



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

March 2003

40 years of Celebrating Belgian Heritage – 1963–2003

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Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.

1:00-4:00 p.m.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	Time to be Determined
Apr 21	Board Meeting	5:30-6:30 pm



Belgian Community Outreach Activities

Dolores Bultinck, Honorary Consul of Belgium in Western Illinois, reports that Patrick Van Nevel represented this area at the Belgian Network Conference held in Los Angeles on February 20th and 21st.

The conference was organized jointly by the Embassy in Washington, the Consulates General in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, and the Belgian administrations.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip and Mrs. Annemie Neyts, Minister-Deputy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, honored the conference with their presence and participation in the proceedings. The last time such an initiative had been taken was in 1997, in Washington.

In the official part of the conference, interventions were made by HRH Prince Philippe and Minister Neyts. Working sessions and debates, introduced by panels of speakers, were devoted to several themes:

- an overview of recent political and economic developments in Belgium,



- the state of the Belgian-American relationship,
- promotion of trade and investment, with particular emphasis on the mandate of the foreign trade advisors, and
- image building towards the public, the media, the cultural and the academic world.

Attendees had an opportunity to mingle at a reception on Thursday evening. Ambassador Frans van Daele officially welcomed everyone to the conference on Friday morning. His Royal Highness Prince Philippe gave opening remarks to set the stage for upcoming panel discussions and working sessions. A full day of work then ensued, with moderators in charge of the subjects mentioned above. (FYI: our *Consul General Dirk Loncke* was moderator for the Promotion of Trade and Investment session.) Ambassador Frans van Daele provided the conference summary and conclusions. Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck gave closing remarks to finish up the successful conference. (At press time, we had no specific information from Patrick regarding accomplishments or activities of note.)

CBC Members Alan & Joanne Hoyt

by Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck

About once a month you'll find the smiling, friendly faces of Alan and Joanne Hoyt as you walk in and visit the Center for Belgian Culture. They enjoy volunteering their time as host and hostess of the center. Both enjoy the benefits of meeting new people and showing you what the center has to offer, as well as providing a service that is needed to maintain the center. Joanne enjoys looking at and remembering her upbringing. It brings back so many memories for her. Alan is amazed at the numerous items that have been donated showing the history of Belgium and our ancestors. He has graciously taken on the enormous task of taking inventory of all these items for our archives and entering them into a computer program.

The Hoyt's have been members of the CBC for about 4 years now. They visited Belgium in 1990, and spent some time in Brussels and Adegem. Alan and Joanne thought Belgium was one of the most beautiful, cleanest countries with their flowers everywhere and their intriguing, old buildings. They also found the people of Belgium to be very friendly. Joanne realized how proud she was of her heritage. She exclaims, "I am so amazed and proud of my grandparents who came here to a new country. Not knowing the language or what to expect and making a wonderful life for all their siblings. It has made me a proud Belgian. That's why I wanted to get involved in this organization."

On June 23, 1931, Joanne Margaret Mary DeWaelsche was born in Moline, Illinois. Her proud parents were Marcell DeWaelsche (Kanegem, Belgium) and Margaret Sierens DeWaelsche (Adegem, Belgium). She grew up in the "Belgian Territory" of Moline, along with one brother named Thomas, who died suddenly in June 1986. For all those who are wondering as I was when I heard her name was DeWaelsche – Yes, Joanne is related to our very own Lucy DeWaelsche. She is her Aunt, sister to her father Marcell. Joanne attended Garfield school for 2 years, Sacred Heart 8 years, and finished her last 2 years graduating from St. Joseph's in

Rock Island. She went on to Business College at the Moline Institute of Commerce. She also worked at Herman Nelson Corporation until she got married.

Alan was born February 24, 1933 on a farm south of Cambridge, Illinois, the son of John Hoyt (Dale, Oklahoma) and Irene Eaton Hoyt (Cambridge, Illinois). His two sisters, Norma and Patricia were also born in their family home. For the first 8 years, Alan attended a one-room country school. He went to high school in Cambridge, and graduated in 1950. In the fall of 1950, he came to Moline and went to the Moline Institute of Commerce located in downtown Moline. This is where Alan & Joanne met in 1951. They were married on January 10, 1953 at Sacred Heart in Moline. Their 50 years of marriage have blessed them with 5 children: Michael, Patrick, Tim, Sally and Dan. Adding to the blessings of their family are 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Finishing one year at Moline Institute of Commerce, Alan started to work at the Rock Island Arsenal. He was drafted into the Army and spent one year at Camp Atterbury in Indiana and one year at Fort Carson in Colorado. Upon discharge from the Army, he finally finished his business education at American Institute of Commerce, then located on Brady Street in Davenport, Iowa. Alan started working for John Deere Harvester Works, East Moline, in the Accounting Department. He retired from Deere & Company in 1986.

Starting out in Moline, Alan & Joanne have moved a few times in their life together. In 1955, they moved to Rock Island, 1956 to Colona, and back to Moline in 1965. The year 1986 took them a bit further south and looking for warmer weather. They lived in Florida for 12 years. While living there, Alan worked 10 of those years for a company that provided wholesale electric items. Once again they moved in 1988 back to Moline, Illinois. These days you can find the Hoyt's enjoying retirement and keeping busy with all of their volunteer work. Besides both of them volunteering their time at the Center for Belgian Culture, Alan spends a few hours a week with the Friends of the Moline Public Library. He and others sort donated magazines to be resold for the library. The money raised is used towards purchasing various items the library needs. During tax season, Alan prepares tax forms for the senior citizens under an ARRP program at the East Moline Senior Citizens Center. This service is provided on Tuesdays and Thursday from 1- 4 PM.

Volunteering is a worthy cause. You may find that you're enjoying yourself and making new friends with the effort. The Hoyt's hope more people will become involved in our great heritage. By doing so, the Center can continue to provide us with a great resource along with the preservation of our past and look towards a bright future.

- ❖ **FYI ... Marlene** doesn't just conduct interviews; she also gets interviewed. Specifically, Marlene was interviewed for an article on "**Heritage Language Learners**" published in *The Dispatch Progress* section on February 2nd. Hopefully, you had an opportunity to read the interesting article on Marlene's Flemish language course (conducted by none other than Pat Van Nevel). If you didn't get to read the article, there is one posted on the board in the front of the Center. Way to go, Marlene!



Waffles, Waffles, Who's Got the Waffles?

The monthly waffle breakfast was held on February 1st and was very successful. Workers included Marv Brunning, Gary DeCraene, Gene Fowler; Bob and Elaine Hendrickx, Marian Knock, Mary Mortier, Clara Van De Veire, Pat and Barb Van Nevel, and Al and Evelyn Van Puyvelde. Many Thanks to the volunteers, who make sure that all of us can enjoy a Belgian Breakfast the first Saturday of every month. **Tell your friends and bring the kids!**



****Reminder****

St. Joseph's Day Hutsepot Dinner

It's not too late to sign up for the CBC annual Hutsepot Dinner on **Wednesday, March 19th** 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 - 18th Avenue; Moline, IL 61265

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Preferred seating time: 5:00 pm _____ 6:30 pm _____

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

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, March 1	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Norma Manning (pm)
Wednesday, March 5	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Saturday, March 8	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, March 12	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, March 15	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, March 19	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, March 22	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, March 26	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Saturday, March 29	Barn 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.****

In Memoriam ... Lyle TeBockhorst, 76, of Rock Island, Illinois died on February 15th. Many of you may remember Lyle from the monthly Waffle Breakfasts that he rarely missed. He is survived by numerous step-children, nieces and nephews. Our condolences to all of them.

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

Ellis Island -- Written by Louis P. Coopmans

Following is the final installment of a personal essay written by a local Belgian immigrant. A reminder: <http://members.tripod.com/~therresa/> is a great web site for Belgian traditions.

"There were five inspection stations. One doctor would examine your throat -- the next would look at the chest, tap and listen -- another the stomach and reproductive organ -- the fourth made you turn around to look at your back. Arnold had been just ahead of Louis at each station, and his Dad's smile appeared to indicate all was well and the line was moving fast.

The fifth and last inspector checked arms and legs. While Arnold went through, Louis worried about his own crippled right hand. In all confidence, he stepped in front of the doctor. This man looked at the feet, then as he looked over the head of Louis he put his two hands on the shoulders, slid his hands down the arms to the wrist, raised the two hands, dropped the left good hand while he held the crippled hand up and talked to the other doctor. They examined these two fingers and a thumb.

Louis could feel his heart pound and the tears come to his eyes as he was taken out of the line and put aside. In just these few seconds, he thought he would be rejected and not allowed entry. All his dreams were crumbling. "God, help me," he prayed. "Please, God, help me." Arnold was brought back to his side while three doctors conferred briefly. Then God seemed to open the gates of heaven as he noticed nods of approval and he was motioned to go on. A short time later the four of them were united as a family.

After two more trips to the soup and sandwich line that day, they were back in their corral quarters wondering what tomorrow would bring. There were fewer in the bunks that night, and they were awakened early the next morning by the same banging club on the iron fencing.

They were rounded up and escorted to the big hall area along with about a hundred others near a large door labeled "EXIT." They knew what "EXIT" meant by now. Soon they were marching outside in the direction of a large ferry boat. Where to now, Louis wondered, as the boat got in motion. There was seating room for all of them. Sandwiches and cups of milk were distributed.

The sun was shining brightly and it was so exciting to watch the tremendous river traffic as the ferry boat steamed southward toward the shore. As they approached land, Louis saw "JERSEY CITY" on the landing dock. Jersey City it was as they marveled at the precision with which their vessel was moved into its landing slot.

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Their destination tags were checked and from the sign language they received went into a long walk which led them to a large railroad station. They noticed "New York Central" here and there as they were escorted to a railroad ticket desk. A clerk said "ticket please," while he smilingly looked at them. "Ticket please," again he said. Arnold nor Louis knew anything about a ticket. The only tickets they had, had been taken as they were checked in at Ellis Island. The railroad clerk hailed a nearby railroad officer who could speak French. He told them that they were supposed to have on-half of a ticket showing that they were paid through to Atkinson, IL.

Now what to do? All pockets were searched -- no tickets were found. The helpful interpreter accompanied Arnold and helped in sending a telegram to Uncle Vic advising him of our arrival. While Arnold was gone those few minutes, Louis remembered that before leaving Belgium, and after the tickets from Uncle Vic had arrived, he had copied the initial and the entire serial number on a small card and put it in his billfold. C191739 Third Class Cunard Line. This billfold had never had any money in it yet, but now he believed it contained something real important.

The clerk took a good look at it and reached for a telephone as he smiled. He made contact with the Cunard Line office, learned that their passage had been paid to them in full - Antwerp, Belgium to Atkinson, IL. He proceeded to make out tickets for them, and in a few minutes, they were on the New York Central Train."