



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

July 2003

40 years of Celebrating Belgian Heritage — 1963-2003

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Patrick Van Nevel
bavn1@aol.com

Vice President

Scott Raes

Secretary

Kim Kochuyt

Treasurer

Alan Hoyt

BACKHOME1@MCHSI.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

Genealogy

Bev Francque

Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. + Sat.

1:00-4:00 p.m.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jul 5	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Jul 5	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Jul 11	Anniversary of Battle of the Golden Spurs	
Jul 21	Board Meeting	5:30-7:30 pm
Jul 21	Belgium Independence Day	
Aug 2	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Aug 2	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Aug 18	Board Meeting	5:30-7:30 pm



Special Belgian Guests

As all of you know, the visit of two Belgian diplomats has been at the forefront of CBC activity for several months. All of the planning culminated in a history-making day for the Center and its members. On June 14, 2003, His Excellency van Daele, Mrs. van Daele, and the Honorable Mr. Loncke were introduced to the Quad-Cities while CBC members were introduced to international diplomatic relations.

The purposes of the visit were the retirement of Honorary Consul of Belgium in Moline, Dr. Dolores Bultinck, the appointment of a new Honorary Consul, Patrick Van Nevel and the Ambassador's interest in visiting areas in the country where Belgian emigrants have settled.

The day began with a luncheon at the Davenport Country Club where Quad City area mayors, legislators and their representatives, and business leaders interacted with the Belgian diplomats and learned about the role of the Honorary Consulate. Father Lee gave a very touching, appropriate invocation that spoke to the hearts of all in attendance. The co-hosts of the event, John

Stavnes, President Wells Fargo Quad Cities and Eastern Iowa and Jim Collins, Director Community Relations, Deere and Company shared their thoughts and appreciation regarding opportunities to work together in our global community. H.E. van Daele and the Honorable Mr. Loncke presented informative and insightful views about transatlantic relations and Honorary Consul duties. Mayor Pro Tem Don Welvaert completed the luncheon events by presenting H.E. van Daele and Joseph Van Nevel with City of Moline medallions.



The activities then switched to the Center, where incoming CBC President Scott Raes began the proceedings with a welcome. The focus then changed to recognize one of our CBC members who has contributed so much to the Center and the Belgian immigrant community. Dolores Bultinck, one of the Center's co-founders, was honored for her 30 years distinguished service as Honorary Consul in Moline. Thirty years ago, Dolores was the first woman appointed to such a post by the Belgian government. Consul General Loncke expressed Belgium's appreciation for her exemplary service, after which H.E. van Daele decorated Dolores as Officer in the Order of Leopold II. Dolores took the opportunity to recognize the honor it had been to serve the Belgian government and to thank the CBC

for its continued commitment to serve the community. (Dolores, from all of the CBC membership: *Met een hartelijk dank voor Uw inspanningen* – with a heartfelt thanks for your efforts.)



As one Honorary Consul retires, another is named. Ambassador van Daele then administered the oath of office to our own Patrick Van Nevel, who took the opportunity to thank the many individuals involved in his transition from a young Belgian visitor to Belgian immigrant to Belgian government representative. Hosts, adoptive American parents, CBC Board Members and past Presidents, the very important volunteers, and most of all his family – all received special Thanks from

Patrick. It is fitting to include Pat's closing comments. "Like the parents or ancestors of all of you, my parents made a lot of sacrifices to let me pursue my dream. It is great to have him (Pat's father) see that America has been good to me. America has been good to all of us." And with that, we shall join the Ambassador, the Consul General, and Patrick in toasting the Belgian pride and heritage that exists throughout the global community. Pass the Duvel.

CONGRATULATIONS ...

To Scott Raes for being elected to the Moline City Council.

To Bob Vande Wiele for being elected to the East Moline School Board.

To Sister Lucia Kadolph, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, for 60 years of service. Sister Lucia's present assignment is as a retired volunteer at Jordan Catholic School, Rock Island. She was born in Eldora, Iowa and entered the order on 8 January 1944 at Ottumwa Heights Covent in Ottumwa, Iowa. Sister Lucia taught at Jordan Catholic School in Rock Island from 1974-2000 and continues to offer her services as a substitute teacher. Some of you may remember or recognize Sister Lucia as one of our dedicated CBC Lacemakers.



Condolences ...

Our sympathies are extended to the loved ones of the following CBC members:

Elsie Feeney Hancock, 88, of Davenport, died May 16, 2003 at the Kahl Home in Davenport. Mrs. Hancock was born April 28, 1915 in Moline, the daughter of Philemon and Alida Staes Hendrickx. Services were held on May 19th, with interment in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Davenport. A longtime member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Elsie is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Paul and Kay Feeney; David and Carole Feeney; and James and Debbie Feeney; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and three stepchildren.

Alice VanBesien, 91, of Port Byron, died Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at Illini Restorative Care, Silvis. Mrs. VanBesien was born September 11, 1911 in East Moline, the daughter of Leon and Erma Vallaeyes Albrecht. A member of St. John's Catholic Church, Alice is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Roy Eddleman; sons and daughters-in-law, Dan and Sandra VanBesien; and Dwayne and Winnie VanBesien; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a brother.

This and That ...

⇒ The Center recently had an inquiry from a Belgian-American couple near Baltimore, Maryland who were interested in the Belgian Cookbook that we sell. The couple heard of the Center long ago when the Gazette van Detroit was still alive. They had a copy of the first printing of our cookbook and were in dire need of a

replacement. To make a long story short, they did an Internet search and found our home page. (Great job, Werner!) The happy ending is that the couple purchased not one, but five copies of the cookbook.

To quote the couple: "We are always happy to hear from other Belgians so if anyone is coming our way, feel free to give them our coordinates." So, here is their address ... and be sure to contact these folks for some Belgian camaraderie, East Coast style.

Andre and Linda de Ridder
9601 Baron Place
Rosedale, MD 21237
Phone: 410.780.1905

⇒ In another human interest story, Bob Vande Wiele relayed this experience he had while reviewing our Scholarship Program applications. Bob and his committee were wrestling with selecting the scholarship recipients one afternoon at the Center. They were in need of a break, and they definitely got one - and a lesson that bespeaks of the cliché about it being a small world.

A female visitor stopped by and wanted to look around as she revisited where her father lived. She had a nice chat and went on her way. Not five minutes later, another woman stopped by who was similarly visiting her father's long-ago hometown area. It seems impossible, but they were two sisters, one from St. Louis and one from Minneapolis, who by happenstance stopped by the Center within minutes of each other. Luckily, Bob and his committee were able to catch the first visitor/sister and help in an impromptu family reunion. It *is* amazing who you can see at the Center.

⇒ From the newsletter of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rock Island: Bishop Daniel Jenky has made a new parish assignment that should be interesting to many CBC members. Father Patrick DeMeulemeester, son of Godeliene and Andre, has been assigned as the new Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Rock Island and Administrator of St. Joseph's Parish in Rock Island. Father Pat's home parish is St. Mary's in East Moline, Illinois where his parents presently reside. He was ordained in 1995.

⇒ I happened by the Center one Wednesday afternoon recently and was shown an interesting bit of correspondence by Mary Lou Andrae. CBC member Victor Standaert had just donated some museum materials to the Center: books, a plate, and a letter from Belgium dated 7 December 1976. The letter is from the area's first Sister City in Belgium, Sint-Kwintens-Lennick. It is a letter to Denny Jacobs that carries the signatures of the Belgian burgomaster (mayor), Jan Bascour, and his council or aldermen. The letter evidently is a confirmation of previous discussions in 1975 between the Mayor of Sint-Kwintens-Lennick and an area/Center representative. Thanks to Victor and his family for this bit of Belgian-American history.



BELGIAN BITS

Brig. Gen. Danny E. Van de Ven, a military attaché to Belgium’s ambassador to the United States, was the guest speaker at a dedication ceremony for the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes Forest, Belgium) Memorial. The ceremony was held on May 17, 2003 in Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville, Indiana.

We all are aware of the infamous Battle of the Bulge, perhaps by way of a world history class or perhaps via the movie theater or video rental store. But we may not be aware of the Belgian perspective of the fight to preserve their freedom. About 1,976 Americans were killed or injured each day of the battle as fighting continued for 41 days amidst bitter cold and snow. And the Belgian people still appreciate those valiant efforts.

Brig. Gen. Van de Ven believes that despite being overshadowed by the D-Day effort, the Battle of the Bulge means just as much to the people of Belgium as it does to the soldiers. He acknowledged: “My parents and grandparents lived through German occupation twice, in World War I and World War II, and they told me about the liberation. The Americans are the reason (Belgium as well as Western Europe) enjoy the riches and freedoms we do today.”

Van de Ven summarized the event quite well as he stated “Those who do not honor the past are not worthy of the present, nor the future.”

**Thanks to CBC Member Lewis De Porter who provided the information for this article.



Facts from Belgium

Did you know ... that the Corporate Tax Reform Bill of December 24, 2002 modifies the Belgian corporate tax regime and introduces a general system of tax rulings? Belgium is among the top of the league with these attractive corporate taxation rules.

And another thing: Outside the framework of the Bill, attractive tax provisions continue to apply to foreign investors. If you are interested in Belgian investments, try the following Internet address: www.fiscus.fgov.be/interfinvesten. Good Luck!

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wednesday, July 2	Jon + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert

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

Saturday, July 5	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, July 9	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, July 12	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, July 16	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Saturday, July 19	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, July 23	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, July 26	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wednesday, July 30	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde

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.

REMINDER ... All volunteers should report their hours worked as well as type of volunteer work performed. You can use the volunteer work sheet in the folder at the CBC (located by the telephone), call Gen Vrombaut at 762.6176 (leave a message on their answering machine if necessary), or e-mail your information to GVROMBOUT@webtv.net. It's important that the Center has a track of hours worked in providing public service and education for our Belgian and greater Quad Cities communities.