



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



August, 2007

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| August 4th | Waffle Breakfast | 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon |
| August 4th | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| August 4th | Hooverfest @ West Branch, Iowa | 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. |
| August 13th | Board Meeting | 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. |
| August 13th | Volunteer Dinner | 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. |
| September 1st | Waffle Breakfast | 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon |
| September 1st | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| September 10th | 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 August schedule is as follows:

| Date | Gift Counter | Host/Hostess |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Wed., August 1st | Evelyn VanPuyvelde | Al VanPuyvelde |
| Sat., August 4th | Celie Donohue (AM) | Maurine Schweitzer (PM) |
| Wed., August 8th | Mary Lou Andrae | Clara Van De Veire |
| Sat., August 11th | Margaret Wadsworth | Bill Wadsworth |
| Wed., August 15th | Celie Donohue | Gene Donohue |
| Sat., August 18th | Al Hoyt | Al Hoyt |
| Wed., August 22nd | Georgia Slininger | Louis Slininger |
| Sat., August 25th | Millie Kale | Barbara Michalek |
| Wed., August 29th | Mary Rose DeCoster | Mary Rose DeCoster |

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

If You Like Shoes, You'll Love These

An exhibit of wooden shoes from nine countries, including Belgium, is on display at Fulton, Illinois' museum, De Immigrant Windmill, until October 14th. The collection of 43 colorful pairs is on loan from the Wooden Shoe Museum in Eelde, Netherlands. Fulton's mill museum is open every day and admission is free. For information, call (815) 589-4545 or visit www.cityoffulton.us.



The President's Corner

WOW!! MEMEBERSHIPS!! Give yourselves a standing ovation. It's only mid-July and the memberships are coming in fast and furious. It's now a race between our staunch supporters of the past and the new kids on the block. Give credit to long-standing members for inviting their friends and family to support Belgian heritage. Many members are paying up 'til 2009! Another WOW!

Membership chairman Bill Coopman must take a special bow. His mailbox has been overflowing and some days it's hard to stuff another envelope into it. Rumor has it when Bill turns over the checks to treasurer Al Hoyt (take a bow, Al), he is escorted to the bank by Brinks.

It is very pleasing to see the great pride of the membership in their heritage and in the Center's continued well-being. Also, many people are listing what areas they would like to volunteer. Thank you for doing this, as it helps us with less phoning and frustration.

As of this newsletter, we have 243 memberships. I just peeked into Bill's mailbox and there are more yet to be processed. Keep up the great support and some of you will be rewarded with a delicious waffle or two!

And a reminder . . . don't forget the volunteer dinner on August 13th at 5:30 p.m. Sign up at the Center or call Evelyn VanPuyvelde at 764-8402. Please don't hesitate to come if you have a relative or neighbor drive you – there will be plenty of food.

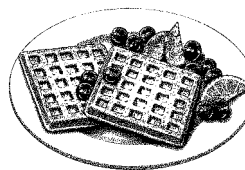
Celie Donohue

Google Chooses Wallonia

from Belgium Today

Google will invest up to 300 million Euros in a new data information center in Saint-Ghislain, Wallonia. It is from this center that search demands from internet users throughout Europe will be met. Google services, such as Google Earth and Google Maps, are in high demand in Europe.

Construction will start this summer and be finished by 2008. The project will create 120 new jobs in programming, security and maintenance, as well as create up to 300 construction jobs. The site chosen has many advantages, including its proximity to a canal which will use its water to cool off the company's computer systems. In addition, the region's fiber optic network will guarantee optimal connectivity for customers and fast access to the data those customers seek.



Waffle Volunteer Recognition

July's waffle breakfast served over 175 people – a steady stream all morning long. Thank you to our waffle volunteers for July: Catherine VanHecke, Mike Kerchove, Bob and Elaine Hendrickx, Larry and Mary Lorensen, Mary Jo DeLille, Gene Donohue, Elaine Hoffman, George and Janet DeDecker, Bob and Theresa Bailey, and Art and Linda VanHecke. Great job!!!

Dual Citizenship

For Belgians living in the US, the long discussion concerning Belgian nationality has come to an end with positive results. As of this past June 10th, Belgians 18 years of age or older who voluntarily acquire the nationality of the United States, will not lose their Belgian nationality. This change is good news for the many Belgians living in the US who have hesitated to become naturalized Americans because they want to retain their Belgian citizenship.

Congratulations

Tom and LouRae (Coleman) Hoogerwerf of Iowa City celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at the University Club. They were married July 13, 1957, at St. Pius in Rock Island. They have two married children and one deceased son. Next spring, they will take a river cruise, which includes a stop in Belgium. Both of LouRae's parents were born in Belgium.

Marguerite VanVooren celebrated her 90th birthday on July 19th with a family dinner held in Jacksonville, Illinois. Cards can be sent to 1600 W. Walnut, Jacksonville, IL 62650.

Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Scholarship Essay

Scholarship recipient Amy Nelson wrote this month's essay. At Geneseo High School, Amy was active in student council, TEC, Peer Mediators, the student hunger drive, and was captain of the Mapelettes dance squad. Her honors include the Academic Award, Honor Roll, National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. Amy plans on attending Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

MY BELGIAN HERITAGE by Amy Nelson

I am a sixth generation descendant of Ivo and Ludovica DePoorter. Ivo DePoorter was the ninth child in a family of twelve children born to Joannes and Philippina (VanOverbeke) DePoorter. In 1827, Ivo DePoorter married his cousin Ludovica (Louise) Van Landeghem and they had fourteen children together. Ivo's wife died in 1890, and in 1893, Ivo emigrated from Poeke, Belgium, to America. Accompanying him were his three daughters Hortense, Helen and Philippine, and a son, Medard. They, along with many others, emigrated to America to escape wars, religious persecutions, and economic hardships in Europe.

Alberic DePoorter was the second child born to Ivo and Ludovica, and he is my great-great grandfather. He married Elodie Van Hecke in Poeke, Belgium, on November 2, 1888, and soon after traveled to America. They initially called it their honeymoon and planned to return to Belgium, but instead they ended up settling in America.

When they arrived at Ellis Island in New York in 1888, the immigration clerk made a mistake on Alberic's immigration papers and left out one "o" in the name DePoorter. Alberic didn't discover the mistake until after settling in Moline, Illinois. He didn't know how to correct it, so from that day forward he was known as Alberic DePorter.

Alberic and Elodie DePorter had 12 children, and the fifth of their 12 children is my great grandfather, George DePorter. George married Alice DeWaele on July 28, 1926. They lived in rural Milan, Illinois, where they farmed and raised eight children. Many of their children and their families still live in this area today. George and Alice DePorter were very proud of their Belgian heritage and also had a very deep devotion to God. They prayed the rosary every day with their children and passed both their strong faith and their proud Belgian heritage on to their children.

My grandmother, Elaine (DePorter) Blaser, is the oldest child of George and Alice DePorter, and she married Bob Blaser in 1952. They lived in rural Geneseo where they farmed and also raised eight children.

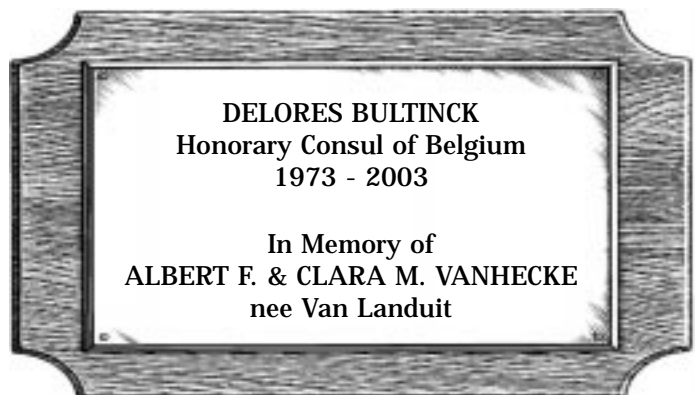
My mother, Rita (Blaser) Nelson is the sixth child of their eight children, and married my father Ron Nelson in 1981. They had three children. I am their second child.

To this day, the DePorter family remains strong. Every year, descendants of Ivo DePorter travel from all over the country to meet for a big family reunion at West Lake Park in Davenport, Iowa. Wonderful food, squirt gun fights, sand volleyball, and socializing with family members are just a few of the memories created every summer. Each year the Belgian flag is proudly hung on the pavilion as a reminder of our Belgian heritage. After a wonderful day with family, the day ends with Mass being celebrated by Father Arnold DePorter, who travels from Maryland to attend the reunions. Mass is always offered in thanksgiving for the many blessings our DePorter family has received.

I am truly proud of my Belgian heritage and the many memories that are created from it.

BLOEMEN VAN VLAANDEREN

"The Flowers of Flanders" plaque is a symbol of the immigrants from Belgium and their descendants, and is a means of memorializing your heritage, a loved one, or a family name. The plaque contains 100 brass plates that can be inscribed to commemorate an individual, a family, or the contributor. Each plate represents a donation of \$100 or more. The money is used for capitol improvements at the Center for Belgian Culture. For more information, contact Celie Donohue at 792-8246. Thank you for the two latest additions:



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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August, 2007

HOOVERFEST

All Belgians remember US President Herbert Hoover as the man who fed Belgium after Germany invaded in 1914. To celebrate his birthday, the Hoover Library will hold Hooverfest in West Branch, Iowa, on August 4th.

There will be plenty of all-day activities, bands, artists, and vendors selling and demonstrating at the Hoover Library. From 7:50-10:00 p.m., a special tribute memorial program will be held at the Hoover Grave Site. Included in this program will be a procession to the gravesite, bagpiper, the Iowa National Guard, laying of wreaths, a tribute film, and fireworks. Hoover descendants, Iowa Governor Chet Culver and special guest, Belgian Ambassador Dominique Struye, will both be present to make brief remarks.

This is a great opportunity to learn a little more about Hoover as both a humanitarian and this country's 31st President, and enjoy the many activities planned for the entire family.

Ambassador Struye's visit to West Branch coincides with his visit to the area for meetings with the Quad

The Kleine Winkel

The Belgian cookbooks have arrived! These are reprints of our popular book with old family recipes, many handed down from your ancestors. These reprints have a hardcover binding and are available for \$14.95 each. Also, a new shipment of picks and pick boards is now available.

A JOB WELL DONE

Many thanks to Mary Lorensen for a job well done as the CBC's publicity chairperson. Mary has "retired" and Chris Van Lancker has taken over that spot. Thanks also to Mary and Larry for taking a load of Flemish books to the Door County Library.

City Development Group, Deere & Co. and local business and community leaders. The Ambassador will also be stopping by the CBC for a waffle, although the exact time of his visit to the Center will be subject to his schedule.