



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

February 2003

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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

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
Mar 19	Hutsepot Dinner	5:00-8:00 pm
Apr 5	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Apr 5	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
April 9	Volunteer Dinner	To be Determined
Apr 21	Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm
May 30	CBC 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party	To be Determined

## From the Editor's Keyboard ...

I was recently searching for just the right quotation for a project, and happened to see the following words of wisdom from Albert Schweitzer:

**“You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others - something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.”**

A powerful sentiment. A thought-provoking message. A placard for all volunteer organizations. And more importantly, a lead-in for this month's editorial musings.

It is a no-brainer concept that social, service, and education organizations such as the CBC need an infinite supply of volunteers. A successful volunteer program breeds a successful organization, regardless of its mission. From the CBC perspective, a successful volunteer program breeds more awareness of the Belgian culture and heritage. We all can understand that.

Perhaps we don't all understand that there are endless

occasions to participate. Waffle Breakfasts, Host/Hostess, Gift Shop, Window Displays, spearheading annual events – just a few possibilities of Schweitzer’s all-important volunteering of time.

In sum, it’s human nature to think that our help isn’t needed. But more often than not, a helping hand is beneficial for the giver as well as the recipient. Consider assisting with one (or more) of the established volunteer functions – it’s simple. In order to help interested individuals, Patrick will commit to two afternoons of orientation of new volunteers and volunteers wishing to learn more. Call a Board Member. Attend a monthly Board meeting. Your help in serving and educating the Belgian and Quad-Cities communities is needed. Try volunteering. It *is* the privilege that Schweitzer defines.



## *Belgian Community Outreach Activities*

Many CBC members are spreading the Belgian Pride message throughout the larger Quad-Cities community. The communication of cultural values and heritage enrich the cumulative neighborhood we call Home. Specific activities include:

⇒ A journalist with the Moline Dispatch interviewed our own Marlene Gerlaude-Shattuck regarding her participation in a Flemish language class. The focus of the article was the cultural heritage of the multi-ethnic Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa region. By press time, you may have enjoyed the article in that “other” newspaper.

⇒ Art Holevoet was featured, including a candid photo, in the December 2002 issue of Flemings in the World. For those of you who did not get to read the article, the focus was the cookbook, *Recipes and Recollections*, that St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Atkinson published. The cookbook is available for \$14 through Flemings in the World, or on a more local basis: The Book Emporium in Kewanee and East Moline, The Flemish Lion in Moline, and various local bookstores. Consider buying a copy at the listed businesses. It’s a guaranteed favorite for any Belgian cook.

⇒ Atkinson, Illinois is not just a place that breeds excellent cookbooks. The Belgian community within this small village also takes great pride in its collective heritage. The Atkinson Historical Society Museum features Belgium memorabilia, and will include a window display of Belgians in the Korean War until June 2003. The mention of window displays brings to mind one name: Art Holevoet. Yes, Art has been busy again. And he will be bringing the display to the CBC windows for Veterans’ Day. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the exhibit.

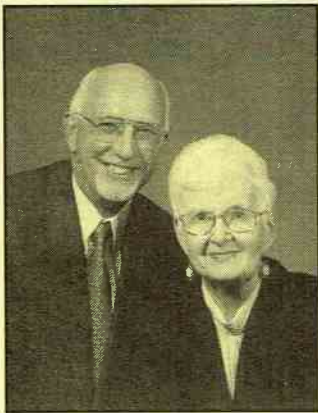
⇒ Mary Kay Lorensen presented a program on Belgian culture at St. Mary’s Catholic school in East Moline on January 30<sup>th</sup>. As a part of Catholic School Week, representatives of various cultural communities within the Quad-Cities were asked to share their heritage. Mary had numerous stories of her mother’s life in Belgium and emigration to the U.S. Of course, no discussion of Belgian culture would be complete without at least some mention of the famous Belgian lace. Perhaps the CBC Lacemakers will now be flooded with visitors on the first Saturdays of the month?

⇒ We are going to participate in the City of Moline Adopt-A-Park program. Bill Fisher has generously offered to coordinate and we look forward to bringing our “Belgian Touch” to Stephens Park.

⇒ We have an opportunity for interested individuals to learn the Belgian card game BIEN. Evelyn VanPuyvelde (764.8042) has volunteered to teach the game how-to's. We will probably be playing on a Wednesday or Saturday afternoon.

⇒ And finally, we have scheduled the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Center for Belgian Culture. Circle May 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendars and plan to participate in what will certainly be a special event to celebrate Belgian Pride. Consul General Dirk Loncke will be attending this extraordinary observance. Additional details will be available in future newsletters.

*Golden Wedding Anniversary Congratulations*



Alan and Joanne Hoyt celebrated their anniversary on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The former Joanne DeWalsche and Alan Hoyt were married in the rectory of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Moline.

Joanne and Alan are the parents of five children and have 13 grandchildren.

Alan was employed for 29 years by John Deere Harvester in the Accounting Department. Joanne was a homemaker.

They attend Christ the King Catholic Church, Moline. Al and Joanne, long time CBC members, now spend much of their free time volunteering at the Center.



*In Memoriam*

Josephine M. Coopman of Moline, Illinois died Tuesday, November 19, 2002 in Moline. Josephine and her husband Harry were long-time CBC members. Services were held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, with interment in St. Mary's Mausoleum, East Moline, Illinois. Our condolences to Josephine's family.



**CBC Scholarship Program**

Bob Vande Wiele, Scholarship Chairman, reports that two \$500 scholarships for deserving high school seniors will again be awarded this academic year. Application packages are being given to area high schools. CBC members can pick up an application at the Center, or you can call Bob at 792.8237. Among other things, applicants must prove they are in good academic standing and submit an essay relating to their heritage. Submission deadline is April 12, 2003.

**KLEINE WINKEL SHOP**

The holiday shopping season is officially over for another year. But does January 1<sup>st</sup> truly mark the end of gift buying? We all know the answer to that question. Valentine's Day, anniversaries, birthdays, or "just because" - all reasons

to buy something special for someone special. And the Kleine Winkel shop at the Center could have just the right unique item. Perhaps a Being Belgian is Beautiful sweatshirt or t-shirt, a Belgian cookbook, a lace handkerchief, or one of our *unadvertised special sale items* would make the perfect gift. Stop by during open hours and see what the shop has to offer.



*Hands Across the Water ...*

CBC member Leon Sorejn and Margaret from Maldegem, Belgium visited Western Illinois during September 2002. Leon and Margaret have relatives in the area and are also familiar with many of our members. Leon is interested in the immigrant story in general and is an avid genealogist who has helped many individuals track their ancestors. CBC members Marvin and Mary Brunning hosted the couple and shared many special Belgian moments against the backdrop of memorable Western Illinois sites.



*St. Joseph's Day Hutsepot Dinner*

The CBC annual Hutsepot Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Center. The cost will be **\$7.00**, including dessert and drink. Due to space constraints, we must limit reservations to a first-come, first-serve basis. Also, we will be scheduling **two separate serving times**: 5:00-6:30 pm (first seating) and 6:30-8:00 pm (second seating).

How do you reserve your seating? One of two ways: sign up at the Center, or send the following form to the Center. Call Bob Vande Wiele at 792.8237 with questions.

***Center for Belgian Culture Hutsepot Dinner  
Wednesday, March 19, 2003***

Mail to: Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois  
ATTN: Bob Vande Wiele  
712 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred seating time: 5:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed (\$7.00 each): \_\_\_\_\_



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

The monthly waffle breakfast was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> and was very successful. Attendees didn't seem to mind that the menu did not include sausage (a labor/time saver at an already busy holiday time). Workers included Gene Fowler; Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck; Scott, Debbie and Jennifer Raes; and Barb Van Nevel. Many Thanks to the volunteers -- both named and unnamed.

The next **Waffle Breakfast** will be **Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Tell your friends!**

In a related activity, we wish to extend a *special thank you* to all who contributed to the *December bake sale* held at the Center during the December waffle breakfast. Thanks to Al and Evelyn VanPuyvelde for working on the sale.

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Saturday, February 1	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Norma Manning (pm)
Wednesday, February 5	John + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, February 8	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, February 12	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, February 15	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, February 19	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, February 22	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, February 26	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde

*\*\*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.\*\**

**Ellis Island from a Belgian Immigrant's Eyes (continued)**

**Ellis Island --** Written by Louis P. Coopmans

"The male clerks were black uniformed and wore patent leather beaked caps like the railroad conductors. These clerks checked each person from the list of arrivals they had and put a tag around the necks of the immigrants. They talked to each person as they were registered, but their English was like so much gobbledygook to these folks who spoke no English."

These long wrought-iron fences were gateways leading to separate areas which were enclosed by more iron fencing. The people were directed differently according to the tags they wore and the destination labels on the personal bundles. They were put in different corrals housing perhaps a hundred or more. A blanket was handed to each as they passed by. They were assigned double-deck sleeping bunks made out of steel. No mattresses, no pads, just steel straps two inches wide, tightly interwoven. They could use their blankets for cover or to lay on.

The Coopmans used some of their personal cloth bundles for pillows. Louis was wondering if this was really America as he observed a couple of big roughians take the blankets away from smaller helpless people who were intimidated by the threatening fists of these rowdys.

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE  
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**AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION**

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Louis wondered how long they would be kept in this steel fenced jail-like place. How could there be a place like this right close to the Statue of Liberty? He felt captured instead of liberated.

Lights were dim but here and there he would see bearded men with black hats bowed in prayer, reading their bibles, and little old women kneeling and making the sign of the cross before crawling onto their bunks. Sleeping was often interrupted by shouts or cries of fear of what could happen in this place.

They were awakened by a loud noise in the morning. The corral enclosed by wrought-iron fencing with vertical rods about eight inches apart was used for an alarm. A guard walking at a lively pace with club in hand rubbing the fence was a real waker-upper. It scared most people."

Each day a certain number were processed and put on their way. The others fed out of large baskets could wash over troughs and then stay near their bunks. Skylights made it clear during the day. The Coopmans went through this mess Thursday and Friday nights. Saturday, July 16, they were escorted to physical last inspection stations where all had to strip to the waist again. We really didn't mind taking the smelly clothes we had been wearing nor for two weeks in the summer heat.

The medic examiners were lined up in pairs about fifteen feet apart. They wore long white coats. In each pair one would examine; the other would make records on a large note pad."

**... TO BE CONTINUED ...**