



## CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

### Of Western Illinois

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

September 2002

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

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Patrick Van Nevel  
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#### Vice President

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#### Secretary

Kim Kochuyt

#### Treasurer

Gabe Verstraete

belgie\_1@msn.com

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Robert Vande Wiele

#### Grant Committee Chair

Kay Verstraete

#### Past President

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#### Honorary Consul

Dolores Bultinck

#### Membership

Marlene Shattuck

#### Waffle Chairman

Gene Fowler

#### Flemings in the

#### World

Art Holevoet

#### Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Swanson

swansonsl@mehsi.com

#### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

#### Genealogy

Bev Francque



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sept 7	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Sept 7	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Sept 16	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Oct 5	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Oct 5	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Oct 21	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Nov 2	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Nov 2	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Nov 18	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Dec 3	Annual Christmas Party	Time To Be Determined

### From the President's Perspective ...

This month, we will take the opportunity to recognize some special efforts that our fellow volunteers have accomplished during the past month(s).

First of all, the Center has a new look and air about it thanks to many hard workers. A clean-up crew consisting of Dolores Bultinck, Mary Lorensen, Marlene Shattuck, Bob Vande Wiele, and Gabe and Kay Verstraete did a major house/center cleaning that included taking down the awning over the kitchen area. The plan was to have the awning cleaned, but years of dedicated waffle making had taken a toll. So, the awning is now down and the area has a new openness. And cleanliness. Those hardy volunteers did a major scrubbing of surfaces to polish the Belgian image that the Center depicts. (No mention of cleaning would be complete without including the extra efforts of folks who routinely "clean up" while doing a monthly volunteer stint at the Center. This comes to mind as I recall a recent Wednesday visit to the Center when I watched Clara Van De Veire clean while I talked to a visitor. I felt guilty for my non-participation, but also felt a sense of pride in our great volunteers.) In addition, the seating area at the front of the Center is taking on a new appearance. And it is a cool appearance.

### Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.  
1:00 — 4:00 pm

Cool in the current vernacular and literally cool in temperature. The existing air conditioner could no longer satisfactorily cool the area. So, a new air conditioner should be installed about the time this newsletter goes to print. Marlene Shattuck added the finishing touch to the re-do by making new table cloths. Those of you who attended a waffle breakfast or visited the Center undoubtedly enjoyed the new table cloths. It all adds up to a great new, comfortable look and atmosphere – one that we encourage all of you to experience.

Speaking of waffle making, it is appropriate that we recognize the special efforts of our Waffle Chairman, Gene Fowler, and his reputable crew of volunteers. As noted in last month's newsletter, we had two special waffle bakes during the month of July. These bakes reflect very significant, very successful special efforts to get the Belgian message into our Quad-Cities and Midwestern communities. Both the Rock Island Arsenal Heritage Day and the Iowa Wesleyan College bus tour were huge achievements. The College bus tour participants continually gave out kudos about the waffles, the Center and the volunteers. And the tourists "weren't just saying that." Two of the tourists sent a thank you note:

"Thanks for a wonderful waffle breakfast and for the fascinating history of Belgium and Belgium Americans. We'll be back to visit!" – Ron and Charlotte Andersen, Washington, Iowa.

In fact, the College tour group was so pleased that the professor, Michael Sahs, sent a follow-up thank you note with a \$100 "tip" (donation) for the great meal, presentation, etc.! He wrote:

"Patrick, we enjoyed our visit to the Belgian Center very much. We had a little money remaining after the trip, so we are glad to send you a little extra. Keep up the good work. Thank you for all you did for Iowa: Eye to I."

Special thanks to all involved in these special waffle bakes. Keep up the great volunteer work.

Also, one of our members provided some salient comments regarding our newsletter and its value to each of us:

"I enjoy the newsletter very much and want you to keep up the good work, so I am sending my renewal and a little extra anyway. I cut out the most interesting items and have started my second scrapbook so my heirs will have lots to read if they want. Thank you." -- Alice Schyvinch, Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

These comments are directed to the fantastic volunteer program that we have at the Center. Our standard as a social, service, and education organization is to provide exceptional (Belgian) support to our community. Let's continue the good work, and ...

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



IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE .. A *FINAL* REMINDER

Marlene Shattuck, our new Membership Chairperson, tells us that about 2/3rds of you have renewed your membership as of the middle of August. To those of you who have renewed, *Thank You!* To those of you who still have that task on

your "to-do list," please submit the enclosed membership renewal form (along with your fees) as soon as possible. Those members who have not renewed by September 15<sup>th</sup> will be dropped as a member and will no longer receive this CBC Newsletter.

If you have questions about the status of your renewal, or have questions about membership in general – feel free to call Marlene at 309.234.5486.



*And another thing ...*

Marlene also points out that many of you have elected to make donations to the Center along with your annual membership renewal fees. Of course, any and all donations are valued. But these donations are particularly noteworthy since they come at a time when you are already digging into your pockets for membership fees. It is not possible to recognize all of your contributions specifically, but rest assured that your donations are very much appreciated and indeed personify the Belgian Pride that makes the Center so successful.



**It's Your Board Meeting ...**

Your Executive Board holds a monthly meeting to discuss Center business. These open meetings are held the third Monday every month, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Center. All members are, of course, invited to attend. If you are unable to attend, Bob Vande Wiele diligently speaks for and represents member interests and concerns. Keep up the good work, Bob! But please -- feel free to attend a meeting if you wish. The Center has grown larger and better only with the support of its members and their collective input. So perhaps we should say: Keep up the good work, members!



*"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"...*

Yes, I know that some of you do NOT fancy a White Christmas. Instead you fantasize about a sandy white beach in Florida or a pristine desert landscape in the southwestern United States. But it's still Christmas, no matter the terrain. And it seems that we start planning for the Holidays sooner and sooner every year.

So, may we be the first Holiday notation in your Franklin Planner, Palm PDA, Compaq pocket PC, or tried-and-true paper calendar? Mark your schedule for the annual CBC Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We anticipate that the event will again be held at the Butterworth Center in Moline. More details will follow in future newsletter issues. (I understand that this get together is very well attended and very entertaining. What a way to kick off the Holiday Season. Plan to be there.)



*News from Belgium ...*

⇒ Paul Callens, a CBC member from "the Old Country," sent us an interesting article from the Loppem newspaper. Belgium continues to memorialize events that capture the spirit of the liberating armies in World War II. In conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national veterans' organization, two monuments have been erected. The first monument was unveiled in Leke last September, and another monument was opened to the public in Loppem, near Brugge, this past June. The monument commemorates the final battle in liberation of the area. More specifically, fallen Canadian soldiers are honored for their ultimate sacrifice to the war effort. Canadiens fought in the northern part of West Flanders in September 1944 - fought in the battle to save the castle of Loppem. But some of those soldiers, who belonged to the South Alberta and 15<sup>th</sup> Canadian Regiments, would not return to their homeland. They were interred in Belgium cemeteries, far from their family and friends. So, Belgium nationals now commemorate those fearless soldiers from a far away land who fought for their country's (and the world's) freedom.

Thanks, Paul, for a highlight of the courageous men who Tom Brokaw calls the Greatest Generation.

⇒ A young Belgian man, Alex De Witte, got our address through "Vlamingen in de Wereld" (Flemish in the World) and sent us a very nice letter. Alex is severely handicapped and wheel chair-bound. He enjoys reading about different places and collects postage stamps and picture post cards from all over the world. As his health does not permit him to travel, he travels through those postage stamps and picture post cards he receives of different countries and regions. Let us send Alex a few words and sights of our area and the areas we travel to and let him know the CBC members want to share their experiences. *Send correspondence to:*

De Witte Alex  
 Kleine Stadenstraat 71  
 B.8830 Hooglede (West-VI)  
 Belgium  
 Europe

Thank you!



*Congratulations!* And Belated Happy Birthday to Gene Horton who turned 88 years young on August 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Congratulations!* And *Happy Anniversary* to Don and Laurie Dusseliere on the occasion of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 1<sup>st</sup>.



*Get Well Wishes* to Lyle TeBockhorst who was hospitalized in Trinity West Medical Center, Rock Island, in July-August.



*A Speedy Recovery* to Stan Francque who is recovering from pneumonia at press time.



**FYI...** You may have read an article recently in one of our local newspapers about a new family entertainment center that is being built near the Moline-East Moline border south of Ben Butterworth Parkway. Owners are Patty and Mike Malmstead, daughter and son-in-law of CBC member and faithful volunteer Maurine Schweitzer. If you are interested, Maurine will be glad to give you the details.



*Waffles, Waffles, Who's Got the Waffles?*

The monthly Waffle Breakfast was held on August 3, 2002. Chairman Gene Fowler made the mix and did the setup before the dedicated helper/ volunteers and hungry patrons arrived. Workers included: Bev and Stan Francque, Kim Kochuyt, Mary Mortier, Marian Knock, Micky Kindhart, Karen Vande Kerckhove, Louis and Georgia Sliniger, Vic Stout, and Warner Gonnisen. Many Thanks to the volunteers. The **next Waffle Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday morning, September 7<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00-12:00**. See you there!

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wednesday, September 4	Jon + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, September 7	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, September 11	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, September 14	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, September 18	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, September 21	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, September 25	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, September 28	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel



BELGIAN BITS

The following excerpt from the June-August 2002 issue of *Belgium Today*, aptly titled "The United States of Belgium (1790)" provides this month's history lesson. (Thanks to Mary Lorensen for the periodical.)

"Belgium became an independent country in 1830, but less well known is the fact that another, albeit short-lived, attempt at independence, partly inspired by the American revolutionary experience, was made forty years earlier. A brief history of modern Belgium will help put the country's struggle for independence in context.

In 1714, the present-day Belgium provinces were transferred from Spanish to Austrian rule as part of the settlement of the French-Austrian dispute over the succession to the throne of Spain. The Spanish Netherlands became the Austrian Netherlands, ruled by a distant sovereign with his seat in Vienna instead of Madrid.

For the first fifty to sixty years, this was a change for the better. The Austrian Netherlands were at peace, not involved in the numerous fights between European powers. Agriculture, industry, trade, culture and science prospered. The territories were ruled in fact by Governors who enjoyed a lot of autonomy. In particular, the long reign of Empress Maria-Theresa with her Governor Charles of Lorraine is recorded as one of the happiest periods in Belgian history. Unfortunately, things began to turn sour very rapidly when Joseph II came to power."

To be continued ...

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PAR AVION

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