



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



April, 2009

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 4th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
April 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 13th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 15th	Volunteer Dinner	details tba
May 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
May 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
June 17th	Scholarship Dinner	details tba
October 11th	Belgian Dinner	details tba

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The April schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., April 1st	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., April 4th	Celie Donohue (AM)	
	Martha Vroman (PM)	Ralph Vroman
Wed., April 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Sat., April 11th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., April 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., April 18th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., April 22nd	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Sat., April 25th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Wed., April 29th	Mary Rose De Coster	Mary Rose De Coster

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

HAPPY EASTER!!

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

The President's Corner

Have you ever wondered why you have an interest in “something?” Like sports, traveling, acting or learning about another country? I know why I have always had a special interest in finding out as much as I can about Belgium; it was *my mother*. She always spoke of Belgium where grandpa was born, where he attended school, and other lore. She also read a column to my brother and I that was written by Marie VerBecke and published in the Moline *Dispatch* newspaper in the 1940s.


As mom read, we could follow along and pretend we were touring the countryside covered with poppies. She told us of the Grote Market, about the size of a football field covered with a flower design, and the Church of the Risen Cross, the church that perished more than once by high waters, but always the cross would float back to shore – a sure sign to rebuild and so the people did. On one of my visits to Belgium, I attended Mass at this church and took a tour, given in English. The story told by the narrator was the same story mom had told me. Needless to say, goose bumps! *Maybe, another God moment!* I also got to see the Grote Market covered in flowers, with the design being “Bobbin Lace.” How fitting since I have such a love and appreciation of the lace.

When I was a child, Seventh Street was where “it was at” and the place to shop. I remember VanHulle’s jewelry store, DeGreve’s market, Butch Blancke’s butcher shop, the Hendrickx dry good store, and of course, Goethals’ clothing and shoes, the building that now houses the CBC. VanHulle’s was the place for a First Communion or Confirmation gift. I loved my gold bracelet! Hedrickx dry goods was the next best thing to a candy store, as I could pick out any fabric, buttons, and trim for a new dress that mom would make. Goethals was where daddy got his dapper suits and hats of the ’30s and ’40s. I got those healthy, but not so feminine looking, brown lace-up shoes, but always with a clicker of Buster Brown from Art Goethals. And . . . down the street and around the bend was the Belgian church, Sacred Heart; a place of special occasions, a place to go to school, *the* place where I met most of my life-time friends.

Seventh Street also had its share of taverns, but I never knew much about them. Mom said my grandpa VandenBossche would walk from Williams-White in downtown Moline, to the Pigeon Club, sip a brew, visit with his friends and walk home to 19th Street in time for dinner. I guess that’s why I always had to run to keep up with his stride.

Seventh Street also had Weigant’s Confectionery. I never knew how they got stuck in the middle of all the

continued on page 3



**April
Waffle Volunteers**

April’s waffle volunteers include: first shift workers Margaret and Bill Wadsworth, Charlie Van Ooteghem, Millie Kale, and Mary Gardner-Karcher; second shifters Linda and Art VanHecke, Theresa and Bob Bailey, and Art VanHecke; Mike Kerchove will make the mixins, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke returns to direct it all.



**Volunteer Dinner
Wednesday, April 15th**

Without our volunteers, the CBC would not exist. As a token of “thanks,” the Center will again present a Volunteers Dinner at the CBC. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. with sandwiches provided by the Belgian Village. Relishes, dessert, beer, soda, and coffee will also be served. There is no cost to volunteers. A donation box for those who attend as a guest will be available, so if a friend or spouse drives you, don’t let that stop you from enjoying the evening. Please sign the sheet at the Center or call Celie Donohue (792-8246) by April 13th to make a reservation.

The Kleine Winkel

If you were present at the 45th Anniversary Dinner, you might remember the “one of a kind” apron made by Coralie VanVooren Olszta and won by Al DePorter. Attendees liked the style so well that Coralie agreed to make some for the Winkel. As an aside, Coralie has designed jackets for the Olympics.

The black half-aprons, with big pockets and gold embroidery lettering stating “Eerst Knabbelen en dan Babbelen” (first eating, then talking) are available for \$19.95/each.

Kudos & Thanks

Congratulations to **Bonnie Tanamor** for being named to the Dean's List at St. Ambrose University.

Kudos to **Gene Fowler** for again making sure the Center's fire extinguisher is up to code (a retired fireman, Gene does this every year to save us money); and to the following people who made "Help Millie Day" a success: **Bonnie Tanamor, Denise Martin, Blanche Erickson, Delores Bultinck, Joan Loete, Art Holevoet, Celie Donohue, Millie Kale, Lois and Fred DeCoster, and Don DeBo.**

Flanders Open House

The new Flanders House, located on the 44th floor of the New York Times building in New York City, opened on February 25th. What is Flanders House? It's a non-profit organization that consolidates all of the teams and services that work for Flanders in the U.S. Flanders Investment and Trade, Tourism Flanders-Brussels, and Flanders International will all work from the same location so they can create a more consistent image of Flanders in the U.S. and establish a single point of contact for Flanders.

The executive director of Flanders House is Philip Fontaine. He grew up in the Brussels area, studied International and European Law at Catholic University of Leuven, and has worked in the U.S. since the mid-1990s.

Thanks to Flanders Today

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

continued from page 2

Belgians, but a good fit. Right next-door was the DeRoo Funeral Home. Carol and I became good friends at Sacred Heart and Mr. and Mrs. D were my second parents.

Growing up in the Belgian community, attending the "Belgian Catholic School" and gaining lifetime friends . . . we were all rich and didn't know it. No wonder I had such an interest in knowing all I could about Belgium. Even though most left the "old country" for economic reasons, it was a comfort to dream for me.

I'm thinking that more of you have Sacred Heart and Seventh Street stories to tell. Maybe you can even add a few shops I have overlooked. I would love to hear from you, especially now since we will be paying tribute to **all Sacred Heart grade school students** with special recognition of the 8th Grade class of 1949 at the October dinner – their 60th Reunion.

God love ya, CELIE DONOHUE

Bake-Off Winners



(L-R) Joe VanVooren, Louise Stritesky, Linda VanHecke, Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Catherine VanHecke, Lori Wilson, Lois Marsoun

All was right with the world at the CBC, as a full house enjoyed sandwiches made with the entries in this year's edition of the Raisin Bread Bake-Off (Jams and Jellies, too). Your editor felt that everything he sampled was first place material. No doubt judges Lori Wilson and Lois Marsoun had their work cut out for them. Winners in the bread division were: Louise Stritesky, first place; Catherine VanHecke, second place; and Joe VanVooren, third place. In the jams category, it was a tie – Linda VanHecke and Evelyn VanPuyvelde both won.

Thanks go to Mike Cornelis from Chicago Metallic for the great prizes and to Evelyn VanPuyvelde, Catherine VanHecke, and Margaret Wadsworth for all their work in putting a great evening together.

Scholarships & Dinner Auction

As a reminder, scholarship forms are on the Center's front table for both the CBC and the VanTieghem scholarships.

And yes, it's only April, but time to think about the Scholarship Dinner auction in June. Further dinner details will be forthcoming, but auction items are needed. A table has been set up at the front of the CBC for your donated items, and you can drop them off at any time. It's asked that no clothes be donated . . . unless it's a mink coat. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

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Belgian Priest to be Canonized

A 19th century Belgian priest who ministered to lepers in Hawaii will be declared a saint on October 11th at the Vatican. Rev. Damien de Veuster will be canonized on that date and will be Hawaii's first Catholic saint.

In July of last year, Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to de Veuster's intercession, declaring that a woman's recovery in 1999 from terminal lung cancer was the miracle needed for him to be made a saint.

Born Joseph de Veuster in 1840 in the village of Tremelo (Brabant), he took the name Damien and went to Hawaii in 1864 to join other missionaries of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Nine years later, he began ministering to leprosy patients on Molokai, where some 8,000 people had been banished amid an epidemic of leprosy in the 1850s.

De Veuster eventually contracted the disease and died in 1889, at the age of 49.

Washington Welcomes New Belgian Ambassador

Mr. Jan Matthysen has been appointed Ambassador-designate, replacing Ambassador Dominique Struye. Matthysen will present his Letters of Credence to President Obama within the next few months, after which he will assume his full duties as Ambassador of Belgium to the United States. Ambassador Struye left Washington at the end of January to become Ambassador of Kinshasa, one of Belgium's most important postings.

Jan Matthysen joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. He started his service career as First Secretary at the Belgian Embassy in Bonn, followed by an assignment as Counselor at the Embassy in then-East Berlin. He has served as Ambassador in Belgrade, Turkey, and just prior to his posting to the US, has been Ambassador in Bangkok accredited to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Burma/Myanmar.

Ambassador Matthysen graduated from the University of Ghent in 1973 with a degree in contemporary political history. He is married and has five children

Thanks to *Belgium Today*