



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

January 2003

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Center for Belgian Culture

**Open Wed. + Sat.
1:00 - 4:00 pm**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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
Mar 1	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Mar 1	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Mar 17	Monthly Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
Mar 18	Genealogy Class	6:30-8:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ...

Those of you who attended our annual Christmas party know that it was great fun. As usual, the Butterworth Center was the perfect location. The food was excellent and so was the entertainment provided by the Moline Boys' Choir. A huge *THANK YOU* to Scott Raes and his helpers as well as to the many generous donors who contributed door prizes.

I would like to close the year 2002 with a big Thank You to the officers, board members and many volunteers who keep up the good work and carry the Belgian torch. Unselfish service on the part of these tireless volunteers has made us successful and remains the key to our continued success. Planning is underway to ensure our future accomplishments. Specifically:

- ❖ Kay Verstraete presented a proposed organizational chart to be submitted for approval at our next annual meeting. The chart streamlines our operations and facilitates workflow, communication and cross-training of volunteers, committee members, committee chairs and officers. As we look toward the future, we cannot

just look towards the next month, quarter or annual meeting.

- ❖ In another effort to grow smartly, we will again plan strategic board retreats to discuss, explore and plan for the long term future of our organization. The past board retreat meetings have allowed us to know each other better and realize the common goals we have for the CBC. As a result of those meetings, we have established and carried out a number of initiatives.
- ❖ Using the ideas formulated above, we will lay out a concept for the future. We look forward to formalizing our mission, purpose and long-term goals and invite all members to provide input during our planning process. Of course, the primary purpose of this process is to communicate and educate both our membership and the larger community about the wealth and richness of our cultural heritage.
- ❖ This is quite a laundry list of goals and objectives. On a lighter note, we will be celebrating our fortieth anniversary sometime next year. Together, let's make the next 40 years even better!

In closing, it is a privilege to work with the dedicated officers, directors and volunteers to serve you, our members. We look to you for input, guidance and support to ensure the legacy of our forefathers in the Quad Cities and beyond. Thank you.

Belgian Pride - Let's Keep it Going and Growing!



Belgian Pride (continued)...

Speaking of Belgian Pride, the museum's web site is an excellent resource for information on the Center, Belgium, the Quad Cities and genealogy. Belgians often use the guestbook as a means to track ancestors. Some queries/entries include:

- ❖ Geert Tavernier of Brugge is looking for relatives with name Tavernier or De Tavernier. You can send info to me as he is not on-line.
Paul Callens <pin18290@pi.be>
Pittem, Belgium - Monday, October 07, 2002 at 12:08:19 (EDT)
- ❖ Great thing that we can answer american questions about their roots.
Guido Van Cauwenberghe <guido.vancauwenberghe@pi.be>
Tielt, Belgium - Wednesday, September 11, 2002 at 15:06:57 (EDT)
- ❖ The Moline city library passed me your website... indeed, my g-grandfather settled in East-Moline 90 years ago... his story is becoming my passion. I hope to contact your people very soon, posing my genealogical "ancestor"-questions. Congratulations with your nice site, and many greetings. Dirk De Wever (Antwerp)
dirk de wever <dirk.dewever14@yucom.be>
boechout, belgium - Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at 17:46:56 (EDT)

- ❖ looking for all information regarding Marie van den Hauwe (VanDeNauwe in the USA) married to August Delevere and emigrated in 1908.
Luc van den Hauwe <luc.van.den.hauwe@klina.be>
Antwerp, Belgium - Monday, July 29, 2002 at 11:49:32 (EDT)
- ❖ Charles parents came from Wevelgem, West Flanders, to Colorado in about 1912. We are interested in all information about Holvoets (in general), Verraest, or Flemish culture.
Thanks for having this site.
Jennifer and Charles Holvoet <jholvoet@sunflower.com>
Lawrence, KS USA - Wednesday, July 24, 2002 at 16:07:20 (EDT)
- ❖ Looking for information on my husband's family - Claeys and primarily the family of Vital and Emma DeDoncker who lived in Moline.
Konnie Claeys <jclaeys6@comcast.net>
Sewell, N.J. USA - Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at 21:00:42 (EDT)

If you have access to a computer and are web surfing some day, take the time to access your Center's web page at: <http://www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org/>. It's an interesting site for all kinds of Belgian information and links. Enjoy!



In Memoriam

Ida L. DeDecker Hendrickson of West Des Moines, Iowa died Sunday, November 10, 2002. Ida lived in the Quad Cities for several years before relocating to California and ultimately moving back to Iowa. Jerry and James DeDecker, Ida's two brothers, are both CBC members. Our condolences to Jerry, James and their collective family.



BELGIAN COOKING

At the holiday time of year, we seem to enjoy comfort foods that take us back to our heritage. In the heart of the Midwest, that comfort often comes in the form of a hearty stew to warm our hearts and bodies. In searching through Belgian recipes on the Internet, I found the following:

BELGIAN BEEF STEW — *Serves 8*

- 3 lb Lean stewing beef - cut into 1 1/2-in cubes
- Flour for dredging
- 5 T. vegetable oil
- 2 large Onions - peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 Garlic cloves - peeled and minced
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 12 oz Beer
- 2 lb Sauerkraut - rinsed and squeezed dry
- 2 T. Marjoram
- 2 T. Dark brown sugar

- 1 t. Celery seed
- 1 Bay leaf
- 3/4 C. Pitted green olives, sliced
- 1 C. Cream (optional)
- 1/2 C. Minced flat-leaf parsley - for garnish

PREHEAT OVEN TO 325F. Dredge the meat in flour. Heat 3 tablespoons of oil in a Dutch oven. Add only enough meat to cover the bottom of the pan without crowding and brown on all sides, scraping and turning the cubes so that they don't burn. Remove the meat with a slotted spoon to a bowl, and continue until all the meat is browned, adding fresh oil as needed. If the oil has burned or more oil is needed, add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil to the pot. When it is hot, add the onions and cook for 6-to-7 minutes more, stirring frequently until they are light brown and soft. Stir in the garlic. Add the meat, salt, pepper, beer, sauerkraut, marjoram, brown sugar, celery seed, bay leaf and olives and stir to mix well. Cover and transfer the casserole to the oven for 1 1/2 hours. Stir occasionally. After the meat is tender, remove the bay leaf, skim off any excess fat and stir in the cream, if desired. Add the parsley.

**Recipe taken from the following web page:

<http://www.recipesource.com/text./ethnic/europe/belgian/beef-stew1.txt>



Waffles, Waffles, Who's Got the Waffles?

The monthly Waffle Breakfast was held on December 7, 2002. Specific names of volunteers were unavailable at press time, but *Many Thanks* to the *unnamed volunteers*.

Don't forget - the **Waffle Breakfast** on **January 4th**, will include a limited menu, with donations being accepted. The Waffle Committee will be serving waffles with toppings along with coffee, but no sausage.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, January 1	CENTER CLOSED	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Saturday, January 4	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, January 8	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, January 11	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, January 15	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, January 18	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, January 22	Georgiana Slininger	Louis Slininger
Saturday, January 25	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, January 29	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

****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.****

Housekeeping ...

We've often mentioned the on-going cleaning efforts that your board members and volunteers are undertaking to spruce up the cultural center. Well, the next phase is going to be done on January 13th, 2003. Board members are going to don white painter's coveralls and paint the kitchen and gift shop areas. If you have a yearning to do some painting, please be at the Center around 8:00 on the morning of the 13th. If you have a favorite paint tool/brush/roller, bring it along too.



BELGIAN BITS

As some of you may already know, Belgium has a new Ambassador to the United States. Frans van Daele arrived in Washington on August 1st and has been introduced to Secretary of State Colin Powell and presented his credentials to President Bush on September 25th.

Van Daele joined the Belgian Foreign Service in 1971 and has served in various bilateral and multilateral assignments during his 30+ year career. Immediately prior to accepting his new assignment, he was Belgium's Ambassador to the European Union in Brussels. His services to the nation, particularly in European construction, were recently recognized by King Albert, who conferred on him the title of baron.

The Ambassador comes to Washington with a directive to fortify and expand the U.S.-Belgium relations, with particular emphasis on the multilateral dimension of cooperation. Lofty goals that would undoubtedly help both nations. Let's hope that those goals come to fruition.

Ellis Island from a Belgian Immigrant's Eyes

While surfing the Net this past week, I found an interesting site for Belgian Traditions: <http://members.tripod.com/~therresa/>. I found the following personal essay particularly fascinating and touching. Perhaps it will instill some reflection about your immigrant ancestors. Due to space limitations, I'll be publishing this in a couple of installments.

Ellis Island

Written by Louis P. Coopmans; submitted by Bev Gossen-Clemente

"This Wednesday night was another miserably hot one, and it made Thursday morning slow coming. At breakfast a steward had nodded at the Coopmans and several times they caught his words, "today go," as he motioned thumb over shoulder like to go away. Their English vocabulary now consisted of "yes," "no," "all right," and "today go."

They were encouraged by this and hurried down to their cabin to set their bundles ready to go. Soon thereafter they were shown to leave their cabins and go on deck. There the gang plank was in place leading to a landing platform and long stairway to the deck below. They were tagged upon departure from the ship and wondered whereto now.

A walk of a quarter mile took them to a large ferry boat which they boarded. Several hundred were on it. It churned the water of the river for about thirty minutes. There was a nice breeze -- all seemed to enjoy the relief from the heat.

Louis thought that the Hudson River had to be crossed to get back on solid land where huge brick massive buildings stood. As they neared, they noted heavy iron fencing along the shore. The ferry boat docked, and as they disembarked, they could read the overhead arched sign, "Ellis Island."

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This place was impressive; it looked like a giant complex. The grounds in front of it covered a large area. Why would we have to come to such a fancy place? It looked like a large railroad terminal; it was massive. Yet it couldn't be because it was on an island, too far from land to be connected by a bridge.

Through heavy gates they were herded by the hundreds in the large open grounds. Husky uniformed guards with clubs in hand kept the immigrants in long lines, two abreast. Slowly they were marched past a food station where gray-aproned men handed to each a cheese sandwich and a paper cup. All were hungry -- the sandwiches vanished. On we marched past a multi-faucet trough where water could be taken in the cup. The guards would shout and wave clubs to move their human charges."

They were allowed to be at ease for most of the afternoon, sitting on the ground and resting. Later on they were herded into the large doors of the huge building. This building which looked so fancy from the outside, was a giant cattle barn with wrought iron tall fencing and railings running parallel about three feet apart accommodating the masses snaking around the ends, each time moving three feet closer to the clerk-manned admission desks."

TO BE CONTINUED ...