



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



June, 2006

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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

June 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
June 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 19th	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
July 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
July 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
July 17th	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
August 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
August 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 21st	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The June schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., June 3rd	Millie Kale	Maureen Schwietzer
Wed., June 7th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., June 10th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., June 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., June 17th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Wed., June 21st	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., June 24th	Mary Lorensen	Larry Lorensen
Wed., June 28th	Georgia Slinninger	Louis Slinninger

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

*Don't forget to visit the Center
for all your gift needs.*

*With a constant flow of new arrivals,
you won't want to miss out on these great deals!*



Happy Anniversary!

One of our very own lacemakers, Joyce Haskins, and her husband, Howard, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married April 21, 1956, at St. Anne's Church in East Moline and renewed their vows on April 23rd at St. Anne's. Howard was employed by Case, John Deere Spreader Works, and retired from Case International Harvester in 1991. Joyce was employed by Illinois Casualty Company, Illini Hospital, Ridgewood Variety and Cattleman's Meat Market. *Congratulations Joyce and Howard!*

Walt and Ellen Cornelis also deserve congratulations when you see them next. They just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on May 4th. Ellen (Bohman) and Walt were married at Sacred Heart Church in Rock Island on May 4, 1946. Walt retired as president-owner of Century 21 DePorter-Cornelis (formerly DePorter-Cornelis Agency) in 2001. Ellen retired as secretary at Century 21 DePorter-Cornelis after 18 years. *Congratulations Walt and Ellen!*



The Center for Belgian Culture will once again be participating in Birdies for Charity this year. To help with this project or if you have any questions, contact any Board member at the Center.

Happy Birthday!

Julien Vercoutere was honored at a dinner on April 30th in observance of his 95th Birthday! Mr. Vercoutere was born May 1, 1911, in Wingene, West Flanders, Belgium. He married Germaine VerHelst on August 19, 1939, in Moline. (She is deceased.) He is the father of John Vercoutere, St. Charles, Missouri and Jane Vershaw, Moline. There are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Vercoutere was employed for 50 years by Servus Rubber Co. (now Norcross), Rock Island.

Consul General of Belgium to the United States in the Quad Cities

On April 18 and 19, 2006, the Consul General of Belgium to the United States, Renilde Loeckx, came to visit the Belgian population in the Quad Cities. Her visit included John Deere, Caterpillar (in Peoria), The Center for Belgian Culture, and Augustana College. On the night of April 18th, she spoke eloquently at Augustana College regarding religion and the role it plays in international relations. She spoke of the religious situations in Belgium and surrounding nations, as well as the recent controversial cartoon towards the Muslim world presented by a cartoonist in Denmark.

Consul General Loeckx spoke of integrating, particularly Turkish and Arab, immigrants into society in Belgium. Part of the government's techniques is to use video tapes to show the difference in cultures. She said "every government has different techniques to integrate people into their society, we have our own as well." She said it is imperative to integrate these people into society because it is important to have new blood, young blood, and blood from different places around the world. In 10 years, she foresees Turkey being integrated into the European Union, and she is an advocate for such a move.

Consul General Loeckx was then given a reception in her honor at the Quad Cities Botanical Center in Rock Island on April 19th.

Consul General Loeckx is looking for your help! If you have any stories from your ancestors about immigrating from Belgium to the United States, she would like to have them. Give to Josh Lyphout, by means of the center or e-mail him at jlyphout@mchsi.com or belgiannewsletter@yahoo.com. She is currently composing a book with stories of immigration to the United States and wants as many stories as possible. Please contribute! If you have any questions, contact Josh Lyphout via e-mail or call (309-781-3648).

The American Embassy in Belgium is currently organizing a **Herbert Hoover display** at the Belgian War Museum in honor of the U.S. President who greatly helped the Belgian people during World War I.

Remembering the Battle of the Bulge

from *Belgium Today*, vol 11.2

A new memorial to commemorate the sacrifices and actions of the soldiers and the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge was dedicated in Arlington National Cemetery (section 21) on VE Day – Monday, May 8th. This monument is an initiative of the Association of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, which the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg are happy and honored to support. The dedication ceremony underscored the respect and the gratitude of the people of the government of Belgium to the valiant men and women who participated in the Battle of the Ardennes, as it is known in Belgium. The event was open to the public. For more details, please call the Arlington National Cemetery (703-607-8000).

What was the Battle of the Bulge?

The Ardennes Offensive (called Operation Wacht Am Rhein by the German military of the time), officially named the Battle of the Ardennes by the U.S. Army (and known to the general public as the Battle of the Bulge), started on December 16, 1944. Contrary to popular belief, it was not the last major German offensive on the Western Front during World War II; to the south Operation Nordwind began on January 1st. Wacht Am Rhein was supported by subordinate operations known as Hermann, Greif, and Wahrung. The German Armed Forces had intended to split the Allied line in half, capturing Antwerp and then proceeding to sweep north to encircle and destroy four Allied armies, thus as Hitler believed, forcing the Western Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in the Axis' favour.

The "Bulge" refers to the extension of the German lines in this battle, forming a growing salient into Allied controlled territory, seen clearly in maps presented in newspapers of the time. Although ultimately unsuccessful, the Allies' slow response to the resulting gap in their lines set their timetable back to months. However, the offensive also allowed the Allies to severely deplete the cream of the German army outside the defenses of the Siegfried Line and left Germany's remaining forces in a poor state of supply, thus greatly easing the assault on Germany afterward. In numerical terms, it is the largest land battle the U.S. army has fought to date.

For more information, visit:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BattleoftheBulge>

CBC Annual Meeting

Remember to mark your calendars for the CBC Annual Meeting on JUNE 19th. At this meeting, we will be picking officers for the open positions on the Board for the next year, as well as information on the scholarship recipients.

Please plan to attend. Mingle time begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. The event will be hosted at the Center and the cost will be \$10 per person for dinner. A sign-up sheet is located at the Center if you plan to attend. A short business meeting will follow the dinner.



WAFFLE BREAKFAST
First Saturday of the Month
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

New Agency to Improve Medicine Competitiveness

from *Belgium Today*, vol 11.2

On March 3, 2006, the Belgian Government approved a plan by Federal Minister for Public Health and Social Affairs Rudy Demootte to create a new Federal Agency for Medications. The Agency's task will be twofold: to control the quality of medicines on the market and to speed up the registration and reimbursement schemes for new medicines in Belgium so that pharmaceutical companies in the country can continue to compete in research and production activities with foreign competitors.

If the Raad van Stadt/Conseil d'Etat advises favorably, the proposal can be approved by Parliament in time for the agency to become operational next year.

The plan is the latest in a series of steps by the Government to improve Belgium's ability to compete in the biomedical sciences. Recently a platform for dialogue with the biomedical industry was created to discuss on a regular basis new proposals in the area of public health and innovation and employment issues in the sector such as registration and reimbursement of medicines. In addition, the requirement for certain non-EU researchers to obtain work permits has been abolished, and the current reduction to include all employees with Ph.D's.

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Virginia Union University Renovation Project

from *Belgium Today*, vol 11.2

When the 1939 World's Fair in New Year closed, Belgium was an occupied country. The Belgian government in exile decided that the Belgian Pavilion at the Fair, designed by renowned architect Henri van de Velde, would be presented as a gift to the United States.

The Pavilion had been conceived with the idea that it would be repatriated to serve as a school in Belgium, so it was not surprising that a number of American educational institutions submitted proposals for its use. After a competitive process, the Pavilion, which included a bell tower, as donated to Virginia Union University, in Richmond, a Historical Black

College/University, while the 35-bell carillon housed in the tower was given to Herbert Hoover in gratitude of his relief efforts in Belgium during and following World War I.

At VUU, the Belgian Friendship Building, as it is now called, was reconfigured for use first as a library and later as a gymnasium and a drama center. Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, the building is now over sixty years old and in need of restoration. Thanks to the vision and tireless efforts of Dianne Watkins, a niece of VUU's founder and first president, a campaign is underway to raise funds necessary to turn the building into a Fine Arts Center.

Thank You, Thank You Volunteers!!!

We are fortunate to have willing people to contribute their time and efforts to continue on the legacy of the Center. The Center would be nowhere without you! Thanks again! And if you would like to contribute your time and talents, please call Margaret Wadsworth at 786-5791 to volunteer or contact any Board member for information.