



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue
Moline, Illinois
(309) 762-0167

July 2002

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.
1:00 - 4:00 pm



Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 6	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
July 6	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
July 11	700 th Anniversary of Battle of the Golden Spurs	
July 11	Belgian Waffles at Memorial Park, Rock Island Arsenal	11:00 am-1:00 pm
July 21	Belgian Independence Day	
Aug 3	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Aug 3	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Sept 7	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Sept 7	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Oct ?	Raisin Bread Bakeoff	

From the President's Perspective ...

As *Patrick Van Nevel* so aptly stated at the Annual Meeting on June 10th: "Two years ... time flies." Time does, indeed, fly; and time flies even faster when things are happening. And things definitely have been happening during the past 1-2 years at the CBC. There have been many events, activities, innovations, and volunteer activities for which the CBC should be proud. For those of you who could not attend, here are some salient comments from Patrick regarding CBC accomplishments and volunteer efforts:

- ❖ A great *brochure* helps us get better exposure throughout the greater QCA and beyond. Yes, it was expensive but we were able to cover 3/4ths of the cost through request for donations.
- ❖ The *CBC web site* was another publicity/marketing success. In fact, the web site has given us exposure way beyond our expectations. A huge Thank You to Werner Gonnissen for designing and maintaining a web site that evokes duplication and encourages visitation to our Center.
- ❖ The national interest in genealogy was no more evident

than in our *Genealogy class*. Participants learned about the various facets and levels of genealogical research and put that knowledge to use while experimenting with the CBC's newly acquired computer and Family Tree Maker genealogy software. A big Thank You to Gabe Verstraete, Mike Kerckhove, and Bev Francque for their tutelage.

❖ Our *CBC Newsletter* continues to highlight the rich heritage of a proud culture. Special thanks to Lois De Coster who was your dedicated, never-tiring editor longer than she ever expected and to Marlene Shattuck who continues to conduct interesting member interviews as a guest columnist.

❖ And perhaps some of the more important accomplishments: *community exposure*. The brochure, web site, and newsletter use the written word to convey the Belgian cultural message at the microcosm level to an already interested audience. But additional news articles and outreach efforts have introduced the Belgian culture to a new audience. For example, Al VanPuyvelde and Pat Van Nevl demonstrated waffle making on the Paula Sands Live television show. Visits by the Honorable Dirk Loncke, Consul General of Belgium in Chicago as well as by Mr. Luc Fabry, Business Development Officer of the Flanders Foreign Investment Office brought the Belgian cooperative spirit to the forefront. These are examples of community outreach efforts that enlightened a new QCA audience.

❖ And finally, no summary of accomplishments would be complete without mentioning the very successful *special events*. The Christmas Party, Hutsepot Dinner, Birdies for Charity, Scholarship Program, and grant writing - all integral parts of the successful CBC whole. Thanks to Bonnie Newman, Gabe and Kay Verstraete, new member Bob VandeWiele, Mary Kay and Larry Lorensen, and Lenore Knock for their efforts in these special programs/events.

These accomplishments are indications that Belgian pride is alive and well in the QCA. The tasking: let's keep it going and growing!



New Officers . . .

The nominating committee chaired by Gabe Verstraete and consisting of Bonnie Newman, Dolores Bultinck, Mary Kay Lorensen and Art Holevoet presented the slate of officer candidates at the Annual Meeting. Candidates were unanimously approved for a two year term. New officers include:

Patrick Van Nevel	President
Scott Raes	Vice President
Gabe Verstraete	Treasurer
Kim Kochuyt	Secretary
Robert Vande Weile	Member-at-Large

Many thanks to officers who are retiring: Vice President Bonnie Newman and Member-at-large Evelyn Van Puyvelde. Bonnie has organized great special events and has unselfishly "gone the extra mile" to ensure that CBC goals and objectives were met. As Member-at-Large and ethnic coordinator, Evelyn has always been there to serve regardless of her personal priorities and circumstances. Your combined efforts are models for the rest of us.



Waffle Celebration

The Rock Island Arsenal will be sponsoring the American Heritage 2002 (AH '02) fest on July 11, 2002 at Memorial Field Park on Arsenal Island. It is only fitting that the Center help the Arsenal community recognize and celebrate our American heritage on a day that is so important to Flemish heritage. So, as Flemings world-wide celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of the Golden Spurs, we will be serving Belgian Waffles with toppings from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Come see us and have a waffle. (Due to in-place security measures, be prepared to show valid photo identification for all vehicle occupants at the guard entrance to the Arsenal Island.)

Get To Know Our CBC Member - Clara Van De Veire

by Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck

What Clara Van De Veire enjoys most about the Center for Belgian Culture is the friendliness of everyone and meeting new people. That alone brightens her day. Many of you don't know, as I didn't either, but Clara has lost several loved ones in a short amount of time: a husband, son, and brother. Yet, you see a smile on her face and a gentle, optimistic person within. She'll brighten your day. She likes to volunteer where she is needed. She does that by visiting nursing homes (accompanied by her Yorkie and other dogs), helping with waffles, and being at the Culture Center on one Wednesday afternoon a month. She loves animals, and volunteers at the Milan Animal Shelter named Oak Hill which is a no kill shelter. Clara helped start the shelter 25 years ago.

Born in Sikeston, Missouri, Clara Hicks Van De Veire was the first child of eight children to come into this world for her parents, Clarence and Lee Hicks. Clara spent most of her childhood growing up between Sikeston and Moline. Having relatives here, they moved back and forth many times for various reasons. Marriage the second time around was very good to Clara. She was married to Robert Van De Veire for 47 years. They married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Moline. She and Bob decided Moline was where their children would be raised. They were blessed with a daughter named Linda, who now lives in Seattle, and their son Jerry.

After raising a family and working many years, Bob retired from Deere. Clara retired from Eagles Signal after 31 years as an assembler. Taking in some of the enjoyments of retirement, Clara and her husband became members of the CBC through friends, Ruby and Adolph De Keryl. Clara is of German descent; her husband Bob was the Belgian. Bob was a talented oil painter. You can view his work at the Center. There is a painting hanging on the wall next to the gift counter. If you take the time to stop and look it over, you will be taken to Belgium for a slight moment.

Clara has traveled five times to Belgium with her husband, each time staying with cousins of his. She knows some Flemish but is not conversational with it. She loves to shop in Belgium! The city of Brugge is her favorite place, but she is also partial to Brussels and Antwerp. Clara has quite a collection of Blue Delft ceramics and happens to love lace. She would still like to learn ceramics and has always wanted to make lace. With encouragement, maybe she will learn.

As for the Center of Belgian Culture, Clara commented, "Years ago there was a recipe in every monthly newsletter that I would save. Everyone would try it, and people liked that. It would be nice to see that again." She would also like to see the Center come out with a directory, possibly a pictorial directory. It would make it easier for members to get in touch with one another and know who they are. What a great idea! With such a simple request, who knows ... her wish just might happen to come true.



The **CBC Scholarship Program** was established to assist young scholars in the Quad-Cities community in their academic pursuits. Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were awarded this year to: Andrew Stontz, a senior at Alleman High School and Alexandria (Alexa) Lingris, a senior at Moline High School. Both recipients accepted their scholarships at the Annual Dinner. Andrew's parents, Tom and Karen Stontz, accompanied him to the event. Alexandria was accompanied by her parents, Sue and Pete Lingris, and brother George.

Alexa and her parents sent notes of appreciation to the CBC membership. Alexa noted that "it was an honor to be selected, and I appreciate your generosity. I have so enjoyed my high school experience at Moline and look forward to starting a new chapter of my life at the University of Iowa." Perhaps the most interesting note, however, was from Sue and Pete Lingris. They stated: "Our family was so impressed with the support and dedication of your members, and of how involved you are with the community."

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, July 3	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, July 6	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, July 10	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, July 13	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Wednesday, July 17	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, July 20	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, July 24	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, July 27	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, July 31	Georgia Sliniger	Louie Sliniger



As mentioned in last month's newsletter, **Mary Kay and Larry Lorensen** are again chairing the **John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity** this year for the CBC. It's still not too late to participate. Mary Kay and Larry have additional information to help you become familiar with the program and determine a pledge amount. If you are interested, Mary and Larry will be at the July 6th waffle breakfast. Or you can call the Lorensen's at 309.762.6218.



FYI... CBC members ill at press time: Florence Acke, Liz Lerminez, Dorothy Buresh, Reggie Schrader, and Mary Mortier. We wish them all a speedy recovery!



Condolences are extended to Kim Kochuyt on the death of her grandmother, Ella M. Soltau Kochuyt. Ella was born February 18, 1906 in Traer, Iowa. She passed away on May 27, 2002 in Moline, Illinois. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Kim.



Artecasa – Artist in Residence Program in Andalucia, Spain

For those aspiring visual artists among you, the following information could be just the nudge that you need to get going:

Artecasa is an International Art Center where visual artists from different cultures meet each other and hold exhibitions together. Artists dealing with ceramics, sculptures, oil paintings, water colors, pastel, drawings, jewelry and more are welcome. The center offers, in cooperation with the city of Cadiz (South Spain), the opportunity to combine a stay in the wonderful area of Andalucia with creativity and exhibition. Both workshops and galleries are located in the renovated fortress Santa Catalina near the sea. Cadiz is well known for its brightness, which makes it an ideal location to stimulate inspiration and creativity.

The Center starts its activities in September 2002 and will be open during the whole year. For further information, please contact the project coordinator: Alex Mero, telephone 011-32-475-939-903. Additional information is also available at the following web pages: info@artecasa.org or www.artecasa.org.



BELGIAN BITS

Belgian National Day: July 21

After 15 years of a united Belgium (Southern Netherlands) and Northern Netherlands (Holland), the provisional Belgium government declared independence on October 4, 1830. But Belgian sovereignty was not a reality until Leopold I took the constitutional oath as the first King of Belgium on July 21, 1831. Such was the beginning of a national identity that is celebrated annually on Belgian National Day: July 21st.

In recognition of this important national holiday, the following information further identifies the Belgian communal spirit:

- Anthem: the "Brabançonne"
- Motto: "L'Union fait la force - Eendracht maakt macht" (Strength lies in unity)
- Heraldic emblem: the Belgian Lion (Leo Belgicus), a yellow lion with red claws and tongue against a black background

(By the way, Marlene Shattuck has attended Independence Day festivities in Belgium. Some eleven years ago, she enjoyed the "wonderful" celebration. She undoubtedly would be happy to share some moments with you – just ask the next time you see her.)



Honor guards folding the American flag has come to have more significance since September 11th, as we have watched our national pride come to the forefront. It seems appropriate that we share the particular symbolism of that folding as we prepare to celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Here goes ...

"The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is in tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solómon, and glorified in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

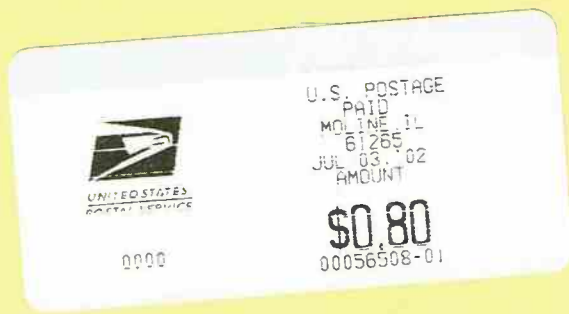
The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is folded for the thirteenth and final time, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our nation's motto: "In God We Trust!"

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of the hat that was worn by George Washington and his comrades as they fought to preserve the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today."

Thanks to *Gen Vrombaut* for this timely "Internet gleaning." **Happy Fourth of July!**

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