



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2010

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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	5:00 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner
December 13th	No Board Meeting.	
January 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Closed in afternoon
January 10th	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., Dec. 1st	Evelyn VanPuyvelde	Al VanPuyvelde
Sat., Dec. 4th	Celie Donohue (AM) Barb Michalek (PM)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., Dec. 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Dec. 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Dec. 18th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., Dec. 22nd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Dec. 25th	Closed	
Wed., Dec. 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

*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**

A Little Memorabilia

Younger members probably won't remember, but our senior members will. What will they remember? Tavern chips. Those little tokens that were "good for 5¢ in trade." The Olde Towne neighborhood had a plethora of taverns back in the early days, and the Center has framed a collection of their silver and copper chips. Remember Coppens' Tap, VanHooreweghe's Tavern, Rimmerie's, Beanie's, Van Dale's 7th Street Casino, the Friend's Circle, Hortense Van Bruaene's or the Belgian American Brotherhood (in Rock Island)? All were great places to enjoy a beverage, a game of euchre or bien, and fellowship (so they tell me).

Thank you to Evelyn VanAcker for her donation and information regarding those chips.

December Waffle Volunteers

Volunteer cooks and servers for the December waffle breakfast will be Theresa and Bob Bailey, Al VanHecke, and Barb and Ray Coppens. Mike Kerckhove will prepare 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.



Don't forget the St. Nicholas Bake Sale on Waffle Saturday, December 4th. St. Nick himself will put in an appearance. This is always a popular event, so if you have baked goods for the sale, please deliver them as early as possible (the Center is open at 7:00 a.m.).

Birdies Say Thanks

CBC Scholarship Co-chairs Mary and Larry Lorenzen want to thank everyone who pledged to the John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity program on behalf of the Center. They reported that through your pledges, the scholarship fund received a total of \$2,750.65 (included an 8% bonus awarded by the golf tournament). The CBC says "thank you" to the Lorenzens for all their work with the Birdies program on behalf of the Center.

News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Clara Duytschaever**, former active member who celebrated her 97th birthday at Friendship Manor in October (she was still dancing at the VFW and American Legion at 94!); and to **Richard & Sharon Coleman** and **George & Twilah Raes**. Both couples recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries.

Thank You to **Doris & Bob Libey** for their donations of lace, tapestries, wooden shoes, books, and a neat old wooden sled.

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Georgia Van Melkebeke**, who passed away October 26, 2010.

A Special Thank You

A special Thank You to all who added a little extra with your annual membership dues. That money, along with other donations, will aid the Center in preserving some very old treasures. We have recently had a World War I embroidered pocket-handkerchief and the 1930s-era tavern "chips" framed. In process of being preserved and framed are 1920s-era pigeon certificates. These were made in Antwerp and filled out in calligraphy, for winning members of the pigeon racing clubs. Framing and dry mounting has been done by Mimzi Art & Frame in Moline.

The next project will be a hand-written book on horticulture by A.E. DeRycke, written in 1891. Mimzi has been working with the CBC for the best method of preservation and has been providing a sizeable discount on the work. If you have a framing project, we recommend Mimzi and let them know you heard about them from the CBC.

Along this same line, we're looking to purchase, or have donated, a display case (possibly in the same Mission oak) for the two extremely old dresses that are on display at the Center. A china cabinet might work if the shelves are removable.

If you would like to aid in the preservation endeavor, please contact Celie Donohue at 792-8246 or 13Celie@gmail.com. A Thank You, again!

Waffles on New Year's Day!



Yes, you read that correctly! The CBC will be serving waffles on Saturday, January 1st, from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The gift shop will also be open that morning, but the Center will NOT be open during the afternoon. Put the headaches on hold and join us for waffles on the First!

Some Interesting Trivia

Your newsletter editor has just completed a pictorial history of the Quad City International Airport for Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. The book will not be on the booksellers' shelves until April or May of next year, but research revealed some trivia that you might find interesting.

Gustaf DeSchepper was born in Belgium in 1876. It's unclear when he came to Moline, but two years after taking his first airplane ride from a field at Moline's Midvale farm (in 1919), DeSchepper became the first Moline citizen to receive a private pilot's license. He became so enamored with flying that he and two fellow local aviators rented land for an airfield on Moline's 23rd Avenue near 53rd Street. Within six months, they realized that the city was getting "too close," so they rented space on the Franing farm south of town. This location is the present-day Moline airport.

DeSchepper taught fellow Belgian, Rev. J.B. Culemans how to fly. Father Culemans, of course, founded Sacred Heart Church in Moline and the *Gazette van Moline*. Flying became his hobby, and he wrote many newspaper articles about the airport and his flying adventures. Father Culemans' greatest contribution to local aviation was as chairman of the aviation committee of the Moline Chamber of Commerce. To a large degree, he was personally responsible for getting the city to purchase the airport.

Culemans was dubbed "The Flying Priest," and the *Chicago Daily News* declared that he was the first clergyman in the country to own an airplane. He was so loved by his parishners that when his old bi-plane was

destroyed in a hanger fire, they gathered donations and within five months purchased a new one for him.

These were two of the six men who pioneered the airport at Moline. It wasn't an easy road for the men or the airport. You'll be able to learn much more about it early next year in *Quad City International Airport*.



Flying instructor and airport pioneer Gus DeSchepper.



Franing Field, late 1920s

Fr. Culemans and his Travel Air bi-plane. This plane was replaced by Sacred Heart parishioners after it was destroyed by fire.

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Duo Wins Pacesetter Award

Alleman High School girl's tennis team members Allie DeRoo and Anne Bohnert teamed up to win the Rock Island Sectional doubles championship this fall. In doing so, they also received Metro Pacesetter honors from the *Dispatch/Argus* newspapers.

But there's a little more to this story . . . try as they might to give the school a sectional title, their win ended in misfortune.

After all the points were tallied for all Sectional matches, Moline and Alleman were tied with 25 team points. In an unusual tie-breaking procedure set out by the Illinois High School Assoc., Moline actually won the Sectional tennis crown as it had the most state qualifiers; Moline three, to Alleman's two.

But we'll say "Congratulations" to Allie and Anne anyway. Great job, gals!



Sign-up for Bread

Joe's Bread Company is taking orders for RAISIN and CINNAMON-RAISIN bread, large or small loaves, for your Christmas dinner. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter



at the Center. Orders must be placed by December 18th and will be available for pickup on December 22nd during regular CBC hours, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Large loaves are \$6.50 and small loaves are \$3.25. (You can also call Joe direct, at 309-236-3670.)



Please note . . .
the Center will NOT BE OPEN
Saturday, December 25th
and
the afternoon of Saturday, January 1st