



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

January, 2002

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Waffle Chairman

Gene Fowler

Flemings in the

World

Art Holevoet

Newsletter

Lois DeCoster

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Publicity

Mary Lorensen

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.

Interested in researching your past?

Register for the CBC's new Genealogy Class starting on January 15th, 6:30 p.m. at the Center. Dates are: Jan. 15 and 29, Feb. 12 and 26, March 12 and 26. Call Bev Franque (764-3111) or Gabe Verstraete (755-8812) to register. No cost to members of the Center.

FUNERAL CARDS WANTED; CENTER FOR BELGIAN genealogy researchers would like to have funeral cards for our collection. If you don't want to donate your cards, please bring them to the center so that we can make copies. For more information call Al Van Puyvelde at (309) 764-8042.

Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held Dec. 4th at the beautifully decorated Butterworth Center. A record number attended and enjoyed the wonderful food, socialization, entertainment and the many door prizes, as well as the announcement of the raffle winners. The winners were; Mary Lou Robinson – basketful of items donated by the Center, Julie (Lorensen) Brewer – purse cookie jar donated by the Flemish Lion, Marjorie Fiers – red wine, Gene Horton – white wine (both wines made and donated by Fred DeCoster, Bill Wadsworth – Isabel Bloom, Joan DeClerck – St. Anthony's, Atkinson Cookbook donated by Art Holevoet. All were amazed by the "mind reading" abilities of Larry Johnston. The evening ended with Gene Fowler leading all in the singing of Christmas Carols, accompanied on the piano by the multi-talented Larry Johnston. Thanks to Bonnie Newman, who made the arrangements and all those who helped make it such a big success. It was a great way to begin the Christmas season and get everyone into the Holiday spirit.

The December/January schedules for gift counter and host/hostess volunteers are as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday Jan. 5	Lois DeCoster	Mary Lou Andrae
Wednesday, Jan. 9	Clara Vandeviere	Bill Wadsworth
Saturday, Jan. 12	Margaret Wadsworth	Stan Francque
Wednesday, Jan. 16	Bev Francque	Georgann Benson
Saturday, Jan. 19	Marian Knock	Bob Hendrickx
Wednesday, Jan. 23	Lucy DeWaelsche	Pat Van Nevel
Saturday, Jan. 26	Barb Van Nevel	Gene Donohue
Wednesday Jan. 30	Celie Donohue	

Notice: There will be NO waffle breakfast in January, but the Center will be open Jan. 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and resume the regular schedule Wed., Jan. 9. Also note that Patrick Van Nevel will now be available on the 4th Sat. afternoon of each month for translations, instead of the 1st Sat. afternoon, as in the past.

Congratulations!

Mary Brunning was honored Nov. 4 to celebrate her 80th birthday. Mary C. Fore was born Oct. 26, 1921, in Long Grove, Iowa. She married Marvin I. Brunning in Nashua, Iowa in August of 1946. Their children are Deb Wheeler, Davenport; and Dennis Brunning, Chandler, AZ.

In Memoriam



Frank G. Hendricks, 89, Moline, died November 27, 2001. He was born June 8, 1912, in Moline, the son of Henry H. and Maria Verhelst Hendricks. He married Susanna "Sue" M. Wikete in May of 1944. He worked at the former I.H. Farmall Works, Rock Island, in production control for 30 years, retiring in 1974. Survivors (and spouses) include his wife, Sue; daughters; Mary (Ken) Trantowski, Glen Ellyn, IL, and Karen (Bob) Jones, Westport, CT; son, John (Mary Lou) Hendricks, Phillips, WI; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Jessica, John and Jackie; and sister, Helen (Julius "Pic") Verstraete, Moline.

Our Sympathies are also extended to Georganne Benson on the death of her sister, Elaine Young.

Please notify us when a member or relative gets married, gives birth, becomes ill or dies so we can publish it in the newsletter. Call or e-mail Lois DeCoster at 309-799-3433 or ladecoster@juno.com.

Grants and Gifts

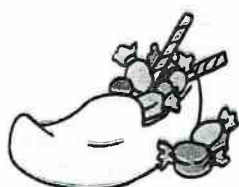
We are pleased to announce that the Center has again received a \$1000 Grant from the Charles Deere Wiman Charitable Trust, which will enable us to continue to make our organization a viable and visible asset to our community. We are truly grateful for their continued support.

Thanks also go to Ron Coene who donated a Koantjes Bier Maldegem beer set, consisting of a beer glass, coaster and bottle.

Waffle Breakfast

The December Waffle Breakfast/Bake Sale was chaired by Art Holevoet and Norma Manning. It was a huge success, the largest attendance ever (excluding Bicycle Races in the past). The picture and article in the paper (thank you, publicity) definitely brought people in. Among the attendees, were Florence and Tony Terronez, who were celebrating their 45th anniversary! The excellent crew that were put to the test included: Art Holevoet, Mary and Marv Brunning, Gene Donohue, Marge Fiers, Helen Foote, Gene Fowler, Elaine Hendrickx, Paul Holevoet, Mary Mortier, Dorene Mummert, Marlen Shattuck, Tom Taets, and Gen and John Vrombaut. Celie Donohue and Lois DeCoster were in charge of the bake sale. We also had two hard-working Girl Scouts that helped us out, Marti Davenport and Lori Witte. The girls are working on badges to add to the many they have already earned. Thank you, Marti and Lori. St. Nicholas also made a welcome visit and added a festive touch to the day. He then surprised the neighboring Olde Towne businesses with his appearances. They were delighted!

The next waffle breakfast will be held February 2. We may be featuring our heart waffles, so bring your Sweethearts!



St. Nicholas Day was celebrated at Lourdes Grade School in Bettendorf and Assumption High School in Davenport on December 6. Students placed their shoes outside of their 1st period classes. They were "surprised" to find them filled with goodies by the school administration.

Olde Towne News

Olde Towne Business Association held its Christmas party on De. 4th, at the Friends Circle. Three new businesses have opened recently in Olde Towne. There is a candle shop, a craft mall and a restaurant that features "hutsepot" on Tuesday! Walgreen's plans to be open in their new building in late January 2002. CBC member, Dorothy Buresh, contributed to the Center's gift counter sales by mentioning, in her weekly column, the availability of her book "Battered Beats" at the Center. This book is a summary of Dorothy's columns covering the Belgian and Olde Towne community. It sells for \$10.70, tax included.

Get To Know Our CBC Members

by Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck

The CBC member I'd like to introduce to you this month is from our CBC board. He is our treasurer Scott Raes. Scott became a member a couple of years ago when Patrick VanNevel recruited him. He has been on the board since August of 2000. He took position of treasurer after Pat and he talked about what could be done with the future of the center. Scott felt his background as a manager would fit in quite well and that he would be able to help in the planning process.

Scott has lived in Moline his entire life. He graduated from Moline High in 1977 and then went to St. Ambrose College where he graduated in 1981. He met his bride Debbie Sue Strandgard when he was a junior in College. They have been married for 17 years now. They have a daughter named Jennifer, who is a freshman at Moline High School, a son Michael who is deceased, and a son Scotty who is in the 5th grade at Garfield Elementary.

This guy has a lot of experience from work and other committees, to help us at the CBC. He currently works at Wells Fargo Bank in Davenport, Iowa. His current position is Senior Trust Officer. Prior to that he spent 25 years at First Midwest Bank. The last seven were as manager of the Quad Cities Trust Office.

He is very active in the community. He is a past president and board member of the Moline Kiwanis Club and the current Youth Services chairman. He is a past member of the Moline Jaycees. In the past has served as president, treasurer, and secretary of Sacred Heart's Catholic Order of Foresters. Scott has been a volunteer for several years at the Quad City Golf Classic and the Moline Riverfest. He is also a member of the Quad Cities Estate Planning Council and is currently enrolled in the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy. Where he finds time to work out I don't know, but Scott enjoys sports and goes to the Two Rivers Y at least five times a week. Scott also coaches his son's baseball, basketball, and football teams. He also shoots picks and plays in a Rolle Bolle league during the summer.

Scott comes from a small family. He has just one brother named Jeff and his father, Albert Raes. His mother, Goldie Simmons Raes died when he was a junior in college. His dad, who is 85 now, lives in Moline with his second wife Alice. It is on his dad's side that Scott finds his Belgian roots. Both of his dad's parents were born in Belgium. Although he hasn't been to Belgium yet, Scott hopes to go some day. He has always been interested in his Belgian heritage. He feels the large Belgian community of our area especially those belonging to Sacred Heart Church had an influence on his life. Since becoming a member of the Center for Belgian Culture Scott's interest has absolutely peaked with hearing so many others talking of their heritage.

"We are making great strides to make the Center for Belgian Culture an enjoyable place to visit." says Scott, " A new computer, new web site and a good fund raising effort will continue to make the center a great resource for our community. We need to do a better job of getting the word out about these improvements." He, as well as others, would like to see the membership continue to grow but, more importantly, feels we need to attract younger members. The board has that as one of its long-term goals, so Scott is confident it will happen.

Looking Back (taken from the Vlamingen Te Moline 1972)

When 19th Ave., Moline, was the city limits and known as the Black Hawk Road, that is before 1886, the year the streets were numbered, the Belgian emigrant looking for a home during the 1850s and 60s settled the wide expanse of prairie on the bluff above the Mississippi River.

These Flemish, most from the heart of Flanders, were farm people and many Belgian families now living in Atkinson and Annawan area, as well as Long Grove, Iowa, made their first stop at the "bluff" in Moline. This movement of young men from Belgium was a steady stream of workers for the booming industries of Moline until about 1910, when the number moving here was reduced by the depression of 1907-1908. These men, bringing their families over, as their economic situation improved, caused Moline to have the largest Belgian settlement in the U.S. Following World War I, Detroit provided many jobs in industry and the flow of Belgians into Moline decreased while it increased in Detroit, which today surpasses Moline in the number of residents of Belgian origin.

The Belgian emigrants had a reputation for being exemplary employees. They were honest, had great physical endurance, were clean, neat and good citizens. Soon, they became property owners. With this goal reached, many moved from the industrial employment, which gave them their foothold in America, to shopkeepers, bankers, farmers, builders, etc. Soon, every facet of the civic and business life of Moline was well represented by the first generation Belgian emigrants who had chosen Western Illinois as a likely place to seek a good life in the New World.

The Belgian, emigrating to Moline, usually found friends and relative here to greet him. The letters going back to the villages, were passed around for all to read. Because of the glowing accounts of the chances for work with men who spoke Flemish and the sureness of a welcome in this fast-growing community, the strong young, with ambition, made the journey to this Midwest area. The number of people of Belgian origin reached over 6000 in 1960.

The slogan well known in the homeland, "Godsdienst – Eendracht – Vooruitgang," has been well observed in Moline – "Work hard - in unity and with God's blessing we will prosper."

1930

LeClaire Roof Garden is serving a noon meal for \$0.75 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Dinner in evening \$1.25. Tony's Iowa Orchestra playing.

1963

A Center for Belgian Culture has been organized largely through the efforts of Ralph DePorter. Wilbur Lievens was elected the first president at the organizational meeting with Miss Dolores Bultinck as Executive Secretary of the new society.

At present the meetings are being held in Culeman's Memorial Hall. Soon the Center will be moved to a permanent location on 7th Street, where the clubrooms will be open at regular hours.

The next Board Meeting will be Jan. 14th at 5:30 p.m. at the Center.

Evelyn Van Puyvelde recently contributed a Smithsonian Cookbook to the Rock Island County Historical Society. The cookbook includes Evelyn's recipe for Lukken cookies (page 204 and also a recipe for Belgian pie (page 203).

The Center received holiday greetings from the Office of the Governor of Illinois, George H. Ryan. The greeting included a picture of Governor Ryan and his wife, Lura Lynn.

Father De Smet Remembered

Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Father Peter John De Smet, S.J., on October 23. Events included the unveiling of a bronze bust of De Smet. De Smet, who was born in Dendermonde, Belgium, led the first contingent of Jesuits to the Pacific Northwest. He was a priest, teacher, missionary, author and government envoy. The exhibition devoted to him, traveled to several U.S. cities in the '90s. According to Professor Peterson, within the next few years, it will be permanently remounted in the Old Mission, in Cataldo, Idaho - of Idaho's oldest standing buildings, built in the 1850s by Jesuit priests and Coeur d'Alene Indians, without the use of nails.

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