



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2005

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OPEN Wed. & Sat.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast
1st Sat. of each month

Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 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. |
| December 3rd | Waffle Breakfast | 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon |
| December 3rd | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| December 19th | 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 November schedule is as follows:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Gift Counter</i> | <i>Host/Hostess</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wed., November 9th | Mary Lou Andrae | Clara VanDeVeire |
| Sat., November 12th | Margaret Wadsworth | Bill Wadsworth |
| Wed., November 16th | Georgia Slininger | Louie Slininger |
| Sat., November 19th | Al Hoyt | Al Hoyt |
| Wed., November 23rd | Mary Brunning | Marvin Brunning |
| Sat., November 26th | Barbara Van Nevel | Patrick Van Nevel |
| Wed., November 30th | Margaret Wadsworth | Lillian DeClerck |

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

Stephens Park Update

The Stephens Park Clean-up Committee was in full force on Saturday, October 8th, starting at 10:00 a.m. The Lone Committee member, of Scots-Irish decent (who yearns to be a "Flem"), toiled laboriously until every visible shred of trash was removed.

The only thing reminiscent of a Belgian was a glorious pigeon fly-over and the memorial dedicated to the industrial Flemish pioneers who helped develop the QCA in many ways.

But don't despair, my fellow "Hoogies" club members, you will get another chance to participate in May of 2006. (By the way, I found a quarter. Eat your heart out Belgies!)

Bill Fisher, Chair



Christmas Party

December 6th • Butterworth Center
5:00 p.m. Social • 6:00 p.m. Dinner

Dinner cost is \$5.00 per person and please bring a dish or dessert to share. If you would like to donate a door prize, bring it along the evening of the party and place it on the table with the poinsettias. Yes, poinsettias will be prizes too! Some items to be raffled will be floral arrangements, a pack of 3 CDs of the Orchestre National de Belgique, a beautiful framed picture of the vineyard de Brugges, 4 handsome Pimpernel placemats decorated with Belgian poppies, and more! Chances can be mailed or brought in to the Center. You do not have to be present to win. Chances are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. See the "green" insert in this newsletter for your raffle chances as well as your reservation slip for the party. Reservations are required since we can only accommodate 80 people. Sign up either at the Center or mail the RSVP slip (with payment) to the Center (Attn: Ellen Cornelis). If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Cornelis (762-5709).

Don't forget to stop by the Center to check out the latest Gifts available to you.

With Christmas fast approaching, these many items would make for great holiday gifts.



*We give thanks for
all of our members at CBC
Happy Thanksgiving!*

Churches Survive with Belgians Help

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH in Moline, Illinois, is now celebrating its 100th Anniversary! Sacred Heart, a highly Belgian church, has been kept alive by generation after generation of Belgians from around the area. It's now time to celebrate that rich history. The Anniversary Committee is asking for fond memories from Belgians of Sacred Heart. These memories can be from the past or present. Memories that have been passed down from generation to generation are highly encouraged to be submitted. All of the information collected will be used in a book that the committee is putting together. They are asking that the writings be kept to a minimum with names and dates encouraged. Please submit these memories to Celie Donohue. If you have any questions, you can contact her at (309) 792-8246.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH in Atkinson, Illinois, is proud of its Belgian heritage as well. The parish was founded in 1857 on the great generosity of the Belgian immigrants who settled in the Atkinson area and that generosity continues to make things happen in this Henry County community according to Msgr. Fitzpatrick. On the door of the Pastor's office at St. Anthony's, there is a newspaper clipping that shows seven women proudly holding a cookbook. Msgr. Fitzpatrick delights in telling the story of "Recipes and Recollections" and how the determination to preserve the traditions of their Belgian grandmothers compelled Mary Helen Claeys, Joann Vandemore, Ardith Burtons, Lucille Doubler, Normal Gilbraith, Renee Hamer, and Joyce Minnaert to see the project through. The project was a 400 page book with nearly 1,000 recipes. The funds helped put a handicap ramp to the west side of the church. With the sales of the 1,500+ cookbooks, there was even money left over to help put in new stained glass windows and new doors. To raise additional funds, they baked and sold lukken. Congratulations to them!

St. Anthony's story taken from "The Catholic Post."

Friendly CBC Reminder

Would you like a reminder about upcoming CBC events and activities? Simply provide your name and e-mail address to Belgium32@mchsi.com. We will add you to the list and send out "friendly CBC reminders."

Scholarship Recipient's Essay

This month, we are honored to publish our third scholarship recipient's essay. Jacob Schrader describes his Belgian heritage. Jacob attends Alleman High School participating in the basketball program there, along with the math team, science and engineering team, Sigma Alpha Delta students against drunk driving, Key Club, Teens for Tomorrow (United Way), Student Hunger Drive, Cross Country, and Kiwanis. He has been a captain of the sophomore basketball team and a Junior Rotarian. He is involved in the National Honor Society and has been awarded as an Illinois State Scholar, Chamber of Commerce Top 10, Reverend John O'Connor Scholar, Principal's List, Who's Who in Sports, National Dean's List, National Honor Roll, and Who's Who Among High School Students.

Jacob has enjoyed studying at Alleman and is planning to attend the Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, for Computer Engineering.

HERITAGE of JAKE SCHRADER

"I am half Belgian (Flemish), one-quarter Dutch and the rest is a mixture of mainly English and Irish. My mother is 100% Belgian because both of her parents are first generation. My grandmother's family, Maenhout, came from a small village named Schuiferskapelle. My grandfather's family, DeBrabander, came from a city named Tielt. The roots of this DeBrabander family has been traced backed to the 1700s. However, the first person to settle in the United States was George DeBrabander, my great grandfather. He fought for the United States during World War I. He was in the Engineer Battalion and repaired bridges. He also fought out of a railroad car. He was made an American Citizen because he fought for the U.S. In 1920, he went back to Belgium and married Great Grandma Alice Marie Dauw.

They returned to settle in Moline in 1921 to work as a blacksmith for John Deere. At that time, Moline was primarily people of Belgian and Swedish heritage. They mainly spoke Flemish with other Belgians and played rolle-bolle (a combination of lawn bowling and horseshoes) for entertainment. He also sponsored his brothers and a sister to come to the United States. It was customary at that time to be responsible for those you sponsored. He saw that they found work and were taken care of until they became citizens. Most of the family did not like factory work, so they migrated to Kansas to farm. Most of the DeBrabander family is still in the Kansas City area. Great Grandmother's family mainly stayed in Belgium, and there are many relatives still there which my grandfather has visited four times. We have two relatives retired from the banking industry, several farmers (one that buys and sells Beast master cattle, but was not effected by the mad cow disease), a plumber, and one that works as an engineer for Tyco International and travels to the U.S. for business. Both of my great-grandparents died before I was born.

My grandfather, Lee DeBrabander, was the President of the Center for Belgian Culture in 1968. His term included many Belgian activities. He was instrumental in developing the rolle bolle courts at Stephens Park in Moline. He started the Belgian Historical collection in the library at Black Hawk College. My grandfather also participated in float making for the East Moline 4th of July Parade when the Center for Belgian Culture had a float. He helped start the International Folk Festival held in Bettendorf involving booths and food representing many countries. For his work on Belgian activities he was knighted by the Order of King Leopold II on June 5, 1977. There was a big celebration, and he received a medal but this was all before my time. He still speaks Flemish and is retired from John Deere. He still gives tours of John Deere Harvester Works to Belgians and Flemish. My grandmother understands Flemish but cannot speak it.

My mother, Karen Schrader, was active in Belgian activities when she was a teenager. She learned to make lace on a cushion and Belgian waffle cookies called lukken. She was on several floats when the Belgians participated in the East Moline 4th of July Parade. My mother has been to Belgium once with my grandfather to visit relatives. She also got to visit Paris, Germany and Amsterdam.

My other grandmother, Anges Bauwen Schrader, visited her cousin, Allyse, in the Netherlands regularly when she was younger. They traveled around Europe on "Holiday" in the summer. One year when my father, Scott Schrader, was a teenager, they traveled around Europe for six weeks visiting Germany, Italy and France. When Allyse would visit the United States, she made a scrapbook of water towers because they don't have these over in Europe. I hope to visit Europe myself some day."

Thank you Jacob for your essay and congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients. Congratulations on all your future endeavors.

And Speaking of Scholarships . . .

Mary & Larry Lorensen, chairmen of the Birdies for Charity for the Center, recently picked up the checks from this year's event. This year our birdie pledges amounted to \$1,927.78 and our bonus bucks amounted to \$192.78 for a total of \$2,120.56. Mary & Larry would like to thank all who pledged this year. This will be a wonderful addition to our Scholarship Fund.

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712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265



Paul & Marie Callens
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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

November, 2005

Ticket to a New Life

With your support, the Red Star Line Museum will become a lively, fascinating and educational meeting place. An initiative of the City of Antwerp, the Red Star Line Museum will turn the former warehouses of the Red Star Line shipping company into a place of remembrance for the millions of emigrants who set out for a new life in North America. Between 1873 and 1935, the Red Star Line transported almost three million people from Antwerp to the United States and Canada. The warehouses are located on the River Scheldt, where the ships set off on their transatlantic voyages.

The efforts to restore the 100 year old buildings and set up a modern visitors' center will be supported by the public authorities, but they will also require funding

through private donations. If you are based in the U.S., you can support this exciting project in a tax-deductible way through KBFUS, a U.S. public charity affiliated with the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation. Here is how to proceed . . . make your check payable to KBFUS, write "Red Star Line" in the Memo/Communication field and sent it to KBFUS, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10020. Questions? Contact (212) 713-7660 or info@kbfus.org.

If you would like to donate to help support this cause, contact a board member for more information or e-mail belgiannewsletter@yahoo.com. For more information about the project, please visit www.redstarlinememorial.be and www.kbfus.org.

