



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

## Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

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

October 2002

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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#### Waffle Chairman

Gene Fowler

#### Flemings in the

World

Art Holevoet

#### Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Swanson

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#### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

#### Genealogy

Bev Francque

### Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.

1:00 — 4:00 pm



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 5	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Oct 5	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Oct 15	Genealogy Class	6:30-8:30 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
Nov 19	Genealogy Class	6:30-8:30 pm
Dec 3	Annual Christmas Party	Time To Be Determined
Dec 7	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Dec 7	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Dec 16	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm

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

This month, *your* contributions to *your* newsletter are the subject of my mental meanderings and keyboard keystrokes. Since taking the writer-editor reins from Lois a few months ago, I've become cognizant of the powerful cultural and familial ties that bind the Belgian microcosm community of western Illinois with the macrocosm of international Belgian Pride. CBC members take active roles in furthering the social, service, and educational goals of the organization. In that regard, perhaps there is something that *you* can do. For example:

- ❖ Please notify the Center if you are aware of a member who should be mentioned in the Newsletter. Items of interest can include birth, death, illness, and significant accomplishment. Consider yourselves "roving reporters!"
- ❖ In the same vein, articles for possible publication are welcome. Whether it's a piece of writing from the Belgian Club of Atlanta or an excerpt from a Belgian newspaper, you are encouraged to submit information.
- ❖ Any items of interest should be submitted to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for potential publication in the next month's issue. Electronic submissions to my

email address (SWANSONSL@MCHSI.COM) are preferred, but hard copy via US Postal Service to my attention at the Center is also acceptable.

- ❖ If you do submit information or an article, please be sure to furnish your name and contact information in case there are questions.

**My Uncle Omer**

*By Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck*

This last month, I received news that on August 24th, my great uncle, Omer Gelaude past away. He was the last of my grandfather's siblings. Omer was 91, and had lived a good life. I am sad to see another of that generation leave this world. He lived through a lot of tough times. Omer lived his entire life in Tielt, Belgium. He grew up without his mother, after she died in child birth. He lived through World War I with the invasion of the Germans, and having to hide their food.

Depression times were next. He had to say good bye to many he knew who thought they would find a more successful life in America, including his own brother, my grandpa Julius Gelaude. They said their goodbye's, never to see one another again. Only in photos did they see one another again, and once in a video shown to them, while they were in their 80's.

Next it was World War II. The hard times and stress of war in their country so close to home, caused his wife Martha and him to lose a newborn child. Life gave them many challenges and changes, yet they found the simple things in life made them happy: working the land and raising a family. Omer and Martha Galle were married for more than 75 years. I have great respect and admiration for my uncle, grandfather, relatives, and other people who have gone before us. I am proud to have that as part of my heritage.

If we look hard enough, we find that those who go before us are woven into our lives, making us who we are. It teaches us about life, and helps us grow and get along in our daily lives. Memories warm my heart, and put a smile on my face. I take comfort in believing that my uncle Omer and my grandpa Julius are together once again in heaven. They are smiling down upon me, knowing that although our families are far apart in miles, we are close in heart.



*Congratulations!* Jim Van Speybroeck, a professor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, has earned a doctorate in educational administration from Illinois State University. Dr. Van Speybroeck is a member of the East Moline Centennial committee, making sure the Belgian community is well represented in this ambitious commemorative effort.



*In Memoriam*

*Rene Eriksen*, Milan, died July 5, 2002 at the age of 79. Rene is survived by his wife, Blanche. Both Rene and Blanche have been long-time CBC members.

*Catherine Caryn*, CBC charter member, died in the past couple of months. Particulars were not available at press time.

*John "Jack" Smith*, long-standing CBC member, died on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84. Born in Rock Island, Illinois, Jack leaves behind his daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Patrick VandeKerckhove as well as two grandchildren, a great-grandson and a sister.



**FYI...**

The tapestries in the new Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles were made in West Flanders, Belgium. Approximately 30-40 people from Belgium attended the dedication in Los Angeles on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Evelyn Van Puyvelde has recently been named President of the Quad City Heritage League. As Ethnic Coordinator she has represented CBC since 1993. She has served on the Board of Directors and also held various offices in the Heritage League.



Carine and Thierry Serck, Waardamme, Belgium have provided a wealth of information about Belgian breweries, beer, recipes, etc. for the Center's museum. Keep the information flowing. This information exchange is an important aspect of our mission to educate the western Illinois community about Belgian culture.

And another big Thank You to "Our Friend in Belgium" who has again sent the Center some wonderful books including a Master Painters book, *The Complete Works of Van Eyck*. Many of you have seen Van Eyck's painting, *The Adoration of the Lamb*, at St. Bavo Church in Gent. In addition, the book *Ontdek Belgie "Discover Belgium,"* includes many one day walking, biking or auto tours. The book is in Flemish but not it's not difficult to lay out a city or rural path tour. And finally, Our Friend sent the Center two phone books covering West Flanders – great for looking up a West Flanders address or the zip code of any town in Belgium, for that matter.

In general terms, the Birdies for Charity effort in support of the Center was very successful. Collections are still being received for distribution to the various charities involved, so specific information is not available at press time. For the time being, a BIG thank you to all contributors.



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

The monthly Waffle Breakfast was held on September 7, 2002. Bob and Elaine Hendrickx made the mix and did the setup before the dedicated helper/volunteers and hungry patrons arrived. Workers included: Mary and Marvin Brunning, Gene Fowler, Marian Knock, Bev and Ron LaSalle, and Clara VanDeVeire.

Many Thanks to the volunteers. The **next Waffle Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday morning, October 5<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00-12:00**. In case you haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these breakfasts, here's a photograph to pique your curiosity:



The Waffle Crew hard at work

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wednesday, October 2	John + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, October 5	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, October 9	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, October 12	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, October 16	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, October 19	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, October 23	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Saturday, October 26	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, October 30	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx



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

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

Genealogy Classes will be offered again for the 2002-2003 season at the Center for Belgian Culture. Classes will be conducted by experienced genealogical researchers: Bev Francque, Mike Kerckhove and Al Van Puyvelde. Mark your calendars for the third Tuesdays of October, November, January, February and

March from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the CBC. Classes are free as a service to Center members. For questions or registration, call Bev Francque at 764-3111.



### *Board Activities*

The Fall spruce-up of the Center continues. The Board has planned some major housekeeping efforts on two consecutive Tuesdays in November. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, they plan to clean the Center and on November 12<sup>th</sup>, they plan to do some painting. Activities on both days begin at 8:00 am. No expertise in cleaning or painting is required to participate. The bottom line: *all* of you are welcome to help in fixing up your Center.

Your member-at-large, Bob Vande Wiele, is involved in a committee to work on the organization's by-laws. The goal, of course, is to include member's wishes and needs relative to organizational functions and activities. Please contact Bob at 309.792.8237 with any comments or questions.

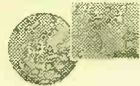
Art Holevoet is working on two new window displays for the Center. One window will focus on the infamous Belgian waffle tradition, while the other will highlight World War I memorabilia. Art has gathered quite an array of World War I artifacts, including an American helmet, to commemorate Veterans (Armistice) Day in November. The displays are yet another reason to stop by the Center to absorb the Belgian culture.

By the way, Art was also involved in the very successful Belgian Heritage Days held in Atkinson, Illinois last month. Some of you may have seen the article in the local newspaper featuring Art and fellow Belgian cooks with the renowned Belgian Lukken Cookies that are so popular.



### *Travels of Belgium ...*

Planning a trip to Belgium and in need of some ideas? The library at the Center may afford you some valuable assistance. The Center recently received some much appreciated pamphlets on Kortrijk, a lively town in the center of an industrial and commercial region that is continuously flourishing. Both the present and the past of the dynamic community of Kortrijk are captivating. The cultural and historical heritage of the town is found in its architecture dating back to the Middle Ages and in its museums dedicated to preserving a rich tradition. Stop by the Center during open hours and educate yourself with this informative pamphlet.



### **BELGIAN BITS**

The history lesson continues this month with a follow-on to last month's excerpt from the June-August 2002 issue of *Belgium Today*, titled "The United States of Belgium (1790):"

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

October 2002

"Much like his contemporaries Frederick in Prussia and Catherine in Russia, Maria-Theresa's son (and brother of the French queen Marie-Antoinette) was a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century enlightened despot. These monarchs wanted to reform the governance of their nations, putting into practice the ideas of enlightened philosophers such as Voltaire and Rousseau. At the same time they wanted to retain their autocratic power.

Joseph II began to implement his ideas in the area of religion: Catholicism lost its monopoly, church seminaries were replaced by state institutions and the emperor even prescribed the height and thickness of church candles, and the days on which parishes could hold their yearly festivals. All of this earned him the sobriquet "emperor-sacristan." In the political arena, Joseph completely remodeled the civil and tax administration and the judiciary. He did away with all the remnants of the century-old direct relationship between the individual territories. (Flanders, Brabant, Hainaut, etc.) and their sovereign.

Beginning in 1785 the opposition grew, and found strength in the examples of the American and French revolutions. The clergy preached against the emperor and political critics organized in two main groups. The "Statists," led by Henri Van der Noot, wanted to return to the *Ancien Regime* and the privileges of the clergy, the nobility and the provinces. The "Vonckists," under the leadership of Jan-Frans Vonck, aspired to a democratic state order with a monarch whose power would be controlled by people's representatives."

*To be continued ...*