



**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE  
Of Western Illinois**

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

November 2002

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

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bavn1@aol.com

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**Center for Belgian  
Culture  
Open Wed. + Sat.  
1:00 - 4:00 pm**



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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	5:30 p.m.
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
Jan 4	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Jan 4	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Jan 20	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Jan 21	Genealogy Class	6:30-8:30 pm

**From the Editor's Keyboard ...**

As this issue of the CBC Newsletter comes together, my thoughts turn to the upcoming holidays of November. Cranberries are already on sale at the local grocery marts, so turkeys cannot be far behind on our shopping lists. All too soon, it will be time to gear up for the Swanson clan's Thanksgiving gathering. But before stuffing any turkey or mashing any potatoes, it's fitting to contemplate the national holiday that recognizes our American soldiers who ensured the lifestyles that we have today.

Armistice Day. Veterans' Day. Whatever the moniker and whatever the specific date, this day is about recognizing and thanking soldiers who battle(d) for our freedoms. It is about the eleventh day of the eleventh month that epitomizes the eleventh hour efforts of soldiers who would not give up their fight for freedom. It was on November 11, 1918 that the cease-fire agreement (armistice) was signed in France that ended the "war to end all wars." World War I ended, and the world felt safe again. Soldiers have marched in parades, politicians have made speeches, and veterans groups have held solemn ceremonies to annually

commemorate the anniversary of the armistice signing. American politicians made it official in 1938: November 11<sup>th</sup> would be a national holiday. Armistice Day was born. But as we all know, World War I was not the end to war. World War II and the Korean Conflict rolled up the cumulative casualties of war. So, the name was changed to Veterans' Day in 1954 to recognize the sacrifices of *all* veterans. (Did you know that the holiday was renamed thanks to the townspeople of Emporia, Kansas? In 1953, those folks called the holiday Veterans' Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by a Kansas congressman renaming the federal holiday to Veterans' Day.) In 1971, President Nixon changed the federal holiday to the second Monday in November. A change in name and a change in date, but the meaning remains the same.

When contemplating this commemorative holiday, the long ago war poem of a Canadian foot soldier comes to mind: "**In Flanders Fields.**" In the summer of 1915, ferocious fighting ensued as the English and French armies dug in their heels against the German onslaught, amidst the plains of Flanders. Colonel John McCrae survived the scene of carnage and was mystified by the stark contrast between the makeshift crosses marking the graves of fallen comrades and the blood red poppies marking the permanence of Life. Ghostly reminders of the grim consequences of war against a backdrop of the beauty of Nature. Such was the writer's muse for the famous poem that follows:

**"In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."**

For those of you who are planning a trip to Belgium, the World War I Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial is located on the southeast edge of the town of Waregem, along the Lille-Gent AutoRoute E-17. At this peaceful six-acre location rest 368 American military Dead, most of whom gave their lives liberating Belgium during World War I. The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm except December 25 and January 1. If you do not have trip planned to Belgium, the web page has an impressive virtual tour at: <http://www.abmc.gov/ff.htm>.

November is a month of thanksgivings and faith. I think it is appropriate to close with the final words of Colonel John McCrae, who died of war injuries in 1918: "Tell them this, if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep."

Newsletter Mailings ...

Headed south for the winter? Besides missing the Winter Wonderland of the Midwest, you will also be missing this CBC Newsletter unless you **notify Marlene** of your **winter address**. Please call Marlene at 309.234.5486 with your change of address. Of course, be sure to tell her of your return next Spring as well.



*In Memoriam*

*Madeleine Sercu*, formerly of Rock Island and more recently of the Heartland Health Care Center, Moline, died on October 12, 2002 at the age of 94. An avid lace maker, Madeline had been an active member of the Center for Belgian Culture since the early 1960's. Madeline is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Frank and Sandra Sercu, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

*Rachel Marheim*, Moline, died September 26, 2002 at the age of 92. Rachel was the daughter of August and Marie DeGesquiere DeWindt. She is survived by her husband, Raymond, Moline.

*Robert Verstraete*, East Moline, died on September 30, 2002 at the age of 88. He and wife Helene celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 8, 2002. Robert is survived by Helene, daughters Judy (and husband Jim) Williams and Pat Seams, son Bob (and wife Ronda), six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

THANK YOU



As we memorialize fellow friends and relatives, we must also thank individuals who made commemorative gift contributions to the Center. Lee and Bea De Brabander, Art Holevoet, Dolores Bultinck, and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Donohue made donations in Madeline Secru's memory. Frank Sercu, his family, the Center and its members sincerely thank them.

We also want to thank Mary Ann and Joe De Sutter who donated their (uncle) Pete Engels' 1991 Western League Rolle Bolle Trophy.

Thank you, again, to all members who elected to make special contributions to the Center along with their annual membership renewal.

**Our CBC Member Lucy DeWaelche**

*By Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck*

In 1992, a retirement party was given for Lucy DeWaelche by her fellow members and friends of the CBC. She was unanimously voted "Miss Center for Belgian Culture." The title was awarded to her because she served the center for

many years with great distinction, uncommon dedication, and a sense of service which her fellow members greatly admired and appreciated.

Most of us who frequent the Center for Belgian Culture know Lucy. She was among our very first members since the center first opened in the 1960's. Throughout the years, Lucy has been lending a helping hand where ever she can. She was library chairman, changed the displays and cleaned at the Center for many years, and worked at countless waffle events. Lucy didn't want to take so much credit, noting that two of her sisters were members as well and were very active with the Culture Center.

On July 18, 1913, in Moline, Illinois, Octaaf and Valerie DeWaelsche welcomed their daughter into this world. The name given to her was Lucy Leona. The story of her family history sounds the same as many of ours does. Lucy's father came from Kanegem, Belgium, and her mother from Ruiselede, Belgium. They left Belgium looking for a better life when Lucy's brother was just a month old. Their new life in America was prosperous. Her father was a blacksmith and found work right away. That was a wonderful start for a couple who ended up raising five children. By doing so well here in America, Octaaf and Valerie didn't even think of returning to Belgium.

Lucy grew up in Moline - all within an area of a few blocks. She was baptized at Sacred Heart and went to school there. After finishing her education at St Joseph, Lucy never got married. She made her career by working at the Sunny Side Flower Shop on 7th Street in Moline. Lucy commented, "It was a wonderful place to work and the owner was very good to me. I enjoyed it."

At Lucy's age, she is happy to still be driving. You also might find her walking in her neighborhood for exercise. She exercises every day. Water exercising was among one of her favorites for the last 20 years until recently for health reasons she had to stop. I am told by others that she is one tough cookie!

When I asked Lucy about what she likes to do besides helping the center, she said that she loves arts and crafts, sports such as basketball, baseball and tennis, and enjoys traveling. Lucy has been to every state of our great nation. She has been to Belgium 3 times. The first time she went, Lucy and her sisters took their parents for their 50th wedding anniversary. They loved it! She is partial to southern region of Belgium, finding the scenery beautiful. Visiting relatives was her favorite part of the each trip. Lucy gets along well in Belgium knowing how to speak Flemish. The language was spoken in her home growing up, but she usually always answered in English.

I asked Lucy about her thoughts on the Center for Belgian Culture. She said, "Everyone has trouble getting new volunteers. I hope that it does well, keeps going, and gets what it wants." I expected more stories of Lucy's life the day I sat and visited with her at the Center. She replied, "I haven't lived a very exciting life, but I've had a fun life!" She's a shining example we should all hope to follow.



**FYI...**The *CBC inventory of museum items* is progressing quite well. Alan Hoyt volunteered to inventory the historical and cultural icons that reside at the Center. The treasure trove of Belgian history and memorabilia is truly mind-boggling and is a testament to community pride. Al has inventoried 219 items thus



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

As previously reported, the annual CBC Christmas Party is being held on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Butterworth Center, Moline. Dinner will cost **\$5.00 per person** which includes meat, dinner rolls, punch and coffee. **Please be sure to bring a dish to pass.** The social will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program by the Moline Boys Choir begins at 7:00 p.m., with a Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to donate a door prize, bring it the night of the party and put it on the table with the poinsettias. Raffle tickets will be available at the Center and at the event. The Grand Prize is a beautiful Saint Nicholas, so start buying those tickets!

Attendance is **limited** to the **first 80** sign-ups (sorry, no exceptions). Reservations are required and can be accomplished one of two ways. First, there is a sign up sheet at the Center. Second, you can send the following form (*with payment*) to the Center, Attention: Scott Raes.

Please keep in mind -- the **reservations deadline** is Tuesday, **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, feel free to call Scott Raes at 309.762.6103.

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Center for Belgian Culture Annual Christmas Party  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002

Mail to: Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois  
Attention: Scott Raes  
712 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

far, and is about one-third finished. Al enters items into a computer software program for quick cataloging and easy reference. Despite Al's assurance that this effort has been not that substantial, all members owe him a big Thank You! Consider yourself thanked, Al.

The final numbers and dollars are in on the Birdies for Charity contributions pledged to the Center. The CBC raised nearly \$1,500 this year. Monies will again be set aside to fund the CBC Scholarship Fund. Thanks again to Mary and Larry Lorenzen for spearheading the charity effort for the Center. And Thank You to those of you who pledged.

A local Catholic boy grew up and now is at the center of the efforts to open Archbishop Fulton Sheen's sainthood cause. Monsignor Richard Soseman, a Campbell's Island native, St. Anne's School alumnus and 1981 Alleman High School graduate, recently traveled to the Vatican to submit the Peoria Diocese petition for Archbishop Sheen's sainthood.

Interested in a luncheon gathering with some spirited Belgian ladies? How about traveling to Geneseo's Iron Kettle Restaurant on Tuesdays? Then you should consider attending Belgian Ladies Day, an event that began over 20 years ago in Atkinson, Illinois. All are invited for good food, Belgian camaraderie, and card playing. Call Sue Longeville at 309.936.7972 for more information.



Congratulations! "Roving Reporters" Dick and Diane Van Bell are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild. Caroline Mae Van Bell was born on September 20<sup>th</sup> to proud parents Marc and Deborah Van Bell of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Of course, she is the most beautiful baby Dick and Diane have ever seen. Must be those Belgian genes!



### *Travels of Belgium ...*

Sabine Griffel, with the Belgian Tourist Office in New York, graciously sent me an email offering to assist CBC members with travel plans to Belgium. For information on visiting Belgium or to receive a map of Belgium and brochures, contact her at 212.758.8130, extension 10. Thank you for the offer, Sabine.



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

The monthly Waffle Breakfast was held on October 5, 2002. Workers included: Marti Davenport, Gene Fowler, Werner Gonnissen, Ken Kindheart, Marian Knock, Kim Kochuyt, Mary Mortier, Scott Raes, Georgia and Louis Slininger, and Pat

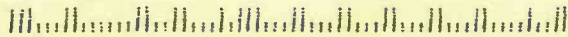
CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE  
OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.  
712 - 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265



AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium

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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

**November 2002**

and Barb Van Nevel. Many Thanks to the volunteers. The **next Waffle Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday morning, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **8:00-12:00**.

AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wednesday, November 6	John + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, November 9	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, November 13	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, November 16	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, November 20	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, November 23	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, November 27	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Saturday, November 30	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel

**\*\*Please call Pat Van Nevel as soon as possible if there is a conflict or if you need to change your scheduled time.\*\***