



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue

Moline, Illinois

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

August 2003

40 years of Celebrating Belgian Heritage – 1963-2003

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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
Sep 6	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Sep 6	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00-4:00 pm
Sep 15	Board Meeting	5:30-7:30 pm
Fall 2003	CBC 40 th Anniversary Celebration	To Be Determined

From the Editor's Keyboard ...

It doesn't seem possible, but it's been 18 months ago that I began my adventure in writing about Belgian culture. I have enjoyed expanding my comfort zone by writing in a new genre, and hopefully the CBC membership has enjoyed my newsletter approach.

However, I must regrettably resign as writer-editor of the CBC newsletter effective after publication of this month's newsletter. Your CBC Board is in the process of finalizing arrangements for my replacement.

I have enjoyed the working relationship that I have had with the CBC members. Both I and my husband hope that the new friendships we have made will continue beyond my official capacity as recorder of Belgian heritage.



CBC ANNUAL MEETING

The annual dinner meeting was held on June 30th at the Center. And what a meeting/celebration it was. For

Center for Belgian Culture
Open Wed. + Sat.
1:00-4:00 p.m.

those of you who could not attend, here are some interesting points:

⇒ Patrick Van Nevel provided comments regarding the June 24th event during which the Belgian Ambassador, His Excellency Frans van Daele, and the Consul General in Chicago, The Honorable Mr. Dirk Loncke, visited the Quad-Cities area and the Center. As you all know, the Belgian diplomats were in town the honor the outgoing Belgian Consul, Dr. Dolores Bultinck, as well as install Patrick Van Nevel as her successor.



⇒ Because of that appointment, Patrick must resign as President of the Center for Belgian Culture. His successor, Vice President Scott Raes, was introduced as the new President.

"The Passing of the Gavel"

⇒ Kay Verstraete reviewed the revisions to the CBC Bylaws, which the Board approved in the Fall of 2002. Changes primarily reflected a refined and more efficient structure of committee work. Those changes were explained to the membership at the annual Christmas meeting and have been displayed (chart and text) at the Center for 7 months. After a short discussion, the members in attendance voted to approve the changes in bylaws as presented.

⇒ Bob VandeWiele and Patrick Van Nevel introduced the three CBC scholarship recipients. The students and their families were guests of the CBC for the event. Each recipient received a \$500 check toward their college education and the congratulations of those present. Scholarship winners, in alphabetical order, are pictured here with Patrick:

Emilie Pannell, Sherrard Junior/Senior High School graduate, attending University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign;

Brittany Robertson, J.D. Darnall Senior High School graduate, attending University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign; and

Kathryn (Katie) Van Quathem, Bettendorf High School graduate, attending Augustana College.





We relay a note of thanks from your retired Honorary Consul, Dolores Bultinck. "Thank you for all your work on my behalf at the June 14th retirement occasion. I greatly appreciate your loyalty and support throughout the years. Sincerely, Dolores." It seems just as appropriate and important that the CBC Board (past and present) and its membership should be thanking you, Dolores. Well Done!



The **CBC Scholarship Program** was established, as you know, to assist young scholars in the greater Quad-Cities metropolitan area in their academic pursuits. It's a great community outreach effort to encourage heritage appreciation among young people. And it's an effort that does not go unrecognized by the recipients. Two recent recipients conveyed their gratitude:

"Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner and hospitality you gave to my mom, my grandma, and I. I liked meeting everyone and learned some interesting heritage facts along the way. Thanks also for your generosity and hard work that provided for my scholarship. I will be using the money to help pay for books in college. Thanks again." - Brittany Robertson

"I would just like to express my thanks for the scholarship I won through your organization. I appreciate the time you have all spent fundraising in order to provide this scholarship. I would also like to thank you for your kindness at the dinner. My mom and I both felt very welcome. I felt honored to receive this scholarship and I greatly appreciate it! Sincerely," - Emilie Pannell

This issue is full of segues, as we now focus our attention to the efforts that support this scholarship program -namely, **Birdies for Charity**.



Mary and Larry Lorensen, co-chairs of the CBC **Birdies for Charity** effort, report that pledges are somewhat down from last year. Perhaps you've been on extended vacation, been too busy to make the connection with Mary and Larry, been meaning to get that pledge form sent in, or been affected by the down turned economy as so many have been.

Whatever the case, please consider/reconsider making a pledge for this most worthy public service endeavor. It's not too late. The John Deere Classic is not held for another month, so there is still time to make the connection and help to make a

worthy high school senior a solvent college freshman who recognizes the significance of his/her heritage.

The Lorensen's will be on vacation for a time this month, but you can still send them your pledge form. Or call them at 309.762.6218.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS ...

To long-time CBC members **Art and Margaret Borgonjon** who celebrated their **65th wedding anniversary** on June 5, 2003 with a family get together. They have 18 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Art and Margaret were married in St. Ann's church in Long Grove, Iowa and now reside in Davenport, Iowa. Art still plays rolle bolle for the Center.

To CBC members **Al and Joan DeCap** who were honored on July 20, 2003 at an open house in celebration of their **50th wedding anniversary**. Al and Joan were married on October 10, 1953 in St. Mary's Catholic Church, East Moline. They have 4 children (Sue, John, Jane, and Julie), 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

This and That ...

⇒ Since we are on the subject of observing member's special occasions, it is appropriate that we again remind members that they should notify the Center if they are aware of a member who should be mentioned in the newsletter. Items of interest can include anniversary, birth, death, illness, and significant accomplishments.

⇒ Mention July 11th to most Belgians, and you conjure up images of the Battle of the Golden Spurs. Images of Flemings defeating French aristocrats to pave the way for establishing a Belgian national pride. Images that reside in the collective mind and spirit of a nation and a people. Mention July 11, 2003 to a fellow CBC member and he conjures up images of a family reunion. Images of a visiting relative, Gilbert Holvoet of Belgium, who spoke about family heritage and the Holvoet name, which was changed locally to Holevoet. Images that will reside in Art Holevoet's mind as yet another Belgian touchstone. Enjoy those images ...

⇒ Speaking of Belgian National Day, the Center received a congratulatory greeting from Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer. Ms. Pappas wrote: "Belgian-Americans play a positive role in the rich cultural tapestry of Cook County, contributing in business, science, medicine, education, and in the arts. You are to be commended for preserving the Belgian culture and heritage for future generations. It is always my honor to congratulate members of ethnic communities for their hard work and dedication to maintaining the cultural pluralism that makes Cook County a great place to live. My very best wishes to everyone this special

occasion." There is no doubt that the CBC of Western Illinois is included in that impressive group of Belgian-Americans.

⇒ The CBC Kleine Winkel shop is stocked with a new item that depicts its membership's cultural heritage. Specifically, T-shirts that proclaim the wearer to be a Belgian American against the backdrop of a Belgian flag and fireworks are now available at the shop. Stop by and see the new inventory.

⇒ Patrick and Barb Van Nevel attended a reception on July 25th in Chicago to honor our departing Consul General. The Honorable Mr. Dirk Loncke will be succeeded by a new diplomat in early August. We hope that our new Consul General will be able to attend the Center's 40th anniversary celebration (more to follow in future newsletters). Also, we want to this opportunity to again recognize and thank our Consul General for all of his efforts to support our Belgian community.

⇒ The monthly Waffle Breakfasts continue to be an excellent revenue source as well as an opportunity to share cultural/communal experiences. We solicit your help in any way that you can - set up, tear down, serving, kitchen duty, whatever. Please contact a Board Member to volunteer your time and talents. (And Thank You to those of you who have volunteered.)

⇒ If you haven't forwarded your **membership form and payment** to Marlene, **please** do so as soon as possible. See the enclosed membership insert for particulars. Also - please seriously consider volunteering - it's one important key to carrying on the rich Belgian tradition of the CBC.



BELGIAN BITS

"On April 12, the Bath-born 29-year-old Claire Coombs married Prince Laurent of Belgium, the youngest son of King Albert II and Queen Paola at the Brussels Town Hall. Large crowds gathered under a splendid sun outside the Town Hall to admire the royal bride dressed in white with a vintage veil of Brussels lace and carrying a trailing white bouquet. The Veil has been worn by three generations of royal brides, beginning with Queen Paola's grandmother Laura Mosselman du Chenoy in 1877. The subsequent religious ceremony, which took place at the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula, was attended by 1500 guests among which were numerous European royalties."

On May 2nd and 3rd, the Belgian Embassy participated in Flower Mart, an annual springtime festival organized at the Washington National Cathedral. Belgium was the featured country at the fund raiser whose proceeds go towards the maintenance of the Cathedral's gardens and grounds. The 20,000+ visitors were impressed with the floral designs of Geert Pattyn, the traditional Belgian folk music performed by Paul Oorts and Karen Ashbrook, the lacemaking of the Chesapeake Region Lace Guild, and the 16th century period costumes worn by Belgian volunteers. In sum, this event was an excellent opportunity for the Belgian community to help the Washington Cathedral and reach out to the larger international community.

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.
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**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

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*This month's Belgian Bits were extracted from Belgium Today, a **bi-monthly** publication of the Embassy of Belgium.*

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ...

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

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, August 2	Mary Rose De Coster (am)	Maurine Schweitzer (pm)
Wednesday, August 6	Jon + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, August 9	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, August 13	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, August 16	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, August 20	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Saturday, August 23	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Wednesday, August 27	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, August 30	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.****