



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

October, 2001

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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Art Holevoet

Newsletter

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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.

Messages in reaction to the terrorist attacks:

As I visited with members of the CBC over the past couple of weeks I have been touched by the large number of phone calls, e-mail messages and cards we have all received from relatives and acquaintances overseas. Below you will find the official Belgian press communiqué.

On their visit to Ukraine in their capacity of representatives of the European Union, Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Louis Michel declared themselves to be shocked and to remain perplexed on the news of the attacks on several buildings in the U.S.

In the name of the European Union they condemned with the utmost force this barbaric act that cowardly aimed at innocent people. They offered the deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and to the American people.

They reiterated their strong condemnation of every form of terrorism and their determination to combat it with all available means.

They express the complete and total solidarity of the European Union with the American nation in these dramatic moments.

I also want to share an e-mail from Camille, a 17 year old female high school student from France and Bernard, a 44 year old business executive from Belgium.

Camille:

I was just leaving school when one of my friends had a message on her cell phone telling about a terrible accident in NY. It was brief. I didn't know what it was about. Then, I heard a few people talking about it on the bus. I didn't realize what it was, I thought it was just an accident, just a plane getting out of control and crashing into one of America's most important symbols, I just did not get it.

When I got home, everything was quiet. I went into the living room and my mom was there, she was reading or writing something and my brother was working. She asked me if I had heard the news so I told her I knew basically what happened and that it was a terrible accident. "It is NOT an accident" she said. Then I realized.

That night, on TV, there was a special news flash on every single channel, all of them repeating the same story, showing the same pictures, it was just shocking. I felt sick when I saw that.

Yesterday (Friday), a bell rang at 11:50AM and all the students went outside. The headmaster said something about the attacks and then, at 12, the cathedral bells rang for three minutes: it was time for Europe to be quiet and think. The whole city was silent. It was really touching. We all felt concerned by what happened and what was going to happen; for three minutes, no one was a stranger for anyone, we were all Europeans praying for one thing

We are all scared because we don't know what is going to happen. We know there is going to be violence and that's it. Yes, I will forever remember when I heard the news, I will always remember this day. People of the future generation will still talk about it, that's sure. The 21st century began like this, how is the 22nd going to start?
Love, Camille

Bernard:

We have obviously followed very closely the terrible events that have happened in your country during the last week. We were and we still are feeling very much with you and with all Americans these days. I have tried to call several times shortly after the events and left messages and so far have not had a chance to talk with you in person. We are sure that you are shocked too with the events, but we trust you will find the force and energy to overcome this terrible period. We are of course all very concerned about what now is further going to happen. We all believe that terrorism has to be countered and killed in its roots and in its surroundings. We and the Belgians in general are feeling very much with the Americans. At our end, the mood is very much that the US has to be supported morally and physically in all its actions against terrorism. We believe that the attacks were not only attacks against the US but were attacks against the democratic world in general.

Support from all of us to you all.

Eline, Charlotte and Bernard

A personal comment:

Twenty years ago I immigrated to the United States of America. I regularly check on international news and access the internet to read newspaper articles in Belgium, France, Great Britain and some other European countries. I can confirm that the continent is shocked as much as we are. I can not say it any better than the September 13th editorial in the French daily "Le Monde" stating "We are all Americans". While we have seen numerous other striking quotes, this quote made a huge impact on me because of its source. I usually have a hard time agreeing with their editorials but not this time. We are, and are looked upon, as the bastion of freedom, a freedom that has exposed us to the threat of cowardly acts. As former Secretary General of NATO, Willy Claes, stated in an interview with De Standaard newspaper on September 14th: "America is the victim of an effort to destabilize the democratic regime itself. This not only put American democracy under fire but also the Western European regime"

We thank God for the bravery of the hostages and rescue workers. We thank God for the unity we see in our leadership and we pray for the dead, the wounded and their families and a global coalition against terrorism.

Submitted by Patrick Van Nevel

Website:

We are proud to report that during the week of September 17th we had our 1,000th visitor. A breakdown of visitors since we opened our site in May: United States 704, Belgium 137, Canada 12, Germany 6, United Kingdom 4, and various others.

Visitors:

We were honored with a visit from Jean and Rachel Gonnissen and Carlo and Eliane Peters from Dilsen (Limburg) Belgium. Mr. And Mrs. Gonnissen are the parents of our Webmaster, Werner Gonnissen who immigrated here from Belgium in September of last year. The Gonnissen and Peters families were very complimentary of the Center. They enjoyed their stay here and also visited Chicago and the St Cloud MN area where they attended a family reunion of the Peters family.

Other visitors to the Center came from: Sun City, AZ, Katy and Fort Worth TX, Edgewood, MD, Ft. Myers, FL, Walnut, Bloomington & Fulton, IL, and Millford, IN.



Belgian Day in Chicago – July 21st

Pictured from left to right are: Minister Leo Tindemans; Dr. John Rielly; Miss Belgium, Dina Tersago; Consul Generesl, Dirk Lonck; Mrs. Rosa Hendrickx and Mr. Willy Goderis, as they toast King Albert II.

My wife Barb, Werner Gonnissen and I had the honor to attend the reception commemorating the 170th anniversary of the taking of the oath to the constitution of Lepold I, King to the Belgians.

Consul General Dirk Loncke was a most gracious host and welcomed all guests in an eloquent speech. The event was honored with the presence of Miss Belgium 2001, Dina Tersago and her two maidens of honor, Caroline Costermans and Lynn De Marlier. The charming young ladies each wore creations and jewelry designed by Belgian designers.

The distinguished guest of honor was Minister of State Leo Tindemans, between 1968 and 1978 Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister and from 1981 to 1989 Minister of Foreign Relations. Member of Parliament from 1961 to 1989 and member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1999. Minister Tindemans holds three honorary doctoral degrees and received several high awards in recognition of his exemplary leadership in Flanders, Belgium and Europe. Consul General Loncke added on a personal note that Minister Tindemans was his professor at the University, the promoter of his dissertation and also the one who gave him his first job and convinced him to become a diplomat.

For services to the Kingdom, His Majesty Albert II, on proposal of his Minister of Foreign Affairs bestowed the following awards:

- Mrs. Rosa Hendrickx – Golden Palms in the Order of the Crown.
- Mr. Willy Goderis – Officer in the Order of Leopold II.
- Dr. Donald Jacobs – Officer in the Order of the Crown.
- Dr. John Rielly – Commander in the Order of the Crown.

Several amongst you will recognize the name of Mrs. Rosa Hendrickx, a 25 year employee of the Belgian Consulate in Chicago. As Consul General Dirk Loncke put it: “She survived 7 Consuls General (not including himself) and became the living memory of the Chicago diplomatic post”. He further testified to her loyalty, dedication and integrity. Over the years, Mrs. Hendrickx has provided a lot of assistance to our Honorary Consul Dolores Bultinck and the residents of the Quad Cities.

Mr. Goderis is General Manager for Sabena and has served in Nairobi, Kigali, Boston, Brussels, New York and Chicago. Through his work and support he has promoted not just Sabena but Belgium in general. Dr. Jacobs, Dean of the Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern Illinois has been a valued supporter of Belgium. Dr. Rielly has been President of the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations for thirty years. He is recognized and appreciated by members of the European Union in general and Belgium in particular for his tireless dedication to the promotion of the understanding of international relations

Submitted by Patrick Van Nevel

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, Oct. 3	Gen Vrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, Oct. 6	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Clara VandeViere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Oct. 13	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, Oct. 20	Marian Knock	Mary Rose DeCoster
Wednesday, Oct. 24	Lucy DeWaeltsche	Bob Hendricks
Saturday, Oct. 27	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Wednesday, Oct. 31	Maureen Schweitzer	Ruby DeKeyrel

Volunteers are still 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.

In Memoriam

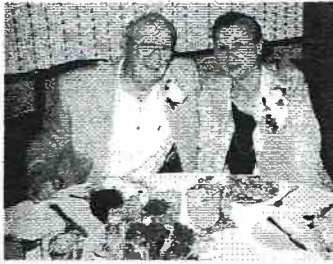


Grace Dusterhoft died June 18, 2001. All of her siblings, John, Emil, Clarence, Fred and Frank DeDecker and sister, Louise (DeDecker) DeSmet preceded her in death. She was born in 1899 and was a member of the first graduating class of St. John's School in Victor, Iowa. She Married John Martin Dusterhoft, also of Victor, in 1931. They had twin daughters, Mary Ann Rezabek and Mary Lou Bloome, and one son, John. She had 18 grandchildren, and 33 great-granchildren. Her passion was playing bridge, and she enjoyed her last game on her 102 birthday, May 9, 2001! Two nephews are Belgian Center members, James F. DeDecker, Orion, IL and Gerald E. (Jerry) DeDecker of West Des Moines, IA.

Edward P. Roman, 92, of Atkinson died Sept. 12, 2001. Ed was born in 1900, in Cambridge. He married Florence Vanderostyne in 1922. She died in 1996. Ed was charter member of the Atkinson Fire Department, which he served as assistant chief from 1949 to 1971. He became chief in 1971 and served in that post until 1991. Ed was a long-time member of the Center for Belgian Culture. Survivors include, his son and daughter-in-law; Dale and Linda Roman, Atkinson; daughters and son-in-law, Barbara and Robert Carper, Owensboro, KY, and Sister Marilyn Marie Roman, Nauvoo, IL; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Prosper Roman, Atkinson; sister, Grace Verpaele, Moline; special nephew, Mike Roman, whom he raised, and stepsisters, Elsie VanVooren, Helen Krieghbaum and Dorothy Hallas.

Continued healing to Jackie and Bill Withrow. Jackie has been dealing with crushed toes and subsequent surgery on them all summer and Bill is recuperating from a mild stroke.

Please notify us when a member or relative gets married, gives birth, becomes ill or dies so we can publish it in the newsletter.

Congratulations!!

Celie and Gene Donohue, celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.

Fred & Lois DeCoster were presented with their 12th grandchild, Jonathan Paul Geis, born August 20th to Lynn and Mike Geis in Brownsburg, Indiana. Jonathan is welcomed by three brothers and one sister.

Alan David Michalek and Kimberly Dee Beckett were married Sept. 1st in Georgetown, KY. Alan is the son of Center member Barbara (VanLancker) Michalek and grandson of Arthur and Stella (VanLanduitt) VanLancker.

Gene Horton was given a great 87th birthday Party August 10th by his 2 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 28 great grand-children. In all 44 people attended the party. All drove here from Minnesota and Missouri.

The Center received a letter from member, Steve Holevoet. During his travels across the USA the past year he found a nice restaurant he wanted to recommend to anyone who may visit Missouri. The restaurant is called "Belgian Waffle and Pancake House" and is located at 4760 S. Campbell in Springfield, MO. It is owned by David and Leonda Taghon and uses the same recipes that came from David's Belgium-born grandparents and shares the name with the successful restaurant his father, Maurice Taghon owns in Branson, MO. Steve Holevoet is a member of the Belgian Chamber of Commerce, located in downtown Atlanta, GA.

Community events/services:

Art Holevoet and Helen Foote represented the Center at the City of Davenport "Cultural Diversity Day" held on September 17th at the RiverCenter in Davenport.

Patrick Van Nevel will make a presentation about Belgium and Marlene Shattuck will demonstrate lace making to the residents of the North Hill retirement home.

Bev Francque represented the Center at the Genealogy convention held here in the Quad Cities. We will inform you in our next issue how we can better serve our members and community with research.

Notice: East Moline Members. The East Moline Centennial Committee is seeking old photos and other memorabilia pertaining to East Moline for possible publication in a history being written on the city. For information, call 309-752-1599.

Get To Know Our Belgian Culture Center Members

It's come to my attention in these past few months, that we have over 300 members in our Belgian Culture Center membership. Every month I read my newsletter that comes. When I see that it is in the mailbox, I feel somewhat anxious to read it. I sit down and read it thinking, there must be more. I wonder about the ones who have passed away and their life. Then I think about the names and dates of people who are alive. A sentence telling of a celebration, event or something they did. Some of us know one another, and some of us don't. Do you ever wonder? We have so many members and there are quite a few of us who do not know one another. Every life is interesting and unique in its own way. Our common interest through the Belgian Culture Center is our Belgian Heritage. We are all proud of it in one way or another.

We all tend to do our own thing without getting to know one another. So I have decided to write something about a member every month or so. Then the next time that name comes up or you just happen to run into that person, theirs will be a familiar face.

Now you are asking yourself, who is writing this? I will tell you. Here goes.....

I was born Marlene Ann Gelaude in Moline, Illinois, on August 14, 1965. The daughter of Diane(Larson) and Don Gelaude. I am now 36 years old and hope to have lived just over only a third of my life. I grew up on a farm just outside of Orion, Illinois with 1 sister and 4 brothers. Also with my grandpa Julius always in the home. I fall third in the birth order.

I liked growing up on a farm. I realize that more now than I did then. When choosing between household chores and outside chores. I'd choose outside if possible. Which wasn't always the case when you had brothers close to the same age. That was probably the case up until the time when I was in the last of my school years. Then I'd rather be with friends and tried to get out of everything as much as possible.

Growing up with that many siblings was interesting. I never had a room of my own or bed until I was 15 when my sister moved out and got married. Always bothering her as little sisters do, we drove one another crazy until we had our space. I guess I asked for it when I'd wear her clothes to school when she left early and then as soon as I got home before she did I'd put them back in her closet. Now as adults we are very glad for one another.

Same goes for the brothers. One day we were best friends and the next it was a different two paired up against the other.

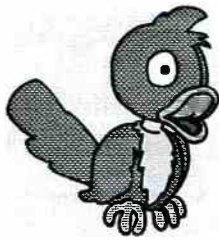
I went to school in Orion, kindergarden through 12th grade. Now my kids are going there too. I played softball and basketball. Also was in music and liked taking art. Just seemed to be average in all but was well rounded you could say. Then after graduation I went to cosmetology school in Davenport, Iowa. It took just a little over a year to complete. I then worked in a few salons in the area. I eventually went from full-time to part-time shortly after getting married.

I married Lon R. Shattuck on September 23, 1988. I had been seeing him since high school. We married at his parent's home on a farm in rural Coal Valley, Illinois. Across the road from that is where we have lived since. He's a truck driver and I frequently went with him over the road. That was before the boys. Jesse came along in July of 1992 and then Sawyer in May of 1994. Since then I have been busier than ever!

Now my daily routine consists of taking care of the kids and their school work, doing hair part-time at home, working part-time for a trucking company in Orion and also my husband's billing for his truck, cleaning 1 day for my mother and at times help my dad make hay. Life is never boring. When my free time comes around I enjoy making bobbin lace. I have done that for 10 years now. I sew, crochet, read and find geneology interesting and work on that at times. I've also been trying to learn Flemish, mostly on my own, and I enjoy rolle bolle but don't get the chance to do much of that.

I have found I have lots of family in Belgium and I am in contact with many. My Belgian lineage makes up half of my heritage. No matter how small your heritage, one can be proud of what made them who they are. I believe the center is a place where the old is connected with the new, and has a little something for everyone.

Submitted by Marlene Shattuck



Thank you to our friends for their support through Birdies for Charity: Dolores Bultinck, Ann Bystry, Thom Cornelis, Gentiel DeGryse, Fred & Lois DeCoster, Mary Rose DeCoster, Joseph DeMeyer, Gene & Celie Donohue, Jeff Ehrmann, Bill Fisher, Stan & Bev Francque, Jim & Lucrese Hunter, Mark Klausner, Marian Knock, Larry & Mary Lorensen, Dwaine Peterson, Scott & Debbie Raes, Richard & Diane Van Bell and Patrick & Barb Van Nevel. Monies received from this endeavor total \$665.63. **Fantastic!!**

The CBC Board wishes to express its thanks to the following members who have recently made monetary donations to the Center: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Libey, Diana K. Wagner, Evelyn VanAcker, Mr. & Mrs. Gene DeClerck, Mr & Mrs. Don Dussliere and Mr. & Mrs. Gene Horton.

Other donations have been made to the Center that will be used to further educate visitors about our Belgian heritage. Diane Van Bell donated a booklet on "History of Walloon Belgian Settlements" to the Center. It covers Brown, Door & Kewaunee Counties in Wisconsin.

Belgian Tidbits:

In 1992, two young fellows (a Canadian and a Brit) opened their first Belgian restaurant in the heart of London. Everybody thought, they were crazy. Today, four BELGO restaurants in London are serving over 10,000 Belgian meals, and many, many more Belgian beers per week. The BELGO restaurant in Convent Garden, in the trendy West End, is called 'Belgo Centraal', and is one of the top 10 places to see in London – a must for all tourists. Over 100 different Belgian beers are available, not one non-Belgian beer! The waiters are dressed as monks, and the most favorite dish is 'mussels'. The menu changes every two weeks. The first BELGO restaurant in the USA is already open in New York. More than 20 are planned.

Rolle Bolle Rosary



The tiny mission church of St. Mary's in Hooppole, IL was founded in 1883. Parishioners enlarged the sanctuary in 1923 and added a basement. Now, a 28-by-40 foot shrine, honoring the Blessed Mother has been added off the entrance. The inside Shrine was completed and blessed in 1990. Most prominent in the shrine is a 6 fr. Statue of Mary clothed in cream and gold robes. She bears a pink rose in her right hand and securely holds the infant Jesus on her left arm. The statue, made in Spain and discovered by Father Engels, while on a vacation trip to Florida, is placed so that it appears to look out at the country road that passes the church.

At a meeting in Galesburg in 1991, the Pastor told of the Rosary made of stones laid on the ground by a Mohawk Indian Maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, in 1676, after she was Baptized by a French Missionary priest outside today's town of Amsterdam, NY. Joe Carr, of the Knights of Columbus, had been to the first Oktoberfest at Hooppole and urged the parishioners to construct an outdoor rosary using bowling balls. On the drive home, shrine custodian, Mel Carton, suggested using Rolle Bolles, as they are now made of hard rubber material and would be quite special to the Shrine and would be recognized by many people, whether you speak of the microcosmic triangle of Hooppole, Atkinson and Annawan or the macrocosmic triangle of Moline, Kewanee and Princeton. The Rolle Bolles were made locally by very talented Albert DePauw of Geneseo. Father Francis Engels is the pastor of St. Mary's and is a member of the Center for Belgian Culture. This would be a good destination for a fall day trip, as you could combine it with enjoyment the changing colors of the landscape. For more informaton contact: ST. MARY'S of the FIELSDS, P.O. Box 53, Hooppole, IL 61258.

**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

see journal

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

October, 2001

Waffle Breakfast

September's breakfast went well. Volunteers who helped make it possible were: Mary Mortier, Gene Donohue, Mary Rose DeCoster, Scott Raes, Louis and Georgia Slininger, Gene Fowler, Kim Kochuyt and Patrick VandeKerckhove.

The next Waffle Breakfast will be held Sat. Oct. 6 from 8:00 to noon. Come see our lace makers in the afternoon

The next board meeting will take place Oct. 8 at the Center at 5:30 p.m.

Visitors to the Center since the last newsletter came from: Sun City, AZ, Katy and Fort Worth TX, Edgewood, MD, Ft. Myers, FL, Walnut, Bloomington & Fulton, IL, Millford, IN, Dilsen-Stokkem, Belgium

Bloeman Van Vlaanderen

There are still Bloeman Van Vlaanderen 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. It is a good way to memorialize our loved ones and to support the Center. For information call or e-mail Celie Donohue @ 309-792-8246 or c.j.donohue@att.net.

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