



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2005

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open

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jlyphout@mchsi.com

### OPEN Wed. & Sat.

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

### Waffle Breakfast

1st Sat. of each month

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
October 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 17th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
November 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
November 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 21st	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

## Schedule for Volunteers

The October schedule is as follows:

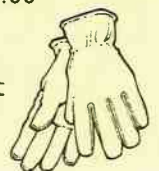
Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Sat., October 1st	Maureen Schweitzer AM	Wilma Gusse PM
Wed., October 5th	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Sat., October 8th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., October 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara VanDeVeire
Sat., October 15th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., October 19th	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Sat., October 22nd	Barbara Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel
Wed., October 26th	Mary Brunning	Marvin Brunning
Sat., October 29th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

Contact Margaret Wadsworth (786-5791)  
if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

## Stephens Park Clean-Up

Join Bill Fisher and help clean-up Stephens Park for the youth of the Quad Cities. The clean-up will take place on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th, with a rain date of October 15th. Both days, the scheduled time is 10:00 a.m.

If you are able to attend or have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Bill Fisher at (309) 764-8068 or billfisher@qconline.com.



## Scholarship Recipient's Essay

As promised, this is the second of three installments of the Center for Belgian Culture's Scholarship Contest. (The order in which we publish these have no bearing on rank of the applicant.)

This month, you will read about Jennifer Raes' Belgian heritage. Jennifer is a resident of Moline, Illinois, where she attended Moline Senior High School. She is a member of the Center as well as her parents, brother, grandparents and cousins. While in high school, she participated in Key Club, Crime Stoppers, Moline Kiwanis, Adopt-A-Park, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Moline's Girls Tennis Team, is a member of Sacred Heart Church, and was a campaign volunteer for Scott Raes' 3rd Ward Alderman campaign.

She states that she enjoyed studying Spanish due to the fact of the rising population entering the United States and the lack of bilingual teachers available. She is attending University of Iowa to major in Elementary Education.

### MY BELGIAN HERITAGE

by Jennifer Raes

Thank you for making this part of the scholarship application because I had a lot of fun learning about my family's history. As it turns out, both sides of my parent's family can be traced to Belgium.

Starting on my Father's side, my Great Grandparents (Jules & Marie Raes) were both born in Belgium. They immigrated to the United States around 1912. Once they settled down in Moline, they had three children together. Their first boy died shortly after birth. My Great Uncle Joe was born in 1914 and my Grandpa Raes was born in 1916. Grandpa is the only one from that part of the family that is still alive.

Jules worked in the factory for Deere and Company, while Marie was a homemaker. He loved to garden and he raised chickens, rabbits to eat, and pigeons to race. Great Uncle Joe was a mailman and he also ran a small grocery store out of his home along with his wife. Grandpa Raes worked 39 years for Deere and my Uncle Jeff has also been at Deere for the past 32 years. So like many other Belgian immigrants, Deere and Company played a major role in their lives.

Grandpa Raes and my Dad are trying to teach me how to play Rolle Bolle. Dad actually won first place last summer in a Rolle Bolle league with the Catholic Order of Foresters. Unfortunately, I did not receive his touch in this fun game, but I hope to get better.

My Great Grandparents on my Mother's side (Jack & Millie VanderBeke) also started out in Belgium. They settled down in the city of East Moline and had two daughters. Jack was a prize fighter and owned a tavern while Millie worked at the mental health center. One thing I

discovered in my research was that Jack, not Millie, made Belgian Lace.

My Grandma VanderBeke still likes to make Lukken cookies. I have watched her make these treats one cookie at a time. She also has a small collection of Belgian lace from her father.

I attended the Raes family reunion last summer, and I was very surprised at how large a group we have become. And another thing I found out is that while my immediate family lives in Moline and East Moline, many of the other Raes relatives became farmers. They live in communities such as Orion, Aledo and Little York. These farms have been owned by Raes family members for nearly 100 years. They have been passed down generation to generation. I can tell my relatives are very proud that they have continued farming. If farming was good enough for their Great Grandparents, then it's good enough for them.

I think the Center is a wonderful tribute to the Belgian community. I would love to see it expanded so all of our displays could be set up for our viewing pleasure. All one has to do is spend some time looking around to see how great our heritage is. Pigeon racing, Belgian beer, bicycle racing, Rolle Bolle, chocolates, lace and food are all a part of our Belgian world. And we can't forget what an important part Belgium played in both World Wars. We certainly have a lot of which we can be proud. Like my bumper sticker says "Being Belgian is Beautiful."

*Coming next month will be Jacob Schrader's essay.*

## Time for Beer History!

Taken from "A 'Pint-Sized' History of Beer"  
[www.beer2005.be](http://www.beer2005.be)

Beer has been brewed since time immemorial. It is thought that it was made in Palestine around ten thousand years ago, in 8000 BC, by macerating barley bread in water. However, while the Romans were more fond of wine, this did not prevent them from appreciating beer, in particular in the northern regions, where conditions were better for barley fields than for vineyards. For example, the remains of a Gallo-Roman villa were found to contain a brewery dating from the 3rd or 4th century. Among Belgium's ancestors, the Gauls, the brewing of barley beer was a cottage industry; it was brewed within the family by the women. It were the Gauls who came up with the idea of replacing recipients made of pottery with wooden barrels which, by the way, they invented. They called malt "brace," a word that has come down to us in the French terms brassin (beer mix), brasseur (brewer), etc.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the church took control of the land. The monks took an interest in this beverage and eventually it appears that there were breweries in every abbey in Christendom.

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## Belgians' with Hurricane Katrina

We have all seen the devastation and destruction that Hurricane Katrina left in the Gulf Coast area, particularly New Orleans. Immediately after the storm took place, I contacted the Honorary Consul for that area – Roland Vandenberghe – to see from a Belgian’s point of view what was happening in the area. Keep in mind, this was two days after the hurricane swept through the coast. He wrote back with these words on the matter:

“Dear Josh,

Thanks for your e-mail, your thoughts and prayers, and for your efforts concerning relief.

I am in Jayess, Mississippi, about 80-100 miles north of New Orleans on my parents’ farm. The hurricane eye-wall passed about 20-30 miles east of here, and this area is likewise without phone service or electricity.

I can tell you that there are many Belgians in the areas hit by this storm. Furthermore, there are many Canjun/French speaking folks in South Louisiana, so that should strike a chord with the Belgians, particularly the Walloons, in your area.

Most importantly, as you can probably see on television, the situation throughout the region is grave – particularly in New Orleans. Any and all generosity will be greatly appreciated. The folks down here in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are great folks. And New Orleanians, like me, are very proud of our city. Please let everyone know that we are completely embarrassed, saddened and disappointed that the acts of looting, vandalism, etc. by an extremely small minority are the only images being shown to the rest of the world. The saddest part is that these few are even preventing lives from being saved.

Unfortunately, what is not seen enough of are all of the heroic acts by many New Orleanians, Louisianans, Mississippians, Alabamians, etc. that I hear about. For example, my father is the Director of Emergency Management for this area. I have been assisting his coordination of water and ice distribution – 5,000 bags of ice at a time and 25,000 bottles of water. If you could see all of the volunteers, it would warm your heart. And we’re 100 miles away from New Orleans!! A group of Southern Baptists, all the way from Michigan, provide 5,000 hot meals every day here. The former honorary consul of Belgium in Miami is leading a teddy bear drive and will be flying to Houston on Monday to distribute the teddy bears to the evacuees there in the Astrodome. These are the stories that need to be emphasized more.

At this time, I would encourage you to make donations through the Red Cross or Salvation Army until other avenues can be set up. Please let everyone know that any and all donations of any kind are desperately needed and

will be greatly appreciated. Let them know too that there are a lot of good people working very hard to make the best of a difficult situation.

Please stay in tough and I will do the same.

Thanks again for your kindness and thoughtfulness,

ROLAND VANDENWEGHE”



**Please donate to the Red Cross  
if you haven’t already!**

## Rolle Bolle Updates

The United Bolders Club of Western Illinois held the Rolle Bolle Championships at the Hand-in-Hand Rolle Bolle courts in East Moline on Sunday, September 11th, at 1:00 p.m. It was a great success. Both the Women’s and the Men’s leagues competed independently.

All eleven clubs were represented by three members. The three members were awarded a spot on the championship teams by accumulating points for games won throughout the season. (The women had only 8 teams.) The standings are as follows:

### MEN

<u>Club</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Loses</u>
1. East End Club	9	1
2. Friends Circle Club & Belgian Village Inn	7	3
3. Atkinson Bolders	6	4
4. Center for Belgian Culture	6	4
5. Hand in Hand Club	5	5
6. Kewanee Bolders	5	5
7. Geneseo Moose Bolders	4	6
8. Annawan Bolders	3	7
9. Mineral Bolders	2	8
10. Manlius Bolders	1	9

### WOMEN

<u>Club</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Loses</u>
1. East End Club	6	1
2. Belgian Village Inn	5	2
3. Manlius Bolders	4	3
4. Friends Circle Club	4	3
5. Kewanee Bolders	3	4
6. Hand in Hand Club	2	5
7. Atkinson Bolders	2	5
8. Annawan Bolders	2	5

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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*October, 2005*

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Brewing also went on in inns, castles and homesteads. As we have just seen, the first Belgian abbeys already each had their own brewery. This was the case for Villers-la-Ville, which has had a community of monks since 1146. The immense abbey they built was inspired by the architecture of the Cîteaux (the order of the Cistercians). The brewery, in the Romanesque style, was built in the first half of the 13th century. However, the abbey destroyed waste in the religious wars of the 16th century and the French Revolution. Also around this time, the first guilds were set up. The purpose of guilds was to maintain the quality of products and to ensure respect for traditions based on strict rules.

Breweries then proliferated in the 14th and 15th centuries, as beer became a popular beverage. Around this time, it was commonly believed that it was better to drink beer than water, because epidemics like cholera and the plague could be transmitted by water, while the cause of these diseases was eliminated in the brewing process.

After the Second World War, the number of breweries continued to fall. The small breweries had in fact disappeared or had been taken over by larger concerns, so much so that by 1983 there were only 134 breweries left.

Nowadays, the brewing industry is characterized by two main trends: firstly, at a global level, major mergers between large groups of breweries and, secondly, at a regional level,

the revival of small and medium-sized breweries developing a variety of products whose characteristics are linked to the terroir. There are now around a hundred breweries in Belgium that offer a range that includes around 500 different products.

**LUKKEN IRONS for Sale**

Are you yearning for a taste of the "old country?" Well look no farther. Buy your Lukken Irons today at the Center's gift counter. They are selling at a cost of \$140 plus tax. These are electric and very easy to care for. Hurry down to the Center today before they are all gone! For more information, contact any board member.

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Special thanks to the Western League Officers: Carl Suhr and Gerry Verstraete. Thanks also to the Hand in Hand Officers: John Groth, Gary Martin, as well as members Jamie & Bill Verstraete and Shane Naert. The next meeting is going to be held October 9th at 1:00 p.m. in Manlius. If you have any questions, contact Bill Fisher at (309) 764-8068 or billfisher@qconline.com.