



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2008

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- December 2nd Christmas Party
@ Butterworth Center 5:30 p.m.
- December 6th Waffle Breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- December 6th Belgian Lacemakers 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- No Board Meeting in December**
- December 25th Merry Christmas
- January 1st Happy New Year!
- January 3rd Waffle Breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- January 3rd Belgian Lacemakers 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- January 12th Board Meeting 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Schedule for Volunteers

The December schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., December 3rd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., December 6th	Margaret Wadsworth (AM)	
	Martha Vroman (PM)	Ralph Vroman (PM)
Wed., December 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., December 13th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., December 17th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., December 20th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., December 24th		CLOSED
Sat., December 27th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., December 31st		CLOSED

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

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


The President's Corner

Every now and again you hear someone say, "You should do this or that," or "How come you don't do this." Did it ever occur to that person that they might want to use their good idea and help out!?

Well, the board hears this quite often. Personally, I think we have a great board. We can all use help and direction from time to time, and another set of hands might just be the answer. But if we do make a mistake, I'd like to think we have adopted the Native American custom of a "flaw to let out the evil spirits." I have looked curiously, spent precious time running my eye up and down a Navajo rug or a piece of pottery looking for the "on purpose flaw or mistake." Now... the board members are not making mistakes on purpose, but maybe this is our way of getting rid of evil spirits.

On that note, give your board members a pat on the back and when wrapping your Christmas gifts this year, make that bow a little lopsided. When you sing Auld Lang Syne, do it a little off key. This may be the answer to a happier Christmas and beautiful 2009 for you, and that helping hand would make a more beautiful 2009 for the board. Happy Holidays to everyone and God love you!

CELIE DONOHUE



Please note . . .
the Center will NOT BE OPEN
on Wednesdays,
December 24th & 31st.

Birdies for Scholarships

Larry and Mary Lorensen, our Birdies for Charity co-chairs, wish to thank all who made pledges to the Birdies program during this past year's John Deere Classic golf tournament. As you may know, Birdies for Charity seeks pledges for every birdie made by the golfers during tournament week. There were 1921 tournament birdies this year and we received a check for \$2245.21, which included an additional 10% bonus that is added by the Classic tournament itself.

The proceeds from these pledges are used by the Center for the annual Scholarship Program. Without your continued support and contributions, our monetary support for the scholarships would not be possible. Again, thank you to all who participated in this very worthwhile cause, and we hope we can again count on you during tournament week 2009.

Share Your Pictures!

If anyone has pictures from the Anniversary Dinner that they would like to share, please send them to Celie Donohue at 2915 - 56th Street Court, Moline, IL 61265.



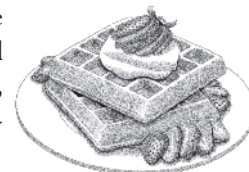
Thank You

Thank you to all the Veteran's Day Bake Sale workers: Georgia Slininger, Millie Kale, Theresa Bailey, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Celie Donohue. A special "thanks" to all the bakers and buyers. The sale netted \$250 for the Center treasury.

A thank you also goes to Mary Rose DeCoster for donating the lion glasses and the lion planter that was used as a centerpiece at the 45th Anniversary dinner.

WAFFLE NEWS

December's WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS on the first shift include: Karen and Pat VendeKerckhove, Millie Kale, and Theresa and Bob Bailey; and on second shift, Bonnie and Jason Tanamor, Ralph Vroman, Ronald Vroman, and another Ralph Vroman. Mike Kerchove will mix the batter, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will mind the money, and Catherine VanHecke will supervise and welcome our guests.



WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE!!! The Center needs someone to make phone calls for the waffle workers. Celie Donohue has been doing this, but she's wearing too many hats. She needs your help! Maybe there is someone who cannot get out to do volunteer work. The calling can be done right in your own home. It only takes a few hours a month and Celie tries to arrange volunteers for three months at a time. Please consider helping for the good of the CBC, as the waffle breakfasts are our main source of revenue. The Center has a great group of workers, but they need to be called. They won't hang up on you and are very pleasant to speak with. Celie will give you the list of names and numbers, so please help her out. Give her a call at 792-8246 and volunteer a little time

With Deepest Sympathies . . .

Camiel VanDeKeere, 93, of East Moline, died August 17, 2008, at Illini Restorative Care Center, Silvis. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. He was born November 19, 1914, in East Moline, to Gustaf and Celina VanQuathem VanDeKeere. Survivors include his sister, Stella Almlade of East Moline.

George H. Wadsworth, 83, of Moline, died September 16, 2008, at Trinity Medical Center in Rock Island. Burial was at National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal. He was born August 1, 1925, in Rural Township, Illinois, the son of William and Lillie Arp Wadsworth. He married Myrtle Fortney on June 13, 1987. She preceded him death on March 24, 2008. Survivors include brother and sister-in-law, William and Margaret Wadsworth of Rock Island.

Julien "Pal" Vercoutere, 97, of Moline, died September 17, 2008, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island. Entombment was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. He was born May 1, 1911, in Wingene, Belgium, the son of Julius and Marie Veralleman Vercoutere. He married Germaine "Gerry" Marie Vermeire on August 19, 1939, in Moline. Daughter Mary Ann preceded him in death in 1941, as did his wife, on December 16, 1998. Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Jane and John Vershaw, Moline; and a son, John, St. Charles, Missouri.

John "Jack" Feeney, 78, of Rock Island, died October 14, 2008, at Trinity Pathway Hospice, Bettendorf, Iowa. Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Davenport. He was born September 25, 1930, in Davenport, the son of John Feeney, Jr. and Irene Meyers Feeney. He married Mary Joy Allaert, December 30, 1950, in East Moline. Survivors include his wife, two sons, two daughters, and brother-in-law, Paul Allaert.

Jean Ducey, 82, of Moline, died October 19, 2008, at Heartland Healthcare Center, Moline. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. Jean was born May 26,

1926, the daughter of Joseph and Marie Graefschep Maes. She married Harry Ducey on September 6, 1952, in Moline. He preceded her in death on November 20, 1957. Survivors include daughter, Diane Krumdieck, and son, Timothy, both of Moline.

Elsie Daebelliehn, 88, of Moline, died October 20, 2008, at Heartland Healthcare Center, Moline. Burial was at National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal. She was born March 19, 1920, in Maldeghem (East Flanders), Belgium, the daughter of Camiel and Eugenie Barbion Caboor. She married Don Daebelliehn on February 13, 1939, in Moline. He preceded her in death May 4, 1977. Survivors include son, Danny (Jeanene), and daughter-in-law Dawn Daebelliehn.

Matthew Andrae, 38, of Lynn Center, died October 22, 2008, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island. Burial was at Western Township Cemetery in Orion, Illinois. Matthew was born December 18, 1969, in Moline, the son of Dale and Mary Lou Taets Andrae. He married Sarina Bowling, June 1, 1996, in Colona, Illinois. Survivors include his wife; children, Madison and Brady; and parents, Dale and Mary Lou Andrae.

Mark Beiermann, 89, of Moline, died November 9, 2008, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. He was born November 18, 1918, in Lindsay, Nebraska, the son of Lou and Elizabeth Kurtenbach Beiermann. He married Elaine Gevock on November 21, 1942, in Moline. She preceded him in death in March 1973. He married Bernice DePauw Taets on March 16, 1974, in Colona, Illinois. Survivors include his wife, daughter Linda Gonzales, Waukesha, Wisconsin; and stepchildren, Mary Lou (Dale) Andrae, Coal Valley, and Bonnie (Joel) Newman, Lynn Center, Illinois.

The Center extends heartfelt condolences to all the families.

A Son's Diligent Search

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mixed units to join up with the 32nd Division. That patrol headed to Hill 269 and found itself across from German defenders. The patrol created much confusion in the German lines and captured prisoners throughout the night and into the next morning.

Ruthhart continued: "While official descriptions of the taking of Hill 269 did not name Pvt. Van Ooteghem, or the units that were involved, they do note that Gen. Pershing took personal note of the

capture. Five months later, I Company is believed to have been among those assembled in Germany for review by Gen. Pershing, the supreme commander of all Allied Forces. It was then that historians believe Pvt. Camiel Van Ooteghem received the silver Citation Star in recognition for his valor on Hill 269."

Son Charlie takes great pride in his father's accomplishments, but is dismayed that the government has no record of his father's service. But we now know Camiel's story and salute this Belgian emigrant for thinking enough of his newly adopted country that he fought a war for it.

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December, 2008

A SON'S DILLIGENT SEARCH

Back in September of this year, *Dispatch/Argus* managing editor Roger Ruthhart wrote an editorial about the loss of World War I veterans' records and thus, their service forgotten. While the gist of Ruthhart's editorial pointed to the fact that while many veterans' records had been lost in a fire at the St. Louis National Archives, and the virtual impossibility of rebuilding those records, the contributions of future veterans must never be lost or forgotten again.

The piece centered on Charlie Van Ooteghem's search for a copy of a citation that detailed his father's bravery during WWI. The citation was read when Charlie's father received the Silver Star at a ceremony on Arsenal Island in June 1965, 47 years after receiving the original award for bravery from Gen. John Pershing. Records of Charlie's father's military service had been lost, but his service history was recreated from family documents, old newspaper articles and help from the Army Sustainment Command History Office. Here is Camiel Van Ooteghem's interesting story.

Ruthhart wrote: "Camiel Van Ooteghem was a simple man. Born in Belgium, he came to this country at age 13 to farm in Ghent, Minnesota. While he eventually learned to speak the language, he never knew how to read or write.

When WWI came, Camiel, then 25, signed up, trained and

shipped off to Europe where he served with I Company of the 54th Pioneer Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign.

"After the war, Camiel settled in the Tri-Cities after hearing it had a sizeable Belgian community. He lived in Rock Island and worked for 40 years at the Republic Steel Mill on Sylvan Island.

In an article written when he received his Silver Star, *The Rock Island Argus* reported: 'In 1918, while on a night patrol, Van Ooteghem observed a German machine gun position manned by a German soldier and a watch dog. According to Van Ooteghem, it was a stormy windy night and because of the weather, he was able to slip behind the position single-handed. Also while on that patrol, he observed infiltration of enemy forces and his report alerted the entire American division. The next day, 1,600 enemy troops were captured.'"

How did Camiel's act of bravery take place? Despite the existence of any detailed records, the 1965 report in *The Argus* provided enough information to tell the story.

In October 1918, the First Infantry was ordered to assist the 32nd Division. Van Ooteghem's regiment formed a small patrol of

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