



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



April, 2010

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 28th	CBC Volunteer Dinner	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
April 29th	RSVP Volunteer Luncheon	(see details)
May 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 5th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
May 22nd	Moline Library Program	(see details)

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The April schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., April 3rd	Celie Donohue (AM) Joan DeClerck (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., April 7th	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., April 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., April 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., April 17th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., April 21st	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., April 24th	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Wed., April 28th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger

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



*A Blessed Easter & Spring to all!*



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

**The President's Corner . . . For the Love of Lace**

Most of you don't see the back of the Center, where a lot of the Belgian treasures are stored. Like any storage area, it sometimes gets out of hand. The plastic boxes that contain the Center's many lace items needed major tending. It would be nice if we had a larger building and could display more of our collections, but that's another story for another day. At any rate, lace expert Art Holevoet, yours truly, a lace lover and Gene Donohue (married to the lace lover), took on the chore of reorganizing the storage area.

All of this is a labor of love. And as always, when you dig into something, you find more than expected. We found some of the very old patterns, almost turning to dust, that could not be saved. But we did find many more that will be preserved. What I didn't expect to find was the material the patterns were pricked on; the backside of old Peterson-Harned-VanMaur, New York Store, Block & Kuhl, Mosenfelder, and McCabe's boxes, to name a few. Remember those stores? Also, many Kellogg Corn Flakes boxes. This seemed fitting and proper, as the Kellogg family donated some of the family's Binche bobbin lace to the CBC and it is on display in the case at the front of the room. Patterns were also pricked on brown paper bags, old wrapping paper from Fannie May, on wax paper and yes, even a Budweiser beer carton. Lace makers get thirsty, too! One of the treasures found was a black lace bonnet. It is now displayed with the Kellogg items. There was no information as to who had donated it (maybe you can help?).

The Center has a nice collection of bobbins, pins, and cushions from our lace makers of yore. Emily Mortier, Mary VandeVoorde, Martha Bultinck, Betty Freeman, Joyce Haskins and the family of Emil Dupont, to name a few. I, myself, am the proud owner of a lace cushion from Martha Bultinck, Mary VandeVoorde's wooden stand made by her husband Gus, and a beautiful piece of lace made by Madeleine Sercu. I learned the precious art from Martha many years ago. Although I don't make lace any longer, my appreciation is unending.

I have collected not only every type and style of Belgian lace, but also Italian, Irish, English, Mexican, Swedish, and a piece my niece Wendi brought back from Malta. I remember a day in England when I had Gene driving all over Nottingham looking for the lace school, or another day driving all over Ireland to find the Carrickmacross lace made by the nuns there. Both were found. I have crochet lace and a special piece made by Lois DeCoster. A piece of Belgian lace made during WWI is very special, as linen was scarce and string was used instead. I hunt garage sales, auctions, and estate sales for lace.

When in Europe in the 80s with Gene on assignment for Case-IH, we took Gene's niece Mary Margaret with us. We

were there for seven weeks, so I needed a pal to shop and explore with. Her quest was that she learns all she could about bobbin lace – the patterns, areas, materials, etc. Our hotel in Brugges had one entry wall covered with large pieces of lace under glass and identified. In one week, Mary knew them all and after she got back to school, she wrote a report on lace and Belgium and received an "A."

How many lace books and magazines do I have? Many . . . and one special book given to me by Diane VanBell years ago. It still has a place of prominence in our home and is titled, "For the Love of Lace."

Tackling the reorganization of the lace might have taken a day, but what memories the "chore" stirred. Maybe even another God Moment! Don't forget that our lace makers show off the art every first Saturday starting around 1:00 p.m. Kathy Knoblauch Bustos, Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck, Jackie Murphy, and Sandy DeShinkel are but a few. Come watch!!

God love ya, CELIE DONOHUE

**CBC VOLUNTEER DINNER**

The CBC volunteer's dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sandwiches from the Belgian Village and beverages will be provided. Board members are asked to bring desserts. Call (309) 792-8246 or email Celie (celie13@qconline.com) by April 26th to make a reservation.

**Flemish Family Fun Festival**

The CBC is helping the Moline Public Library celebrate Children's Month. On May 22nd from 1:00-3:00 p.m., the entire family is invited to the children's department of the library for a program on Belgian customs. Dancing, rolle bolle, and lace making will be featured. You will also be able to sample Belgian cookies and dessert waffles. The program is free, but the library would like reservations. Call (309) 524-2480 after April 22nd. (*This notice will be repeated in the May newsletter as well.*)

“Light of the World” *continued*

After painting the picture of Jesus in the arms of St. Joseph for St. Ignatius Church, artist Charles Chambers returned to New York. In a 1941 interview he stated, “The face of that child haunted me and I had to paint it for its own sake.” The result was “Light of the World,” the image that started Chambers’ reputation as an artist of religious subjects.

The model for the child Jesus, Gilbert DeMille, went on to college and became an accountant. He married in 1942 and settled in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago’s northwest side. Although he was now a member of St. Cornelius Church, not many in that parish knew of DeMille’s posing as Jesus. But close friends did, and his daughters referred to themselves jokingly as “the daughters of Jesus.”

By the early 1960s, artist Chambers’ religious works suffered a sharp drop in popularity. The Second Vatican Council emphasized a more grassroots



Artist Charles Bosseron Chambers and the rendering of Jesus and St. Joseph that was the precursor to “Light of the World.”

spirituality, and a shift in American society led to an interest in more realistically portrayed saints. Many of the “old style” religious images began disappearing from schools and homes.

In the mid 1980s, DeMille’s daughter Darlene Baker began discovering copies of the “Light of the World” at rummage sales and flea markets. “I was astonished to find my dad being sold like an antique,” she said. When “Light” began showing up on Internet auction sites, she began buying those, as well as other Chambers prints. With over 90 “Light of the World” prints in her collection, she is now selling off part to raise money for victims of Alzheimer’s disease.

Gilbert DeMille may have died in 1993, but he continues to live on in the resurgence of the “Light of the World.” And now you know why.

Thanks to Millie Kale and the *Chicago Tribune*



**April  
Waffle Volunteers**

Your waffle volunteers for April will be cooks/servers Angie Jennes and Sage Robinson, Bonnie and Jason Tanamor, Ryan McFate, and Steve and Tom Slininger. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take the money, and Catherine VanHecke will supervise everything. See you at Waffle Saturday, April 3rd.

**RSVP Luncheon**

The Senior Corps network will hold its volunteer luncheon on April 29th at the Milan Community Center. Many of the Center’s volunteers are also members of this group and help at a wide variety of community functions. RSVP will be mailing invitations by the end of March. Our members can call Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246 for a reserved spot at the CBC table.

**From the Follow-Up Desk**

In last month’s newsletter, we noted that due to some health issues with the host family, Belgian exchange student Philippe Henrotte needed to find another host. We are happy to report that Philippe is now with his new hosts, the Rick VanTieghem family, and he gets to remain at United Township High School. Thank You to the VanTieghem family for your assistance!

*The Kleine Winkel*



The Winkel has an *Easter Special*... LACE TISSUE HOLDERS in white or ecru that were selling for \$10.00 each, now only \$7.00. And they also make great gifts

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## CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

*April, 2010*

### *News of the Membership*

*Congratulations* go to Mitchel Heiar, who received a \$3500 scholarship from the IA/IL Regional Auto Show, and Wolfe Repass (Bradley Univ.) and Callahan DePorter (Notre Dame) for being named to the Dean's List at their respective schools (all three are grandsons of **Judy and Al DePorter**); to **Bonnie Tanamor** for being named to the Dean's List at St. Ambrose Univ.; Katherine Kautz, senior at Assumption High in Davenport, for receiving a DAR scholarship, and Sarah Hunter for being named to the honor roll at Jordon Catholic School in Rock Island (both girls are granddaughters of **Jim and Lucrese Hunter**); and to **Linda VanHecke** for being named a "Fraternal MVP" by the National Fraternal Congress for her volunteerism in local lodge, church, and charitable community activities.

*Thank You* to **Mike Kerckhove** for his Belgian/Manneken Pis entry in the St. Patrick's Day bi-state parade.

*Get Well* wishes are sent to **Grace Fisher**.

*Sympathy* is offered to the family of **Fred and Linda Polich** on the death of Fred's mother, Victoria; and to the family of former member **Robert Staelens**, who passed away in Mesa, Arizona.

### **BLOEMEN VAN VLAANDEREN**

"The Flowers of Flanders" plaque is a symbol of the immigrants from Belgium and their descendants, and is a means of memorializing your heritage, a loved one, or a family name. The plaque contains brass plates that can be inscribed to commemorate an individual, family member, or contributor. Each plate represents a donation of \$100 or more, and the money is used for capitol improvements at the Center. Of the original 100 plates, only 9 plates remain. For more information, contact Celie Donohue at 792-8246.

### **CBC on TV**

The program about immigration from Antwerp to America, featuring Moline and Center members, will be shown on Belgian TV on Tuesday, April 13th, at 8:40 p.m., Belgian time. The program is called CANVAS. Tell your relatives and friends there to watch for us on the VRT network!