



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2010

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
August 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 9th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
September 4th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
September 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 13th	Board Meeting	tba

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The August schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., August 4th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., August 7th	Celie Donohue (AM) Barb Michalek (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., August 11th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., August 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., August 18th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., August 21st	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., August 25th	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Sat., August 28th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

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

RENEWAL TIME . . . Memberships are one of the main income producers for the Center. 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? If you do, and they join, you will receive a certificate for a one-waffle full breakfast, good anytime. Recruit two new members and you will receive two certificates. *The renewal form is provided on page four of this newsletter, for your convenience.* Why not renew today!

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

Scholarship Essay

With this month's Newsletter, we begin publishing the heritage essays of the CBC and VanTieghem Scholarship winners.

The first essay is that of Alexandria Wendell. Alexandria graduated from Alleman High School and carried a 3.8 out of 4.0 grade point average. Her activities, awards, and honors include: 15 quarters on the Principal's List; 7 semesters as a Rev. John O'Conner Scholar; leadership in SADD; Key Club; and varsity athletic letters in track, volleyball, and basketball. Alexandria has been accepted for admission to the University of Missouri and plans to major in journalism.

Alexandria Wendell Heritage Essay



My mother's side of the family has always been so supportive of all of my scholastic, spiritual, and athletic endeavors throughout my entire life. They are the support system that a busy teen, like myself, needs. They have all been there through thick and thin. I am very close to my grandparents in particular. I have learned many things from grandmother, some of which she probably doesn't even know I picked up from her, because she naturally leads such a selfless and wonderful life; always thinking of others before herself. She has instilled in me the importance of faith, hard work, and determination. For those reasons and many more, I wanted to look further into my heritage to see where all these wonderful people, with fantastic qualities, came from.

Both of my grandmother's parents are of Belgian decent. Her father's father came to the United States from Bassenvelde, Belgium, as a teenager. Her mother's father came as a young boy from Belgium to Canada, then to the United States. My great, great grandfather's name was Alphonse DeGreve. My other great, great grandfather's name was Rene VanderVennet, and he was married to Augusta Musslie VanderVennet. Alphonse and Madeline's son, Henry, met Rene and Augusta's daughter, Jeannette, got married, and had my grandmother, Donna DeGreve Cavins and her three brothers.

My Grandma Donna told me many interesting characteristics about both sides of those families that I can see have been passed down from generation to generation. The first would be their work ethic. Both Grandpa Alphonse DeGreve and Grandpa Rene VanderVennet ran their own stores very near to Seventh Street in Moline. Rene owned and operated a hardware store, and Alphonse had his own grocery store. They passed these hardworking and business skills to their children, Henry and Jeannette, who managed their own stores to support their family. Grandpa Hank owned a store that made wood beams for ceilings and such things, while Grandma Net owned her own Laundromat. I found a newspaper article, while digging for information, about their extremely outstanding work ethic. This definitely shows through to my Grandma Donna as well. My

Grandpa and she worked very hard to support their family of seven children. This is important because it showed their children what they had to do for their families, which has shown me just how hard I have to work. I am very thankful for this and am very proud of everything my family has accomplished.

Another important aspect of my family is the Catholic faith and, more importantly, Sacred Heart Church. Grandma Donna informed me that the Belgians built Sacred Heart in the early 20th century and soon after it was finished, her grandparents Alphonse and Madeline were married in it. Generations to follow were her parents, Henry and Jeannette, Grandma Donna and her husband Jim, and my parents, Mark Wendell and Colleen Cavins Wendell. There have been numerous baptisms, first communions, and confirmations in the same church. Someday I hope to be married there as well. Sacred Heart has been the place where four generations have grown up and given so much to. I am currently sharing my voice in the Teens Love Christ Choir, every other Sunday at the eleven o'clock Mass. I also recently gave a talk at one of the Lenten Dinners on how much my family has meant to my life. Sacred Heart has not only watched me grow in years, but also in faith. It is a very important place to my family and me, and I hope it is a part of my life for many years to come.

Last but not least would be the magnificent food that the Belgian culture offers! My Great Grandpa Hank used to make blood and dry sausage and sell it in his store. Something I remember that always made me feel better when I was sick, was Grandma Net's rice pudding. I will never forget the way it smelled and the little green bowl in which it was served. Something I enjoy on Saturday mornings are the Belgian waffles that the Belgian Culture Center offers. They are so delicious! My Grandma Donna often makes raisin bread in her aluminum coffee tins for the entire family. It is so good toasted, with peanut butter and jelly. Another goodie I love but do not get very often are the famous Belgian cookies. My Uncle Dave Cavins makes them occasionally, and I'm excited that I am moving to within five miles of him next year, so hopefully I can have all the cookies I want.

I was told, since I was too young to remember when these took place, that the bicycle races on Seventh Street were always a fun time for people that share the Belgian culture. My family would go every year and practically make a holiday of it. Something else that my Uncle Joe DeGreve still loves to play is Rolle Bolle. I remember playing that in the backyard when I was too little to even pick up the bolle. Now I can manage a little bit better. One last thing that is pretty interesting is that my mom, dad and I, along with my Uncle Joe DeGreve and Aunt Pat, Uncle John DeGreve and Aunt Jan, Uncle Jim DeGreve, and my Aunt Kelly Cavins have all lived in an apartment that was owned by Great Grandpa Hank, located above his store on Seventh Street.



August Waffle Volunteers

August volunteer cooks and servers will be Pat and Karen VandeKerckhove, Larry and Mary Lorensen, and Joe DeMeyer. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will supervise and ensure that everyone has a good time at Waffle Saturday.

from Patrick Van Nevel

A big THANK YOU to those to took the time to meet with Bram Beelaert. It's a good feeling to be able to provide assistance and contribute to the Quad Cities' significance in the emigration from Belgium that will be a part of the documentation of emigration from Antwerp to Ellis Island via the Red Star Line. Mr. Beelaert was very happy with the material he was able to gather. On Sunday, he had an opportunity to tour the Quad Cities and concluded with a visit to the John Deere Commons. He was impressed with our area and the initiatives and developments. He observed, "This area does not seem to be so hugely impacted by the economic crisis as others".

H.E. Ambassador Herman Portocarero, Consul General of Belgium in New York, will be visiting the Quad Cities July 6th-7th. At this time, the itinerary is being finalized and included in his plans are visits with community and business leaders, attending the CBC waffle breakfast and the Hooverfest celebration in West Branch. West Branch, Iowa, is the birthplace of Herbert Hoover, the great humanitarian who saved Belgian children from starvation during World War I. The Belgian population sent many embroidered flower sacks to Mr. Hoover in appreciation, and several of those are on exhibit at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch.

Also, on August 17th, a group of 24 Belgian nursery farmers will arrive in Moline and visit the Deere Harvester Works and a local farm. We thank the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau for their assistance with arrangements.

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

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In conclusion, my family is so incredibly important to me. Learning more about where we came from was such a good learning experience, as well as a ton of fun. I feel that it is very important for all people to know where they came from, and to be only four generations away from family members who came through Ellis Island from different parts of Belgium is pretty cool. I hope that one day I will be able to share all of this wonderful information with my children, and I hope that they appreciate everything as much as I do.

Mmmmm, Good Dip

At the Scholarship Dinner, Catherine VanHecke's dip was such a hit, everyone wanted the recipe. Your newsletter editor has tasted it and it IS fantastic!

Hot Spinach and Artichoke Dip

- 1 package (10. oz) frozen chopped spinach (thawed and squeezed dry)
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup Hellmann's mayonnaise
- 1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar/monterey jack cheese
- 1 package Knorr vegetable recipe mix
- 1 can (14 oz) artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 1 can (8 oz) water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350° and combine all ingredients except 1/2 cup of shredded cheese. Spoon into a 2-quart casserole, then top with remaining cheese. Bake for 35 minutes.

News of the Membership

Congratulations to Jon Reese, son of **Dave and Colleen Reese** and grandson of **Mille Kale**, for being named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville; to **Donald and Rachelle (DePauw) Schopp**, who celebrated 66 years of marriage on June 24th: and to **Patrick VanNevel**, on becoming a naturalized United States citizen.

Thank You to **Michael Bollaert** for the donation of a Belgian cookie tin and Belgian comic book.

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August, 2010

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____ **Email:** _____

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ___/___/2010

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.