



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

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

August 2002

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 5	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Oct 5	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm

From the President's Perspective ...

New challenges, opportunities for exposure, and events to share the Belgian Experience made the month of July go quickly. For example:

The Rock Island Arsenal Heritage Day celebration on July 11th was a great success. Arsenal workers were treated to a taste of Belgium (waffles) and volunteers were able to market the CBC product (the Belgian experience and CBC membership). Special thanks to Bob Hendricks, Gene Fowler and Scott Raes for getting things ready and to helpers Gabe and Kay Verstraete and Marv and Mary Bruning.

The waffle iron was barely cooled on July 11th when Pat and Barb Van Nevel along with Art Holevoet attended a Flemish Dinner at Kendall Culinary College in Evanston, IL. The Chicago-based Belgian American Club (affiliated with Vlamingen in the Wereld - Flemish in the World) sponsored the celebration of the 700th anniversary of The Battle of the Golden Spurs. Consul Dirk Loncke was a very gracious host. The dinner was, not surprisingly, delicious as the Culinary Institute chefs outdid themselves with a multi-course meal that featured roasted rabbit loin-leg as the main course. All of the 75 attendees received a "Golden Spur" to commemorate the famous battle near Kortrijk in 1302. Incidentally, Kortrijk is the home town of our Consul General in Chicago, Mr. Dirk Loncke. (More to follow on Kortrijk in future issues.)

Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.
1:00 — 4:00 pm

And finally, the Center had its first busload of visitors on July 16th. Forty-five students from the Iowa Wesleyan College's "Iowa: Eye to I" bus tour visited the Center and had breakfast specially prepared for them. The course objective was to give students the "Ultimate Iowa Experience." Undoubtedly, all participants were glad that their professor decided a trip across The River to Illinois for the "Ultimate *Belgian* Experience" was worthwhile. Significant coordination was needed on short notice, but the can-do attitude of our membership appeared once again. As usual, Gene and Bob did a great job getting the batter ready ahead of time. Mary Lorensen, Mary Lou Andrae, Elaine Hendrickx and Scott Raes did an outstanding job hosting the students. Special thanks to all involved. The photo below shows Mary Lorensen serving up a Belgian waffle at the special meal. (You may have seen the article in the Dispatch/Argus on Wednesday, July 17th.)



In closing: ***Belgian Pride – let's keep it going and growing!***

Membership Musings ...

At a time when membership renewal has been (or should be) at the forefront of our minds, it seems appropriate to recognize some out-of-town CBC members. There are approximately 40 members who reside in states (and countries) far removed from Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. The following list is a snapshot of Belgian camaraderie from afar:

Arizonans Maureen Simpson, Lavone R. Slead, Robert F. and Shirley Staelens, and Yvonne C. Warlop; Richard A. Dierickx (AR); Californians James P. Staes and Harry and Gloria Miller; Colorado residents Nick and Julie Donohue, Evelyn Dunshee, and Tim Weaver; Floridians Wendi Fowler-Voth, Gilbert & Josephine GoSline, Rachelle Schopp, and Al and Betty Van Tieghem; Stephen Holevoet (GA); William R. Thys

(MA); Ron and Jane Coene (MD); an Ohio contingency consisting of Flora Cook, Michael J. Cornelius, Chris and Laura Fowler, and Susan A. Riley; fellow Midwesterners Mary Ann Defnet(WI), Bernice Drummond (MI), Donald and Kathryn Goethals (MN), Mary Ann Grady (WI), Gary and Norma Keyes (MO), Daniel Verkinderen (MN), and Tom Weaver (MO); and Jack and Susan Staes (KS); Alain Verhille (OK); Jeanne DeClerck O'Brien (TN); and Vic and Violet Verstraete (TX).

Special recognition should go to the international members, all from Belgium: Paul and Marie Callens, Thierry Serck, and Leon Soreyn.

These folks should be inspirations to us locals. So, doesn't it seem like the time to renew your membership if you haven't already? It's not too late - just use the enclosed form. (Also, this is by no means an all-inclusive list. Failure to mention you does not diminish your importance as a long distance CBC member.)

WANTED

Interested and dedicated Belgians or Adopted Belgians to assume a task or responsibility at the Center for Belgian Culture in order to maintain your all-volunteer organization. The Center for Belgian Culture is much, much more than its officers and executive board. The CBC needs you to get actively involved in its many diverse activities. Volunteering for the Center is an opportunity for members to meet new friends with common interests, preserve our valuable heritage, and provide a unique cultural dimension for our community.

Position openings available beginning August 2002 in the following areas: hospitality, social/ethnic events, museum/exhibit committees, education and service activities.

Please contact any of the following officers to take an active involvement in your organization:

Patrick Van Nevel (332-8752), Scott Raes (762-6103), Kim Kochuyt (764-1446), Gabe Verstraete (755-8812) and Bob Vande Wiele (792-8237).

A Letter from your Membership Committee

Dear CBC Members,

As you have seen recently in your newsletter, it's time to begin another Center for Belgian Culture membership year, which runs from August 1st - July 31st. The Membership Committee wishes to thank you for all the prompt renewals that we have received to date. If you have not yet stopped by or sent in your renewal for 2002-2003 membership, please do so in the near future. We also wish to remind you that the CBC is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)) and, as such, may qualify for tax-deductible donations over and above your membership dues. Receipts for donations will be provided upon request or for amounts of \$500 or more as specified by the IRS. All donated funds this year will be designated for capital improvement items identified specifically as: air conditioner, microwave and painting supplies. Your support of the Center is always appreciated and is the reason this organization continues to grow and thrive.

During our service on the Membership Committee, CBC numbers have steadily grown to 310 members in our all-volunteer organization of Belgians and Adopted Belgians. This continued growth proves once again that **Being Belgian is Beautiful**. In this upcoming term we are moving our energy to new interests within the Center, so please welcome, along with us, your new Membership Chairperson, Marlene Shattuck. We wish you much success in your new position, Marlene.

Cordially,

Gabe Verstraete, Chairman

Kay Verstraete, Committee Member



Congratulations! And Belated Happy Birthday to Irene Boostrom who celebrated her 90th birthday on June 22nd.

⇒ **And the election returns are in ...** Your President, Patrick Van Nevel, has been elected to Black Hawk College's foundation board of directors. Patrick will serve a three year term that began in July. The foundation is involved in the advancement of educational, scientific and cultural goals for the college's Quad-Cities Campus. The board provides a financial structure for soliciting and administering privately donated funds and gifts for the benefit of the college.

⇒ Al Van Puyvelde reports that the Center has received more *Belgian genealogy information* from "our friend in Belgium." Information is focused on the areas of Deinze and Tielt. In addition, this patron sent a beautiful book on the complete works of the Belgium artist Pieter Bruregel. A must see for all of our members.



FYI... The **Belgian-American Club of Chicago** is holding its **Annual Picnic** on Saturday, **August 17th**. The location is the same as in previous years – right off the Edens Expressway at the Willow East exit. The Club is raffling two round trip tickets from Chicago to Brussels, provided by American Airlines. Sounds like a good opportunity for Belgian goodwill, with a guaranteed sunny day this time.



The monthly *Waffle Breakfast* was held on July 6th. Chairpersons Art Holevoet and Norma Manning report that there was a good turnout even though there was a summer thunderstorm that brought some welcome rain. Workers included: Georgann Benson, Marge Fiers, Bill Fisher, Helen Foote, Paul Holevoet, Mary Mortier, Dorene Mummert, Mary Lou Robinson, Georgia Slininger, Louie Slininger, and Tom Taets. As always, Thanks to all workers and patrons. The next Waffle breakfast is scheduled for Saturday morning, August 3rd from 8:00-12:00.



As reported last month, two Quad-Cities youths were awarded **CBC Scholarships** to assist in their academic pursuits. Andrew Stontz, a senior at Alleman High School, sent a thank you note to the CBC in general and to those involved in the selection process in particular. As Andy states in his note: "the money will come in handy" - undoubtedly for *both* recipients.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, August 7	Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, August 10	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, August 14	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, August 17	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Wednesday, August 21	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, August 24	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, August 28	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, August 31	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel

Thank You ... and Keep in Touch. At press time, the Center had some visitors from Belgium who promised to keep us posted on happenings in their hometown of Gent. Luc and Elke Vertongen visited the Center as guests of Dr. Louis and Patricia DePorter (CBC members from Ogden Dunes, IN.) Luc and Elke, along with their children Pieter-Paulus, Marijke, and Servaas, made a donation to the CBC in memory of Celest Verbeke and Mary Coryn. A heartfelt Thank You for your contribution to promoting and sharing the Belgian Experience. And we look forward to your news and photos of Gent.



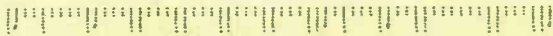
BELGIAN BITS

As a follow-on to last month's "Belgian Bits", these dates (taken from *Newcomer* magazine, March 2002) are keys to understanding Belgium's' complex social,

political and economic conditions. It seems that the division into two main language groups (Dutch and French) has fundamentally determined the nation's recent political history and current political structure. The constitutional monarchy is credited by many political geographers as being one of the forces that hold the country together.

- ❖ 1958. Brussels was chosen as the provisional headquarters of the European Economic Community. The city hosted the World Fair that year.
- ❖ 1960. The Congo was granted independence from Belgium.
- ❖ 1962. The language border was drawn up, separating Dutch-speaking Flanders from French-speaking Wallonia.
- ❖ 1992. Belgium became a federal state, divided into the regions of Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels.
- ❖ 1999. Elections were held in which the Christian Democrats lost power for the first time in 40 years. The current government is a six-party coalition led by the Flemish liberal Guy Verhofstadt.

In last month's issue, we generically identified the Belgium National Anthem (the "Brabançonne.") If you want to actually hear the Anthem, you can go to the following web address: http://belgium.fgov.be/en_index.htm. Select "Petty Facts" from the left-hand side of the home page, then click as appropriate to "Hear the national anthem." By the way, this web page can answer most any question you may have about "the Old Country." It's got links to other sites as well. Happy Surfing!



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