



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



March, 2010

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
March 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 8th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
March 18th	Raisin Bread Bakeoff	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
April 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 12th	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 March schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., March 3rd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., March 6th	Celie Donohue (AM) Joan DeClerck (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., March 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., March 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 17th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., March 20th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., March 24th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., March 27th	Margaret Wadsworth	Mary Rose DeCoster
Wed., March 31st	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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

Before venturing out in bad weather this winter, give the Center a call to see if our doors are open. Sometimes our volunteers are not able to get to the Center.



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

## Special Guest Waffle Workers

At February's Waffle Saturday, two special guests visited the Center. They not only enjoyed the waffles, but also helped out a little with baking and serving. And they came from a long way off to help, too. Well, sort of.

Philippe Henrotte, from Belgium, and Celia Marie Edwige Preuhs, from France, are exchange students through the International Student Exchange. ISE regional manager Deb Bowen joined them at the Center. Philippe attends United Township High School in East Moline, and Celia attends Rockridge High School in Taylor Ridge, Illinois. Both Philippe and Celia are full of personality and enjoy meeting new people and learning new cultures. We were delighted to have them visit with us.

Philippe has a situation that you may be able to help. Due to a health issue in his host family, he will be unable to stay with them much longer. The ISE is trying to find a new host home for him. He would like to stay at UTHS. If you are in that district, or close to that high school and would be willing to host Philippe for the remainder of the school year, please contact Deb Bowen at (309) 582-4882 or by email at [debbowen@iseusa.com](mailto:debbowen@iseusa.com). More information on the exchange program can be found at [www.iseheartland.com](http://www.iseheartland.com).

Should anyone be interested in hosting a future student, contact Deb. She is highly interested in having more students from Belgium come and be a part of this area.



Philippe and Celia help Bob & Theresa Bailey during last month's Waffle Saturday.

## Can You Help?

Immigration remains to be a hot topic lately. The Center received another request from the regional historical society that encompasses the towns of Wachtebeke, Sint-Kruis-Winkel, Mendonk, Moerbeke-Waas, Zaffelare and Zelzate seeking help. The society is working on publications about immigration to the U.S., and they are looking for descendants of immigrants from those six towns. They would like to publish their stories in the yearbooks of their society. They are looking for pictures, documents, letters, etc. If you have relatives who came to this country from those towns and would be willing to copy, fax, scan, or send stories and material about them or their journey, the historical society promises to return any originals.

If you have material or would like more information, you can contact Guy Hoebeke, president of the historical society, via email at [guy.hoebeke@telenet.be](mailto:guy.hoebeke@telenet.be) or by regular mail at Walderdonk 62, B9185 Wachtebeke, Belgium.



## March Waffle Volunteers

Your waffle volunteers for March will be cooks/servers Margaret and Bill Wadsworth, Charlie VanOoteghem, Millie Kale, and Colleen Reese. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take the money, and while Catherine suns herself in Hawaii, the VanHecke family will watch over everything. See you at Waffle Saturday, March 6th.

## CBC Scholarships

Applications for both the CBC and Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarships are available at the Center. They're located on the desk as you enter the door at the Center. If you would like a CBC application mailed, please call (309) 792-8246. Applications are also available at the area high schools. Three CBC Scholarships are available to any high school student entering college. The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship is for any student who has completed two years of college and is continuing with his/her education.

“Light of the World”

The image recalls an era of nuns in the classroom, the Baltimore Catechism, and marching off to First Friday Mass. It hung in thousands of Catholic homes. And at one time, it was the most popular religious print in America. What was it? The painting of Jesus as a small boy, entitled “Light of the World.”

Now, after decades of having disappeared from classrooms and homes, the image is making a comeback via Internet auction websites. Some buyers want them to fill old picture frames or as possible investments. Others, perhaps, want to recall a piece of childhood or their early religious education. One person wants them for an entirely different reason.

Winnetka, Illinois, resident Darlene Baker has 90 of the prints hanging in her living room. For her, the image isn’t just Jesus . . . it’s also her father.

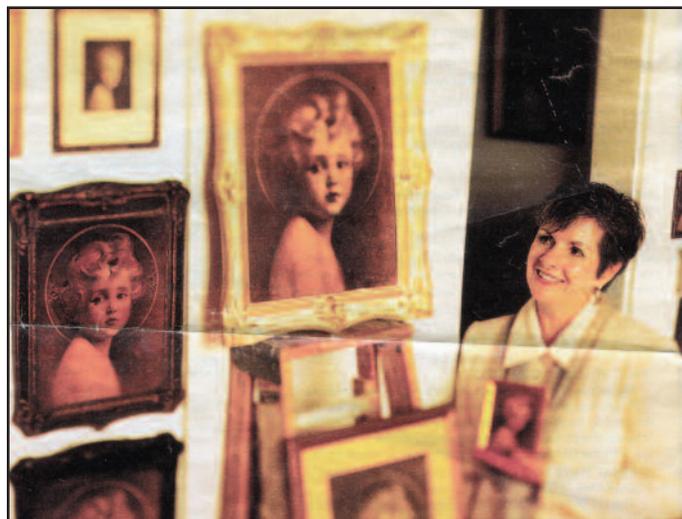
Back around 1917, Baker’s father, Gilbert DeMille, then only four years old, posed for artist Charles Bosseron Chambers, who had been commissioned to create a painting of St. Joseph and Jesus for St. Ignatius Church in Rodgers Park, Illinois. A detail of that painting, the face of Jesus – or rather, the face of Gilbert – became the “Light of the World.”



“Light of the World”

Between 1920 and 1940, millions of copies of the painting were sold, depicting Gilbert as a blonde, curly-headed Jesus. In that era, the print was found in schools, churches, and rectories. Many homes had the image hanging above the beds of children. One of those beds was Darlene Baker’s. She told the *Chicago Tribune*, “It was Daddy, but it was Jesus, but it was Daddy.”

How did Gilbert DeMille earn this place in artistic history? His parents were Belgian immigrants. His father was the custodian of the St. Ignatius School and the family lived in an apartment that was part of the school building. As a child, he had the run of the building and became the nun’s “pet.” When artist Chambers came to St. Ignatius to paint side altars, one of the nuns suggested Gilbert be used as a model.



Gilbert DeMille’s daughter, Darlene Baker, admires her “Daddy-Jesus.”

What becomes even more interesting is the fact that Chambers, for whatever reason, finished the painting using another boy’s body – some say a German, another source says Italian – while retaining the face of DeMille.

Thanks to Millie Kale and the *Chicago Tribune*  
– To Be Continued –

From the Follow-Up File

Drinkers here of Leffe, Stella Artois, and Hoegaarden beers can now breath easier. The union action in Belgium that saw supplies of those InBev brands reach the brink of running out, is over. In late January, brewery management called off plans to cut nearly 300 jobs. Delivery trucks began rolling again, even before the union had time to break down its picket line and extinguish the flames in the fire barrels. (A side note: Evidently fire barrels are the sign of a strike. Your newsletter editor remembers a strike at Caterpillar in Peoria where every plant gate had a fire barrel burning. In winter this is understandable. But the CAT strike was during the middle of summer, yet the barrels were a-burnin’.)

The restructuring at InBev is the result of changing drinking habits; much like Americans, Belgians no longer go to the cafes and pubs for their beer as much as they used to. More people are entertaining at home, which translates into a fall in draught beer sales.

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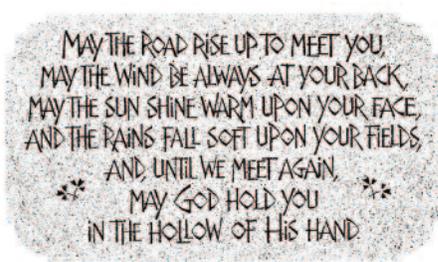
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### *News of the Membership*

Congratulations to **Arthur Poelvoorde** on the anniversary of this 85 birthday.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Art VanHecke, Sage Robinson, Chuck DeTaeye, Joe DeMeyer, Dolores Bultink,** and **Barb Mossaige.**

Thank You to **Dolores Bultinck** for the donation of a Brugge tile. Also, thank you to the family of **Stan Francque.** Memorial money was used to purchase a new TV and DVD/VHS player for the Center. We will now be able to view all the Belgian tapes and discs in our library.



### **Mmmm, Raisin Bread**

March 18th has been chosen as the date for another Raisin Bread Bakeoff competition. Jams and jellies will again be judged as well. Prizes provided by Mike Cornelis of Chicago Metallic will be awarded to the winners. Judges for this year's competition will be Lois Marsoun, Lori Wells, and Joe VanVooren (who is now deemed too professional to compete). To enter, please contact Evelyn VanPuyvelde at 764-8042, so we know who will be baking and how many entries to expect.

For those who don't bake but like to eat, come and "taste" the winners beginning at 5:30 p.m. that day. A relish tray w/dip, crackers, ham, turkey, and beverages will be available, as you make your sandwich with the contestants' efforts. Cost for the tasting is \$6.00/ea. for members and \$7.00/ea. for non-members. Please sign the sheet at the Center if you plan to dine.

Nothing beats homemade, so try your hand at baking or come and enjoy the results.

