



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

## Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

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

December 2002

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President

Patrick Van Nevel  
bavn1@aol.com

#### Vice President

Scott Raes

#### Secretary

Kim Kochuyt

#### Treasurer

Gabe Verstraete  
belgie\_1@msn.com

#### Member at Large

Robert Vande Wiele

#### Grant Committee Chair

Kay Verstraete

#### Past President

Bonnie Newman

#### Honorary Consul

Dolores Bultinck

#### Membership

Marlene Shattuck

#### Waffle Chairman

Gene Fowler

#### Flemings in the World

Art Holevoet

#### Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Swanson

SWANSONSL@MCHSI.COM

#### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

#### Genealogy

Bev Francque

### Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.

1:00 - 4:00 pm



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec 3	Annual Christmas Party	5:30 p.m.
Dec 7	Waffle Breakfast/Bake Sale	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Dec 7	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Dec 16	Monthly Board Meeting (at the Van Nevel's)	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
Feb 1	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Feb 1	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Feb 17	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Feb 18	Genealogy Class	6:30-8:30 pm

### THIS AND THAT

The Honorable Dirk Loncke, Consul General of Belgium in Chicago, visited the Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa region on October 24<sup>th</sup>. His primary purpose was to attend a Belgian business exposition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but CBC members took the opportunity to entertain the Consul in transit. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois, of course, was a part of the conversation. We appreciate the Consul's support of our education, service, and cultural museum undertakings and look forward to his participation in our anniversary celebration in 2003.

One of our members recently read children's stories to Cambridge, Illinois elementary school students, grades kindergarten through sixth grade. The member first read a story in Dutch and then translated it into English. The young students enjoyed this CBC outreach effort and our member was touched by the youngsters' responses. An example of Belgian Pride and the exuberance of youth.

Still looking for that unusual, unexpected Christmas gift? How about a Belgian hankie, new Lukken iron, rolle bolle, or one of the many other unusual items from the **Kleine Winkel** shop at the Center? If you're still undecided, why not purchase a Kleine Winkel **Gift Certificate**? The minimum gift certificate amount is \$10. These certificates are in addition to the already available Waffle Breakfast certificates, priced at \$4. Stop by the Center during open hours and purchase that special someone a unique gift certificate or two or three.



*In Memoriam*

*Mary Elizabeth (DeMeyer) Wauters*, of Hartwick, Iowa, died on November 5, 2002 at the age of 91. A long time CBC member, Mary Elizabeth is survived by her son Marvin, also of Hartwick. Our condolences to Marvin.



**THANK YOU**

Mary Lorensen has received a check in the amount of \$1503.78 in payment for CBC Birdies for Charity pledges. Specific individuals who donated include:

John Adam, Dolores Bultinck, Judy Cartee, Mary Claeys, Dave Coopman, Bill Cornelis, Steve DeCastecker, Mary Rose DeCoster, Emil Dupont, Marian Dupont, Mary Joy Feeney, Bill Fisher, Helen Foote, Standley Francque, Gary Francque, Werner Gonnissen, Rene Gusse, Stella Hendricks, Arthur Holevoet, James Hunter, Barbara Hunter, Mike Kerckhove, Ken Kindhart, Marian Knock, Diane Kohrs, Susanne Leslein, Mary Lorensen, Larry Lorensen, Bonnie Newman, Troy Nicholson, Scott Raes, Joe Sharrar, Marlene Shattuck, Louis Slininger, John Smith, Rebecca Smithers, Victor Standaert, Kathy Taubman, Joe Taylor, Richard Van Bell, Patrick Van Nevel, Barb Van Nevel, Albert Van Puyvelde, Richard Van Raes, Julien Vercoutere, and Gabe Verstraete. Sincere thanks to all for your support in CBC fundraising efforts.

**Lacemaker to Lacemaker**

*By Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck*

We vary in age and characteristics, but the one common thread we have is our passion for lacemaking. As we sit in our group, gently clicking our bobbins, our conversation occasionally turns to the names of those who made lace before us. There are many names that come to our minds, one being Madeleine Sercu.

Although I never had the privilege of meeting Madeleine, I hear she was a very sweet lady. Madeleine immigrated to the United States in 1947. Many of the Moline Lacemakers who originally came from Belgium already knew the art of bobbin lace. They then passed on their knowledge to others who wished to learn. Although Madeleine loved lace, she wasn't one of those who brought the artful skill of lacemaking with her.

From what I found in past articles on the Center for Belgian Culture and lace, Madeleine had an extensive lace collection. She displayed it at foreign cultural and social events, and exhibits. She was a long time member of the CBC and began lacemaking in 1968. She was taught by Dolores Bultinck's mother, Martha Bultinck.

She learned well and spread her love of lace and what she learned by teaching others. By the 1970's she had eager students under her wing.

Madeleine certainly wasn't the first or last to make lace. Her 94 years have touched the lives of even those who hadn't met her. As well as the other countless lacemakers that I haven't mentioned. I salute you all with great admiration! Your lace is linked to a new generation. As we go on working our bobbins, we will remember the myriad of hours all of you worked those threads, rolling those bobbins back and forth so many times. The knowledge you have shared with us, your effort and patience, desire, and love of lace will be a treasured keepsake for all.



## 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 final installment to history lessons previously printed in the newsletter. (Thanks again to Mary Lorensen for the periodical.)

"Faced with increasingly harsh repression, the political opposition was forced into exile. In the Netherlands Vonckists and Statists organized themselves militarily and invaded the territories in October 1789. Resistance by the Austrian garrisons was weak and the emperor could not send reinforcements because of his war against the Ottoman Empire. By December all of the Austrian Netherlands, except Luxemburg, was liberated. Van der Noot entered Brussels as a hero and was hailed as the Belgian 'Franklin' and 'Washington.'

The General Assembly of the States was called together, for the first time since 1632. On January 10, 1790, it proclaimed the independence of the United States of Belgium. The new constitution, based on the American Articles of Confederation, gave extremely limited powers to the central government and extensive privileges to the provinces. The government sought recognition from other European powers but got none. Very soon internal disputes between Statists and Vonckists began to paralyze the new state. No efficient administration was put into place; the military organization was disastrous.

Joseph II died in February 1790. His successor, Leopold II, made a generous offer to give the Austrian Netherlands very broad autonomy, but the General Assembly refused. In September, the emperor signed a peace deal with the Ottomans and immediately thereafter started the counter offensive against the Belgian rebels. By December 3, 1790 the capital, Brussels, fell to the Austrians. The United States of Belgium again became the Austrian Netherlands, but not for long. In 1792 they were conquered by the French revolution armies and annexed to France.

The end of the French Empire came when Napoleon lost his last battle at Waterloo (just south of Brussels) in 1815. That same year the fate of Belgium was settled at the Congress of Vienna, which created the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, an

entity that included present-day Holland and Belgium. The goal was to create a buffer state that would help keep possible new French expansion in check. Fifteen years later, in 1830, the southern provinces rebelled, seceded and became The Kingdom of Belgium.

There are many similarities between the Belgian Revolutions of 1789-90 and 1830. The causes of the uprising against Dutch King William I were identical, in part, to those of the rebellion against Emperor Joseph II. In the beginning, the revolution of 1830 was also rather chaotic. The initial military reaction of the Dutch was as weak as that of the Austrians. King William also made an offer of autonomous rule and was rejected by the Belgians. One main difference however was that the revolutionaries of 1830 had learned the lessons of 1790. They managed to maintain unity among political rivals; they organized themselves extremely well and rather quickly gained recognition from the big European powers. When on July 21, 1830 Leopold I took the oath as the first King of the Belgians, the new state was very well established."



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

The monthly Waffle Breakfast was held on November 2, 2002. Workers included: Georgann Benson, Marvin and Mary Brunning, Mary Rose DeCoster, Gary DeCrane, Gene Fowler, Bob and Elaine Hendrickx, Marian Knock, Bonnie Newman, Scott Raes, Vic Stout, Clara Van De Veire, and Pat Van Nevel. Many Thanks to the volunteers.

The **Annual St. Nicholas Bake Sale/Waffle Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday morning, December 7th** from **8:00-12:00**. If you are interested in displaying your culinary skills, feel free to bring in some bake sale items. We're hoping for some Belgian specialties, but any baked items are welcome. The Board has received assurance from St. Nicholas himself that he will be present to spread good will and holiday cheer amongst attendees and throughout Olde Towne Moline.

If you are scheduling ahead for the January **Waffle Breakfast** on **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a limited menu, with donations being accepted. The Waffle Committee will be serving waffles with toppings along with coffee, but no sausage.

Gene Fowler and his crew do an amazing job. In particular, Gene does an exceptional job making sure the process runs smoothly, even when he is not able to attend the breakfast. Gene is always looking for new batter mixers, servers, waffle makers, etc. Let him know if you're interested.



*Travels of Belgium ...*

Thanks to Dolores Bultinck, who suggested that we run the following information as a reprint from the *Gazette vau Detroit*, October 31, 2002:

"On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Belgium will start issuing machine readable passports to its citizens. The new passports will have biometric identifiers and will be highly tamper-resistant.

Belgian embassies and Consulates will forward passport applications to the Belgian Foreign Ministry in Brussels for processing by a central passport office. The Ministry foresees a processing turnaround of no longer than six weeks.

Belgians who need to travel urgently and who are registered with an Embassy or Consulate may request a temporary passport valid for six months.

Belgian passports already in circulation will remain valid until their expiration date. Detailed instructions on how to apply for the new passports will be posted no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> on the Embassy web site: [www.diplobel.us](http://www.diplobel.us)."

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...**

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

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

*\*\*Please call Pat van Nevel at 332-8752 as soon as possible if there is a conflict or if you need to change your scheduled time.\*\**

**\*\*Volunteers**, don't forget! You need to **record your hours worked** on the volunteer work sheet in the folder located by the CBC telephone, call Gen Vrombaut at 762.6176, or e-mail Gen at [GVRROMBAUT@webtv.net](mailto:GVRROMBAUT@webtv.net). We need to keep accurate records of our volunteer hours in order to support grant requests and reflect our organizational missions and functions. Thanks.\*\*

**Speaking of Volunteers:** The CBC now has a **Volunteer Sign-up Sheet** located on the bulletin board by the front door of the Center. Please review your personal schedule and consider volunteering. If you have questions, feel free to call any board member – or ask a volunteer! If you are already a seasoned volunteer, please use the sign-up sheet to confirm your participation. Stop by the Center during open hours and participate in the growing Belgian Pride of Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa.

 **FYI ...**

Gene and Peg Horton have moved from their home to Avonlea Cottages in Milan, located at 2025 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Gene can no longer drive. He and Peg would welcome any volunteers who would take them for a ride once in a while. Call them at 787-4326 if you're available. By the way, Gene and Peg just welcomed their 30th great-grandchild to go along with their two daughters and twelve grandchildren, for a grand total of 42 descendants.

 *"And a Partridge in a Pear Tree ..."*

Thanks to Evelyn Van Puyvelde for submitting the following timely information.

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

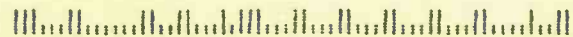


AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium

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From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit -- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

And with that ... *Zalig Kerstfeest and Gelukkig Nieuwjaar*