



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2010

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
November 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 8th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
December 4th	St. Nick Bake Sale	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 8th	Christmas Party	tba

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., Oct. 2nd	Celie Donohue (AM) Barb Michalek (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., Oct. 8th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., Oct. 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Oct. 13th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Oct. 16th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., Oct. 20th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Oct. 23rd	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., Oct. 27th	Georgia Slininger	Louie Slininger
Sat., Oct. 30th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

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

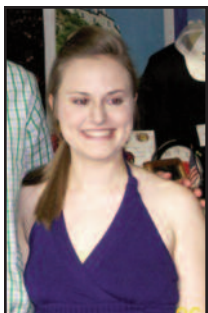
**Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

Scholarship Essay

This month's CBC scholarship essay is by Anne Faust. Anne graduated from Alleman High School with a grade point average of 4.7 based on a 5.0 scale and was ranked 1st in her class. Some of her activities, awards, and honors include: National Honor Society; president of the Key Club; editor of the Alleman yearbook; Illinois State Scholar; Chamber of Commerce Top-10; named to the Principal's List and as a John O'Connor Scholar; and was a girls varsity soccer player. Anne is attending the University of Pittsburgh and will major in neuroscience.

Anne Faust Heritage Essay

My grandmother has often told me that America is a mosaic, instead of a melting pot. In a melting pot, all the elements blend together until they have one single identity. However, in a mosaic, the tiles retain their own identity while contributing to make a beautiful image. This beautiful image is America. The tiles represent the diverse heritage each citizen has. While we all are Americans, we also have a specific heritage, which needs to be celebrated. It is the diverse heritage of each citizen that makes America what it is today.



My tile is painted with hints of Belgian, Swedish, and German heritage. Of these three, the one I am most familiar with is my Belgian side. My maternal grandmother, Mary Welling, never tires of telling me stories of what it was like growing up in America with immigrant parents.

My maternal great-grandparents emigrated with their family from Belgium in 1920. They came to the land of opportunity to make a better life for themselves and their future children. Since my great-grandpa, Camiel DeWitte, had only a fifth grade education, and my great-grandmother, Margaret, had only a third grade education, they accepted whatever employment was available to them. Camiel worked at Velie Farm, and Margaret worked at the National Licorice Factory.

Great-grandpa Camiel was content to continue to speak the Belgian language. Rumor had it that the only time he tried to

speak English were the times he had a couple of beers. After awhile, the phrase "I got to go" turned into "I hot to ho." Furthermore, when asked at the show store what size shoe he wore, he answered, "Half-past nine." Great-grandma Margaret wanted to learn how to speak, read, and write the English language, so she enrolled in night school. Throughout her life, her speech always reflected the Belgian accent, but she took great pride in being able to be part of the American way.

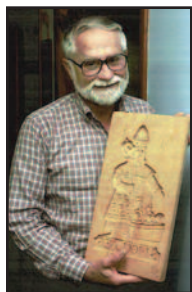
My great-grandparents endured hardships and sacrificed much to give their children a Catholic education and some of the opportunities that had not been available to them. One of the hardships they encountered was the loss of work during the Great Depression. During this time, they left their home and moved to a farm in Camanche, Iowa. Their salary was room and board. My grandma Mary and her two older siblings picked corn and did other chores on the farm. Sunday Mass was a half-hour's drive to Clinton, Iowa in the Model-T Ford.

While the Belgians had an excellent work ethic, they were also a fun-loving people. Almost weekly, there were gatherings in friends' homes. The card game "Bien" was played and the kids amused themselves with board games. Saturday evenings found many Belgian families at the local Belgian American Club singing Belgian songs and dancing mazurkas, waltzes, and polkas. Rolle Bolle was a Sunday and holiday sport enjoyed by many of the men. Also, on many Sunday mornings, one would find some of the men racing their pigeons.

I have never felt more connected to my heritage than when I was in Belgium two summers ago. As a People-to-People Student Ambassador, I was able to spend a day in Brussels. I saw the Manneken Pis, toured a chocolate factory, and even ate an authentic Belgian waffle. Though I was only there for a day, I still felt a certain connection to the city. It was an exciting feeling knowing part of me was "home."

Though my brother and I often mock the frugality of the Belgians, I am proud of my heritage. My ancestors have passed on a strong work ethic and faith to the rest of their family. Being Belgian is an important element of my life. I would not trade it for anything!

ART HOLEVOET OPEN HOUSE



The Center is having an open house to recognize Art Holevoet for his 40 years of service to the CBC. Art is a former president of the Center and has served in a number of positions over the years. He has created many of the great window displays the Center has featured. He is usually one of the first to volunteer his participation for programs that showcase Belgian heritage to others. And he works all of this in while collecting cookie molds, Anton Pieck artwork, tending to his farm in Atkinson, and raising goats.

Join us on **Sunday, October 10th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Say "Hi" and "Thanks" to Art and enjoy some light refreshment as well.

News of the Membership

Get Well wishes are extended to **Judy DePorter**.

Sympathy is offered to **Dolores Bultinck** on the death of her neice, Susan Fogle.

Thank You to: Joan Irwin for the Belgian poster; and **Evelyn and Al VanPuyvelde** for their donation of a chair, Evelyn's mother's wedding dress from 1916, a Belgian costume used at the South Bend, Indiana, Progress Club on International Days (1920-35), bread boards, and several other Belgian items.



**October
Waffle Volunteers**

Volunteer cooks and servers for October's waffle breakfast will be Lois and Fred DeCoster, Joe DeMeyer, and Bonnie, Jason, and Ryan Tanamor. 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 help everyone have a good time at Waffle Saturday.

A Visit from *Gazette Van Detroit*

Many CBC members enjoy reading the *Gazette van Detroit* to get some news of Belgium, discover what is transpiring with other Belgian groups, and pick up a recipe or two. Last month members Dolores Bultinck, Bill and Dave Coopman, Celie Donohue, Millie Kale, and Catherine VanHecke enjoyed a visit with the *Gazette's* editor-in-chief, Elisabeth Khan-Vanden Hove. Elisabeth enjoyed hearing the history of the CBC and discovering some of the artifacts the Center holds. She probably got a laugh out of hearing us mention that we used to buy clothes and shoes in the very same building, too.

We discussed mutual concerns about keeping relevant to and for the younger population and the fact that some of the heritage and language was being lost as older Belgians pass. The conversation continued at the Belgian Village Inn, where Elisabeth enjoyed the Olde Towne décor and a sandwich big enough that it supplied her with a traveling snack.

It was an honor to have Elisabeth visit us. The *Gazette van Detroit* is good reading and worth your support. Sample copies and subscription information are available at the CBC.



Millie Kale (left) and Delores Bultinck (right) join *Gazette* editor Elisabeth Kahn-Vanden Hove for her visit to the CBC.

The Kleine Winkel

Some spell it Klocke. Some spell it Klakke. And some call them "Stokers." But no matter how you spell it or what they're called, we've finally got 'em. After two years of waiting, we now have a good supply of caps with "Belgium," and the Flemish lion logo embroidered on the front. They're offered at \$20.00/each, in either black or khaki.



Save the Dates

More information will be forthcoming, but note the date of the St. Nick Bake Sale on waffle Saturday, December 4th, and mark December 8th on your calendars for the CBC Christmas party. The Christmas party will be held at a new location this year; Amber Ridge (behind Menard's and the Target store in Moline.)

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Your Last Issue??

Have we done something you don't like? Is there some reason you haven't renewed your membership to the CBC? As of September 15th, we have 90 members who have NOT renewed for the new year. We're guessing those people meant to, but put their renewal aside and just haven't done it yet. This will be your last issue of the Newsletter.



The CBC relies on its membership to help pay operating funds. Memberships also aid our mission of preserving and forwarding the Belgian heritage. If you haven't yet sent in your membership renewal, why not do it this week. Single/Family membership is \$25.00 and Senior membership is \$15.00. (Complimentary memberships are automatically renewed.) Send your payment to CBC Membership, 712-18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265. And remember, you receive one free waffle breakfast for each new member you recruit.