



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2006

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jlyphout@mchsi.com

Publicity

Mary Lorensen

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 October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., October 4th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., October 7th	Celie Donohue (AM)	Gene Donohue (AM)
Sat., October 7th	Ellen Cornelis (PM)	Walt Cornelis (PM)
Wed., October 11th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., October 14th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., October 18th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 21st	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., October 25th	Louis Slininger	Georgia Slininger
Sat., October 29th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

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

ATTENTION ALL LACE MAKERS & FUTURE LACE MAKERS . . .

A donation of lace supplies and small cushions has been received by the Center from Frances (Chickie) Bollaert to be used by lace makers. Please contact Celie Donohue (792-8246) if you are interested in using these items or would like to learn to make lace.

Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Scholarship Recipients

This month, we have our third installment of our scholarship winners' essays. We are honored to publish Ann Verfaillie's heritage essay. Ann is from Webberville, Michigan, and attended Fowlerville High School. She was an active member of many clubs and organizations ranging from the fine arts to sports. She is planning on participating in the Pre-Law program at Michigan State University.

Ann Verfaillie

"The Character of My Belgian Heritage"

My Belgian Heritage is characterized by people of longevity, laughter, hard work, resourcefulness, cleanliness, generosity, and good, frugal financial stewardship.

My father's parents are Belgian and my father's maternal and paternal grandparents were Belgian.

Uncle Cyriel, born in Klerken, West Flanders, Belgium, on August 4, 1899, was a hard working farmer in Warren and Utica, Michigan. At the time of his death on September 16, 2004, at the productive old age of 105, he was the oldest living World War I Belgian Veteran. Uncle Cyriel loved to laugh heartily, tell laughable stories and play jokes on others. He was resourceful, a builder, able to live off the land, and full of practical wisdom - as most farmers are - especially the farmers of years past. According to his daughter-in-law, Uncle Cyriel's long, bountiful life was because he lived in moderation, never over did anything, and worked hard. Cousin Irene concluded, "Belgians in our family live many years because they take life in stride. They don't get upset over little noises, but over big thunders." This philosophy for productive longevity is part of my Belgian heritage: work hard, laugh a lot, and "don't sweat the small stuff."

Tante Laura, my great-great aunt and the godmother of my father's mother, was born in Klerken, West Flanders, Belgium, on November 28, 1892, and lived 109-3/4 productive years. At the time of her death on August 14, 2002, she was the oldest living person born in West Flanders and the oldest person to get a subscription to the only Belgian newspaper in America, Gazette van Detroit. Metje, as she was known by all, fled with her family 200 miles on foot to France when German troops, who had invaded Belgium in 1914, approached their farm home. During the war, she and her siblings washed uniforms for Belgian and British soldiers in exchange for food. In 1918 she came to America with her family, after returning to Klerken and finding it in ruins. "We had to flee, and our farm was destroyed. After the war my parents and brothers and sisters and I went back. There was nothing left except some fence posts. That's the only way we could tell we were back on our land." Metje said that her Roman Catholic faith had enabled her to get through war, immigration, resettlement, and all of life's problems. "He (God) gives me life and I put my life in the hands of the Lord," was Metje's statement at the age of 105, her wisdom for good living. When asked

how she felt, Metje always answered, "I'm fine for the shape that I'm in!" Metje was still employed at age 90, cleaning medical and dental offices in Detroit. Even at 109 years old, she knitted and crocheted beautiful, practical gifts for her newborn and newly married descendants. After Metje's death, Cousin Irene gave my mother a red, white and blue pillow knitted by Metje and also an American flag made by Metje after the 2001 terrorist attack on America. Because Metje was a patriotic, loyal, grateful American citizen, her favorite colors to work with were red, white and blue. "The colors of the American flag," said Metje. My mother is honored and privileged to have in her possession, Metje's hand-made pillow and flag. Metje's philosophy of life motivates me to be self-disciplined and persistent, strong in trials, and to serve others. I find gratification in overcoming obstacles and challenges through hard work and perseverance, and also in community service. I consider there to be important, beneficial qualities of my Belgian heritage.

My father's father, Julian, also a joker, is 89 years young, and up until a few years ago, enjoyed bicycle riding and speed skating. Since 1984 my grandfather has tallied almost 30,000 miles in mall walking! In his younger days, he purchased and raced a bicycle custom-made for him by a cousin in Belgium. Now every year he observes one of the oldest bike races in the United States, the annual Labor Day Bebaets-Devos Memorial Race, which is held in the area of the famous Belgian Cadieux Café in Detroit, Michigan. For many years, the Cadieux Café has been a favorite meeting place to enjoy Belgian culture, sports and food - like liver pate, steamed mussels, pomfrites, and Belgian beers. When he was a child, my father attended many pigeon racing, darts, archery, and feather bowling tournaments at the Café with his grandfather and Julian. Feather bowling was originally a Belgian past time like horseshoes and Bocci. Visitors from Belgium are surprised to see that feather bowling is still perpetuated at the Café.

My grandfather Julian was a trainer on the Detroit Wolverines speed skating team. He trained my Great-Uncle Omer and Omer's wife, Barbara, holders of Michigan speed skating records and honorees in the Michigan Speed Skaters Hall of Fame. Bicycle racing, speed skating, archery, feather bowling, darts and pigeon racing are part of my Belgian heritage from Detroit's east side, which used to be a predominantly Belgian neighborhood.

My Belgian heritage is characterized by individuals who are good family people, valuing and perpetuating strong family relationships and to take pride in keeping their homes clean and well maintained, as are the white-washed houses and daily washed streets in Belgium. They are good, frugal stewards of the money they earn, and they are also generous in helping others in need.

continued on page 3

Thank You Volunteers!!

The Center would love to thank all of the special people who spend so much time helping our heritage survive. Without you, it would not be possible. A special thanks to all those who work the gift counter/host or work the waffle breakfasts each month. In the last year, there was 1,208 total hours worked by 71 volunteers. That's simply amazing. Evelyn VanPuyvelde worked the most times with a total of 21 times worked. Al Hoyt worked the most with 96 hours logged. Let's continue the great work and have even more volunteers and hours worked in the next year!

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to help the cause, sign up in the Center or contact Margaret Wadsworth at 786-5791. We especially need help with the waffle breakfasts. If you are able to work one of the shifts (7:30-10:00 or 10:00-12:30), it would be greatly appreciated. Waffle breakfasts are the main source of revenue to our Center and need the help of YOU to continue on. So contact Catherine VanHecke at 755-8363 or sign up at the Center. Thank you volunteers!!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

continued from page 2

Writing this essay has been beneficial for me, in that it has allowed me to recognize and acknowledge the character of my heritage. My father, along with my mother, are carrying on the Belgian heritage of laughter, hard work, resourcefulness, cleanliness, generosity in serving others, and good, frugal financial stewardship. Prayerfully, longevity will be added to the list. "A merry heart does good like a medicine . . ." (Proverbs 17:22, Bible). Perhaps *this* is the best heritage and legacy to be handed down from generation to generation.

OLDE TOWNE

continued from page 4

You can see that the southwest Bluff area, as it was called even then, was a town all to itself. We had entertainment in the form of movie houses, taverns, rolle bolle, bow & arrow competition and card playing. We had clothing stores, butcher shops, grocery stores, etc. The people in that era did most of their buying close to home and got to work, church and shopping by walking or by trolley.

I have watched the bicycle races over the years and it was a thrill to have my Great-Grandchildren over to sit on my porch and watch the racers flash by and tell them about Olde Towne in the Old Days.

Center Announcements

The Center is proud to announce that VIC & VIOLET VERSTRAETE celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 1, 2006. They were married at St. Patrick Church in Rockford, Illinois, and currently reside in Weatherford, Texas.

Our very hard working volunteer coordinator at the Center, MARGARET WADSWORTH, celebrated her 80th Birthday on August 8, 2006. She was born in 1926 in Rock Island to Camiel & Celina Van Ooteghem. She married William Wadsworth of Coal Valley on August 14, 1948, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rock Island. Their children are Mary Ellen (Milan) and Mark (Coal Valley). Two sons are deceased. There are five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was employed at the former Rock Island County Health Care Center, retiring in 1982.

STANLEY FRANCQUE also celebrated a very special birthday this year. On September 10, 2006, Stanley celebrated his 80th Birthday. He was born in Geneseo and married Beverly Newell on November 8, 1947, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Moline. Their children (and spouses) are Craig (Linda) Francque (Wichita, Kansas), Gary (Margo) Francque (Moline), Tammy (Jerry) Ryker (Spirit Lake, Iowa), and Diane (Mark) Kohrs (Moline). They have nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Stan was a World War II Navy veteran, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He was employed at Baker's Dairy, Moline, as a route foreman for 31 years. He then was employed by Moline School District 40 as a custodian at Butterworth School, retiring in 1991.

Donations to the Center

We would like to thank the following people for their donations to the Center. These donations range from Belgian flags, to clothing, to rolle bolles and pictures. The Center is decorated with these treasured gifts and it's fitting to give all those who have helped to decorate the building a great big "Thanks!" Those who have donated items to the Center are:

Paul Allaert, Bill Fisher, Yvonne Warlop, Georgia Slininger, Helen Bisby, Family of Vic Standaert, Arthur Poelvoorde, Ron Coene, Angie DePaepe, Madeliene Sercu Estate, LeRoy DeBrabander, Dr. T.J. Ducey, Francis Bollaert, Theophile & Robert Hecht, Diane Benson, Joe VandeMortel, Roger Verschraegen, Robert DeBock, Pat Hurley, Cecilia Braam, Paul Callens, Estate of Louis Coopmans, Kay Dellos, Betty Freeman, Irene Grotta, Dick Segers, Georgia Van Melkebeke, Ray Waeyaert, Gabe Verstraete, John Adam, John & Gen Vrombaut, Family of Edward Roman, Stella Almblade, Marie Lannoo, JoAnn Greko, Leona & John Rakus, Jerome & Margaret Jaecques, and Doris Libey. Thanks to all!

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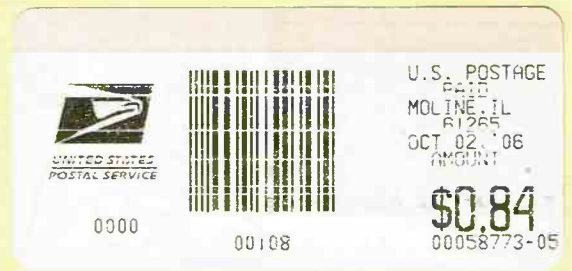
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continued on page 3

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of Western Illinois, Inc.**

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265



Paul & Marie Callens
Waterstraat 18
8740 Pittem Belgium 0



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00132/0001



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

October, 2006

OLDE TOWNE: A Community Rich in History

by Frank Loete

I moved here when I was 8 years old in 1914 to the house I am living in now. There were 4 boys and 3 girls in the family. My father had been a farmer in Port Byron and went to work at the Moline Iron Works when he came to town. I attended Sacred Heart School in Moline. I moved to a house on 8th Street and 18th Avenue after I got married, but moved back to the family home in 1931. My father was a Charter Member of the Friend's Circle Club, about 1921. I worked 40 years at John Deere Plow as a core maker and supervisor.

The businesses on 7th Street have changed over the years. For example, The Salvation Army store was formerly on the site of the William Carr School, completed in 1920. Prior to that, the original one-room school had been where the Convenient Care Center is now. The block which has TNT and Good Life Insurance systems were once houses. Across the street, Cheers was an ice cream parlor and Orwells a movie house. I took tickets at the movie house. They were only 5 cents. Silent movies were showing then and popcorn or food was not allowed. The bookstore location on 7th Street and 18th Avenue was a pharmacy and Dr. Trimble has an office upstairs. Further down 18th Avenue was a dry goods

store, a clothing store, a grocery store, a butcher shop and a bakery. Catty-corner from the bookstore (where BJ's is) was another dry good store and the VFW was a movie house called the "Plaza," but the kids called it the "Cheesebox." Where the visiting nurses' parking lot is now was a grocery store, but prior to that it housed a horse bar. The horses hauled coal from Coal Valley to this area. Close by was a shoe repair store and Ozzle's Barber Shop was a milk testing station. Carson's Saloon was located on that same corner. There was a butcher shop where the Friend's Circle is now and the Eagle's Grocery Store was originally there.

Stephen's Park trolley ran up 7th Street to this area, and the kids called it the "Toonerville Trolley." There was also a trolley going east on 18th Avenue, and it was called the "Elm Street Car Line." You could take the trolley downtown and catch another trolley to Silvis.

The Pigeon Club was originally located where Swanee's is now. The first bicycle races were held in conjunction with the pigeon races. The Bicycle Club was located on 18th Avenue and 10th Street and was formed around 1920, about the same time as the Friend's Circle.

continued on page 3

INFORMATION OMITTED FROM THE OCT. NEWS LETTER

*MENU FOR AUTHENTIC BELGIAN DINNER
NOVEMBER 4th*

APPETIZERS

Leek Tartlets

Chicken Liver Mousse with sweet onion-raisin marmalade

Stuffed Tomatoes with Smoked Salmon Mousse

Assorted Cheeses & Crackers

Fruit Display

SALAD/SOUP

Beet & Cucumber Salad with Coriander-Blue Cheese Vinaigrette

OR

Flemish Onion Soup

ENTRÉE'

Roasted Pork Loin with Sun Dried Cherry Sauce

OR

Halibut with Endive-Celis White Beurre Blanc

DESSERT

Warm Pumpkin Crepes with Cinnamon Ice Cream

**When sending in you check (payable to CBC)
please give choice of Entrée' & Soup OR Salad**

***Send reservations to the Center for Belgian Culture
712 18 Ave. Moline, Ill 61265***

Thank you!

DONATIONS TO THE CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

Paul Allaert	Belgian Flag
Bill Fisher	Belgian flag-ropping
Yvonne Warlop	Black shawl worn by her gr.mother when she came to America
Georgia Slininger	Several Belgian records & tapes
Helen Bisby	Antwerp post cards
Family of	
Vic Standaert	Book "Meetjesland"
Arthur Poelvoorde	1921 newspaper (Interesting article on Charlie Chaplin)
Ron Coene	Brochure on Maldegem
Angie DePaepe	Pigeon diplomas
Madeliene Sercu estate	Belgian Tapestry tablecloth
LeRoy DeBrabander	Letter from Parks & Recreation on approval of construction of permanent Rolle Bolle Courts at Stevens Park. Program of 30 th Anniversary of CBC & 20 th Ann. Of Dolores Bultinck as Honorary Consul or Belgium
Dr. T. J. Ducy	Belgian tapestry
Francis Bollaert	Lace cushion (given to her by the lacemaker's years ago with the stipulation that it goes back to present lacemakers to borrow from the center.)
Theophile & Robert Hecht	1918 picture "Kunst en Vriendschap"
Diane Benson (DeJaegher)	Pic board (made in Belgium)
Joe VandeMortel	Pigeon diploma
Roger Verschraegen	Books: Woordenlipt Nederlands - Taal Nieuw Nederlandste - VanDale Het Gouden Book - Van de Wereld
Robert DeBock	Lace makers photo - demo at department stores
Pat Hurley	5 old shoes, bottle, news clippings, money holder, doll head, letters
Cecilia Braam	Book: This is Belgium photos by Otto Siegner
Paul Callens	Many books: Antwerp's Key Companies by Ramond Stuyck Oud Ruysselede Phone book of West Flanders 17 booklets DeTwee Ambachten
Estate of	
Louis Coopmans	Statue of Liberty #032587, 2 American & 2 Belgian flags
Kay Dellos	Lace bobbins, lace board & stand. Lace doily & collar, thread & Bobbins
Betty Freeman	Bobbin winder & yarn skein winder, given to her by Martha Bultnick. Lace makers may borrow from the Center.
Irene Grota	Belgian prayer books
Dick Segers	Memorial cards, mini wooden shoes, cigarette case, Archery Club

Patches, Dutch prayer book, lace maker doll, M. Pis key chain &
 Drink dispenser, Antwerp cigarette holder, other items from Belg.

Georgia Van Melkebeke Prayer book, funeral cards, Dispatch paper w/article about
 Dolores Bultnick 11/1/68
 Book on the Pope (in Flemish) given to Henry VanMelkebeke by
 his cousins in Belgium.

Ray Waeyaert Embroidered card 1918 Belgium WWI, picture of Fr. Culmans
 Funeral & Note's band. Beer coaster from Belgium. Memorial
 cards, cigar bands & a poster.

Gabe Verstraete Civil engineers hat given to him by Maurice Langerat of Alter.
 Six dolls, in tradition costume, from Belgium

John Adam Book: Brueger by Keith Roberts
 John & Gen
 Vrombaut DeStrooper cookie tin
 Family of
 Edward Roman Framed "Lords Prayer" in Flemish (L.Coopman)
 Gazette van Moline paper, Framed pic 1935 Kewanee Rolle
 Bolle champions (Camiel Roman), song sheet "Tamboer",
 Pigeon club diploma, (1st place C. Roman), death cards.

Stella Almblade Picture of a gathering at Ed Andries home.
 Marie Lannoo Rolle Bolle Trophies.

Joan Greko 3 books of Belgium & pictures of the Black Hawk college fair.
 Leona & John

Rakus (given by Todd Duyvejonck) Antique waffle iron from Ghent.

Jerome & Margaret

Jaecques 2 Belgian books

Doris Libey Belgian sheet music, books, Belgian Scrabble, Delft baby bib &
 Place mat, many children's books from Belgium.

The annual Center for Belgian Culture Christmas Dinner at the Butterworth Center will be held Tuesday, December 5th @ 5:30 P.M. The Cost is \$ 7.00 per person, plus a dish or Dessert for the buffet table. The Meat, Potatoes, Vegetable and the Coffee will be provided by the Center.

St. Nicholas and special entertainment will round out the evening.

We can only seat 80 people, so please sign up early.

Send your reservation check and raffle ticket monies to the

Center for Belgian Culture at 712 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

There will be a sign up sheet at the Center for your conveniences.

- Raffle items are:
- 1 Red/Black/Yellow Afghan
 - 2 Velvet St. Nick
 - 3 Olde world St. Nicholas in his Airplane
 - 4 Belgian Tapestry
 - 5 Teddy bear in sleigh

The Price of the Raffle is \$2.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5.00

Name	Name
Phone	Phone

Name	Name
Phone	Phone

Name	Name
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Dear Members and Friends:

The occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Sacred Heart Catholic Church this year (in response to the request by the newly arrived and growing number of Belgians in Moline) has given us a timely opportunity to honor and thank Father Robert E. Lee for ministering to our community for over 40 years. Never in the history of Sacred Heart Church (or probably any Church in the Diocese) has any one priest served so long in one parish.

During that time, as many of us are aware, Father Lee has always responded to and cooperated with the Belgian Community in many, many special events, programs, etc. On various occasions he has allowed the use of the Church's facilities for Belgian events without charge. He graciously housed many visiting Belgian priests and missionaries over the years when they visited Moline and Western Illinois for speaking engagements, seminars, etc. In recognition of his contributions, several years ago the Center made Father Lee an honorary member of the organization and gave him a life time membership.

Now is the time for all of us to show our appreciation for Father Lee's support of the Belgian community as a whole. We are inviting you and your friends to join us in feting Father Lee at a dinner on Saturday, November 4th, at Oakwood Country Club, Moline, Illinois. To insure your reservation, please send \$25.00 per person to the Center for Belgian Culture, treasurer, by October 28th. There will, of course, be a cash bar.

This letter is being sent to Center members, but you certainly may invite your relatives and friends to join us in honoring Father Lee. At this time we do not know the limitations on seating, so we urge you to get your reservations in quickly. If you have any questions, please call 792-8246.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Newman, *Dinner Chairman*

Celie Donohue, *President*

Please send your reservation check (made payable to CBC) with number of reservations to the Center for Belgian Culture, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265.

Name _____

Address _____

Number of Reservations _____ Amount of enclosed check: \$ _____