



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois

712 - 18th Avenue  
Moline, Illinois  
(309) 762-0167

November 2003

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

## 40 years of Celebrating Belgian Heritage – 1963-2003

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Vice President**  
Robert VandeWiele

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bavnl@aol.com

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**Waffle Chairman**  
Jim DeSchinckel

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Art Holevoet

**Newsletter Editor**  
Sue VanWatermeulen  
suevanwatermeulen@hotmail.com

**Genealogy**  
Bev Francque

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



### Upcoming Events

- |        |                                |                  |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Nov 1  | Waffle Breakfast               | 8:00 am-12:00 pm |
| Nov 1  | Belgian Lacemakers             | 1:00 pm-4:00 pm  |
| Nov 15 | Genealogy kick off class       | 1:00 pm-4:00 pm  |
| Nov 12 | Raisin Bread,<br>Jam & Jellies | 6:00 pm          |
| Nov 17 | Board Meeting                  | 5:30 pm-7:30 pm  |
| Nov 27 | HAPPY THANKSGIVING             |                  |
| Dec 2  | Christmas Party                | 5:30 pm-8:00 pm  |
| Dec 6  | Waffle Breakfast               | 8:00 am-12:00 pm |

### Heritage Collection



The Center for Belgian Culture is asking for assistance from its members to develop a *Heritage Collection* which will gather genealogy information about Belgian immigrants to this area. All members of Belgian ancestry are requested to complete the form enclosed in this newsletter as completely as they are able. Please return the information to the Center. All heritage information will be entered into the Center's computer program, The Family Tree Maker. By accumulating this genealogy information, you will be helping to catalogue the history of our Belgian relatives for future generations. Thank you for your participation in this important effort.



### ***Genealogy Kick Off Series Class***

On November 15, 2003, the Genealogy Class will kick off their series of monthly meetings with a Saturday afternoon open house at the CBC from 1:00-4:00pm. Host, Mike Kerckhove, and hostess, Bev Francke, will welcome all participants and guide them through their own genealogy search. The class is at no cost to the CBC members and will meet regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of January, February and March. Those who have completed the insert for the *Heritage Collection* could bring it to the Center on that date if you would like to participate in further genealogical research or need assistance.



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By Marlene Shattuck and Sandy DeSchinckel

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The evening got underway with a few words from our president Scott Raes, followed by Tana Odean from the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend. She took a few minutes to introduce us to our new endowment fund, and how we, as members, can contribute to preserve our heritage for future generations. Scott Raes was also very happy to announce that we have already received a commitment for a \$5,000.00 donation. Next, we were given a few words of wisdom from our "Honorary Belgian" Mayor Stanley Leach. He reminisced about growing up with the Belgians in the community and memories of pigeon racing. He added a little ethnic humor by saying, "What is a Swede doing in a room full of Belgians?"

Our new Honorary Consul, Patrick Van Nevel, took the podium to share a few words about his reflections on the CBC. Rather than focus on the past, Patrick stressed that it was the volunteers of today who continue to make the CBC a thriving element of our community. It is the members that have kept it going for 40 years, and with dedication will continue for that and many more years to come. He made sure that no one's effort at the Center goes unnoticed. He made everyone in the room feel special by telling everyone a few words about each member there, and how they've helped the CBC. He mentioned not only the members present, but also those who couldn't be there to join the celebration. Patrick welcomed our new Consul General Philippe De Clerck to say a few words about Belgian foreign relations.

The Honorable Mr. De Clerck acquainted the membership with this topic by focusing on three of the most important facets of the Belgian Foreign diplomacy: the European Union, Africa, and North American bilateral relations.



The European Union continues to be a work in progress. Belgium, as one of the co-founding nations of the European Union, continues to play an important role in its further development as new Candidate Member States get ready to join the Union. Belgium continues to have strong ties with its former colonies in Central Africa. The civil wars, the political unrest and economic challenges continue to demand a lot of attention of the Belgian Foreign Affairs officials. North American bilateral relations have indeed come under a lot of pressure due to two main events: the Genocide Law and the war in Iraq. The Belgian government took steps to eliminate the abuse of the Genocide Law. The war in Iraq, opposed by many around the world and in the United States, demonstrates that friends can disagree, yet remain friends. The Belgian people remain very grateful to the American soldiers who liberated them. That liberty continues to exist today and allows the Belgian people to express their opinion as a free nation. Disagreement over the war in Iraq does not make our nations enemies – it allows for discussion, dialogue, understanding and appreciation for each other’s opinions, goals and aspirations and eventually builds a stronger bond between nations.

We were also honored to have a few special guests. Sophie Poletto, a Rotary International Exchange Student, is currently attending Moline High School and enjoyed the evening with us. She is from the Charleroi region of Belgium and arrived in Moline this past August. Luc Fabry, with Flanders Investment and Trade, was also in attendance. Mr. Fabry is Director of Business Development for the Flanders Foreign Investment Office. Also joining us was a lovely young couple who just moved to the Quad Cities from Belgium this past month, Nicolas Gevaert and his wife Silvia. Nicolas is Division Controller of PB Leiner, which is a division of the Belgian Tessenderlo Chemie Group. He is from Oudenaarde and Silvia is from Deerlijk.

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You could say it was a perfect evening to remember. Good weather, good food, and great friends celebrating the fact that they love Belgium and the United States of America!



**News ...**



Thank you to these members who sent donations along with their membership renewal. James VanThorre, Shirley Gibson, Jerry Baff, Henrietta Sonnevile and Gene & Margaret Horton.



If you have a change of address you may e-mail Marlene Shattuck at [mglshattuck@qconline.com](mailto:mglshattuck@qconline.com)



Congratulations to Bob VandeWiele who accepted to serve as Vice President and to Jim DeSchinckel who accepted to serve as our new Waffle Chairman. We thank Gene Fowler for his many years of dedicated service in his capacity as waffle chair and appreciate his continued commitment as CBC volunteer. Again, congratulations to Bob and Jim and thank you Gene. We all know you will do a good job.



Come and join us for our monthly meetings. You will learn what goes on, what we plan to do and have the opportunity to be heard. Next meeting, is Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the CBC.



Please keep Joanne Hoyt and Maurine Schweitzer in your thought and prayers while Joanne recovers from surgery at Illini Restorative Care and Maurine recovers from foot surgery.



Help us with the new items: E-mail your article to the newsletter editor, drop it off or mail it to the CBC attn: Newsletter editor. We will try to accommodate your requests.

## **Yummy Waffles ...**



The October Waffle breakfast was held October 4<sup>th</sup>. Would like to send a special thank you to the workers: Bob VandeWiele, John VandeWiele, Sue VanWatermeulen, Jandie VanWatermeulen, Janelle VanWatermeulen, Art & Linda VanHecke, and Jim DeSchinckel.



The monthly Waffle Breakfast continues 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.)



### Raisin Bread Bake-Off – Also Jam and Jellies



Don't miss our annual Raisin Bread, Jam and Jelly bake-off, to be held Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at the Center.

The fun will start at 6:00 pm and the cost is \$5.00 per person. Sandwiches, relishes and dessert will also be served and prizes awarded.

Please complete the following and return to: Raisin Bread, Center for Belgian Culture, 712 – 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring raisin bread \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring jam/and or jelly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We plan to attend...enclosed is \$5.00 per person.



### Annual Christmas Party



The annual CBC Christmas Party is being held on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Butterworth Center, Moline. Dinner will cost **\$5.00 per person** which includes meat, dinner rolls, punch and coffee. **Please be sure to bring a dish to pass.** The social will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to donate a door prize, bring it the night of the party and put it on the table with the poinsettias. Raffle tickets will be available at the Center and at the event.

Attendance is **limited** to the **first 80** sign-ups (sorry, no exceptions). Reservations are required and can be accomplished one of two ways. First, there is a sign up sheet at the Center. Second, you can send the following form (*with payment*) to the Center, Attention: Pat Van Nevel.

Please keep in mind -- the **reservations deadline** is Tuesday, **November 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, feel free to call Pat Van Nevel at 332-8752. Please payment to: Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois, 712 – 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265, Attn: Pat Van Nevel.

### Center for Belgian Culture Annual Christmas Party

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



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OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.  
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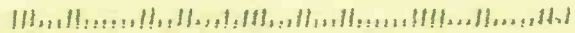


AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Paul & Marie Callens  
Waterstraat 18  
8740 Pittem, Belgium

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00132/0001



## Volunteer Information ...

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
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Wednesday, Nov. 5	Jon & Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, Nov. 8	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Nov. 12	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeVeire
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Saturday, Nov. 29	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.\*\*

## DIRECTIONS

1. Please note that you may duplicate this form if you have extensive genealogical information. Additional forms are also available at the Center for Belgian Culture for your convenience.

(712 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline, IL; phone: 309-762-0167)

2. Begin with your oldest relative and complete as much information as possible on the reverse side. Be as specific as you are able.

3. Complete your own information below in the event that clarification is needed.

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE FAMILY GROUP LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE / COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Thank you for contributing your family history to the Center for Belgian Culture's *Heritage Collection of Belgian immigration to the United States of America*.

---

**Husband:**

---

Born: in:  
Married: in:  
Died: in:  
Burial: in:  
Father:  
Mother:

Other Spouses:

---

**Wife:**

---

Born: in:  
Died: in:  
Burial: in:  
Father:  
Mother:

Other Spouses:

---

---

**CHILDREN**

---

1	Name: Born: in: Died: in: Burial: in: Married: in: Spouse: Married: in: Spouse:
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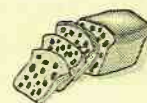
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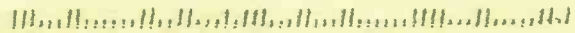


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PAR AVION

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Born: in:  
Married: in:  
Died: in:  
Burial: in:  
Father:  
Mother:

Other Spouses:

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**Wife:**

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Died: in:  
Burial: in:  
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Mother:

Other Spouses:

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**CHILDREN**

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4	Name: Born: in: Married: in: Died: in: Burial: in: Spouse:
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