



# **CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

**Of Western Illinois**

**712 - 18th Avenue**

**Moline, Illinois**

**(309) 762-0167**

**www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org**

**December, 2001**

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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bavnl@aol.com

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jnewman@geneseo.net

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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.



For those of you who aren't psychic, **please note:**

The annual CBC Christmas Party, to be held Tuesday, Dec. 4, will be held at the **Butterworth Center, Moline**. Sorry about the omission in the November newsletter. Social hour will be at 5:30 p.m., dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. The price is \$5.00 per person. Don't forget to bring a dish to share. Anyone who would like to donate an item for a door prize, bring it the night of the party and put it on the table with the poinsettias. It will be a festive evening of delicious food, enjoyable conversation, plus entertainment!

## **Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

### **Patrick Van Nevel**

As I write these wishes of happiness and good health, we are getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving yet I just put Christmas lights up in my t-shirt and worked up a sweat...

I have a hard time believing Christmas is near. Maybe it is the weather, maybe I am getting older and time goes faster than it used to or possibly the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> made me lose sight ...

The Center for Belgian Culture had a great year. We opened ourselves to new ideas and initiatives and gained new members and particularly a lot of exposure through our website. I want to thank you, our members, for joining our organization or renewing your existing membership. Your continued support and the extra donations by several of you allow us to fund scholarships and new initiatives. We continue to explore different ways to be of service and ask you to provide us the feedback. Let us know what we could or should do for you and the community. Let us know if you would like a presentation to your service club, church group or class about specific topics.

A special thank you to the many volunteers – stepping in your shoes from time to time helps me appreciate the enormous value and dedication you bring to our organization.

Thank you also to the members of the Board. Coming together and working towards common goals and objectives allows us to grow and continue to expand on the basis that was established by our founders in 1963.

As we get ready to celebrate the holidays with our families, let us remember our friends who are no longer with us. Let us also remember our ancestors who left the homeland to start a new life here. While translating numerous letters over the years, I continue to be in awe of the sacrifices and hardships the early immigrants had to endure to ensure a better future for their families. Be proud of your heritage and let us continue to preserve its history for the future.

**Donations:**

**The Center for Belgian Culture wishes to express its thanks to Paul Callens of Pittem, Belgium for his donation of the YEARBOOK 2000 OF WEST FLANDERS and PART II DEATH MEMORIAL CARDS, which covers Belgian communities of the USA and Canada and is of special interest to genealogy researchers.**

**Thank you, Euphrasia Van Steenhuyze, for the photo of the East Moline Archery Club. The East Moline Archery Club was organized in 1928 and was the first Belgian Archery club in the area. They met at Octaaf Van Steenhuyze's tavern, which also housed a boxing club. The photo was taken in September of 1933.**

**Rolle Bolle**

**The United Bolder's Clubs of Western Illinois recently elected a new President, Carl Suhr (East End Club), vice president, Glen Hosten III (Friend's Circle Club) and secretary Roy DePauw (Geneseo Moose Bolders) and retained as treasurer, Ken Sturtewagen (Atkinson Bolders). Outgoing President, Roy Nelson and Secretary, Don Miller, have served in those offices for many years, longer than anyone can remember!**

*Submitted by Bill Fisher*

**Serving our country: Two bolders with Belgian connections and loyal "waffle-eaters, have been called to active duty from their inactive status in the Army reserves. Glen Hostens III and his sister Eileens's husband, Bill Chamra, have both left their Quad City homes for the unstated assignments.**

*Submitted by Bill Fisher*

***Belgian Tidbits***

**Belgian Productivity:**

**A new study by the International Labor Organization, entitled "Key Indicators of the Labor Market 2001-2002" has ranked Belgium second in the world for productivity per worker. The report placed the United States first in the world in productivity per worker at \$54,870 in constant 1990 dollars, about \$1500 more than Belgium. By contrast, productivity per worker in the United States was \$10,000 higher than in Canada in 2000 and \$14,000 higher than in Japan. But partly because of the comparatively high number of hours that Americans work, the report found that France and Belgium edged out the U.S. in productivity *per hour*.**

**Brussels, the perfect place to be:**

**Real estate consultants Healey & Baker recently published their twelfth European Cities Monitor. According to this study, important factors in choosing a business location are the quality of the road system, availability of transport and telecommunications, knowledge of languages, skilled staff, price and quality of the available offices. Compared to last year's report, Brussels climbed from fifth to the fourth position.**

**Rock Island Historical Society: A vest with Belgian "roots"**

**Dr. Perlmutter donated a vest to the R. I. Historical Society along with this letter of explanation;**

**"During the Second World War, we were in Soy, Belgium in 1944. A group of nuns, in their gratitude for our liberating Belgium, wanted to do something for us. They suggested that if we would give them some GI Army blankets, they would make something for us. This vest is a sample of what they did with the blankets. Most of it is hand-sewn, especially the Second Armored Division emblem on the back of the vest. If you look closely, you can see the wonderful handwork that went into the making of the emblem." You can see this vest when you visit the Rock Island Historical Society.**



**Meet Dirk M. Loncke: Consul General**

Born in Kortrijk Belgium 6-26-56.

1962-1975: elementary and secondary school St. Amand in Kortrijk  
 1975-1977: Catholic University of Louvain (Kortrijk campus)  
 1977-1981: Catholic University of Louvain (Leuven campus)

**Degrees:**

Bachelor of Arts (Modern History) cum laude  
 Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), cum laude  
 Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), cum laude  
 Master of Arts (Modern History), magna cum laude

**Thesis: "Sylvain van de Weyer and the London Conference, 1831-1833"**

1981-1982: military service in Aachen, Germany, transmission troops  
 1982-1983: Boston University, Boston, MS, USA, Fullbright Grant

**Degree: Master of Arts (International Relations, magna cum laude**

**Thesis: "Nuclear Deterrence – Exploration of the concept and its application in international relations"**

1983-1984: Attache`, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Relations (Brussels)  
 1984-1986: Diplomatic Exam (second of the promotion and two-year training)  
 1986-1987: Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Library (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels)  
 1987-1990: Deputy Head of Mission, Belgian Embassy to the Holy See (Rome)  
 1990-1993: Economic and Commercial Counselor to the People's Republic of China (Beijing), Belgian Embassy  
 1993-1996: Political Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission to the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria), Belgian Embassy  
 1996-1999: Head of Staff of the Director General for Bilateral and Economic Multilateral Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels)

**10-09-199: Consul General in Chicago, Illinois**

**Distinctions:**

Officer in the Order of the Crown (Belgium)  
 Commander in the Order of St. Gregory (Vatican)  
 Knight in the Order of Merit (Luxemburg)



As is tradition, we plan to visit CBC members who are in Nursing Homes this holiday season. In order to do that we need to know who and where they are, so please contact us with this information soon. You can either call the Center, drop off the information at the Center or call or e-mail any board member. We wouldn't want to leave anyone out. Thank you.

**Waffle Breakfast:** The November breakfast was hosted by Mary and Larry Lorensen. Volunteers who helped, included: Mary Mortier, Bev and Stan Francque, Bill Fisher, Marion Knock, Georgia and Lou Slininger and Gene Donohue. Thanks, once again, to all our workers for another successful waffle breakfast. A special thanks to Gene Donohue, who is always available to lend a hand. Thank you to Patrick, who helped us cleanup afterward. It was a beautiful day and we had a wonderful crowd. Several people mentioned that they were there for the first time!

*Submitted by Mary Lorensen*



**The 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. We're hoping 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.

**The next board meeting will be held Dec. 10 at the home of Patrick & Barb Van Nevel at 6 p.m. The address is 4605-Eastbury Drive.**

### **Genealogy Class**

Are you interested in researching your family history? Are you unsure of where or how to start? Have you perhaps started already, but come to a standstill and need help? If so, then the Center's new genealogy class was custom made for you. Beginning on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the CBC will offer a genealogy class for all interested members. Non-members are also invited to join, but will be required to purchase a membership on the first evening. Membership fee is \$25 per year for ages under 70 or \$15 per year if 70 or over. You do not need to be of Belgian heritage to be a member of the Center or to participate in the class.

Genealogy classes will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Center (712 – 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Moline, IL) on the following dates:

January 15, 2002	January 29, 2002
February 12, 2002	February 26, 2002
March 12, 2002	March 26, 2002

Bev Francque and Mike Kerckhove will conduct the classes. Both of these members have done extensive genealogical research into their family heritage. They are well qualified and eager to work with you and help you begin your journey into your past. In addition, the CBC has recently purchased a new computer, Family Tree Maker software and an on-line service to help participants access the many genealogical sites on the Internet.

If you would like to participate or have questions, please call Gabe Verstraete at 755-8812 to register for the class.

**Business Exchange Meeting.**

On October 25<sup>th</sup> Patrick Van Nevel organized a business exchange meeting for Quad City area businesses. The presentation was geared to acquaint companies planning to start a manufacturing operation or new distribution channel in the European market. Twenty five attendants were very complementary of the presentations made. Following an insightful introduction by Consul General Dirk Loncke, Patrick Van Nevel, Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank Iowa discussed the economic impact of the Euro, David Ecklund, Vice President, Caterpillar Logistics Services talked about his experiences setting up the extensive Logistics operations headquartered in Flanders while Mr. Luc Fabry, Director, Business Development of the Flanders Foreign Investment Office (FFIO) detailed numerous examples of successful international manufacturing concerns with European headquarters in Flanders. Mr. Fabry also highlighted the many Flemish companies with operations in several countries.

Several attendees expressed their amazement at the wealth and resourcefulness of Flanders entrepreneurs. This presentation was a unique forum to acquaint QCA companies with what Belgium in general and Flanders in particular can offer to companies exploring opportunities in the European Union. It also allowed the Consul General Dirk Loncke and Mr. Fabry to get more familiar with the Quad Cities and learn about its business and of course the Belgian influence. You can learn more about the Flanders Foreign Investment Office in the brochures available at the Center or visit: [www.ffio.com](http://www.ffio.com) *Submitted by Patrick Van Nevel*

**FYI**

**MUSTY BOOKS.....Place books in a brown paper sack along with some clean cat litter.** Close the bag tightly and leave it for a week. When you take the books out there will be no odor.

**YOUR ANCESTORS**

1. only 1 you
2. 2 parents
3. 4 grandparents
4. 8 gr grandparents
5. 16 gg grandparents
6. 32 ggg grandparents
7. 64 gggg grandparents
8. 128 ggggg grandparents
9. 256 gggggg grandparents
10. 512 ggggggg grandparents
11. 1021 gggggggg grandparents
12. 2048 ggggggggg grandparents
13. 4096 gggggggggg grandparents
14. 8192 ggggggggggg grandparents
15. 16184 gggggggggggg grandparents

**Get To Know Our CBC Members**  
*by Marlene Gelaude Shattuck*

Helping others is what she does best. Maurine Schweitzer has filled her life and given her heart to helping others. She is a member of the Pastoral Care Visitation Ministry at Sacred Heart Church. Each week she visits 5 East Moline, Moline and Silvis nursing homes, Crosstown residents and Illini Hospital. Come Saturday night you can find her calling bingo for the residents at Heartland Health Care Center in Moline.

Maurine is also a member of Pope John Paul XXIII Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. Her faith means a lot to her and it shows through in all the things she does for others. She is a cancer survivor and belongs to the Quad City Cancer Support Group. I can see that she lives her life in a way that she believes.

Maurine was born in Moline. While growing up she attended Sacred Heart Grade School and graduated from Alleman High School with it's first class in 1950. She worked at Deere and Company for 35 years and retired in 1986. She married Tom Schweitzer and has two stepdaughters and two stepsons. Now having 8 stepgrandchildren to enjoy.

Her parents were Maurice and Mary Gotelaere Vande Moortel. Her mother and she were very close. She says "we lived in each others pockets." Maurine attributes her helpfulness towards others to her mother. The way her mother was raised and her pride in her heritage rubbed off on her.

Maurine also has 2 brothers, Robert and Joseph. Robert was one of our past presidents for the Belgium Culture Center in the mid 80's. During his term, Maurine filled in as vice president for a one year when the then vice president found it necessary to resign. We have a second generation member here! Both her parents were early members of the Belgian Culture Center. She remembers them helping out the Center with their time and donations of items. Maurine always enjoyed hearing about her parents' experiences of coming to the United States and when they lived in Belgium. She has recorded some of their stories so that family and others will know about their life. She enlightened me a little and I can say I found their story interesting. They endured so much yet had good lives. It seems that many benefited from the type of people they were and their involvement. It's easy to see that it is being carried on by the next generation.

Maurine and her husband visited Belgium in 1984 for three weeks. She said, "The people were wonderful and we were treated like royalty!". Even though her husband Tom was not Belgian, he had always wanted to go back again. Tom was very supportive of her Belgian heritage. He loved working at the center and helping with making waffles. One of his favorite times was making them at the Milan Summer Festival over Labor Day weekend.

She believes the Center is going in a good direction, especially with having the new website. Maurine feels we need to grow with more members, hopefully, adding more younger members so that they can carry on what the first generation of members started.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Saturday, Dec. 1	Celie & Gene Donohue (a.m.)	Barb & Pat Van Nevel (p.m.)
Wednesday, Dec. 5	Gem Vrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, Dec. 8	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Dec. 12	Clara VandeViere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Dec. 15	Marian Knock	
Wednesday, Dec. 19	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, Dec. 22	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Saturday Jan. 5	Lois DeCoster	
Wednesday, Jan. 9	Clara VandeViere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Jan. 12	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Jan. 16	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, Jan. 19	Marian Knock	Georgann Benson
Wednesday, Jan. 23	Lucy DeWaelche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, Jan. 26	Barb Van Nevel	Pat Van Nevel
Wednesday Jan. 30	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue

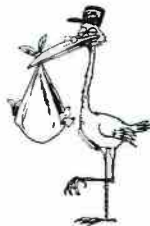
**Notice: The Center will be closed for the Holidays Dec. 26 and will reopen Jan. 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be NO waffle breakfast in January. Happy Holidays!**

*Congratulations!*



**Jennifer Disch and Kevin O'Brien were married October 6, 2001 in Holy Family Church, Rockford, IL.** Parents of the couple are Richard and Mary Ann Disch, Rockford, IL and Michael and Jeanne DeClerck O'Brien, Hendersonville, TN. Michael and Jeanne are CBC members. The bride graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Social Work and from the University of Illinois with a Master of Social Work. She is employed at Crusader Clinic as Human Resources Manager. The groom graduated from Rockford College with a Bachelor of Science in business Administration. He is self-employed. The couple resides in Rockford.

*Submitted by Jeanne DeClerck O'Brien*



**Jim and Sandy DeSchinckel announce the birth of their son, Theodric James DeSchinkel.** He was born September 24, 2001 and weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz, and was 20 in. long. He is named after Count Theodric of Gent from the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. His grandparents are Al and Joann (DeBruyne) DeSchinckel. Great-grandparents are Gene and Catherine DeSchinckel and Shirley DeBruyne.

*Submitted by Sandy DeSchinckel*

**Congratulations to Mary Carmack who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday November 8, 2001**



**October 23<sup>rd</sup> Kiwanis presentation.**

CBC Treasurer Scott Raes invited Patrick Van Nevel to make a presentation to the Moline Noon Kiwanis Club. Patrick talked about the Center history, activities, scholarships, brochure, and website. He also talked about Belgium, the Regions and of course the implementation of the Euro. He was particularly pleased to recognize a couple of faithful waffle breakfast attendees and invited other club members for a visit.

**Lacemakers continue to hone their skills and amaze visitors with their skills**



As noted in prior newsletters, lace makers meet at the Center on the first Saturday of the month (yes, that is the same day as the waffle breakfast). Pictured are: Ellonyia Yenny, Sandy DeSchinkel, Marlene Shattuck (yes, our monthly columnist), Kathleen Knobloch and Betty Freeman.



**Belgium has a new "prinses"**

Elizabeth was born October 25. She is the daughter and first child of Crown Prince Philippe and could be the first Queen of Belgium!

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



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