



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2009

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	5:00 p.m. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner
October 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
November 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 7th	St. Nicholas Bake Sale	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 9th	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 October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., October 3rd	Celie Donohue (AM) Joan DeClerck	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., October 7th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., October 10th	Margaret Wadsworth	Mary Gardner
Wed., October 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., October 17th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., October 21st	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 24th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Wed., October 28th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., October 31st	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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

**Belgian Dinner Raffle:** Belgian dinner attendees will have an opportunity of winning some great raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be \$1.00/each or six for \$5.00. See you on Sunday, October 11th. Call (309) 792-8246 for your reservation now!

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



## October Waffle Volunteers

October's waffle workers are cooks/servers Theresa and Bob Bailey, Joan DeCap, Mary Jo DeLille, and Joe DeMeyer. Mike Kerchove mixed the batter, 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!!

## News of the Membership

*Congratulations* go out to: **Bonnie Tanamor** for being named to the Dean's List at St. Ambrose University; **Gabriella VanSpeybroeck** for being one of 20 scholarship winners sponsored by Family Dollar and Proctor & Gamble; and **Rachel Segal** for receiving one of two scholarships offered by the Quad Cities Illini Club.

*Thank You* to **Mike Kerchove** for tending to the planters at the CBC entrance and to **Flora Cook** of Perrysburg, Ohio for the book on farming, printed in Ghent.

*Get Well Wishes* are extended to **Joanne DeDecker**.

*Sympathy* is offered to the family of **Thomas Welvaert**, 53, of Moline, who passed away Friday, August 28th, at his home. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline.

Thomas was born June 11, 1956, in Moline, the son of Robert and Evelyn Meersman Welvaert. He married Rebecca Mier on November 12, 1977, in Moline. Survivors include his wife Becky; daughters and son-in-law, Ranae and Ben Brown, Moline; and Alisha Welvaert, Moline; sons, Justin, Coal Valley, and Travis, Moline; mother, Evelyn Welvaert, Moline; sisters, Pam (Mike) Garvis, Moline, Terri (Marty) Tuttle, Hillsdale; and brothers, Bob (Carol) Welvaert, Moline, and Todd (Lisa) Welvaert, Moline. His father Robert preceded him in death.

## The Kleine Winkel

New items this month are Belgian key rings (\$5.00), patches (\$4.00), magnets (\$5.00), and car decals (\$4.00). Stop in and look over these and our other items for sale.



## Flemish TV Thanks and Thoughts by Patrick Van Nevel

Labor Day weekend was an extremely tiring, yet rewarding experience for the five members of the Flemish television team. Isabel, Rita, Sven, Dieter, and Maarten were dead tired but extremely happy with the hospitality of the people in our community, and the quality product they were able to produce. Keep in mind that they had departed Brussels on Wednesday, September 2nd, taped at Ellis Island on Thursday, arrived in Moline on Friday at 4:20 p.m., and began taping yet that afternoon. They taped all day Saturday and part of Sunday morning, then left Moline on Sunday at noon to return to Belgium.

Moline Mayor Don Welvaert, out of town during the visit, sent the entire team a welcome letter. Helping welcome our guests at the airport were; Mayor Pro-tem and past CBC Chair, Scott Raes; Joe Taylor and Jessica Waytenich of the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, who were so kind to arrange special accommodations at the Moline Radisson; and airport staff. A special thanks to Cathy Rochau at the Quad Cities International Airport for producing a nice



The VRT production team arrives for taping at Sacred Heart Church. From the left are Maarten Moesen (sound engineer), Isabel Junius (producer/researcher), Rita Mosselmans (director), Dieter Dedecker (videographer), and Sven Speybrouck (program host).

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## Scholar Essay

CBC scholar Anna Letendre authored this month's heritage essay. Anna graduated from Alleman High School with a 4.23 grade point average. Her honors and activities included: John O'Conner Scholar 2005-09; Chamber of Commerce Top Ten Award; Western Big Six Academic All-Conference; IHSA Scholastic Achievement Award; Principal's List 2005-09; Teens Encounter Christ; Rock Island Jr. Rotarian; and Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy. Anna is attending Augustana College this fall

### Anna Letendre Heritage Essay



One of the most important things in the world is family. Along with family comes heritage. I take extreme pride in my family heritage and can truly say that I would not want to be anything but a Letendre. Merriam Webster defines the word heritage as, "property that descends to an heir; something transmitted by or acquired by a predecessor; something possessed as a result of one's natural situation or birth." For me however, heritage is something more intimate and straightforward that encompasses family, history, tradition, beliefs, faith, and pride. I believe the Letendre-

Elder heritage (Elder being my mother's side of the family) was one of the main things that aided me in becoming the hard-working individual that I am today. It has worked to solidify and strengthen my beliefs and values, and will continue doing so in my life and my family's life for many years to come.

**FAMILY.** Thanks to my father and mother, I am blessed with a strong French and Belgian heritage – with a little Irish and English mixed in as well. My father's parents, Paul Letendre and Dora Bechard, hail from New England with a 100% French Canadian background. My mother's parents, Morrie Elder and Irene VanPuyvelde, both East Moliners, provide my family with the Irish-English and Belgian backgrounds respectively. I can't think of a better combination! The Letendre-Bechard and Elder-VanPuyvelde heritage brings together a family full of hardworking, honest, and faithful individuals dedicated to each other and strengthened through pride in our heritage.

**HISTORY.** Even though I am the youngest in my family, I certainly take pride in the history of my grandparents. My *Pepère* – French for "grandpa" on my father's side – was a gentle, yet hardworking person. As a belly gunner on a fighter-bomber and a POW in World War II, he was a true hero for the courage, strength, and faith he

showed in fighting for his country and family. My grandpa on my mother's side also fought in World War II. As a medic, he would care for the soldiers who were hurt and put his life on the line to care for his brothers in war. I also consider him one of my true heroes for the power, valor, and conviction he showed in fighting for his country and his family.

My *Memère* – French for "grandma" on my father's side – was the true model of a loving, caring, and gentle wife and mother. Her father, Auguste, died young, and she had to quit high school to help provide for her family by working at the International Shoe Company in Nashua, New Hampshire. After marrying the love of her life, she gave birth to seven boys and although my father might argue differently, not once did I ever hear her raise her voice. My other grandma, my Belgian connection, is also the epitome of a hardworking individual. She too lost a father and had to quit high school to help provide for her family by working in her parent's grocery store, VanPuyvelde's Market. With that Belgian blood running through her veins, she was never afraid to speak her mind and work hard for what she wanted.

I can only hope to become like my grandparents. Coming out of the Depression, they were never spoiled, but didn't want for much and made sure because of their hard work, dedication, and love, that above all things, their children were provided for.

**TRADITION.** On most occasions, the Letendre-Elder clan is considered a loud and boisterous bunch that loves to have fun and be together as a family. We enjoy sharing stories about our ancestors and their very unique personalities. Although my grandparents are no longer with us, we never forget where we came from and how we were brought up. All of us agree that by teaching our own children and, someday, our children's children the heritage of those who came before us, we will be able to carry on those traditions and values set for us by our predecessors.

**BELIEFS AND FAITH.** I am truly blessed to have brought up in a family brimming with people of faith. Both sides of my family are strong Roman Catholics who have a deeply rooted system of beliefs and values. Such values include diligence, compassion, loyalty, and honesty to name only a few. As a family, we understand what our heritage means and how hard those who came before us worked to provide this value system. These traditions and values define who we are as a family and how we are seen by those around us. In that way, we are grateful for this amazing heritage because, if we follow this value system, we can only expect good things to come.

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## CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

*October, 2009*

### **Flemish TV**

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welcome sign and providing refreshments while the crew waited for their baggage and paperwork for their rental car.

Congratulations and thanks go to: Bill Fisher and a dozen of his friends and fellow competitors who arranged for an impromptu rolle bolle game at Stephens Park; Catherine VanHecke and her great volunteers at the waffle breakfast; Ralph Dufour for his hospitality at his pigeon coop; and to all respondents to the questionnaire. It was very evident, even before their arrival, that this team had one focus – staying on point. The subject was immigration from Antwerp through Ellis Island to the Quad Cities. The director and researcher were very well prepared and informed, and they made the interviewees at both the Center and out in the community feel at ease. Thank you to Dolores Bultinck, LuAnn Hayden, Mary Lorensen, Margaret Wadsworth, Art Holevoet, and Charlie VanOoteghem for participating in the formal interviews.

We are very excited and proud for the recognition our community received and thank all who have helped preserve its Belgian roots. Now, we are all anxiously awaiting the final product. Upon receipt of the CD (and dubbing or subtitling to English), we will organize a public viewing. In the meantime, we have received several inquiries, many from individuals who

have not been members of or active in the Center. Many people like to tell the stories of their parents and grandparents. We encourage all to document – WRITE DOWN – their stories. If the children or grandchildren do not write down those human and often times tragic stories, WHO WILL? Maybe you can send your stories to us and we can compile a history to be shared for a follow-up show or even a book. Why not?! The topic is hot, both here and in Belgium. Isn't the visit enough proof of this? Let's do it!

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### **Heritage Essay**

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*PRIDE.* It is important to have pride in one's heritage. Strength in family is so important to a feeling of belonging and togetherness in day-to-day life. I definitely possess a strong sense of pride in my heritage. As previously stated, I couldn't have chosen to have been born into a better family. I am truly grateful for the rich heritage, which has surrounded me my whole life. This rich heritage I have shared with you is the reason for my accomplishments, the basis of my values, and the strength helping me achieve and move forward with my education and my life.