



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



December, 2007

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
December 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 4th	Christmas Party @ Butterworth Center	5:30 p.m.
December 8th	Christkindlemarkt @ Sky Bridge, Davenport	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

No Board Meeting in December

January 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
January 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 14th	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 November schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., December 1st	Celie Donohue (AM) Martha Vroman (PM)	Ralph Vroman (PM)
Wed., December 5th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., December 8th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., December 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., December 15th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., December 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., December 22nd	Norma Manning	Everett Manning
Wed., December 26th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., December 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.*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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

The President's Corner

The weather is becoming more brisk, the merchants have had their red and green decorations up for weeks, and the ads are gearing up for the "after Christmas" sales. Whatever happened to "smell the roses," or in this case, the poinsettias? The older I get, the more I think – know – we have to make our own kind of music or carols. Slow down, enjoy the holiday season, enjoy the reason!

Have you ever had a God Moment? Maybe you have, but just didn't take time to recognize it as one. I remember when I was about 10, my family, including Aunt Margaret, had just come from midnight Mass at Sacred Heart, the "Belgian Church." At that time, midnight Mass was actually at midnight! We got into the car and Aunt Margaret started the conversation with, "We should look for Santa." That got the kids' attention. Even though we knew Christmas was the birthday of the baby Jesus, we still looked forward to the visit from our favorite Belgian saint, St. Nicholas. Gifts then were oranges, nuts and a candy cane in a stocking and one other surprise. It was very dark out, but we craned our necks to search the skies for the man in red and his reindeer. We were barely away from the curb when, in back of the tall church steeple, we could see the sleigh fly by before our eyes and then up, up into the clouds. What a thrill . . . what a God Moment!

More recently, I was on the Shopping Sstrad in Vienna, Austria, three days before Christmas. It began to snow. The tiny white flakes made me gaze to the heavens. Looking up, I saw the steeple of St. Stephen's Cathedral. The bells were tolling and as the snow settled on my face, the flakes felt like tiny warm arms around my heart. Just then . . . a flash of Sacred Heart, memories and another God Moment.

May you all have a merry, blessed Christmas and many "God Moments!"

CELIE DONOHUE

Kleine Winkel

New items in the winkel are "Being Belgian is Beautiful" sweatshirts. The shirts come in either black or gray and have an embroidered Flemish Lion crest on the chest. Sizes available are S – XXL and the cost is \$30.00 each. Lace doilies and handkerchiefs direct from Paul Callens, our Belgian connection, are also available. Stop by and see the variety of items that would make perfect gifts for Christmas.



WAFFLE NEWS

Volunteers who will be baking and fixing your waffles in December will be: Catherine VanHecke; Mike Kerckhove; Art, Paul and John Holevoet; Helen Foote; Mary Lou Robinson; Mary Fiers; Rose May Croegaert; Gene Donohue; Bill and Margaret Wadsworth; and Gary and Janet DeDecker. St. Nicholas will be at the breakfast, too!



THANK YOU ALL who worked on the waffle breakfasts during 2007. It was a great year with dollar amount records being set. This has kept the roof over our heads. The "sign-up" board at the entrance has been an asset as a reminder. Many have signed up well ahead of time and that has kept calling to a minimum.

Now, 2008 is just around the corner and we start all over again! We welcome all the previous "workers," using that term loosely, as it's more fun than work and a free breakfast to boot. And we welcome new faces as well, as several of our faithful volunteers are no longer able to do so.

WE NEED YOU!!! Let's top last year's dollar record. Sign up for your month(s) and shift: early - 7:45 to 10:00 a.m. or late - 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. You can call the Center at (309)762-0167 or Catherine VanHecke at (309)755-8363. Thank you in advance.

Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes go to Bev and Stan Franque on their 60th wedding anniversary and to Yvonne Warlop, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on December 13th. In renewing her CBC membership, Yvonne noted that she was born in Ghent and moved to Moline at the age of six months. A longtime active member of Sacred Heart Church, she takes great pride in the fact that her father, Charles Morel, was on the construction crew that built the church. Yvonne and her husband Marcel lived in the Olde Town area until moving to Tucson, Arizona in 1989.

Board member Scott Raes is congratulated on two fronts. As a member of the Belgrade Tavern slowpitch softball team, Scott helped the Belgrade win the Moline Parks & Recreation Sunday Night Men's League tournament. As a coach, Scott helped the Moline Senior Little League team win the Illinois District 5 championship.

Special Visitors



CBC members Joe Van Vooren and Mary Lou Andrae (right) visit with recent guests from Bruges David and Leen D’Hondt (left)

November’s Waffle Saturday welcomed two guests from Bruges (Brugge), David and Leen D’Hondt, who stopped by to visit the Center.

The couple is currently living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. David is employed by Case New Holland (CNH) and was completing some visits to CNH operations in the Midwest. Leen had visited the Center the previous Wednesday and wanted David see what she had found here before their return to Lancaster later that day.

Both had relatives immigrate to the US, but they were unsure of exactly where they might have settled. David’s relatives have the surname VanVooren and Leen’s relatives’ surname is Strubbe. If you are a VanVooren or a Strubbe and think you have a family connection from around the Brugge area, feel free to write them at 2167 William Penn Way, Lancaster, Penn. 17601. Leen is currently looking for work in the Lancaster area, but she stated that she’d be happy to help with translations from Dutch.

We are extremely pleased that David and Leen took the time to stop by and visit us. It’s always a pleasant occasion when we can meet our fellow countrymen and have them see how we try to maintain our roots and an appreciation for “the Fatherland.”

And, we received this from Leen via email: “We enjoyed the visit in the centrum for Belgian culture a lot! Thank you for inviting us and spoil us with your waffle breakfast. We have had a really nice time in the museum! We are going back to Belgium for 2 weeks to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the New Year with our families. We are early with saying it, but we wish you all a VROLIJK KERSTMIS and a GELUKKIG NIEUWJARR!!”

We Wish to Thank

We can never say “thank you” enough to the volunteers who help the Center in so many ways. Some special thanks go this month to the following: Mike Kerckhove and Art Holevoet for a fine honor to the Veterans with their touching window display (if you haven’t seen it, stop by and check it out); to all those who donated to the bake sale and those who purchased, especially Joe VanVooren for providing the large stock of raisin bread; to all who donated jewelry for the sale (which will continue until Xmas); to the anonymous members, J. Marie Interiors & Decorating and Davidson Jewelers for their donation of items for the Christmas raffle. Remember them when you are redecorating, need a special gift, or need a clock repaired.

BIRDIES UPDATE

Larry and Mary Lorensen reported that through CBC members’ pledges to this year’s John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity program, the Center received a check in the amount of \$2,024.36. As in the past, the golf tournament also sent a 10% bonus check in the amount of \$202.43, netting us a grand total of \$2,226.79. All of this money goes toward scholarship funding. While actual birdies were down this year, the number of people pledging increased.

The Lorensens would like to thank everyone who made a pledge this year and hope that you will continue to do so in coming years. And the Board would like to thank the Lorensens for all their work in making this program a success for our scholarship fund.

Leen D’Hondt and Celie Donohue compare T-shirts.



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With Deepest Sympathies . . .

Eugene C. "Gene" Horton, 93, of St. Cloud, MN, formerly of Milan, IL, died October 17, 2007, at St. Benedict Center in St. Cloud. Entombment was made at Calvary Mausoleum, Rock Island. Memorials can be made to St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Milan, IL.

Gene was born August 10, 1914, in Moline, a son of Albert and Anna Malamphy Horton. He married Margaret "Peg" Schelstraete October 19, 1935, in Moline.

Gene was a grocer in East Moline for 34 years. While living in Milan, he was a land developer, real estate agent and appraiser. He was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church and a life member of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a past Exalted Ruler of the Moline Elks.

Survivors include his wife "Peg" of St. Cloud; daughters, Pat Goodrum, St. Cloud, and Kay McMickell, Kansas City, Mo.; 12 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; brother, Dr. Loren Horton, LaGrange, Ill.; and sister, Anna Mae Swanson, Moline. His father, mother, two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.

The Center also extends sympathies to Bob and Elaine Hendrickx on the death of their great-child and to Eleanor DeBuysere on the death of her sister-in-law, Helen Wahlgren.

Mmmmm, BEER

Joel and Bonnie Newman will be hosting "The Great Belgian Beer Journey" tour October 20-29, 2008. The tour is a serious yet fun study of many different styles of Belgian beer with sampling along the way. They will also compare the different types of breweries still existing in Belgium: family brewery, abbey brewery, local and traditional brewery and industrial brewery. Details will be available in the January newsletter or by contacting Bonnie at 309-476-1957 or 877-476-1957; by email at bonnie.newman@frontiernet.net.

