



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2011

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	11:00 a.m. to finish
October 10th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
November 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 14th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
November 24th	Happy Thanksgiving!	

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., October 1st	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., October 5th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., October 8th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., October 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., October 15th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., October 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 22nd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., October 26th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., October 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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



Happy Halloween

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

News of the Membership

Congratulations go to **Albert Raes** on his 95th birthday, and to **Don DeBo** on his 80th birthday.

Thank You to: Bev Carlton of Memphis, Tennessee, for making and donating Belgian-motif pins for sale in the Kleine Winkel; **JoAnne Greko** for donating four photos of Belgian art prints; and Dorothy Scarsdale for the book *Emigranten Naar Amerika*.

Get Well wishes to: **Gene Fowler, Bev Franque, Judy DePorter, Margaret Wadsworth, and Evelyn VanPuyvelde.**

Sympathy is offered to the family of CBC genealogist **Bev Francque** on her death; **Charles Vandewiele** of Lambertville, Michigan, on the death of his wife Rachel; and to **Elaine Hendrickx** on the death of her brother, Kenneth Sevenandt.

Plan to Attend

Save the date: Wednesday, December 7th. This will be the date of the Center's Christmas party. It will be held at Amber Ridge, behind the Target store in Moline. There will be a social hour (cash bar), dinner, and entertainment. Cost will be \$25.00/person. More details will follow in next month's newsletter, but save the date!

Your Last Newsletter

In the last several newsletters, we have included a membership renewal form. If you have NOT renewed your membership, this will be your last edition of the CBC newsletter.

Belgians Near the Top

The total liquid assets of the Belgian population topped the 900 billion Euro mark last year. The amount, which excludes real property, is almost triple Belgium's national debt. As a result, the Belgian population is among the wealthiest in Europe after residents of Switzerland and Luxembourg, and is believed to be the eighth richest in the world.

(From Flanders Today)

Special Visitors

Friendship Force is a non-profit, non-religious and non-political organization that promotes international peace, cultural understanding, and creates international friendships. There are more than 350 Friendship Force clubs in 60 countries.

On October's waffle Saturday, a group from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and several states will stop by to visit the Center after the waffle breakfast. The lace makers will demonstrate their skills, and Art Holevoet will provide answers to any questions our guests might have.

October Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for our October waffle breakfast will be Joe DeMeyer, Millie Kale, Jane Vershaw, Judy Hardesty, and Steve Slinger. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Evelyn VanPuyvelde and Marian Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will welcome everyone.

Sabena Remembered

Sabena-Belgian World Airways was created in the 1920s to provide air service to the Congo. It expanded its routes into Europe in the 1930s. In 1947, Sabena began service to New York and became one of the most innovative airlines. It became the first continental Europe airlines to fly jets across the Atlantic. In 1971, it was the first to offer youth fares. In 1980, Sabena began service to Chicago and Detroit, offering flights to Brussels for \$345.

Over its lifetime, Sabena had benefited from Belgian government aid but lost much of it in the 1990s because of European Union rules, and the company struggled to survive. There were big hopes when Swissair bought 49% of Sabena and made big plans to expand. Those plans were dashed with the airline recession after 9/11. Sabena filed for bankruptcy and had its last flight on November 7, 2001.

(Thanks to Gazette von Detroit)



Heritage Essay

This month's essay is by Tim Cornelis. Tim graduated from Alleman High School with a 4.3 grade average on a scale of 4.0. He was active in Teens for Tomorrow, the QC Chamber Student Leadership Academy, and was a Junior Rotarian. School activities included: president of Key Club; captain of the track team; Western Big 6 Academic All-Conference for the cross-country team; member of the National Honor Society; and chaired the student blood drive for Student Council. Tim is attending St. Louis University and plans to major in political science.

HERITAGE ESSAY

by Tim Cornelis



As I prepare to make the transition from high school to college, I have been doing a great deal of reflection. I wonder what it will be like to depart from my friends and say goodbye to the people I have grown and laughed with for years. Next fall I will be entering an entirely new community of people with ideas and perspectives all their own – will I fit in? I worry about my capacity to adapt to dorm life and college coursework, and how I will feel leaving my home and family for a new city. Thankfully, these worries and anxieties are short-lived. I know I am ready to deal with any challenge college sends my way because of the principles and values instilled in me by my family. A direct result of my family's Belgian heritage, these values have shaped me into the person I am today. They give me the strength to truly know who I am and take confidence in my ability to succeed.

If anything, my heritage has shown me that hard work and perseverance are essential to moving forward and achieving one's goals. My Grandpa Walt Cornelis was the

son of Belgian immigrants and orphaned at the young age of twelve. He was left with nothing but the fierce desire for a better life. After pushing himself through high school and serving in World War II, he and my Grandma Ellen built a successful family business finding homes for the people of this community. Walt taught his children to take pride in their heritage; that it meant something to be Belgian. He struggled and fought for his American dream, assuring his children would grow up with the opportunities and advantages he never had.

When I was growing up, my dad made certain I understood the lessons he had learned from his father. He used to tell me something I still remember every day. My grandpa gave this advice to him, and he passed it on to me. He said, "Whatever you do, do it in a way that makes you proud to put your name on it." This idea is very important to me and inspires me to truly take ownership of everything I do. A responsibility to live up to my name and heritage motivates me to go above and beyond. When I finish a paper, complete a workout, or volunteer my time, I always ask myself the same question, "Am I proud to sign my name to this?" If the answer is yes then I know I've done my best, and can be proud of my work. If not, then I'm not finished.

It is this attitude, this expectation of excellence that will enable me to prove myself on campus this fall. I leave high school proud of the person I am, and excited to discover the person I will become. I know the strong foundation of my family heritage has positively influenced my life. It has taught me to set high standards and ambitious goals. I move forward with great confidence in my ability to bring these goals to fruition because of the work ethic so greatly impressed upon me by the example of my parents and grandparents. I can't wait to make them proud.

Tractor Runs Itself

Visitors at the International Agricultural Machinery Days in East Flanders got to see a tractor that drives itself. The tractor is the work of the Flanders Mechatronics Technology Centre and the Catholic University of Leuven. Their job was to develop a sensor system that could perform the operations carried out by an experienced tractor driver: constantly evaluating the tractor's position, the condition of the terrain and field dimensions, then be able to judge the correct direction and speed needed. According to tractor builder New Holland, allowing tractors to operate on their own can cut operating costs. The robotic tractor can be seen in action at: www.lecopro.org/tractor.wmv



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Some Interesting Facts

Flemish government employees will no longer be given a day off to donate blood, after the Red Cross said some staff were failing to declare risk factors such as a recent trip to Africa, in order NOT to lose the day off, which can happen up to four times a year. Future blood donations will take place in government buildings.

Major Belgian transport and shipping companies in the Antwerp port area will be looking for 4000 additional staff members over the next 30 months. Port companies are suffering a chronic shortage of engineers and logistics experts, as well as fork-lift operators and mechanics.

Taxis in Brussels must now be identical in color: black background with a yellow checkerboard pattern down the side.

Motorcyclists must now be dressed in a jacket with long sleeves and must wear trousers and boots (no shorts and flip-flops). When overtaking other vehicles in a traffic jam, the speed limit is reduced to 30 mph and limited to the two right lanes.

Nearly 10% of people living in Belgium are of foreign origin. Italians lead the list, followed by French and Dutch.

(Thanks to Flanders Today)

Hallowed Hamster

When you think of an endangered species, the image is probably not one of a fluffy little animal running around on an exercise wheel. But the humble little hamster is indeed facing extinction in Flanders, according to the conservation organization Natuurpunt.

Despite their best efforts, Natuurpunt was able to find hamsters living in only two places in Flanders: Flemish Brabant and Limburg province. Everywhere else, the tiny rodent is nowhere to be found. Hamsters are still common in Eastern Europe, but threatened with extinction everywhere else. The reason is the intensification of agriculture and in particular, the disappearance of hedgerows. Pesticides in agriculture also play a negative role.

On the face of it, the little fur balls don't seem like strong candidates for surviving in the wild. They are color-blind, near-sighted, and solitary. On the other hand, they have excellent hearing, communicate at frequencies in the ultrasound range, and have a terrific sense of smell for detecting food, predators, and mates.

Legislation to protect the hamster has been drawn up and awaits European Union approval.

(Thanks to Flanders Today)