



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



September, 2009

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backhome1@mchsi.com

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pvannevel@msn.com

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Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

**Chaplain**  
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
September 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 21st	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
	<i>(note change in meeting date)</i>	
October 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 11th	Belgian Dinner	See Insert
October 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
November 7th	St. Nicholas Bake Sale	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The September schedule is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wed., September 2nd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., September 5th	Celie Donohue (AM) Barb Michalek	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., September 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., September 12th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., September 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., September 19th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., September 23rd	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., September 26th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., September 30th	Mary Rose DeCoster	Mary Rose DeCoster

*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**

### Membership Renewal Time

Memberships are one of the main income producers for the CBC. They are also the vehicle by which our mission of preserving and forwarding the Belgian heritage is accomplished. In addition to renewing your membership, why not ask someone else to join. And if you do, you can receive a certificate for a one-waffle full breakfast, good anytime. Recruit two members and receive two certificates. How hard can it be? Persuade someone else to join and have breakfast on us!

*Renewal form located on page 4.*

Mary and Larry Lorensen wish to thank everyone who pledged money to the **Birdies for Charity** program on behalf of the CBC. This is the major fundraiser for the Center's scholarship program, so fulfillment of those pledges is important. Pledge invoices have been mailed, so we remind you to return them with your payment as soon as possible. And, thanks again for your valued support!

### Flanders Facts

Every year, the research unit of the Flemish government produces a document called Flemish Regional Indicators (Vrind). The document is over 400 pages and presents a picture of the region in all its aspects: social, economic, cultural, demographic, and educational. Here are several interesting items from that report.

A fraction under 70% of households in Flanders has access to the Internet. This is slightly more than the national average of 64%, but far behind Germany (75%) and the Netherlands (86%). The European Union average is 60%.

Flanders accounted for nearly 59% of all tourism-related turnover, ahead of the Brussels region at 23% and Wallonia at 17%. The largest numbers of foreign visitors were the Dutch, followed by the Germans, British, and French.

There are now more people living alone than in 1990, more children with one resident parent, more children with unmarried parents, more unmarried couples with or without children, more married couples without children and more people living in an institution. The only two categories that have decreased since 1990 are children living with married parents and married couples with children.

Thanks to *Flanders Today*

### News of the Membership

*Congratulations* go out to: **Jim and Glenda Vyncke**, of Andover, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary; and to **John Holevoet**, of Atkinson, on graduating with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

*Thank You* to **Evelyn VanPuyvelde** for her donation of a brass flag stand.

*Sympathy* goes to the family of **Elizabeth Danner**, 88, of Ridgcrest Retirement Village, Davenport, formerly of Moline, who passed away July 22, 2009, at Trinity Pathway Hospice. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline.

Elizabeth was born in Moline on November 4, 1920, the daughter of Julius and Rachele VanDamme Vanderscheuren. She married Floyd Danner on January 20, 1942, in Moline. He preceded her in death on November 30, 2006. Survivors include her daughters Dianna Hoffman, San Juan Capistrano, California, Mary Noack, LeClaire, Iowa, and Karen Ide, Andalusia, Illinois; son John Danner, Moline; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

### Belgian TV Comes to Our Neighborhood

A five-member team from the Flemish broadcast company, Vlaamse Radio & Televisie, will be in Moline September 4th-6th to interview and film in our Belgian neighborhood. They are preparing a documentary on the immigration from the Port of Antwerp on the Red Star Line, via Ellis Island and on to the Quad Cities. We thank the Quad City area members for their response to the questionnaire sent out to assist the researchers in preparing for their very limited time here.

The broadcast team is selecting interview subjects and film sites. We invite you to come and meet them at the September waffle breakfast. Even though interview and film time is limited to September 5th, this is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our heritage, demonstrate our uniqueness and document how the Belgian immigrants have contributed to our prosperous region. Again, thank you to those who have participated and volunteered to make this a success.

**The Winkel** has the remaining two copies of the *Big Book of Words for Curious Kids*, a book from Belgium, on a blowout sale. Normally the book sells for \$13.95, but this month they go for only \$5.00. There's only two, so first come first served!

## Scholar Essay

CBC Scholarship winner Rachel Segal wrote this month's essay. She graduated from Rock Island High School with a 4.0 grade average and was ranked 1st out of 286 in her class. Her awards and activities include: Illinois State Scholar (2008-09); Gold Honor Roll (2005-09); Academic Achievement Award (2006-09); National Honor Society; football and basketball cheerleader captain; marching and concert band; Student Council president; blood drive and hunger drive chairperson; Hebrew School teacher; and Liberian student tutor. Rachel will attend the University of Illinois.

### Rachel Segal Heritage Essay



"A nation must be embraced, rehabilitated and expressed as a tangible sign of human creativity and as an integral element of mankind's heritage." This quotation was once said by Abdelaziz Bouteflika referring to one of the most important influences on a person's life. Heritage can come in many forms, but whether it is geographical, natural, or traditional, everyone has some type of birthright of his or her own. For me, the most important part of my heritage is my religion – Judaism.

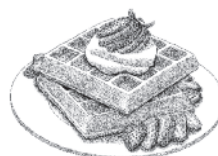
I enjoy keeping the customs, such as going to synagogue during the high holidays or not eating flour, yeast, corn starch, or corn syrup products during Passover. Of course, they can be very hard to follow, especially being one of three practicing Jewish kids at my high school of 1600. But, because Judaism is so foreign to the majority of my friends and classmates, it has made me realize my differences and the importance my religion is to me. It has always been hard to feel several eyes of my peers staring at me whenever they hear the word "Jewish" or "Nazi." It has been even more difficult when seeing swastikas on desks, people calling one another "Jew" as an insult in the hallway, and telling me I was going to hell. Even though all of these incidents leave knots in my stomach, I would never choose to practice any other religion.

To be honest, since few people understand Judaism, I have taken it upon myself to educate my classmates and even teachers in order to defend my belief system. When people find out about my religion for the first time, I wait for the gasp along with the phrase, "But you don't have a big nose or dark hair?" I simply explain religion is not a

race, although there are stereotypes Jews may look like. I continue to say there are Ethiopian and even Swedish Jews who do not resemble each other one bit. I have learned that education is the start of truly accepting one another's heritage, and with the diversity in America, it can be fascinating. Judaism has shaped the way I live, so I believe explaining it appropriately is a necessity.

Got to service on Friday nights, seeing the 12 and 13 year olds become adults during their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and bowing or closing my eyes while saying some prayers have all become such natural parts of my life. I sometimes forget that my friends do not understand the Yiddish slang words I may use while talking to them. Although I may not identify with Easter or Christmas, I know a different culture that my friends or even strangers may not comprehend. It is quite interesting, because one faith is not better than any other, but they are all strongly believed in by someone.

Along with the various holiday and prayer customs, Jews believe in performing "mitzvot." It means any act of human kindness, and it is deemed that performing "mitzvot" will generate an ideal society among the Jewish people by setting example. To fulfill my own "mitzvot," I became a Hebrew School teacher this past year. I wanted to encourage the younger Jewish kids in my community to keep and believe in their faith. This has been a decision I am very proud of because I enjoy seeing the enthusiasm for my heritage expressed in each student. The reason I perform many different customs simply started because my mother was Jewish. I am glad I can pass on my heritage, like she did, to my children one day; hopefully they will believe and depend on it just as much as I have.



### September Waffle Volunteers

September's waffle workers are cooks/servers Betty and Bob VandeVoorde, Bonnie and Jason Tanamor, and Chris Vershaw. Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take the money, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone has a great time. See you at Waffle Saturday!!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*September, 2009*

**Membership Renewal** (Please detach and return)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2009

Would you like to volunteer? If yes, please let us know how below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fees Enclosed (check appropriately):

Single/Family (one per household)                      \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior (70+) Single/Family (one per household)      \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that complimentary memberships are automatically renewed.*