



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



September, 2006

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
October 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 16th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
November 4th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
November 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 20th	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 August schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., September 2nd	Celie Donohue	Ellen/Walt Cornelis
Wed., September 6th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., September 9th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., September 13th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., September 16th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., September 29th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., September 23rd	Mary Brunning	Marvin Brunning
Wed., September 27th	Louis Slininger	Georgia Slininger
Sat., September 30th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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!*



**Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

Scholarship Recipients

As mentioned last month, we have our second installment of our scholarship winners' essays. This month, we are honored to publish Lara Applegate's heritage essay. Lara is from Milan, Illinois, and attended Rockridge High School. She was a member of Crimestoppers, National Honor Society, and an active member in her church. She participated in Cross Country, Basketball, Track and WYSE team.

Lara Applegate Heritage Essay

"When I think of the word heritage, a couple definitions come to mind. The first and most obvious is ancestry. My family's lineage includes predominantly English roots, as well as Scottish and German ancestry. Beyond my heredity, I feel that an even more important definition includes the values associated with my heritage.

I attribute my morals to my heritage because the principles that were taught to me have been passed down through many generations. I am proud to say that my family has taught me to be accepting of everyone no matter their race, mental or physical ability, opinion, etc. I have been told not to judge anyone based on any one of these qualities alone and that all people should be considered equal until they do something to lose that respect. I also believe that everyone is entitled to the same basic freedoms and rights. Fairness and acceptance are essential when trying to maintain the peace in a multi-cultural nation and world. These are the standards that I live by, and I feel that they have opened my eyes to other cultures.

I have grown to appreciate the diversity in the world and I look forward to exploring many countries, peoples, and belief systems even further in the future. As I experience the various traditions, I will look to better my outlook on life. I believe that most people, regardless of their own ethnicity or heritage, would agree with my core values and the fact that these ideas are crucial in today's society.

The world continues to get smaller and smaller when considering the distance between the many cultures. Everyone in the United States is an immigrant, or the descendant of an immigrant, and most are probably a mix of ethnicities. People of all nationalities are living next door to one another. These are facts that support the idea that it is becoming essential for a person to understand and respect the many cultures of the world.

As I am looking to enter a business career, I think that my principles will help when I interact with people internationally. The respect that I will show to people of other cultures will increase cooperation and communication. The global economy would suffer horribly if people were not willing to work with one another.

Get to Know Your Board

Each month, we will be running a series of articles on the biographies of your Executive Board members. This is a great opportunity for all of you to get to know all of your Board. This month, we will be introducing our Newsletter Editor. One of the newest additions to the Center - JOSH LYPHOUT.

Josh grew up in East Moline, Illinois, and attended United Township High School. There he was active in theater, the United Township Symphonic Band, the UT Choir, National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. He is currently attending Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and will be a Junior there this fall. His majors include Pre-Medicine, Biology, and Biochemistry with minors in Chemistry and Political Science. At Augustana, he currently participates in the Augustana College Symphonic Band, as well as numerous organizations such as International Relations Union. He plans on attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. for Medical School, obtaining a Medical Degree and a Ph.D. in Physiology and then plans to eventually participate in politics on the national stage.

The Center for Belgian Culture has decorated the windows in honor of Sacred Heart's 100th Anniversary. The window displays also honor Fr. Culeman, the first priest at Sacred Heart. Fr. Culeman was born and educated in Belgium.

Without cooperation among cultures, international travel would also suffer. Traveling the world for purposes other than business is becoming more and more popular. Many of these trips are taken in order to learn about the history and cultures of foreign lands and people. Some areas in the world today are still considered hostile environments because of the differences in culture; however, I feel that the world has come a long way in that most countries interact on a level of peace and respect with one another. Even disagreement among countries is somewhat peaceful and mostly respectful. I know that the values that I have been taught will help me in the future. I hope to someday make a difference in the world, work with people of different upbringings, and become a leader by example. I am very proud of my heritage and the values it has given me."

Next month we will publish the third and final installment of the Scholarship Winners.

Sacred Heart's History

by Mr. Cornelis

An interesting account of establishment of a Belgian parish in Moline appeared in a souvenir book printed in the Flemish language by the Belgian Club of Moline in 1910. Titled, "De Belgische Kerk van Moline," the story stated in part:

The first Catholic Church in Moline, named in honor of Saint Anthony, was located at 1624 - 9th Avenue and among it's founders was a Belgian, Bernard Van Kerckhove of Lembeke. The first pastor was Rev. H. Greve, who celebrated the first Mass in the church on June 14, 1875. At that time, Moline was still part of the diocese of Chicago, but in 1881 it was transferred to the diocese of Peoria. Father Greve was of German origin and under his wise management the parish grew quickly. So did the number of Belgians, with whom he could easily talk Flemish to the satisfaction of all. But St. Anthony's was soon too small and in 1878, a building was acquired at the corner of 10th Street and 4th Avenue that was transformed into a church under the title St. Mary's Church. The first Holy Mass was celebrated here August 11, 1878, and a school was soon added.

When Fr. Greve, who was liked and admired by all, was transferred to Peoria in June 1898 and an English speaking priest was appointed in his place, the need was felt to have also a Flemish speaking priest. Therefore, the Rev. Walters was appointed associate pastor. He was later succeeded by Rev. Francis Conrad. When the latter was sent to Rock Island to found a Belgian parish, he was replaced by the Rev. Charles Francken. The need for an independent parish for the Belgians was felt more and more, and therefore the members of the new organized Belgian Club addressed a petition to his Eminence Bishop Spalding of Peoria. The request was granted and in September 1906, the Rev. Culemans was asked by the Bishop to found a new parish. Fr. Culemans had arrived from Belgium not long before that time and he remained pastor of the new Sacred Heart Church, erected at 16th Avenue and 13th Street until his death in 1943. On Passion Day 1907, the first Holy Mass was celebrated in the new school hall, which also served as the temporary church. The school opened in September that year under direction of the Franciscan Sisters of Peoria. The new church had become a reality in 1920. Ground for it was bought at the northeast corner of 17th Avenue and 13th Street and the cornerstone laying was held in 1919 with his Eminence Cardinal Mercier from Belgium (WWI patriot and Hero) in attendance.

A Letter of Appreciation

I would like to thank you for making our visit to the Belgian Museum such a wonderful experience. I especially appreciated the lace making demonstration. Now when I lead tours through the Hoover Library and Museum, I can talk a little about how the lace is made and can attempt to answer some of the questions about it. I also really enjoyed talking to everyone about various aspects of Belgian life and culture. Your hospitality made all of us feel right at home, and your desserts were delicious. Some of us are planning to come back for one of your Belgian Waffle Breakfasts. Thanks again!

Nancy Westlake, Docent
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum

With Deepest Sympathies . . .

Eugene M. "Gene" DeClerck, 77, of Moline passed away on Sunday, July 30, 2006, at Trinity Pathway Hospice at Terrace Park, Bettendorf, Iowa.

Gene was born October 10, 1928, in East Moline, Illinois, to Achiel and Palmyra Robaey DeClerck. He married Joan A. Kochuyt February 19, 1955, in Moline. Mr. DeClerck served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. He was employed at the former I.H. East Moline Works, retiring after 36 years. Gene was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Moline; Moline Vikings; Moline American Legion Post 246; Center for Belgian Culture and Plus 60.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Thomas Day, Peoria; sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory and Debbie DeClerck, Moline, and Jay and Lisa DeClerck, Coal Valley; and 7 grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren.

Volunteer Dinner a Success!

On August 21st, the Center for Belgian Culture thanked all of its volunteers with a dinner. With sandwiches from Belgian Village Inn, many desserts provided by the Board members, and good conversations the dinner was a success. This was the Center's little way of thanking all those people who make the Center what it is today. Without you, nothing would be possible.

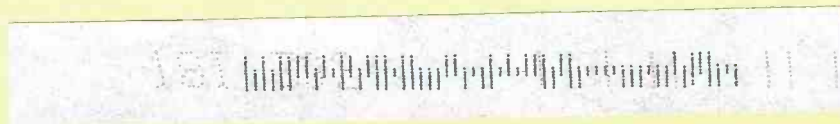
If you would like to volunteer your talents, you can contact Margaret Wadsworth at 786-5791 or visit the Center to sign up on a volunteer sign-up sheet. Thanks again everyone!

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AIR
MAIL



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2006

Manneken Pis

from *Wikipedia.com*

Every Belgian knows the two Flemish words "Manneken Pis" and immediately the image of a nude little boy urinating appears into their mind. But do you actually know the story behind one of the most famous Belgians in history?

In 1142, troops of the two-year-old Duke Godfried II of Brabant were battling against the troops of Berthouts, the Lords of Grimbergen, in Ransbeke. The troops put their infant lord in a basket and hung it in a tree for encouragement. From there, he urinated on the troops of Berthouts, causing them to lose the battle.

Another story seems to be the most popular. In the 14th century, Brussels was under siege by a foreign power. The city had held their ground for quite some time. The attackers had thought of a plan to place explosive charges at the city walls. A little boy named



Juliaanske of Brussels happened to be spying on them as they were preparing. He urinated on the burning fuse, thus saving the city.

Statues of this famous little boy have appeared as far back as the 15th century, perhaps as early as 1388. In 1619, the statue was replaced by a bronze statue created by Franco-Flemish Baroque sculptor Jerome Duquesnoy. On many days, the statue is dressed in costumes, depending on the season, and was said to at one time dispense liquor.

Manneken Pis is not alone however and has a female counterpart. Jeanneke Pis is the female version similar to Manneken on the opposite side of the Grand Palace. The statue of Manneken Pis has appeared all over the world and all over the United States. Nobody knows the story of this little boy for sure, but what we do know is he is positively one of the most famous Belgians of all time.