



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2010

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Kevin DeRoo

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Steve Slininger

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pvannevel@msn.com

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### Rolle Bolle Rep.

Bill Fisher - 764-8068

### Grant Chairman

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### Newsletter Editor

Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

### Chaplain

Rev. Jim DeBisschop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 4th	St. Nick Bake Sale	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 8th	Christmas Party	see article
December 13th	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 November schedule is as follows:

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

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



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

## Honors for Art Holevoet

Friends, family, and members of the CBC gathered on Sunday, October 10th, to honor Art Holevoet for his 40 years of service to the Center. A former president of the CBC, Art has also served as a representative to Flemings in the World, a group that promotes Belgian culture in 17 countries, and as a board member-at-large. In 1984, he received the Order of Leopold II, by King Baudouin.

Over the years, Art has created many of the window displays seen at the Center and has done much of the seasonal holiday decorating. Whenever the Center has been asked to present a program on Belgian heritage or culture, Art has been quick to take part in those activities as well.

The Center thanks Catherine VanHecke and Celie Donohue for arranging refreshments of coffee, cake and cider for the event and to Millie Kale for assembling a display of articles and pictures of Art through the years.



President Kevin DeRoo presents Art with a plaque in appreciation for his dedication to the Center and Belgian heritage.



Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel (center), on behalf of Consul General Herman Portocarero, presents Art with a book on the complete works of Flemish expressionist painter James Ensor, as Catherine VanHecke displays the book's dust jacket.



One of Art's hobbies is raising goats. Evelyn VanPuyvelde presents Art with a t-shirt he can wear while tending to his pals. Roughly translated, the shirt reads "Dancing with goats."

## News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Maurice VanSpeybroeck** on his 80th birthday and to **Fred & Linda Polich** on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Sympathy is offered to: **LouRae Hoogerwerf** on the death of her brother-in-law, Ronald Light; and to the **DeRoo family** on the death of Wayne Peterson, husband of Kathy DeRoo Peterson.

### HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP!

The Center needs volunteers for Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to replace volunteers who head for warmer climates during the winter. If you can help, please contact Margaret Wadsworth at 786-5791.

## Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholarship

The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who has completed at least two years of college and plans to continue his/her education. The \$1000 award is offered by the VanTieghem family in memory of Ruth, who valued family and the importance of a good education.

This year's recipient was Wolfe Repass of Geneseo. Wolfe is a graduate of Geneseo High School, where he maintained a grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (and at college as well). He was a member of Key Club, National Honor Society, TEC, an Illinois State Scholar and 3-sport athlete. He received the Kyle Braid Leadership Award for three years and was 1st Honor Roll his entire high school career. Wolfe is an accounting major at Bradley University in Peoria and is a member of its Division I men's soccer team



### My DePorter Heritage by Wolfe Repass

Driving up the gravel road to my grandparents' house as a young boy, I was constantly reminded of a major part of my heritage. Blowing freely in the wind was the Belgian flag, with colors no less pure than its American counterpart that flew only feet above it. Black, my grandmother told me, represented those who had died fighting for independence; yellow symbolized grain waving in the wind; and red was a grim reminder of the bloodshed from the past. My grandfather, the last pureblood Belgian in my family, still flies those colors at his farmhouse to this day.

Although this was one of the few things I knew about my Belgian history as a young boy, I was fortunate enough to have had a man in my family who went much deeper in his pursuit of our genealogy. This man was Ralph DePorter, a Moline native during the mid-1900s, who made it his responsibility to research and compile a comprehensive DePorter history book. In 1953, the King of Belgium appointed Ralph as the Belgian Consul for 26 Illinois counties, and later, when he retired in 1973, he was knighted Chevalier of the Order of the Crown by the King for "his meritorious service to the Belgian community." Briefly, my family lineage, thanks in part to both Ralph and my grandmother Judith DePorter, is as follows.

In 1898, the first of the DePorters made their way through Ellis Island and became the initial settlers of my modern family. Alberic and Elodie, traveling on their honeymoon to the States, came from Poeke, Belgium. Circumstances, that were not made clear to me, prevented them from returning to their homeland, and thus, they remained in America for the rest of their lives. They came in as DePoorters, but when an immigration clerk failed to record the correct spelling (two Os), Alberic refrained from correcting him, and thus, the DePorter name came to be.

The name DePorter itself dates back a long time, to when Belgians were named for their trades. DePoorter means "the wagon-master," or "the gatekeeper." The gatekeeper was considered an important role in society at the time, as he was responsible for watching over and protecting the families of the community he served.

Many of my ancestors settled first in Spalding, Nebraska, where they lived in what today would be considered hostile conditions. Because of the lack of trees on the Nebraska prairie, they built homes out of "Nebraska Marble" (bricks of sun-dried soil and sod) and used "prairie coal" (buffalo chips) to heat their homes. They were farmers, and soon they moved east towards the Quad Cities area where the soil was rich, and a man named John Deere was establishing himself as a leader in agricultural innovations. Some of my early family members branched out of the farm life to pursue careers in the medical and religious professions.

Alberic and Elodie had 12 children, one of whom was George A. DePorter, my great-grandfather. George married Alice DeWaele, daughter of Jacobus and Emile Hoornaert-DeWaele, and they had eight children. George and Alice were farmers, just as Alberic and Elodie had been. The fourth child of George and Alice was my grandfather, Allen Joseph DePorter. Allen met Judith Claire Anderson while both were students at Alleman High School and they married soon after graduation. They had seven children, my mother Kathleen being the second. My mom married Rex Lee Repass, a Swiss-blooded Texan, in 1985, and they had three children, myself being the second child and only boy.

I wanted to take some time to expand on my Grandpa Al, the current Milan resident who flies the Belgian flag outside his home. When I was only two years old, my father passed away, and Al has been like a father to me ever since. He taught me about hard work, respect, discipline, and humor, to name only a few. He is 75 years of age, and only within the last year or so, when an open-heart surgery limited his mobility, has he taken any significant time off from working.

One of my favorite things to do is listen to him speak of his childhood growing up on a farm, playing sports, and trying to avoid getting in trouble with his dad George. When he heard about this scholarship I was applying for, he wanted me to put this in about Belgians: "Belgians were jovial, loquacious, good-looking, and most of all, hard-working." Although I had to look up the word loquacious, I certainly see those traits in my current extended family today. I have endeavored to continue in the footsteps of my predecessors and will continue to work hard in whatever I do, to honor those who have come before me and to establish a bright future for those yet to come.

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*November, 2010*

*CBC Christmas Dinner*

The Center's Christmas Dinner will be held Wednesday, December 8th, at the Clubhouse of Arbor Village, 890 - 43rd Avenue in Moline (behind Menard's and the Target store). A cash bar opens at 5:00 p.m. and buffet dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. A dessert to share would be appreciated. The St. Cecilia Children's Choir will provide entertainment.

Raffle items at the dinner will be: a Harlan King water-color print: snowman and sled; St. Nicholas in gold; and a 4-pack of St. Bernardus beer and a goblet. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5.

The cost for the dinner is \$20.00/person, and reservations must be made by November 24th. Send checks to: CBC Xmas Dinner, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265.



*The Kleine Winkel*

The Winkel has some new items for Christmas: St. Nicks, lace angel ornaments, lace picture frames, and nativity sets. Why not do some of your Christmas shopping at the CBC.

**BLOW-OUT SALE**

Our freezer is overstocked and we're having a sale. All frozen raisin bread is \$3.00/loaf. All frozen waffles are \$2.00/bag. The price includes the sales tax. Available whenever the Center is open, until we run out.

*November Waffle Volunteers*

Volunteer cooks and servers for November's waffle breakfast will be Millie Kale, Joe DeMeyer, Bonnie, Jason, and Ryan Tanamor, Steve and Tom Slininger, and Angie and Sage Robinson. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke make sure everyone has a good time at Waffle Saturday.