoying the East Coast, performing summer theatre with The College Light Opera Company near Martha's Vineyard on Cape Cod. All three of these young people are grandchildren of Bev and Stan. Congratulations to all of them for their noteworthy accomplishments.

My Belgian Home

By one of our younger members, Marlene Shattuck, who shares her pride in her Belgian heritage.

This past May, I was fortunate enough to return to Belgium for the second time. The first time was in the summer of 1991. At that time, I met my grandpa's brother and all of his family. He still lived in the place where my grandpa was born and grew up. I spent two wonderful nights there. Even with the lack of modern conveniences and the language barrier between my great uncle and me I cannot describe the feeling I had as I slept in the very room and bed in which my grandp had been born. It was as if I could feel my ancestors and it gave me a greater sense of who I was and where I came from. I have to say it was one of the best times in my life. I will cherish that visit forever. That summer of 1991, I left happy, but yet sad, not knowing if I would ever return or if I would ever see my great uncle again. My grandpa had been so happy I could go in his place. He left Belgium at the age of 25 and never returned. Letters were the only communication grandpa had with his brother until I went and took photos and made a videotape of my visit. At least they both could see and hear one another one more time.

So, this past May had been 10 years since my last visit. What I missed most was the family. I have to tell you, when I returned, it felt like coming home!

Once again, I met the family and even met more new faces from my family tree. I was fortunate enough to see my great uncle again. He is 90 years old now and still lives in the home place. He was so happy and proud to have us there.

I encourage everyone to keep in contact with his or her family near and far. It's an experience you will never regret. And if the family is gone, go back anyway and see where they came from. Belgium is a beautiful country. I am partial to the smaller villages and countryside. It's what I love best, besides the people. As for cities, I recommend Brugge, of course! Also Gent. They are beautiful, charming and full of history. The architecture and canals take you back in time.

The Belgians love to have visitors from America and will roll out the red carpet for you. My cousin says her grandfather or a neighbor will sometimes say 'America is coming' or 'America is calling'. It's a sign that we both like to keep in touch with the other side of the world. It brings us closer together.

If I am fortunate to return to Belgium for a third time, I hope to share the experience with my children. I hope they will find a special place in their hearts for Belgium, just as I have. I know our ancestors would be smiling!

Brochure distribution: To date, 650 brochures with membership inserts have been distributed to the following locations: John Deere Collectors, Quad City Airport-Visitors Center, Quad Cities Convention and Visitor Bureau, LeClaire Iowa Visitors Center, Hoover Presidential Museum and the Iowa Welcome Center in Amana, Iowa.

Out of town guests who have visited our Center this July and June came from: Clinton, Iowa City and Davenport, IA, Clay City, Rockford, Decatur, Rio, and Palos Heights, IL, Escondido, San Diego, Lemoore, and Rescue, CA, Haverhill, MA, St. Louis, Fenton and Columbus, MO, Lenexa, KS, Port Acouses, TX and Roeselare, Belgium.

Carine Serck, CBC member from Waardamme, West Flanders, Belgium came to the aid of Rock Island resident, Eleanor Anderson . Eleanor had been unsuccessful in her search for Belgian survivors of the missionary ship "Zam Zam" that was sunk by the Germans in 1941 while enroute to Africa from the United States. There was a picture of a Belgian father and his infant son from the Province of Lemburg. Carine was able to locate the son, now a dentist in Antwerp and his sister, who was also on the ship and was 2 ½ at the time. Eleanor was so grateful for the information Carine was able to find. Eleanor is also a survivor of that ship. She was nine years old at the time. Reprints of the "Zam Zam" coverage that appeared in two issues of Life Magazine in 1941 can be found at the Center. A postcard was translated for a Geneseo resident, written in Flemish to a family member in Walnut Grove, MN in the early 1900s. These are the types of service activities the Center can provide for the community.



You know how quickly the summer has come and gone, so don't be surprised to see Santa making an appearance in September. Our Christmas party will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4. We already have several nice raffle prizes you may take chances on and will be adding others at a later date. There will be a large basket filled with some very nice "goodies", including a Christmas bear, a Belgian sweatshirt, Belgian mugs and other items that are worth a total of \$145. Some lucky member will also win a unique cookie jar, in the shape of a purse, from the Flemish Lion, or an Isabel Bloom piece the night of the Christmas party. Chances are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. They are available at the Center or you can cut off ones at the bottom of the page and mail them to the Center or drop them off. More details about the Christmas party will follow as well as any additions made to the list of prizes.

Name _____

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Phone No. _____

Name _____

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Phone No. _____

Name _____

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Phone No. _____

Congratulations are also in order for Jennifer Raes, daughter of J. Scott and Deborah Raes, Moline. Jennifer has been named a United States National Award Winner in Science. She is a student at John Deere Middle School and will have her name published in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook.

The Moline Little League, Minor League (age 9-10) tournament champions are members of the Temples Sporting Goods team. Team members **Michael Peters** and **Patrick Rafferty** are the grandchildren of members, **Lorraine** and **Harold Krause** and **Jean DeRoo**, respectively. Two of the coaches are **Cal Peters** and **Kevin Rafferty**, sons-in-law of those same members!!

Continued healing of broken bones to Clara Vandeviere and Lou Rae Hoogerwerf and to all members experiencing health problems.

Kleine Winkel: Our supplier has inceased our price of Leuken irons, so our price will have to be raised to \$75, so if you're planning to give one for a Christmas gift, start saving up now!

In Memoriam



Frances VanThournout, 85, died July 19, 2001. Frances was born Sept. 11, 1915, in Victor, Iowa. She married Hector J. VanThournout in May of 1934. He died in 1998. Survivors include daughters and spouses, **CBC member, Ceil Swenson**, Rock Island, Lucille and Bob O'Brien, Brandon, FL, Marcella and Jack Kruse, Sun City West, AZ and Sue and Tom Skorepa, Taylor Ridge; sons and spouses, Tom and Kay VanThournout, Moline and Joe and Sue VanThournout, Milan; 19 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, John VanWaus, Victor, and Eugene VanWaus, Seattle and sisters, Agnes Durbin, Port Byron, and Bernandine Sankut, Belle Plain, Iowa.

CBC member Irene Cecilia Danielson Cornelis, 86, Moline, died July 22, 2001. She was born Sept. 1, 1914 in Rock Island. She married Jule Joseph Cornelis in October of 1940 in Rock Island. He died in 1999. Irene had a marvelous Irish wit and "I Can Do It" attitude toward life. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, John and Deborah Cornelis, Moline; daughters, Cele Cornelis and Julie Briesch Moline; daughters and spouses, Mary Anne and Ivan Haschke, Humphrey, Neb., Beth and Terry Rand, Naples, FL, Katie and Brian Hall, New Windsor, Peggy and Micahel Morrell, DeKalb, IL, Trish and Tim Kelly, Rose and Jim Kronfeld and Christine and Peter McLaughlin, all of Moline; 29 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Former CBC Board Member, Henry 'Hank' Lerminez, 80, Moline died Aug. 3, 2001. He was born in 1921 in Moline, the son of Remi and Adronie VandeVelde Lerminez, World War I immigrants from West Flanders, Belgium. He married Frances "Liz" Cary, Thanksgiving Day, 1946 in Davenport, IA. Survivors include his wife, Liz; son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Cheryl Lerminez; grandchildren, Matthew, Daniel and Nichole and a cousin, CBC member, Madelaine Wingert, all of Moline.

Belgium in the news:

Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt introduced the EU presidency program of his government for the six month period of July 1st to December 31st, to the European Parliament. As you may know, members of the European Union take turns at the helm of the European Union for a six month period. The European Union, its Member States and Belgium, in particular, attach a great importance to the relationship with their political and economic partners. The relationship with the United States is of key interest as the United States and the Europeans are indeed the main protagonists in the world economy. Major priorities during the Belgian Presidency are:

The introduction of the Euro as on January 1, 2002, euro coins and notes will become legal tender in the twelve EU Member States, Belgium.

Enlargement of the Union as twelve countries are in the process of preparing their accession towards final negotiations under the Spanish Presidency in 2001.

The Belgian Presidency strives for further harmonization which includes the integration of the financial markets, harmonization in taxation and enhanced coordination of budgetary policies.

For more information of the Belgian Presidency see: www.eu2001.be.

Belgian economy continues to grow as the World Development Indicators of the World Bank show that Belgium is the richest country in the EU and the fourth richest worldwide. The data put Belgian GDP per capita at \$25,710 while the US tops the list with \$31,910 per capita.

The Belgian company Carta Mundi recently won the license to produce the Harry Potter cards for European countries with sales expected to generate some \$7.5 million over the next two years. Carta Mundi, based in Turnhout, is already the largest European producer of playing cards including Monopoly and Pokemon cards with the latter raising the company's sales to a record \$66.2 million last year.

On hand to greet president Bush when he landed in Brussels on June 13th was newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium, Stephen Brauer. The former Chairman and CEO for Hunter Engineering served as Honorary Consul of Belgium for Missouri since 1993.

History and current events

National Day

On July 24th Belgium celebrated National Day. The holiday commemorates the day in 1831 that King Leopold of Saxe-Coburg ascended the throne, and Belgium became a constitutional monarchy. Because the coronation followed the liberation from the Dutch rule, the holiday takes a decidedly patriotic flavor. CBC members Patrick & Barb Van Nevel and Werner Gonnissen attended the National Day reception hosted by the Honorable Dirk Loncke, Consul General of Belgium in Chicago. Congratulatory messages from Illinois Governor Ryan and Chicago Mayor Daley were shared with the guests. Distinguished Guest of Honor, Minister of State Mr. Leo Tindemans congratulated the attendees for the accomplishments and cooperation between the people of Illinois, the immigrants and expatriates temporary working in Illinois. Look for more information (and pictures) regarding this great event in your next newsletter.

Flanders Day

July 11th was Flanders Day. Look in future newsletter issues for special events during 2001 when Bruges celebrates its official claim as cultural capital of Europe. Stop in at the Center and look at our latest issue



of "Flanders". This 50th issue of the publication that started in April 1989 shows the progress the Government of Flanders has made in the Federal State of Belgium. As a result of the state reform act of 1993, the regions and communities will play an active role during Belgium's EU Presidency. (visit: www.flanders.be)

WEBSITE

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org continues to make a splash! Just this past week we had a guest from Australia. Those of you who have access to the web have undoubtedly seen the wide variety of inquiries and compliments of people from different states and countries. It is gratifying to see the interest in our heritage and history.

A few guest comments follow:

The website is beautiful! Thank you very much for all of your hard work. I look forward to visiting the museum on my next trip to the QC when I return from my trip to Europe in late May...and of course, Belgium! Karen Mahiew Lyddon, Rockford, IL – May 7

I hope to someday visit the Quad Cities and your museum/center. My great grandparents met and married in Moline before moving to South Dakota to homestead. Marrion Newsam Banks, Athol, ID - May 7

Beste Werner: Congratulations with your fine website! The world is getting smaller every day. We'll be glad to add a link to ~~your site~~ and feel free to do the same. Beste groeten, Bart Ryckbosch, Chicago, IL – May 7 (P.S. Bart is President of the Belgian American Club in Chicago. Just like Patrick Van Nevel, he is a native of Deinze, Belgium)

Searching for Belgian information on my family, Adolph and Rosalie Vanooteghem. They settled in Moline, IL in the latter 1800's. I am visiting Belgium in June and would like to see if I can find any information or relatives. Cathleen Taggart, Charlotte, NC – May 7

Great work Werner! The Center and Museum are a wonderful resource for those of us researching our Belgian heritage. The site will further that cause. Jeff Forret, Moline, IL

A great addition to Belgian culture and information. Chuck Van Den Eeden, Lombard, IL

Grandfather Van Vlaenderen, Grandmother Cools. Joseph Carrier, Torrance, CA

My mother and father were born in Belgium. They came to the USA in 1906. They settled in the Kansas City, MO area. They were vegetable farmers. Lew Ameel, Lake St. Louis, MO

Another great site to visit in one's quest for information on Belgian ancestry. Our Vignery's came to IL in the 1870's, then went on to Kansas. Thanks for your hard work and efforts to connect us all. Amanda Vignery, Colorado Springs, CO

We plan to share more guest book entries with you over the coming months. Thanks to all for the encouragement.

Over the past week we have been able to help individuals with: correct spelling of names, translations, travel-tips, research tips, etc.

Memorials

Cy DeBuysere \$500 Madeleine Coppens \$ 10

We wish to thank Eleanor DeBuysere and Kay Dellos for thinking about the CBC at the time of their losses. Their thought of having memorials made to the Center was very much appreciated it encourages the Board to continue on the road we have embarked on and ensure continued growth and services to our community in honor of our members, supporters and ancestors.

Waffle Breakfasts

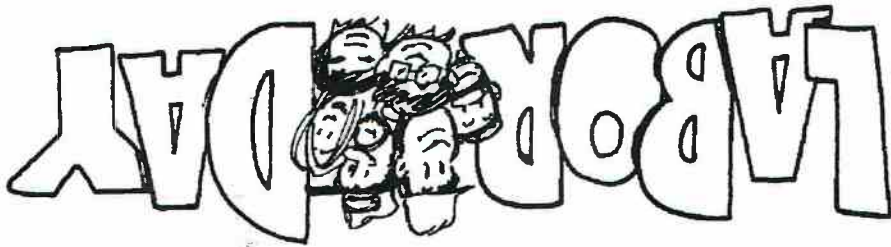
July 12, the Center served waffles at the American Heitage "01" Day on the Rock Island Arsenal. The waffle batches were prepared the day before by Bob Hendrickx Luch DeWaesche and Gene Fowler. Those who helped serve from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. included Bob & Elaine Hendrickx, Lucy DeWaesche, Marv & Mary Brunning and Gene Fowler. It was a big success.

Aug. 4, the Center held the regular monthly Waffle breakfast at the Center. Workers for the day were: Maurine Schweitzer, Gene Donohue, Dave Loete, Mary Mortier, Marian Knock, Bev and Ron LaSalle. Lucy DeWaesche and Gene Fowler prepared the waffle batches and completed set up the day before. Gene also came in early Sat. morning to start the coffee and the heating of sausages on his way to his "real" job. Thanks again to all.

The next board meeting will take place Sept. 10 at the Center at 5:30 p.m.

The Bix Run: Did anyone see the Cornelis brothers, Mike and Bill, running the race carrying the Flemish flag? They said they ran for Flemish peoples everywhere and got a lot of crowd support. If, by any chance, someone took a picture of them with the flag, Mike would like to have a copy of it.

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AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



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