



# **CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

**Of Western Illinois**

**712 - 18th Avenue**

**Moline, Illinois**

**(309) 762-0167**

**www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org**

**November, 2001**

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **President**

Patrick Van Nevel

bavnl@aol.com

### **Vice President**

Bonnie Newman

jnewman@geneseo.net

### **Secretary**

Lenore Knock

knockl@bhc1.bhc.edu

### **Treasurer**

Scott Raes

### **Member at Large**

Evelyn VanPuyvelde

aeoudestad@qconline.com

### **Grant Committee Chair**

Kay Verstraete

### **Past President**

Bonnie Newman

### **Honorary Consul**

Dolores Bultinck

### **Membership**

Gabe Verstraete

belgie\_1@msn.com

### **Gift Shop**

Celie Donohue

c.j.donohue@att.net

### **Waffle Chairman**

Gene Fowler

### **Flemings in the**

### **World**

Art Holevoet

### **Newsletter**

Lois DeCoster

ladecoster@juno.com

### **Publicity**

Mary Lorensen

### **Center's Activities**

-Waffle Breakfast-

1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of each month (except Jan.)

8:00 – 12 noon

Open: Wed. & Sat.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **Addition to our Board.**

At our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Kay Verstraete to the position of Chair of the Grant Committee. Kay's extensive background in education administration and her experience in grant writing are welcome additions to our organization. She has been an active helper to her husband Gabe, membership chair, and has provided great leadership in our planning sessions. Thank you Kay and welcome on the Board!

### **Belgian elected to top Olympic job.**

In mid July, Belgian orthopedic surgeon and form Olympic yachtsman Jacques Rogge was voted eighth president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Rogge is the second Belgian to preside over the IOC. No other country has had two presidents.

Dubbed "Mr Clean" by the press and praised by all for his "impeccable" credentials, Rogge, 59, has been an IOC member since 1991 and has served on the executive board since 1998. He played a major role in the organization of last year's successful Sydney Olympics and was not involved in the bribery scandal surrounding Salt Lake City's bid for the 2002 Winter Games. He has vowed to step up the fight against drugs in sports and wants to downsize the Olympic games, which he considers have become too commercial.

Rogge was born in Ghent, is married and has two children, and currently lives in Deinze. He competed in the Olympic Games in 1968, 1972 and 1976 in FINN class sailing; he was world champion once and runner-up twice. He currently heads the Orthopedic Surgery Department at Ghent Hospital. He is fluent in Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish.

### **Breughel at the Met**

Pieter Breughel the elder (1527-1569) depicted ordinary people working, playing, relaxing, eating: Hunters in the Snow, Haymaking, Children's games, The Wedding Feast, The Skating Party are appreciated by art lovers everywhere. Breughel's splendid paintings are found in the world's most important museum. His remarkable talent is also evident in his drawings. There are only 61 known drawings by Breughel, and 54 of them – a larger number than has ever been assembled for any previous exhibition – are on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York from September 25 through December 2.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Saturday, Nov. 3	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, Nov. 7	Gem Vrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, Nov. 10	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Nov. 14	Clara VandeViere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Nov. 17	Marian Knock	Georganne Benson
Wednesday, Nov. 21	Luch DeWaelche	Bob Hendricks
Saturday, Nov. 24	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraete
Wednesday, Nov. 28	Bev Francque	Stan Francque

**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**



**Mary Ellen Mortier, Rock Island, formerly of Moline, died Oct. 9, 2001.** She was born in 1916, in Rock Island, daughter of Fred Sr. and Marguerite O'Connell Viren. She married Arthur R. "Art" Mortier in 1941. He died in 1993. Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Marguerite "Pete" and Jack Downing, Rock Island; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Phyllis Viren, Rock Island; brother, Jack Viren, Silvis; a sister-in-law, **Mary (Mrs. Henry) Mortier**, Moline; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister, Annella Wietlespach and brothers, Harry, Fred Jr. Joseph and John Viren.

**Continued healing to John Vrombaut and Margaret Wadsworth**

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

**Looking back**

1906 – Bishop Spaulding of Peoria has transferred the Rev. John B. Culemans, a Belgian-born priest to Moline from St. Paul's in Rock Island. Father Culemans has been given the responsibility for establishing a new parish. The bishop has been concerned for the welfare of the Flemish-speaking Catholics of Moline for some time and this new parish will give them their own church with a priest speaking their native tongue.

**New This Year!** Looking for something special to serve during the holiday season? We will be taking orders for Leonidas Pralines, one of Belgium's finest praline makers and Biscoff cookies, crisp, delicious speculoos.

- ❖ Leonidas \$24 per pound (approx. 27 pieces /pound) plus shipping from Chicago.
- ❖ Biscoff \$19.95 for an eight pack (33 cookies) or \$25.95 for a Brussels tin filled with cookies. Prices include shipping.

Leonidas orders must be placed by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and Biscoff orders by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. You may place orders with Bonnie Newman by phone @ 309-521-8604 or e-mail at [bjnewman@geneseo.net](mailto:bjnewman@geneseo.net).

*Congratulations!*



**J. Scott Raes has been hired as vice president and trust officer for Wells Fargo Private Client Services office in the Quad Cities.**

**Get To Know Our CBC Members**

by Marlene Shattuck

Meet Lenore Knock, one of our current board members. As of August, she is currently in her second year of serving us as secretary for the CBC. Like most board members, she didn't go seeking this job. It's something you just sort of fall into because of your own interest and concerns for the Center. Her predecessor, Gen Vrombaut, who was very helpful, eased her into the position.

Lenore and her husband Mike have lived in the Quad-City area all of their lives. They both graduated Moline High School and attended Black Hawk College. They didn't meet until after that. They have been married 27 years and have 3 children, Chris, Andrew and Liz. Chris is a freshman at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. He was the fortunate recipient of last year's CBC scholarship. Liz is a soccer and basketball enthusiast. Andrew and Liz both attend Alleman High School in Rock Island. Andrew gets his drivers' license in October, so local readers better watch out!

Lenore has worked at Black Hawk College on and off for 21 years. As each child came along she was able to stay home for a term. She is currently the Director of Advisement Services at the college and really enjoys helping students. Working and having three children to keep up with doesn't leave Lenore with much free time for hobbies. She loves to attend antique auctions, enjoys art, gardening and recently joined a book club.

Family comes first with Lenore and her husband. As it should be, but she still finds time to help out at the Center. To our surprise, Lenore is not of Belgian descent. Her heritage is Polish and Lithuanian. She could have fooled me with her enthusiasm and time spent for the Center and it's culture.

Belgium comes into play on her husband's side where you will find the name VandenBossche in the family tree. One day Lenore and her husband would like to visit Belgium, but for now she will settle for enjoying the culture right here through the Center and its people. Lenore's goal for the Center is to see an organized volunteer staff that enables us to be open more hours. She also would like to see a curator added into the mix and she feels the museum will be a happening place for all ages.

**O'Donohue/VandenBossche Adventure**

We spent most of the month of September touring Ireland and specific areas of Belgium, Brugges and Brussels. While in Belgium, we toured the Case-New Holland plant in Zedelgem. Case/IH in East Moline, through Marlene Werbronck of Zedelgem, made arrangements. When we arrived, we were met by Frans, Moerman, who, like Gene is retired and is now a tour guide. We went into a large auditorium and the large screen projected "New Holland welcomes Mr. & Mrs. Donohue". We started in the first building, where the ideas are put on paper and ended with seeing a complete combine ready to be shipped. This took about 3 hours; Gene was taken with every moment and comparing with what we have in the states. He couldn't get over how clean the factory floor was. I thought, "but, of course, we're in Belgium!". My mental notes were of the three names on every corner of the divided areas; names like; Verstraete, Lambrecht, Coopman, /DeDecker, Dupon, VanRaes, .. the list goes on. These were the lead men for each of the three shifts.

After the tour we were invited to a reception area and told they had a special "New Holland" drink for us. This is where there is a major difference between East Moline and Zedelgem!!! As we got closer to the front of the room, there was a bar area and many Belgian beers, some whiskeys and two tall thin glasses with red on the bottom and yellow on the top. That was our "New Holland" drink, but we could have our choice. We opted to be daring. It was made of Camparri and orange juice and very tasty. There were also tidbits for snacks.

Two other men joined us. Mr. Daniel Perdu, who is retired, knew the founders of the company, and shared a bit of history with us. It was founded by Ludovicus Claeys; his daughter, Pharailde, married a Camiel Deboo. Their daughter, Margret Deboo Vanhecke, was the mother of one of our gift counter volunteers, **Georgia Vanhecke Slininger**. This was most interesting and fascinating. The other gentleman that joined us was Antoon Vermeulen, Product Evaluation Manager of the plant. We talked more combines for a bit and Gene mentioned that I was Belgian. So then, it was my turn to be verbal and somehow we got on the subject of *Lace*. My Belgian pride must have been showing, as he said I reminded him of his aunt, Joan Magee in Canada. She is very involved with the "Belgians in Ontario" and has written a book with that as the title. He gave us a copy to take home. He then said, that if I liked



lace, I should see his mother's lace. With that we accepted an invitation for the next evening to go to his home. He picked us up at the square in Brugges and off we were to the country. Antoon's parents, Gentiel and Agness, speak no English, but welcomed us with a glass of wine. I couldn't help but notice the entire dining room table was full of lace, very beautiful lace! There was more on the buffet and pictures on the walls, a lace baby bib, framed with baby's picture in it,

their grandchild. The piece de'resistance was a blouse on a mannequin, pictured above, with Antoon and his parents. From what I understood, this and other pieces had been entered in shows and contests.

After viewing and oohing and ahhing, Antoon asked if we would like to see what he was interested in, as a hobby. Of course, and with that, he took us to one of three barns, one paneled (I told you we were in Belgium), to view antique carriages he restores. He travels all over to auctions and buys them, as is, and makes them look like they did when they were new. He hand carves spokes, his dad sews the leather for the seats and his mom makes lace for the tiny curtains. Every detail is perfect. On top of one was a hat box, clothing suitcase and pigeon carrier. He had one horse and that horse is used to show off the carriages in parades and other special occasions. August 15<sup>th</sup>, Brugges has a contest for the best carriage and a large parade. I believe I counted 18 carriages and he was to be off to another auction in England.

*Submitted by Celie Donohue*



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**Christmas Party - December 4**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Kleine Winkel**

The "Belgian Connection" has just landed with new items for the gift shop. Celie & Gene Donohue just returned from Belgium, with some items that you have requested. We now have the T shirts "My Favorite Belgian Houses" and "The Beers of Belgium", as well as Bobbin Lace framed pieces, "Flower of Brugge" and "Swan of Brugge", Bobbin Lace hankies: Patterns; Flemish Binche, Binche, Torchon Spitzen, Brugge Flower and Flemish Lace. There is a limited supply, since one can only pack and carry so much in a suitcase. Ask Gene! We also have the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans by Paul Callens for sale and Anton Pieck "St. Nicolaas prints. The Kleine Winkel has gift certificates available for our Waffle Breakfasts.. You can buy a single one for \$4.00 or one for two breakfasts for \$8.00. They make nice stocking stuffers!

**Euro news**

The euro hit the road on September 1. The Central Bank of Belgium reported that 5,000 tons of the new euro coins are on their way to warehouses across the country. From there they will be distributed to banks and shops and on January 1, 2001, will be ready for the general public.

This process that started back in 1969 with the summit of The Hague when Member States wanted to achieve an economic and monetary union. The lack of stability of the European currencies and the successive oil crises delayed the arrival of the single currency, ultimate stage towards the economic and monetary Union (EMU). Those who are interested can learn more about the process on the internet at: <http://euro.fgov.be/eurogroup>.

**Let us know what you want**

Drop us a line or call your CBC president at 332-8752 to let us know how we can be of better service. Would you be interested in a series of seminars or presentations regarding health, community organizations, volunteer opportunities, insurance, public safety, tax law changes, estate planning....? If you are interested, we can organize a panel discussion regarding multiple topics. Let us know. We want to answer to your interests and needs. All suggestions will be considered.

**Donations:**

**The Center for Belgian Culture wishes to express its thanks to the following members who have recently made monetary donations to the Center: Ellen Phelps, Ruby DeKeryel and Paul Allaert.**

**From the estate of Louis Peter Coopmans, Sylvia Brandt donated many items to the Center for which we are very grateful. Some of the articles included: French books, old post cards of scenes of Belgium, Lessons of Citizenship for Naturalization, French prayer book, old war maps, large unframed print of the Mauretania, print of Herbert Hoover's birthplace, signed by Harlan King to Louis Coopmans and French & Flemish music.**

**We wish to thank Thierry & Carine Serck for their donation of Belgian beer bottles for our collection. The bottles they donated are not the ordinary beer bottles of today. Some are collectors' items from breweries no longer in existence. They were kind enough to share with the Center. The bottles are: Malheur, Grottenbier Kanne. Brigand 1798, Charles Quint Keizer Karel 1500-1558, Bush Dubuisson 1769, Steenbrugge Tripel Blond and Tripel Karmeliet. Thanks also go to Gene for so carefully packing them in his suitcase – not one was broken. Good job, Gene!**

**Thanks also go to Bob Hendrickx and Lenore Knock for donating display items for the gift counter.**

Old Towne will have Open House November 2, 3 & 4<sup>th</sup>

Our November Waffle Breakfast will be held during that Open House, Sat. Nov. 3 from 8:00 to noon. Come see our lace makers in the afternoon.



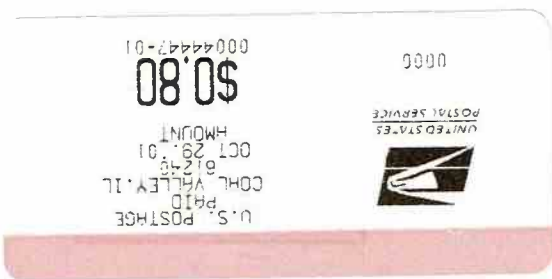
St. Nicholas Bake sale/Waffle Breakfast will be held December 1. The Center will be open at 7:30 a.m. to enable members to bring in bake sale items before the Waffle Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. Looking for some Belgian specialties if possible, although not a requirement! Contact Celie Donohue @ 792-8246 if you have any questions. Art Holevoet and Lois DeCoster will help Celie at the bake sale.

Extra - Mile! The following is a note received from a grateful customer, dated 8/18/01. "Many thanks for the items you sent. They were packed very well and arrived in good condition. We received the bill today and will send check out to you in Monday's mail. I especially want to thank Maurine Schweitzer for the time she took to find these items for me. We appreciate your warm hospitality and trust. Warm regards, Karen and Bill Thys", Centerville, MA

The next board meeting will be held Nov. 12 at the Center at 5:30 p.m.



Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium



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