



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2010

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
October 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 10th	Open House honoring Art Holevoet	2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 11th	Board Meeting	tba

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The September schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., Sept. 1st	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., Sept. 4th	Celie Donohue (AM) Maurine Schweitzer (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., Sept. 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Sept. 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Sept. 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Sept. 18th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., Sept. 22nd	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Sat., Sept. 25th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Sept. 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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

HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

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

Scholarship Essay

CBC Scholar Patrick Rafferty wrote this month's essay. Patrick graduated from Alleman High School and carried a 4.17 grade average based on a 4.0 grade scale. Some of his activities, honors, and awards include: Illinois State Scholar; named to the Principal's List for four years; a John O'Commer Scholar for four years; Junior Rotarian; National Honor Society; Western Big 6 Academic All-Conference; varsity basketball and baseball team captains; and three-year Illinois Council of Teachers and Mathematics Team state qualifier. Patrick will attend the University of Illinois and major in biology and pre-med

Patrick Rafferty
Heritage Essay



Through well-kept family records, I am able to track my "Belgian Heritage," which begins in Bassevelde, Belgium, with the birth of my great great great-grandfather, Bruno DeRoo, in August 1824. He married Stephanie Goethals and came to America in 1864 in search of a better life. Bruno was a breeder of thoroughbred horses in his native land and brought a pair of the fine horses with him aboard an old sailing vessel. Bruno and Stephanie settled in Atkinson, Illinois, where they were crop farmers and horse breeders, putting in long days of hard work, a proven characteristic of Belgian settlers. They had ten children, although four were lost at birth. Their second son, my great great-grandfather, Henry DeRoo, was born in 1868 in Atkinson on the family farm. He married Mary Louise Collins in 1888 in Atkinson and with much hard work and planning, owned a 760-acre farm northeast of town. My great-grandfather, Eugene DeRoo, was born the seventh of ten children.

The Belgian people were no strangers to tragedy, as proven in WWI when more than 80,000 people lost their lives while being overtaken by German forces, and again during WWII when Hitler bombed Belgium and imprisoned the Belgian King. The DeRoo family was struck with tragedy on November 26, 1924, when Henry, his son Earl, and his daughter Grace's

brother-in-law were all killed in an auto-train accident. A triple funeral, one of the largest funeral services ever in Atkinson, was held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. This forced Mary Louise to sell the farm and move her family into town. The family relied on its strong Catholic faith and family at this very difficult time.

Eugene DeRoo, my great-grandfather, moved to Moline and married Jean Tonn in 1924. In 1936, after receiving his degree in Mortuary Science, he began his own business, DeRoo Funeral Home, where he was entrusted with the care of many of the Belgian families who had lost loved ones. He, like his grandfather, started anew with his business and with an engrained "Belgian Heritage" of hard work and strong ethics, led a thriving business.

Gene and Jean had six children. Including twin daughters Patricia and Pamela. My grandmother, Patricia, worked at the funeral home with her husband and my grandfather, Lawrence Rafferty, continuing the example of caring service set by Gene DeRoo.

Larry and Pat had three children. My father, Kevin, is the middle child and married my mother, Colleen Carlin, in 1989. He also is a funeral director, having worked as three generations together with his grandfather and father. Following his family's heritage of hard work and strong ethics, he also began his own funeral home, Rafferty Funeral Home in Moline, where I am employed and have learned the "Belgian Heritage" of hard work and integrity.

In an effort to give back to the community, my great-grandfather, grandfather, and father are all past presidents of the Olde Town Business Association, which was formed to help the many Belgian businesses within Olde Town, Moline. I hope to continue this legacy of giving back as I head off to college at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and pursue my dream of becoming a physician.

I am very proud of my Belgian heritage and everything it represents. I believe the Belgian qualities of strong work ethic, highest ethics, and sound business sense will serve me well in my life.

Save the Date!!



On Sunday, October 10th, we will honor Art Holevoet for 40 years of service to the CBC with an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Art has served in a variety of positions over the years and has been the creator of many of the Center's window displays. More details will be found in next month's newsletter, but save the date!

September
Waffle Volunteers



September's volunteer cooks and servers will be Bill and Margaret Wadsworth, Charlie VanOoteghem, 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.

News of the Membership

Thank You to **Joe VanVooren** for all his help with designing and ordering the new signage for Waffle Saturdays (we heard many good comments about the colorful and eye-catching new signs); to **Karen Manning** for the donation of a very old Belgian advertising ashtray and two issues of "Handverken" magazine; and to Mario and Karine Marijnissen-DeGrauwe, visitors from Belgium, who sent the Center a tapestry.

Sympathy is offered to **Dick and Diane VanBell** on the death of Dick's mother, Alice Poling; to **Don and Sally Welvaert** on the death of Sally's mother, Lillian Ekstam; and to the family of Marvin Brunning, a former Belgian dance demonstrator.



Past president Celie Donohue turns the gavel over to incoming president Kevin DeRoo. New vice president is Steve Slininger and treasurer is Patrick VandeKerckhove (all l-r).

Ambassador visits the Q.C.

Ambassador Herman Portocarero, Consul General of Belgium in New York, visited the Quad Cities on July 6-7th and included a stop at the CBC. The Ambassador had a full two-day schedule.

On Friday the 6th, he addressed the Executive Club of the Q.C. Chambers of Commerce. He then met with Gen. Yves Fontaine commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command at the Rock Island Arsenal. (Fontaine was born in La Louviere, Belgium, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1971.) It was then off to Peoria to meet with officials of Caterpillar. CAT is one of the largest investors and employers in Belgium with three locations. Their largest manufacturing plant outside of the United States is located in Gosselies and employs over 6,000 people. Returning that evening, Ambassador Portocarero hosted a

dinner attended by Moline Mayor Don Welvaert and area business officials.

On Saturday, the Ambassador joined patrons at the Center's Waffle Saturday and visited with some of the attendees. He then headed to West Branch to represent Belgium at the Hooverfest celebration. A reception for local Quad City business and community leaders completed the day and allowed one-on-one time with Ambassador Portocarero.

The visit was more than just public relations. The Ambassador stated, "This is a very important area in terms of economic relations in Belgium. Some of the major U.S.

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Honorary Consul Patrick VanNevel introduces the Ambassador to waffle volunteer Mary Lorensen.



Art Poelvoorde enjoys a light moment with Ambassador Portocarero. The Ambassador asked Art if he'd ever been to Belgium. Art, who served in the 3rd Army as a field artillery gunman at the Battle of the Bulge, answered, "Hell, I blew the place to pieces!"

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Ambassador visits the Q.C. *continued from page 3*

investors in Belgium are from this region. The region's employers also provide jobs for thousands of people in Belgium. It's also historically a part of the U.S. where many Belgian immigrants settled, particularly in Moline. There is still strong evidence of the Belgian heritage and folklore in this part of the U.S."



East Moline Mayor John Thodos and Ambassador Portocarero discussed economic development issues at Saturday evening's reception.

The Kleine Winkel

Save 10% on Belgian T-shirts this month... normally \$20, but on sale for \$18. Belgian lace placemat and napkin set, was \$25, now \$12. And should you be looking for Belgian lace baptismal gowns, we're the only place in town you can find them.

