



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2007

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
May 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 14th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
June 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
June 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The April schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., May 2nd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., May 5th	Millie Kale (AM)	Maurine Schweitzer (PM)
Wed., May 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., May 12th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., May 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., May 19th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., May 23rd	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., May 26th	Millie Kale	Barb Michalek
Wed., May 30th	Mary Rose DeCoster	Mary Rose DeCoster

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

The Kleine Winkel

We have "Happy Birthday" mugs in Flemish for \$7.95/each and Callebaut chocolate candies for \$2.99. For early shopping or collecting, we've found Christmas ornaments for \$7.95/each. And note the Kleine Winkel special, \$5.00 off the Belgo Cookbook (with coupon). This would make a great gift for Mothers' Day, a birthday, or any day for the cooks of the house.



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

The President's Corner

Congratulations and welcome to the Olde Towne neighborhood to the new owners of the Olde Towne Bakery, Andy and Chris VanHoe. We wish you much success!

The CBC June Dinner will be held Thursday, June 7th, at the Center. Happy hour will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.. Catering will be by Diane DeBord.

Officers will be introduced and the three scholarship recipients will be announced. This will be followed by a fun auction led by the DeCap Auctioneers.

Bring something old, new, precious, or not so precious to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. All proceeds will go to the CBC.

This should be a fun and relaxing evening. Sit back with a beer, glass of wine or soda, or a cup of coffee and bid on the treasures of the evening. If you can bring a dessert, that would be even better and would add to the festivities.

See the notice elsewhere in this issue for complete details.

Question – Does anyone have a mortarboard & tassel for Manneken Pis to wear for June? Call me (792-8246) if you do.

Celie Donohue

With Special Thanks

The CBC thanks April's waffle volunteers for another excellent Saturday breakfast: Bill Wadsworth, Theresa and Bob Bailey, Mary Jo De Lille, Joan De Cap, Millie Kale, Bonnie and Joel Newman, Betty and Bob Vande Voorte, Gene Donohue, Walt and Ellen Cornelis, Terri Summers, Marian Knock, and Mary Mortier. Without the dedication of these people, our waffle breakfasts would not have the success they do.

Thank you to Delores Bultinck for the mini mug from Brussels, the Brugge pin, and the Belgian Christmas pin.

Thank you to Irene VanNieuwenhuysse of DeWitt, Iowa, for the three needlepoint pictures made by Alida DeVinck (Verbeke), one of the CBC's original lace makers. Alida was born in Pittem, Belgium, in 1895.

Thank you to Larry and Mary Lorensen for all their work on Birdies for Charity. As you know, this is our main fundraiser for the Scholarship Program. They work hard to get those pledges to support the scholarships. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider doing so. As little as one cent per birdie adds up and the golf tournament donates an extra 10% to the total raised.

With Deepest Sympathies . . .

Edith Croegaert, 92, of Hooppole, passed away March 20, 2007, at Hillcrest Home, Geneseo. Services were held April 2nd at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hooppole, with burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Annawan.

Edith was born Oct. 31, 1914 in Yorktown Township, the daughter of Albert and Tillie Leininger Specht. She married Theophile Croegaert Oct. 18, 1932 at St. Mary's in Hooppole. He passed away in 1988.

Edith had been a school bus driver in Annawan for many years and was later a janitor for the Hooppole Grade School. She was a longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where she served as the sacristan for 73 years. She was past president of the Altar and Rosary Society, past president of the Yorktown Red Cross, and an election judge for many years.

Survivors include one son and spouse, Dale and Pat Croegaert of Hooppole; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; sisters (and spouses) Peggy (Wilbur) Moon of Annawan and Lucille (Francis) DeDecker of Sheffield. Four sisters and two brothers preceded her in death.

Longtime CBC member **Glendon James Baldwin**, 82, of Moline, died Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at his home.

Rite of Christian Burial was held on Monday, March 26, at Christ the King Catholic Church. Entombment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in East Moline, with military honors conducted by American Legion Post #246, Moline. Memorials can be made to Christ the King Church or the Quad City Ostomy Association.

Glen was born October 22, 1924, in Charles City, IA, the son of Otto and Mary Ann Girkin Baldwin. He married Irma VandeMoortel on January 11, 1947, at St. Anne's Church, East Moline.

Glen worked in the sheet metal department of John Deere Harvester for 30-1/2 years, retiring in November of 1977. He later worked part-time at American Legion Post 246 and as a self-employed TV repairman.

He was a US Army Air Force World War II veteran, B-24 engineer with the 724th Bomb Squadron of the 451st Bomb Group, 15th Air Force in Italy.

He was a member of the American Legion for 44 years, a member of the 40/8 Voiture 237, a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Father Betson Council, and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council Father Bader Assembly.

Survivors (and spouses) include his wife Irma, Moline; daughters Linda (Rich) Barber, Taylor Ridge,

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A Little Miracle in Moline

Editor's Note: Pat VandeKerckhove has commissioned a painting, by Moline artist Willie Swain, of his father, Albert, and his uncle, Mike, as they came to Ellis Island in 1917. During June's waffle breakfast, they will display the painting for all to see. The following, which was printed in the CBC Newsletter in April 1977, is a reprint of Bill Wundram's column from the Quad City Times, February 23, 1997. It's definitely interesting and worth another read.

With an oatmeal cookie in one hand and a cup of black coffee in the other, last week Mike VandeKerckhove toasted the year 1917 – 80 years ago when he was 8, and his brother Albert was 10, and they had arrived in Moline but didn't know who they were.

The VandeKerckhove brothers were tiny miracles who drew national attention because their only identity was a big No. 19 attached to each of their coats when they got off the boat in New York from a World War I battered land in Belgium. Those numbers "19" meant they were brothers. But brothers, who?

Mike (real name Michell), an exuberant 88, now lives in a nice neighborhood of Second Street in Moline. His brother died a decade ago.

If there is a moral to this story, it is of the pluck of our founding fathers – the likes of the thousands of Belgians – to reach the promised land of Moline. In 1914, Mike and brother Albert were left with a grandmother in Belgium while mother and dad came to Moline. When enough money had been made, they would send for their little boys. But grandma died, and the little boys went into an orphanage, which came to be blasted to bits. Little Mike and brother Albert were cast askew as wandering refugees of war.

Taking another gulp of coffee, Mike says, "We were hungry little kids, wandering in the mud, sleeping under cannons. I always kept losing my left wooden shoe."

The parents, in Moline, were frantic that the boys were dead. Money was sent to relief agencies to locate them, but it fell into the wrong hands. Finally, a kindly Chicago priest got into the act, located them (apparently unsure of their names) and got them aboard in steerage on the steamship Rotterdam.

"Can you imagine how scared we were, two little brothers?" Mike says. He holds thin fingers to his head and says, "We wondered if we were alive."

Coming down the gangplank in New York harbor, the refugee brothers were photographed by the Post. That picture appeared in many newspapers.



This well-worn photo is a copy of the original picture that appeared in newspapers around the country. Albert is the larger boy; Mike is the smaller. The photo is courtesy of Pat VandeKerckhove.

The frightened brothers were sent to Chicago, and Mike remembers, "We didn't even know who we were, except the word 'Moline' meant something to us. A woman who spoke Flemish put us on a train to stop in East Moline." Too bashful to ask for food, not even knowing their last names, Mike remembers they ate orange peelings that people had dropped in the depot.

"Our mother was told we were coming to Moline, and for days she met every train but we were never on them. We had been left in East Moline." While waiting, she picked up a copy of the Chicago Herald Examiner. She screamed. On the front page was the picture that she recognized as her sons.

Well, all's well that ends swell. The boys and mom and dad finally caught up with each other in Moline.

"When mother hugged us, we didn't know who she was."

The boys became celebrities. In Moline, the Mayer & Johnson store fitted them with new clothes and Wyne Brothers replaced their worn, hole-soled shoes with shiny oxfords. The old shoes were displayed in the Wyne store window. The Chicago Tribune sent a photographer to take their picture in the new clothes.

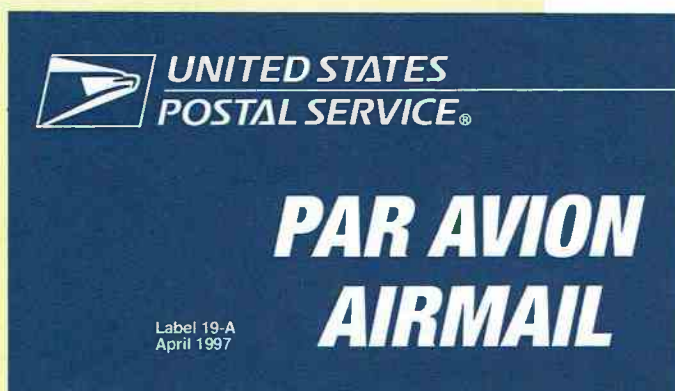
After all that, Mike and brother Albert grew up to be successful tradesmen. Both brothers retired from Farmall after becoming skilled mechanics.

All these years later, Mike is still talking about his refugee childhood. He loves to talk. It's fascinating to listen.

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of Western Illinois, Inc.
712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265



Paul & Marie Callens
Waterstraat 18
8740 Pittem Belgium



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

May, 2007

OUR SYMPATHIES

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Teresa (Dennis) Lynch, Geneseo; sons Bruce (Linda), Coal Valley, Duane (Michelle), Hoffman Estates, IL, Jim (Diana), Redwood City, CA; and brother Irvin (Aline), Cedar Falls, IA, 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. His parents, five sisters, and two brothers preceded him in death.

US Army retired **Col. Leo W. Manning**, 91, of Macomb, IL, died March 27, 2007, at McDonough District Hospital, Macomb. Services were held at First Christian Church, Macomb, with burial in National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal.

He was born Oct. 10, 1915, in Clover Chapel, IL, the son of Floyd and Bessie Manning.

Survivors include his wife, Truth; three daughters; five grandchildren; brother Everett Manning, Rock Island; and sister, Eileen Leaf, East Moline.

Another long-time member, **Albert J. Vandewiele**, 86, of Davenport, passed away Thursday, April 5, 2007, at Genesis Medial Center, Davenport.

Services were held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and burial was at Holy Family Cemetery, both Davenport, with military rites conducted by Davenport

American Legion Post #26. Memorials may be made to the family and will be gifted in Al's memory to his favorite charities.

Albert was born Sept. 7, 1920, in East Moline, the son of August and Erma VanDaele Vandewiele. He married Virginia Gasser, Sept. 8, 1945, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Davenport.

Albert was employed by the US Postal Service, Davenport, retiring in 1977 after 32 years. He was in the Navy during WWII, serving in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 26 and held many offices including commander of the Scott County Legion. He belonged to the Davenport Knights of Columbus, the East End Bolder Club and the CBC. He was past president of the State of Iowa Postal Clerks Union and a member of the Bi-State Area Local Postal Union and was its legislative director for a number of years. In 1977, he was chosen to be grand marshal of the East Moline Labor Day Parade.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia, son Keith, daughter Jill Vandewiele, and son Tom, all of Davenport; a brother Joe Vandewiele of Eldridge; and several nieces and nephews.

The Center for Belgian Culture
ANNUAL JUNE DINNER

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED & FUN AUCTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 7th

Happy Hour @ 5:30 p.m.

Dinner, catered by Diane DeBord @ 6:30 p.m.

After dinner the officers will be introduced and the 3 scholarship recipients will be announced by scholarship chairman, Bob VandeWiele. The VanTieghem scholarship will also be awarded. This will be followed by a fun auction, led by none other than the DeCap Auctioneers.

Bring something old, new, precious, not so precious, to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. All monies will go to the CBC. (Please no large items, furniture, etc.)

This is to be a fun and very relaxing occasion. Ait back with a beer, wine, soda or coffee and bid on the treasure of the evening.

If you bake, a dessert would be appreciated.

MENU

Flemish cheese & cracker tray
w/Boursin garlic cheese & veggies.

Burgundy beef tips w/fresh mushrooms
Herbed Brussels chicken breast (boneless & skinless)

Old Fashion Belgian cole slaw
fresh strawberry jello salad

Gourmet mashed potatoes w/sour cream
green beans - DePoorter style (Diane's family recipe)
"Koeke brood & bolus mit boter" (bread, rolls & butter)

CBC Dessert.

Coffee, pop, beer & wine will be provided.

DON'T FORGET YOUR AUCTION ITEM!!!

\$12.00 per person • Sign up sheet is at the Center or you can call Evelyn VanPuyvelde @764 8042

Send checks (payable to CBC) to: CBC, Attn: June Dinner, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

Reservations must be in by June 1st.