



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



February, 2011

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

|               |                    |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| February 5th  | Waffle Breakfast   | 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. |
| February 5th  | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  |
| February 14th | Board Meeting      | 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  |
| March 5th     | Waffle Breakfast   | 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. |
| March 5th     | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  |
| March 14th    | 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 February schedule is as follows:

| <i>Date</i>     | <i>Gift Counter</i>                               | <i>Host/Hostess</i>  |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| Wed., Feb. 2nd  | Evelyn VanPuyvelde                                | Al VanPuyvelde       |
| Sat., Feb. 5th  | Celie Donohue (a.m.)<br>Maureen Schweitzer (p.m.) | Maureen Schweitzer   |
| Wed., Feb. 9th  | Mary Lou Andrae                                   | Clara Van DeVeire    |
| Sat., Feb. 12th | Mary Gardner-Karcher                              | Mary Gardner-Karcher |
| Wed., Feb. 16th | Celie Donohue                                     | Gene Donohue         |
| Sat., Feb. 19th | Al Hoyt   | Al Hoyt              |
| Wed., Feb. 23rd | Margaret Wadsworth                                | Bill Wadsworth       |
| Sat., Feb. 26th | Millie Kale                                       | Millie Kale          |

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

## Please Check Ahead

With all the snow and resulting ice we've had and will probably continue to have during these winter months, please check ahead before visiting the CBC. We want everyone – visitors and volunteers – to be safe.



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

## News of the Membership

Congratulations to: **Joe “the Bread Man”** and **Sue VanVooren** on the birth of their new granddaughter; Alleman High School senior **Allie DeRoo**, for being named Tennis Doubles Player of the Year, and Orion High School senior **Maddie DePorter**, for being named Area Volleyball Player of the Year, both by the *Dispatch/Argus* newspapers.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Betty Van De Voorde**, **Margaret Fogle** and **Faye DeBisschop**.

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Mary Welling**, who died December 20, 2010, and to the family of **Walt Cornelis**, who passed away January 13, 2011.

## Thank You, Catherine!

Last month’s newsletter had a “thank you” to all the waffle volunteers from Catherine VanHecke. I believe Catherine deserves a big Thank You, as well. Since she has taken the position of waffle chairperson, the CBC has doubled, or even tripled, the head count on Waffle Saturday.

I remember the day that Catherine and her family first came to the Center to make waffles. I don’t know who contacted them, and it must have been about four or five years ago. I was at the front door greeting waffle eaters when this group, led by Catherine, entered. She said we are here to work! I was confused, as we had volunteers, they were hard to come by, and now we had more than we needed. I expressed confusion and they said they would leave. Art Holevoet was there and said, “Don’t let them get away!” They signed up for the following month and the rest is history.

I believe this to be one of the “God Moments” I’ve written about in the past, and a “God Send” for the CBC. Thank You to Catherine and Thank You to her dedicated family.

Celie Donohue, Past President

## February Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for February’s Waffle Saturday will be Fred and Lois DeCoster, Joe DeMeyer, Kevin DeRoo, and Steve Slininger. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take your money, and Theresa Bailey will fill in for Catherine VanHecke to make sure everyone has a good time.

## Changes in the Law

We aren’t the only ones who are subjected to new regulations and tariffs with each new year. Belgium has some interesting changes. Here are a few that went into force January 1st:

The price of an ordinary postage stamp increased two cents to 97 cents. A stamp for postage within Europe now costs \$1.41 and an international stamp went up to \$1.64 (for one ounce or less).

The charge for a Catholic church wedding will rise \$68.50 to \$342.50, while a prayer service for the dead now is charged at \$102.75. The rate for an ordinary Mass is now \$20.55. (Gratuity for the priest is extra.)

And here’s the biggie: Producers of foie gras are now obliged to house their geese (or ducks) in roomier common holding stalls, rather than small individual cages. Gastronomes will no doubt be pleased.

## The Kleine Winkel



The DePorter clan displays the Belgian shirts they received for Christmas, and these shirts would also make nice gifts for Valentine’s Day.

You can always count on Belgian lace to be a great gift as well. Belgian clocks are \$5.00 off with coupon this month.

“Belgian Clocks”

SAVE \$5.00 with this Coupon

during the month of February, 2011

## Worth of Belief

An hour's drive northeast of Green Bay, Wisconsin, sits a modest shrine with a brick chapel, a school, and a flow of pilgrims who speak of its profound healing power.

The power, it is said, came from the Virgin Mary, who visited an immigrant girl 151 years ago in the place where the shrine was erected. Now the Catholic Church has decreed the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is indeed "worthy of belief."

The church says a young Belgian immigrant named Adele Brise was visited in October 1859, just outside of what is now the town of Champion, by the vision of a woman in white. Mary, cast in a bright light, instructed the girl to gather children and teach them the catechism and the sacraments.

Brise helped build a Catholic school in the space, along with a shrine, and set up a women's prayer group. The chapel and school still stand, which is somewhat quite miraculous, in and of itself.

The Peshtigo fire, one of the largest forest fires ever recorded, raged in the area in 1871. Brise gathered a group at the shrine to pray to Our Lady of Good Help for protection. The blaze stopped as it reached the perimeter of the shrine. Since then, the shrine has attracted the sick and the troubled.

*(Thanks to Rich Rojas, Tribune Newspapers)*

## Car For Sale

Want a piece of Belgian automotive history? An Aston Martin once owned by the late King Boudewijn will go up for auction through Bonham's Paris auction house on February 4th. The 1955 DB2/4 Sports Saloon has a pre-sale estimated price of \$275,000-\$330,000. The car was described at the time as "an expensive car designed to cater to the connoisseur of sports cars who is not limited by financial limitations," and was one of several fast cars owned by the king. *(Photo courtesy of Bonham's.)*



## A Little History

Fr. John Culemans, pastor of Moline's Sacred Heart Church, asked Honore Note to establish a band to help recreate the St. Cecilia's Day festivals that were popular in Flanders. Note's Band became very popular and participated in many community events like this Fourth of July parade on Sixth Avenue near Fifteenth Street in downtown Moline. This photo, from the files of the Rock Island County Historical Society, was taken in 1922.



## Best of Belgium Tour

I love Belgium and I am pleased to invite you to join me on an in-depth, customized tour featuring the "Best of Belgium" departing in September 2011. Belgium is a stunning blend of history, art, scenery, excellent food and of course beer, chocolate and lace. We will visit many of the top sights as well as locations off the beaten path. I have arranged a balance of touring with free time so you can do some exploring on your own. The tour starts and ends in Brussels with visits to Waterloo, Durbuy, Bastogne, Bouillon, the Belgian coast, Ghent, and includes three nights in the "City that Time Forgot," beautiful Bruges.

I have a great airfare contract from Moline but would be happy to make air arrangements from any gateway more convenient for you. Now is the time to get your deposits in and hold your space. The tour is limited to 25 passengers!

Please contact me for details, the day-to-day itinerary and the registration form. Please feel free to forward this information to family and friends; it would be my pleasure to have you, your family and friends join Joel and me in experiencing the "Best of Belgium"! Dank u!

Bonnie Newman

*Contact information:*

Bonnie Newman at Blue Horizon Travel, 2040 N 1100th Avenue, Lynn Center, IL 61262. Phone: 309-521-8604 or cell, 309-737-0059. Visit us at [www.bluehorizen.net](http://www.bluehorizen.net).

## **Flanders' Iron Harvest**

An unexploded World War II bomb was discovered last November at the construction site of the new NATO headquarters in Brussels. Newspapers across the globe reported the find. But in the Westhoek of West Flanders, scene of some of the most severe battles of World War I, such discoveries are far from newsworthy.

In 2009, for instance, members of the local bomb disposal squad were called out 3,027 times – more than eight times per day – to recover unexploded ordnance from the First World War. These call-outs resulted in the disposal of 215 tons of unexploded bombs, shells, mortars, grenades, and gas canisters.

Children frequently unearth harmless wartime relics in their own backyards like coins, buckles, buttons, cutlery, and helmets. Others, like eight-year-old Maite Roel, find items much more dangerous. A shell exploded in July 1992, severely damaging Maite's leg. Two years in the hospital and 29 operations later, use of her leg was restored. Today she is recognized as a civil victim of World War I, and even holds a First World War veteran's card ("mutilated in the war").

Local farmers also plow unexploded shells every season, in what is called the "The Iron Harvest." It is figured that

approximately 720 million shells and mortars were fired on the western front from 1914-1918. Reliability was so poor then, that an estimated one-quarter of the shells did not explode at the time.

Many were recovered after the war, but experts estimate there may still be as many as 30 million shells along the front lines. One in 20 contains poisonous gases that are still potent enough to cause death.

When shells are found, they are transported to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service base near Ypres. The shells are sorted by caliber and nationality. Dismantling is a slow process. Only 20 gas canisters can be handled per day. With a backlog of 20,000 canisters, there is years of work ahead of the base. The "regular" explosives are packed in boxes, fused, placed in deep holes, and exploded.

Ninety-three years after the end of World War I, the sound of shellfire can still be heard across Flanders fields.

(Thanks to Denzl Walton and *Flanders Today*)