



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2009

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 1st	Christmas Dinner	5:30 p.m.
	(Butterworth Center)	
December 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
	NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER	
December 26th	Center Closed	
January 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
January 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 11th	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 December schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., December 2nd	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., December 5th	Celie Donohue (AM)	
	Joan DeClerck (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., December 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., December 12th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., December 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., December 19th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., December 23rd	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., December 26th	Center Closed	
Wed., December 30th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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

The President's Corner

Here we are, into December again. Where did the year go? December, Christmas, and all that go with Christ's birthday and the holiday. This brings back memories of about four years ago. That was the year we didn't go to Colorado to spend the holidays with family. I had just had foot surgery and by Christmas Eve, was hobbling around with the aid of a cane – and it wasn't peppermint! We headed for Sacred Heart Church for the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Believe me, we headed out very early, as we all know how crowded the Christmas Masses get.

We arrived in good time. An usher that knew me motioned that he had a place for us, but not being able to sprint fast enough, someone else won the race. The usher scanned and scanned the church, but I just wasn't fast enough. He finally said, "Can you make the stairs to the choir loft?" I thought, "sure." I knew I couldn't stand for the Mass.

We headed up the ever-winding staircase and got to the top. He motioned for me to the folding chairs, but as I hobbled over, faster people got the seats. I was thinking,

"where is the Christmas spirit, the giving???" Just as we were headed for the stairs to go back down, I noticed two chairs covered with books by the organ. No one was playing the organ, as the music originated from the main floor that afternoon. I asked if we might sit there, and we did.

There we were with "opera box" seats, looking down on the crowd. My foot began to feel better and my mind was wandering off to when I was a child attending Mass at Sacred Heart. This is where my parents and my brother sat. There is where I sat when I made my first communion. There is where . . . the lighting was dimmed, the alter covered with poinsettias, the beautiful music, the procession down the isle, and Mass began.

I don't know if any Mass ever warmed my heart so much. Maybe God planned for all those pews to be filled, so that Gene and I could see and feel the joy of Jesus' birthday in a very special way. Maybe it was another God Moment! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God love ya, CELIE DONOHUE



Mmmm . . . RAISIN BREAD

Many are familiar with the cinnamon raisin bread that CBC member Joe VanVooren has brought to Center bake sales and dinners. He has now turned his bread-baking hobby into a business known as Joe's Bread Company. Joe will take your bread order for pickup at the CBC or La Primavera Bakery in Moline. **The cost is \$6.00 per loaf plus tax.**

Each week, Joe will stock the CBC freezer with one dozen loaves of cinnamon raisin bread and plain raisin bread (no cinnamon). You can purchase frozen loaves during regular CBC hours (Wednesdays or Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.). You can buy fresh bread on waffle breakfast Saturdays (first come, first served).

For larger or special orders, call Joe at (309) 236-3670. You can arrange to pick up the bread at the CBC or La Primavera Bakery, 527 - 14th Avenue, Moline.



Jim and Marge DeDecker pose with St. Nicholas (Gene Fowler) at the St. Nicholas bake sale and waffle breakfast. Marge made St. Nick's costume some years ago when Jim portrayed the CBC's patron saint. The DeDeckers also donated the manger that is on display in the Center's front window.



This is a great way to enjoy the bread that's always a hit and sells quickly at the bake sales. Joe looks forward to bringing his customers a consistently fresh and tasty product. For questions or ordering, call **Joe's Bread Company** at (309) 236-3670.



The Kleine Winkel

Stop by and check out the many new St. Nick items, as well as the lace, cookbooks, and lace maker's chair Christmas ornament. If you would like a Belgian flag monogrammed, contact Pam Welvaert Garvis, 797-8685 or 781-3650. The cost for monogramming is \$10.00 plus tax.


Buses from Belgium

Who said the economy was in the tank? Flemish bus builder Van Hool, based in Antwerp province, just received an order for 250 luxury tour coaches for the U.S. market. The company's total orders from the U.S. this year tally up to 380 coaches, or about 23% of its total production.

And these aren't just any old bus, either. Van Hool specializes in top-end luxury coaches, customized to the customer's wishes, like the "Straussmobile." That bus was built for the touring orchestra of André Rieu, and its seats were tailored to the measurements of individual musicians.

Interestingly as well, Van Hool has also sold double-decker buses to the British, who invented them in the first place.

From *Flanders Today*



December Waffle Volunteers

Your waffle volunteers for December will be cooks/servers Charlie VanOoteghem, Margaret and Bill Wadsworth, Sage Roberson, and Fred DeCoster. Mike Kerchove will have mixed the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take the money, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone has a great time. See you at Waffle Saturday on December 5th

Center for Belgian Culture
Christmas Party

Reservations are still being taken for the Center's Christmas party at Butterworth Center on December 1st, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Diane DeBord will cater the meal and Nick Boyd will provide the entertainment. Cost is \$16.00/person, paid reservations only. A sign-up sheet is at the CBC, or you can send this form with your check to: CBC, 712-18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265.

Name _____

No. of Reservations _____

There will be raffle prizes, too: St. Nick in white velvet, Longaberger basket filled with goodies, a book on beer (many Belgian), and a T-shirt from the Atomium in Brussels. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

A Cool Museum

In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres has been named one of the world's "12 Coolest Museums." The museum, which looks at the First World War from a number of different angles, said it was "proud that our name has been included in this prestigious list." Other winners include the Science Museum in London and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In Flanders Fields attracts nearly a quarter-million visitors each year.

News of the Membership

Congratulations go to **Bonnie and Joel Newman** on the birth of their new granddaughter, and to the parents, Katy and Steve Kennelly.

Thank You goes to **all the bakers and buyers** for the St. Nicholas bake sale (the sale added \$525.00 to the CBC treasury); to St. Nicholas (**Gene Fowler**) for making the day complete with candy for the young and the young at heart; and to helpers **Millie Kale, Theresa Bailey, and Celie Donohue**.

Sympathy is offered to **Jim VanThorre** on the death of his brother, and to **Lavone Slead** on the death of her husband Richard.

Get Well wishes are sent to **Art Holevoet** and **Larry Rafferty**.

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Ironman has Ties with CBC

Football has its Superbowl, baseball its World Series, bicycling the Tour de France, and tennis its Wimbledon. Endurance triathlons are defined by the one-day, three-event race called the "Ironman." To finish the Ironman, a participant would have swum 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles, and run 26.2 miles. Winning the Ironman is easy. After doing all of that, cross the finish line first.

Forty-six year old Jack Voth, son-in-law of CBC member Gene Fowler, joined 1769 other athletes in Kona, Hawaii, last month to try his hand at this competition. Entrants came from 51 countries and all 50 states, including 15 competitors from Belgium. Voth completed the race in 14 hours and 7 minutes none the worse for wear. Well, maybe he was a little tired. Congratulations to Jack for not only having the fortitude to take part in this race, but for also having the stamina to finish it in good time!



Jack Voth at speed during the 112-mile biking portion of the Ironman Triathlon.



Jack and Wendi Voth after Jack finished his race. Wendi is the daughter of Center member Gene Fowler.