



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2007

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
October 6th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
October 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 8th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
October 17th	Raisin Bread Bake-Off	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
October 20th	Jewelry Sale	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The September schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Sat., September 1st	Celie Donohue (AM)	Bonnie Newman (PM)
Wed., September 5th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., September 8th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., September 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., September 15th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., September 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., September 22nd	Millie Kale	Barbara Michalek
Wed., September 26th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., September 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.

Waffle breakfast volunteers for August: Catherine VanHecke, Mike Kerchove, Bob and Elaine Hendrickx, Georgia Slininger, Ralph Vroman, Bill & Margaret Wadsworth, Barb Michalek, Bobbie & Joel Newman, Mary Mortier and Dale & Mary Lou Andrae. *Thank you for making another waffle Saturday a success and making Ambassador Struye feel so welcome at the Center.*

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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Belgian Ambassador's Visit

The CBC was honored to have the Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Dominique Struye de Swielande visit us on Waffle Saturday, August 4th. He was in the Midwest to attend Hooverfest at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

While in the area, the Ambassador met with Moline city officials, the Quad City Development Group, Renew Moline, and local and county officials. He also visited Integrated DNA Technologies in Coralville, Iowa, a biotech firm with operations in Belgium. Local officials from both Coralville and Iowa City were on hand as well, to welcome the Ambassador during his visit to IDT.

While at the CBC, Ambassador Struye met the waffle volunteers and many of the attendees of the monthly breakfast. "I had no idea what this place was like," stated Ambassador Struye. "It's just like a museum. You've got so many wonderful items here, so well displayed."

The Ambassador closed his trip by attending Mass and a reception at Moline's Sacred Heart Church, where he had a nice visit with co-celebrant and honorary Belgian, Fr. Robert Lee. Msgr. Dale Wellman stated that the Ambassador's visit honors the church and pays special tribute to the church's 101-year Belgian heritage.

"The Ambassador returned to Washington with a very good feeling about the Quad Cities and its Belgian community," stated Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel. "I wish to thank everyone who had a hand in scheduling and making the Ambassador feel welcome."



Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel (center) introduces Gen Vrombaut, former CBC Secretary and active volunteer (right), to Ambassador Struye (left).



Ambassador Struye (right) meets Arthur Poelvoorde (left) who fought at the Battle of the Bulge.



Marlene Shattuck demonstrates the intricacies of lace making to two visitors at Hooverfest in West Branch.

The President's Corner

The Center has several events in the coming months that you won't want to miss. Another RAISIN BREAD BAKE-OFF is set for October 17th and a SUPER JEWELRY SALE will be held on October 20th. See the separate items in this newsletter for details.

To help you get your Christmas shopping started early, the Kleine Winkel will be selling one-of-a-kind old world St. Nicks beginning in October.

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Scholarship Essay

Our third Heritage Essay installment is that of VanTieghem Scholarship winner Ryan Mendoza. This scholarship is for a deserving student who has completed at least two years of college and plans to continue his/her education.

Ryan is a Moline High graduate and attends Augustana College. He is majoring in Business Administration. During high school, Ryan was active in Key Club, DARE, tutoring, football and basketball. His academic honors included Academic All-Conference and All-State football, Honor Roll and National Honor Society. At Augustana, Ryan has been on the Dean's List three of five quarters.

MY BELGIAN HERITAGE by Ryan Mendoza

"Being Belgian is Beautiful." I've seen this quote on bumper stickers, t-shirts, hats, and other various items, and I'm sure you have too. I never quite knew my Belgian heritage, but I do know someone who loved it very much. This person was so proud of who she was, and where she came from. This person was my grandmother, Joanne DeWaelche Hoyt. I was very lucky, thanks to my grandma and grandpa, to have sources that date back to my Belgian predecessors.

Beginning with my maternal great-grandfather, Marcell DeWaelche was born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1908. I wasn't lucky enough to meet "Grandpa Mush," but relatives said that I would have loved him. He and his parents moved to America in 1909. They had heard that Deere and Company was in need of workers from other relatives already living in America. They took this opportunity to better themselves, considering America as "The Promised Land." After moving to Moline, my great-great grandparents had four more children, all girls. Three of my great-great-aunts were members of the Center for Belgian Culture. My great-great Aunt Lucy DeWaelche was a volunteer at the Center for many years. One of my other great-great-aunts, Madeline "Madge" DeWaelche Coppens, was said to be the first President for the Center. The Center for Belgian Culture was very important to them. It was a great way for them to hold onto their heritage.

My maternal great-grandma, Margaret Mary Sierens, was also born in Belgium. She was born in Adegem, East Flanders, Belgium. Family records show her father moved to America in 1909. When my great-great-grandpa Sierens came to Moline, he began work as a bricklayer. Three years later, in 1912, he moved the rest of his family to Moline to join him. Marcell DeWaelche married Margaret Sierens on August 16, 1930, in Moline. They had two children. Their son, Thomas Leonard DeWaelche, was born in August of 1937. He passed away from heart failure while he was sleeping in 1986. Their daughter, and my grandma, Joanne Margaret DeWaelche, was born in June of 1931. She was a full-blooded Belgian and proud

of it. She married my grandpa, Alan Dwayne Hoyt, of Woodhull, Illinois. These two lovebirds had five children. They had four boys and one girl; their only daughter is my mom, Sally Jo Hoyt. She married Jeffrey Paul Mendoza in 1986. They had two absolutely wonderful children, Ashley Elizabeth Mendoza and Ryan Alan Mendoza, that's me.

I have deep appreciation for my Belgian heritage thanks to my grandpa and grandma. My grandma showed me what Belgians are like. The Belgian Culture is rich with humor, devotion, and perseverance. As immigrants, my ancestors maintained a deep affection for their homeland while creating a new life for themselves in America. Belgians are also great card players, unbelievable bowlers, and they love their tic-tacs. My grandpa was a hard worker his whole life and still hasn't stopped. Since retiring he continues to volunteer his services in many different fields. He assists elderly with their taxes, helps out at the library, and he is also the current Treasurer at the Center for Belgian Culture. My grandma and grandpa had spent many hours volunteering their time at the Center. My grandma loved her family more than anything else in this world, and she sure knew how to bring us together. Her hugs alone would just brighten my day. Grandma passed away almost two years ago. She was the strongest person I have ever known. I've never missed someone as much as I've missed her. I don't mind as much now, because I know she's making Heaven a better place. My grandma was 100% Belgian, and if every Belgian is like my grandma, there sure are a lot of wonderful people out there, and I know I will see her another day.

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In conjunction with a salute to the Veterans, we'll have a BAKE SALE on November 3rd. Please support this effort by bringing your wonderful home baked goodies to the Center on November's waffle Saturday.

More details will appear in coming newsletters, but plan now for the raffle to be held at the Center's Christmas Dinner at Butterworth Center on December 4th. For further information on any of these events, please contact me at 792-8246. CELIE DONOHUE

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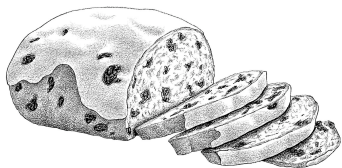
CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2007

It's RAISIN BREAD Time Again

Grease up those bread pans and wash out those jelly jars! October 17th has been chosen as the date for another Raisin Bread Bake-Off. And for those of you who whose culinary efforts don't include bread, jams and jellies will again be judged as well.

And since nothing beats homemade, you can taste the winning and runners-up results beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the 17th. A relish tray w/dip, crackers, ham, and turkey will be available from which to build your sandwich. Liquid refreshment will also be available. The cost for the tasting is \$5.00 per person. Bake to win or come to eat, you'll enjoy a fun gathering at the Center.



A sign-up sheet has been posted at the Center for those entering and for those eating, or you may call Evelyn VanPuyvelde at 764-8024.

JEWELRY SALE
at the Center

Gather up all your men's or women's old, new, ugly, or beautiful jewelry – you know, the pieces you have had in a drawer for years – and bring them to the Center ASAP. We're having a jewelry sale on October 20th. There will be a box at the gift counter in which you can leave your items. If at all possible, put them in plastic or a box.

Remember: "One man's trash is another's treasurer!" If you need further information, please contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246.

