



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



November, 2006

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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backhome1@mchsi.com

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Bev Franque

### Newsletter Editor

Josh Lyphout  
jlyphout@mchsi.com

### Publicity

Mary Lorensen

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
December 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
December 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 18th	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:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., November 1st	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., November 4th	Millie Kale (AM)	Walt Cornelis (PM)
Wed., November 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., November 11th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., November 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., November 18th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., November 22nd	Louis Slininger	Georgia Slininger
Sat., November 25th	Mary Brunning	Marvin Brunning
Wed., November 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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

The new Belgian Chef Aprons are available for purchase just in time for that special Belgian Christmas gift for that special someone. Stop by the gift counter at the Center to see all the latest arrivals. With Christmas just around the corner, you will not want to miss out on the great deals.



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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

**Consul General's Appreciation**

As many of you may remember, the Consul General of Belgium in New York traveled to our community and spent a few days in the heart of the American Belgian community right here in the Quad Cities. After she returned back to New York, she sent a gift of appreciation. In the book (which is at the Center for all those who would like to look at it) there are tales of Belgian's immigration and the Red Star Line. The "thank you" letter is enclosed in the book, which thanks all those who partook in festivities.

*Happy Anniversary Newsletter!*

On September 14, 2006, our newsletter editor, Josh Lyphout, received a letter from Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer. It reads:

Mr. Lyphout,

Congratulations and thank you on the 43rd Anniversary of your publication "Center for Belgian Culture Newsletter." I offer congratulations for the anniversary itself, and thank you because what you do is important to all of us. The people of our communities love word about events and history close to them. Your publication provides such vital information to your readers, satisfying their needs and interests.

As one who believes in the importance of strong communities, I commend your commitment to your readers. The cohesion you provide the Belgian American community makes our entire society stronger. That cohesion was what I sought in designing my web site, [www.cook-countytreasurer.com](http://www.cook-countytreasurer.com), which has crucial information about property ownership for your readers in a variety of languages. I join your readers in wishing your publication the best on its anniversary.

Sincerely,  
 Maria Pappas  
 Cook County Treasurer

Don't forget November 4th at 6:00 p.m. We are honoring FATHER LEE and his long career helping the Belgian community. The event will take place at Oakwood Country Club. Cocktail music will be performed by The Happy Belgians.

**3rd Annual  
 CHRISTKINDLEMARKT**

*presented by*

**Davenport Sister City Committee**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th**

**10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Skybridge, River Drive in Davenport**

Do your shopping with gifts from around the world!  
 Food available in the Courtyard on Second Street.  
 Free parking in the adjacent ramp.

*What is Christkindlemarkt?*

It's a traditional Christmas market that originated in Germany and Europe that features a variety of ethnic gifts and foods. The Davenport market will feature an international theme including German, Celtic, Irish, Brazilian, Belgian, Israeli, Chinese, Indian, and Hispanic products and more. There will be gifts, food & drink, and music to ring in the holiday season.

*With Deepest Sympathies . . .*

**Marian Dupont**, 78, of Rock Island passed away on Thursday, October 5, 2006, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island, Illinois.

Marian was born March 29, 1928, in Rock Island, Illinois, the daughter of Hector & Clara Van Maele Dupont. She was employed at the former First National Bank of the Quad Cities for 40 years and retired in 1986 in the customer service department. Surviving is her brother, Emil T. Dupont, Rock Island. She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant brother.

**John Rakus**, 86, of Rock Island passed away on Friday, September 29 2006, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island, Illinois.

John was born January 26, 1920, in Chicago, the son of Andrew & Martha Taraba Rakus. He married Leona M. Duyvejonck November 18, 1950, in Rock Island. Mr. Rakus graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, and received his masters degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign. He was a science teacher at Audubon Elementary School, Rock Island, for 28 years and retired in 1980. Survivors include his wife, sister, 4 children and 2 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Jo Ann Wells.



**2006 Pere Marquette Recipients**

Two local men will be honored for their work within their church on November 19, 2006, by the Peoria Catholic Diocese. DEACON BOB VOGELBAUGH of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, and WILBER H. BENDER of St. John the Baptist Parish, Rapids City. *Congratulations to both men!*

**Congratulations!**

MAURICE & ALICE KERCKHOVE, Moline, celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a reception on October 21, 2006. Alice Brackevelt, Moline, and Mr. Kerckhove, East Moline, were married October 19, 1946, at Sacred Heart Church, Moline. Their children (and spouses) are Michael, Moline; Jerry, East Moline; Jack (Vicki), East Moline; and Jim (Robin), Stuart, Florida. They have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Kerckhove was employed as a parts interpreter at John Deere Parts Depot, East Moline, retiring in 1987 after 28 years. Mrs. Kerckhove was employed as an attendance clerk at United Township High School, retiring after 13 years. *Congratulations!*

EVERETT & NORMA MANNING, Rock Island, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 29, 2006. Their children and spouses are Gregg & Marti Manning, Pittsford, New York; Paula Maddox, Moline; Therese & Merie Wiese, Davenport; Shawn & Karen Manning, Rock Island; and Kelan & Lori Manning, Dubuque, Iowa. They have 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Manning retired from Alcoa in 1983 and both are members of the St. Pius X Parish, Rock Island. *Congratulations!*

GEORGIA VAN MELKEBEKE of East Moline celebrated her 80th Birthday this year. She was born on October 14, 1926, in Davenport, Iowa, to Otto & Melissa Van Ahnen. She married Henry C. "Hank" Van Melkebeke on August 3, 1964, in Chicago. He died February 14, 1977. She was employed as a group manager of operator services at U.S. West, Des Moines, Iowa, for more than 29 years, retiring in 1996. She volunteers at Genesis Medical Center, Illini Campus, and Beacon Harbor Visitor Center. *Happy Birthday and congratulations Georgia!*

*A Blessed Thanksgiving to All!*

**My hero ... James VanSpeybroeck**

When I transferred to St. Ambrose University, I had a cloud hanging over me. I knew that I had to pass statistics to earn my chosen degree. I already had taken it once at Muscatine Community College and had done so poorly that I ended up dropping the class to save my GPA. My low grade was not due to lack of trying, but the instructor just couldn't make it understandable for me. When registering for classes at St. Ambrose, I jokingly requested the "best statistics teacher you've got." I was assured that Dr. VanSpeybroeck was the teacher for me. One semester later, I passed the class with flying colors! It actually made sense to me!

Later than same semester, I was having difficulty reaching my assigned advisor. I was commuting from Muscatine and had my evening job there too. Our schedules just never seemed to work out. I ended up talking more and more with Dr. VanSpeybroeck for advice, class information, etc. Finally he offered to have the paperwork switched so he could be my advisor.

Although I never had him as an instructor for another class, he still remained my favorite teacher ever. He made a somewhat dull subject fun and understandable. He even made the trip to Muscatine for my graduation party at my home. Even though I graduated from St. Ambrose almost 11 years ago, we still remain in contact. Although schedules do not allow for meetings or get-togethers, we still exchange Christmas cards and the occasional e-mail.

Lori Bierman Hutmacher  
Class of 1995

**Elections in Belgium**

*from Belgium Today*

On October 8, 2006, voters in Belgium went to the polls to vote for municipal provincial councils. These local elections take place every six years.

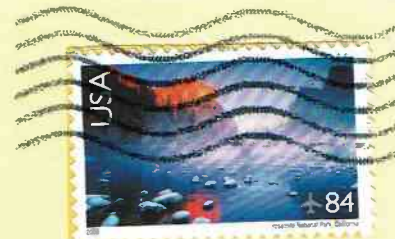
In municipalities, which are the most important units of government in Belgium, will be elected and then form coalitions between parties to elect the next mayor. This process differs on the provincial level: the provincial council does not choose a governor. The governors of the 10 provinces are appointed (until their retirement at age 65) by regional governments.

While voting is mandatory in Belgium for all those 18 years and older, those living abroad will not participate in these local elections. They may, however, vote in regional and national elections which last took place in 2003. These will be scheduled next for 2007.

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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*November, 2006*

## **Last Best Hope**

*from Belgium Today*

What do you believe in so passionately that you would risk everything for, including your life? In our comfortable world, insulated by the trappings of technology and affluence, most of us have never known what it means to “resist” - against a tyrant, dogma, or political regime - and to live or die for our beliefs. Activism in its purest sense - for principles and values that are central to the human experience and that transcend cultures and generations - has been ironically overshadowed by the ego-centric focus of our pop-culture world.

The documentary film *Last Best Hope: A True Story of Escape, Evasion and Remembrance* catapults the voice of historic activism to the forefront of our consciousness in a riveting, intimate, yet little-known story about the Belgian resistance in World War II. This film will inspire viewers to consider their personal convictions - and perhaps - begin to seek to protect “the good that is the most precious” in their own lives.

This educational, historically significant documentary springs from the courage and sacrifices of Belgian citizens - men, women and teenagers - who fought Nazi oppression during World War II. The experiences of downed U.S. P-47 fighter pilot Bill Grosvenor (now 85

years old and a resident of Abilene, Texas) provide the documentary’s narrative thread. Because of the selfless acts of his rescuers in the Belgian resistance, Bill stayed one stop ahead of the Gestapo for seven months in 1943 and 1944, until his eventual arrest and incarceration in a brutal Nazi prison in Brussels.

After nearly sixty years of silence, surviving Resistance fighters have come forward to reunite with the pilot and share their stories for the benefit of current and future generations. This film hopes to glean insight into the motivation - ethical, spiritual, and ideological - that propels one stranger to help another in the name of freedom, despite the risk of his or her own life and everything dear.

You can read the rest of the article online at [www.dipobel.us](http://www.dipobel.us)

### **Belgrade wins Men’s Slowpitch!**

Belgrade won the Moline Parks and Recreation Sunday Night Men’s Slowpitch League Tournament! The Center’s own Scott Raes is a member of this winning team. Congratulations to all!



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

*annual*

## *Christmas Dinner*

Tuesday, December 5th

5:30 p.m.

Butterworth Center

Dinner cost is \$7.00 per person plus bring a dish or dessert for the buffet table. Meat, potatoe, vegetable and coffee will be provided. St. Nicholas and special entertainment will round out the evening. Since only 80 people can be seated, please sign up early at the Center.

Raffle items this year 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. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00.

Please send your Christmas Dinner reservation money as well as your raffle ticket money to the Center for Belgian Culture, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265.

Name	Name
Phone	Phone

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