



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

## Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

[www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org](http://www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org)

April 2002

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President

Patrick Van Nevel

[bavn1@aol.com](mailto:bavn1@aol.com)

#### Vice President

Bonnie Newman

[jnewman@geneseo.net](mailto:jnewman@geneseo.net)

#### Secretary

Lenore Knock

[knockl@bhc1.bhc.edu](mailto:knockl@bhc1.bhc.edu)

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Scott Raes

#### Member at Large

Evelyn VanPuyvelde

[aeoudestad@qconline.com](mailto:aeoudestad@qconline.com)

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Kay Verstraete

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#### Membership

Gabe Verstraete

[belgie\\_1@msn.com](mailto:belgie_1@msn.com)

#### Gift Shop

Celie Donohue

[c.j.donohue@att.net](mailto:c.j.donohue@att.net)

#### Waffle Chairman

Gene Fowler

#### Flemings in the

#### World

Art Holevoet

#### Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Swanson

[swansonsl@mchsi.com](mailto:swansonsl@mchsi.com)

#### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

Center for Belgian

Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.

1:00 - 4:00 pm

### From the Editor's Keyboard ...

This edition of the CBC newsletter may look a bit different as creative juices flow from a new source. That's right. Lois DeCoster has retired from her editorial duties. She is leaving with a smile on her face and sense of satisfaction for having distributed CBC news for longer than she expected.

As your new editor, I welcome your news briefs, articles, ideas and comments. I would ask that you give me your tidbits by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. My e-mail address is: [swansonsl@mchsi.com](mailto:swansonsl@mchsi.com), or you can reach me by phone at 796-4227.



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 6	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
April 6	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
April 8	Board Meeting	5:30 pm
April 17	Volunteer Dinner	6:00 pm
May 4	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
May 4	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
May 13	Board Meeting	5:30 pm
May 27	Memorial Day Waffle Breakfast	
June 1	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
June 1	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
June ?	Annual dinner/meeting/auction	
July 6	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
July 6	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
July 21	Belgian Independence Day	
Oct ?	Raisin Bread Bakeoff	

### Calling all Volunteers!

**ALL volunteers** are invited to the **Volunteer Dinner** scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Center.** Volunteers are those who help the Center in any capacity, such as hosting on the afternoons we are open, helping with waffle breakfasts, working at the gift counter, etc. Please join the festivities. Make

your reservations by calling Celie Donohue at 792-8246. The Belgian Village will supply sandwiches for our meal. The taste buds should be perking up already! Enjoy. And **Thank You!**

Since we're on the subject of volunteering, Pat Van Nevel has asked me to recognize the significant contributions that my predecessor, **Lois DeCoster**, has made to the CBC. Lois agreed to be "interim" editor of your newsletter. Well, "interim" became permanent as Lois carried the torch to get the news out to your community. A great example of the team work needed to make the CBC more viable over time. **Thanks Again!**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wednesday, April 3	GenVrombaut	Doreen Mummert
Saturday, April 6	Mary Rose DeCoster (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)	
Wednesday, April 10	Clara Vandeviere	Mary Lou Andrae
Saturday, April 13	Kay Verstraete	Gabe Verstraete
Wednesday, April 17	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, April 20	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, April 24	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, April 27	Barb Van Nevel	Pat Van Nevel

**The March Waffle Breakfast** was held March 2nd. Gene Fowler reports that despite the blizzard conditions, many brave individuals couldn't pass up the scrumptious Belgian breakfast. Special thanks are in order to Doc Duley for plowing snow so that those brave souls (and volunteers) could participate. Gene notes that attendance was indeed down, but we still raised some revenues for our coffers. Workers for the breakfast were: Mary & Marv Brunning, Gene Donohue, Gene Fowler, Art Holevoet, Paul Holevoet, Scott Raes, Clara VanDeVeise, and Pat Van Nevel. **The next Waffle breakfast is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 6th from 8-12.**



*Congratulations! And Happy Birthday to Evelyn van Puyvelde, who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a family dinner on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Evelyn was born in South Bend, Indiana, the daughter of Achiel Accoe and Rosalie Lootens.*

*(By the way, Evelyn married Albert van Puyvelde on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1949 at Christ the King Church in South Bend. If you see them, take the opportunity to wish Evelyn and Al "Happy Anniversary" in May. Fifty-plus years of marriage - quite an accomplishment.)*



FYI... Madelaine Wingert now lives at the Illini Restorative Care Center in Silvis. Her address for cards and letters is: Illini Restorative Care Center, 1455 Hospital Road, Room 126, Silvis, IL 61282. As is the case with most of us, cards are welcome but visitors are even more welcome. Drop by Room 126 for some Belgian camaraderie.

Down on the Boardwalk ... Dolores Bultinck tells us that there is a new version of the world's most popular board game Monopoly©. Residents of some 80 countries can buy and sell the Boardwalk in 23 different languages. And now there is a LIEGE version, with some 10,000 copies produced last November and a second edition of 3,000 copies produced last December. So who cares about the Boardwalk? Who wouldn't rather mortgage the boulevard Frere-Orban or the place de Bronckart?



**FAMILY TREES ... LEAVES OF LIFE ...**

Albert Vanpuyvelde informs us that a friend in Belgium has provided the Center with many copies of Vlaams Stam, a Belgium genealogy publication. The books cover several years and there is an index for each year. The indexes list hundreds of family names plus addresses in Belgium where one can write for information. If you have a problem reading Flemish, stop in the Center on the fourth Saturday of the month when Pat Van Nevel can help with translation. We greatly appreciate this genealogical treasure and the valuable research tool it brings to the Center.

Speaking of Genealogy, Gabe Verstraete reports that March 26th marked the last of six meetings of the CBC Genealogy Class. Approximately 25 persons attended these winter sessions. One of the six sessions was held at the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Family Research Library in Davenport, where the group was able to get acquainted with the facilities and some of the resources provided by the Mormon Church. Microfiche records there enabled the group to extend their research to the mid 1700's. Many of the group presented interesting summaries of their work at the final sessions. Special thanks are due to the group leaders Mike Kerckhove and Bev Francque for guiding the sessions along with Mary Kay and Larry Lorenzen, who provided waffle desserts for the final session and Maureen Schweitzer for cookie treats. The information, surely inspired by the tasty treats, combined to make this an interesting and informative service project for the community. - Kay Verstraete



(An editorial note: my husband and I recently went in search of our "roots" and found that the Davenport LDS Family Research Library is closed for about four months while the building is renovated. In the meantime, there are libraries (aka family history centers) located in Iowa City, Muscatine, Peoria, Springfield, and the list goes on. You can locate libraries/centers, complete with hours of operation, on their web site: <http://www.familysearch.org>. - *Stephanie Swanson*)

**Get To Know Our CBC Members****Bob Hendricks by Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck**

It was a quiet Wednesday afternoon at the Center for Belgian Culture. Bob and his wife Elaine were cooking box after box of sausages. It's a job Bob usually does with Lucy DeWaelche every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Today Elaine was filling in, and it looked to be one messy job. I think everyone should see the work that goes with preparing the food for the waffle breakfasts for the Center. It makes you appreciate it all the more.

I found out that there was Moline history, not just family history, to Bob's life story. Both he and his wife are of Belgian descent. The first generation in his family came to America in the late 1800's from Bellem in East Flanders, Belgium. In the early 1900's, Bob's grandfather owned Hendrickx Dry Goods Store on 7th St. in Moline. The business was a part of Moline for about 33 years, until 1946.

Robert M. Hendrickx came into this world on April 24, 1928 and hasn't moved very far since. In fact, he was born in his grandparent's home at 510-18th Street, Moline, Illinois -- right next door to where he lives now. As the only child of William Hendrickx and Ellen DeRidder Hendrickx, Bob received a little spoiling from his relatives. If he didn't like what Mom was cooking up for supper, he would go across the street to see what Grandma was fixing. He was surrounded by aunts, uncles and grandparents. "They were always very family oriented," says Elaine; "I have enjoyed that."

Bob went to school at Sacred Heart, kindergarten through eighth grade. Then he was on to St. Ambrose Academy, graduating in 1947. After high school, Bob started working at the First National Bank (now Bank One). He worked there for 40 years and retired at the age of 60 in 1988. He tells me, "We had the first drive up teller (curb side) in the area." The installment loan department was his first assignment. When he retired, his position was vice president. Bob is very active at Sacred Heart - volunteering, working daily with the janitor, singing in the funeral choir and being a funeral acolyte alter server. He was on the board of the Catholic Credit Union and serves as treasurer.

Bob met his wife, Elaine Sevenandt, during their high school years. They married on July 10, 1948 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Moline - where five generations in his family have wed. The first generation was there when the parish initially formed. Both Bob and his wife have never lived more than a block away from where they grew up. Bob and his Elaine have four children: three sons

(Thomas, Daniel and David) and one daughter (Nancy). Three of them live in Moline and the "out of towners" lives minutes away in Rock Island. Not surprisingly, they stop in every Saturday morning for coffee and doughnuts. Even the grandkids when they can. It's an event that Elaine and Bob enjoy and proudly say, "Sometimes we have four generations here." They are also blessed with 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. It is easy to see that being with family is what it is all about for them. Elaine says, "At the holidays, ours is an open house. What's 2 or 3 more?"

Dolores Bultinck recruited Bob to become a member of the CBC in the mid 1980's. Before that time, he told me that he never really paid much attention to his heritage. He understands Flemish but doesn't speak it. He has never traveled to Belgium, and doubts he will ever get there. Bob has served a term as president of the CBC from 1987-1989. Since retiring, he has more time to volunteer. That's when he started to help cook the sausages. He also helps with the waffle events and visits residents in a nursing home. Bob wants to see the Center grow, as we all do: "It would be nice to have a building such as the Germans do in Davenport." He adds: "One mustn't move too fast to lose the progress; what we need is more volunteers."

So I encourage everyone to stop by the Center more often and see what it has to offer. Try something new. You might just be pleasantly surprised, and meet a lot of wonderful people. I know that I have.



### **Camaraderie in Oklahoma City**



Anyone who has met Gabe and Kay Verstraete knows that they are cheerleaders for the Belgian Fan Club. As Membership Chairman, Gabe reaches out to our surrounding communities to generate interest in Belgian culture. But his efforts have reached new interstate proportions. Let's go back to this past January when the Verstraete's were returning, via automobile, from a southwestern holiday.

Gabe and Kay stopped in Oklahoma City to visit the National Memorial and parked their car along a busy metropolitan street. Not surprisingly, the Verstraete's have a special vehicular license plate: BELGIE1. That license plate prompted the following note to be left on the Verstraete windshield:

"Goedemiddag:

Van zodra ik uw nummerplaat zag, kon ik niet nalaten om een bericht achter te laten. Ik woon en werk in Oklahoma City. Indien jullie wat tijd over hebben, geef me een seintje. Mijn rechtstreeks number is xxx.xxx.xxxx.

Anders wens ik jullie een prettig verblijf in Oklahoma City, en verder een goede reis.

Vele vriendelijke Belgische groeten.

Alain Verhille"

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

**April 2002**

Gabe and Kay were not able to hook up with Alain during their brief visit in Oklahoma City, but Gabe did get in touch with him later. So, a transplanted Belgian found a sense of camaraderie far from his native land. And Gabe found a new member of the Center for Belgian Culture. That's right; Alain is now a member of our organization - all the way from Oklahoma City. Welkom, Alain! And good job, Gabe! - *Stephanie Swanson*

**Hutsepot, Hochepot, whatever ...** On Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> your Board put on quite a Belgian feast - old fashioned hutsepot. Preliminary numbers show 76 meals served and 76 happy customers. Thanks to Gabe Verstraete, Bob Vandewiele and their volunteers.

A definitive recipe for the traditional hutsepot meal is elusive. I found two recipes in a Belgian cookbook, and enjoyed a third version at the CBC dinner. A hearty winter stew that includes everything but the proverbial kitchen sink? A mixed vegetable dish with ham hocks on the side? What *is* the authentic fare? Perhaps the answers lie in each cook's kitchen. It really doesn't matter what recipe you use. What does matter is that it is the genuine peasant dish of Belgium. A dish that warms a cold winter's night. A dish that harkens memories of "the Old Country." A dish that speaks of heritage. Search out a family recipe. Or ask Bob Vandewiele for his recipe from the dinner. And Happy Cooking!

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Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



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