



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

February, 2002

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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bavnl@aol.com

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Flemings in the World

Art Holevoet

Newsletter

Lois DeCoster
ladecoster@juno.com

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| Jan. 29 | <i>Genealogy Class</i> | 6:30 p.m. |
| February 2 | <i>Waffle breakfast with "heart-shaped" waffles</i> | |
| February 11 | <i>Board Meeting</i> | 5:30 p.m. |
| February 12 | <i>Genealogy Class</i> | 6:30 p.m. |
| February 26 | <i>Genealogy Class</i> | 6:30 p.m. |
| March 2 | <i>Waffle Breakfast - Lacemakers in afternoon</i> | |
| March 11 | <i>Board Meeting</i> | 5:30 p.m. |
| March 12 | <i>Genealogy Class</i> | 6:30 p.m. |
| March 19 | <i>St. Joseph's Day Flemish Beef Stew Dinner</i> | |
| March 26 | <i>Genealogy Class</i> | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 6 | <i>Waffle Breakfast - Lacemakers in afternoon</i> | |
| April 8 | <i>Board Meeting</i> | 5:30 p.m. |
| April 17 | <i>Volunteer Dinner</i> | |
| May 4 | <i>Waffle Breakfast - Lacemakers in afternoon</i> | |
| May 13 | <i>Board Meeting</i> | 5:30 p.m. |
| May 27 | <i>Memorial Day Waffle Breakfast</i> | |
| June 1 | <i>Waffle Breakfast - Lacemakers in afternoon</i> | |
| June ? | <i>Annual/dinner/meeting/auction</i> | |
| July 6 | <i>Waffle Breakfast - Lacemakers in afternoon</i> | |
| July 21 | <i>Belgian Independence Day</i> | |
| Oct. ? | <i>Raisin Bread Bakeoff</i> | |

Please put these events on your calendar.

Additions and/or corrections will be made in future Newsletters.

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact Lois DeCoster at 309-799-3433 or ladecoster@juno.com.

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday Feb. 2	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Wednesday, Feb. 6	Gen Vrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, Feb. 9	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Feb. 13	ClaraVandeviere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, Feb. 16	Marian Knock	Georgann Benson
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Lucy DeWaelsche	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, Feb. 23	Barb Van Nevel	Pat Van Nevel
Wednesday Feb. 27	Maureen Schweitzer	Clara Vandeviere

Get Well Wishes

We extend our best wishes for continued healing for Dorothy Buresh, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Georganne Benson. Best of luck to Bev Franque as she will be having a hip replaced Feb 1.

In Memoriam



Leo Merchie, 95, died Jan. 3, 2002. He was born Dec. 13, 1906 in Joplin, MO, the son of Frank and Nora Wooley Merchie. He married Evelyn C. Clausen Oct. 3, 1926, in Prophetstown. She died in 1991. He graduated from St. Ambrose University, Davenport and received his Master of Science degree from the University of Missouri. He retired in 1971 after 24 years of employment with John Deere, as an analytical chemist. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Metallurgical Society and was the oldest living Eagle Scout in the Illinois Quad Cities. Surviving are his daughter and husband, Suzanne and Ronald Ketner, Silvis; son and wife, Robert and Marilyn Merchie (CBC members), Rock Island; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

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

Visitors from Far and Near

Since November, guests of the Center were from: Houston, the Woodlands, and Keller TX; DeWitte, IA; Honolulu, HI; Billings, MT; Tampa, FL; Holland, MI; Prophetstown, Macon, Morrison, Oak Forest, Orion, DeKalb, St. Charles and Wheaton, IL; and Bettendorf, DeWitte and Davenport, IA.

BRUGGE 2002 FOR ART LOVERS

In 2002 Brugge will be one of the two cultural capitals of Europe. One of its greatest attractions will be a prestigious, expansive exhibition entitled *Jan Van Eyck, the Flemish Primitives & South 1430-1530*. The aim of this exhibition is to expose the interaction between Flemish primitives and their colleagues of Southern Europe. (1) Two other great attractions will be on the program. The Hanze Medici.com will be a summer exhibition consisting of guided discovery tour along streets, canals, small squares and historical buildings of the former commercial quarters. Original art and utility objects will be shown. Brugge's famous wooden crane will be reconstructed on the Jan Van Eyck square (2). In the Major Seminary there will be opened *Private World, Open Books*, an impressive exhibition of medieval manuscripts in combination with contemporary art (3) (1) Mar. 15-June 10 (2) May 24-Sept. 8 (3) Aug. 16- Nov. 17 - FYI for those of you planning a trip to Belgium this year.

Get To Know Our CBC Members

Werner Gonnissen by Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck

For everyone who hasn't met Werner yet, let me introduce you. Werner Gonnissen became a member in October 2000, only one month after transferring from Belgium to the USA for work. Although he is not a member of the CBC Board, he volunteers by doing translations, and upon Patrick Van Nevel's suggestion, designed and maintains the Center's web site, www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org, which was launched in May 2001. Werner speaks four languages (Dutch, English, French and German) and enjoys helping people in their search for information about ancestors and relatives still alive in Belgium. He says, "The gratification from seeing people smile while helping them in their quest for information is enormous."

Werner was born on June 15, 1973 to a small family residing in Dilsen-Stokkem, a small border town in northeastern Belgium, next to Holland and Germany. His family includes his parents, Jean-Pierre Gonnissen and Rachel Gonnissen-Swinnen, and two brothers, Gunter and Dieter. Following in his father's footsteps, Werner went off to college pursuing a degree in engineering, in the meantime also nourishing his thirst for languages and foreign cultures.

After graduating from Limburg University with a Masters in Engineering, Werner started his job with Oracle Corporation in Brussels, Belgium. His first well-deserved vacation from this job brought him to friends in the Quad Cities in the winter of 1998. Despite several feet of snow, he returned to this area for a couple more vacations. When Oracle offered him a transfer to the US, Werner chose Oracle Chicago's Sears Tower office as work location and the Quad Cities as his home. He works as a technical engineer for Oracle's North Central Development Services and travels throughout the US during the week. However, weekends are spent with friends in the Quad Cities. The little free time Werner has is often spent at the Center for Belgian Culture, but other weekend escapes include hiking tours or an afternoon at the golf course.

Since moving in 2000 Werner has been back to Belgium once, and plans on doing so every year. This past July his youngest brother and cousin stopped by for a visit, and in September his parents also visited with him here in the US.

Werner exclaims, "Being a first generation Belgian, I was truly amazed when I visited the Center for Belgian Culture for the first time in 2000. I was even more surprised finding out that rolle bolle and lace-making are more popular here in the US than they are in Belgium!" Werner also has made a lot of new friends by joining the Center for Belgian Culture, many of them sharing his passion for Belgian beer and chocolates. He says, "Moving from one country to another is not easy, but my friends here have made me really feel at home and continue to do so whenever I feel a little homesick."

As for the future, Werner hopes that more young people will find their way to the Center for Belgian Culture. Currently Patrick and Werner are working on a new improved version of the web site. Werner says: "The web site is only one of the many improvements implemented by our Board in the past year, and I feel hopeful that the Center will continue to grow and serve our community in the near future."

VALENTINE'S DAY!

Paul & Marie Callens
Waterstraat 18
8740 Pittern, Belgium



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.
712 - 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

February, 2002

"Birdies for Charity"



The Birdies for Charity fundraiser was very successful last summer bringing in approximately \$750. This money will be used to fund our scholarships that will be awarded this spring and will make it possible to increase the amounts of these scholarships. We plan to participate in this program again this summer. Look for details in future newsletters.

APRIS

APRIS, an acronym for **Augustana Public Radio Information Service**, originates from the broadcast studios of WVIK Public Radio station on the campus of Augustana College. This service is staffed with 200 volunteers who read live, on-the-air, from local and regional newspapers, magazines and other forms of informational material. The patrons of this program are loaned, **free-of-charge**, a side-band receiver that enables them to receive these special broadcasts. The service allows listeners to be active and informed members of their community and to participate with knowledge and confidence. If interested in receiving the APRIS service for yourself, or for a friend or loved one, call **309-794-7560**. If you would like to **volunteer** to read for APRIS call the same number. It is a rewarding experience that provides a useful service to those in need.