



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2011

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 5th	Bake Sale	8:00 to 11:30 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!	
December 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	11:00 a.m. to finish
December 7th	CBC Christmas Party	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
December 14th	NO Board Meeting	
December 25th	Merry Christmas!	

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The November schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., Nov. 2nd	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., Nov. 5th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., Nov. 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Nov. 12th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Nov. 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Nov. 19th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wed., Nov. 23rd	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., Nov. 26th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Nov. 30th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Center OPEN Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

## November BAKE SALE

The CBC Bake Sale has been moved up a month to **November's Waffle Saturday**. We hope you'll bake and donate your favorite cookies, pies, breads, coffee cakes – well, you get the idea – for this annual event. A large



snowman bag of Belgian cookies has already been donated. Please bring your goodies to the Center by 8:00 a.m. on November 5th.

## CBC Christmas Party

Make plans to attend the Center's annual Christmas party. The date is December 7th at Arbor Village, 890 - 43rd Avenue, Moline (behind the Target store). The festivities begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Entertainment will follow dinner. Cost of the dinner will be \$25.00/person. There is a sign-up sheet and box for your checks on the counter at the CBC, or you can mail your reservation to: CBC, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265. Reservations must be made by December 1st and payment must accompany your reservation.



Included in the festivities that evening will be a raffle. Tickets are \$2.00/each or 3 for \$5.00. Raffle prizes include: Longaberger basket filled with wine, wine glasses, napkins, towel, and wine book; two Isabel Bloom sculptures; 4 bottles of St. Bernardus beer and a beer glass; and a large gift box of Belgian Biscoff cookies, coffee, and coffee mug.

Why not start your Christmas party season with the CBC Christmas party. Always a fun time!

## Interested in Genealogy?

With the recent passing of CBC genealogist Bev Francque, the CBC is in need of a replacement. Our genealogist assists with requests for information from both members and non-members. If you are interested in devoting some time to this important task, please contact Kevin DeRoo at (309) 797-5088.

## November Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for our November waffle breakfast will be Margaret and Bill Wadsworth, Karen and Pat VandeKerckhove, and Mary Ann Zimmerman. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter, Gene Donohue will work the kitchen, Marian Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will provide a big welcome for everyone.

## News of the Membership

*Congratulations* to **Gene Fowler** for being honored at the Columbus Day dinner by the Knights of Columbus as Senior Knight of the Year. Gene is active at St. Pius Church, Alleman Alumni Association, Catholic Order of Foresters, and Knights of Columbus. He was a Rock Island fire department inspector for 20 years and is a member of the Retired Firefighter Assoc. Local 26. He is a leader for the St. Pius Coffee and Conversation, a St. Vincent DePaul volunteer, helps St. Nicholas each Christmas, and since 2000, has planned the RI Firefighter Memorial Day service. He is also past chair for the Belgian waffle breakfasts.

*Get Well* wishes are extended to **Joe DeMeyer**.

*Sympathy* is offered to the families of: **Joseph VandeMoortel**, 81, of Moline, who died September 22nd; **Maurice DeMeyer**, 98, of Moline, who died October 2nd; former member Yvonne Warlop, 98, of Tucson, Arizona, who died September 29th; former lace maker Sister Lucia Kakolph, 87, of Johnston, Iowa, who passed away September 14th; and to **Joane DeTaeye-Greko** on the death of her sister-in-law, Jan DeTaeye, Moline, who died October 19th.

## HERITAGE ESSAY

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allow me to contribute to a better understanding of the world's history by recording its past through preservation and education. I want everyone to be able to experience a living history like I have through my heritage. Looking in my life's rearview mirror, I see Augusta's courage and Flavie's and Alois's hard-working determination shining back at me and I am confident that my heritage and my belief in myself will give me support to follow my dreams.

## Heritage Essay

*Our final essay is by CBC Scholar Carissa Dewaele of Moline. Carissa attended Moline Senior High where she earned a 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and had a class rank of 20 out of 502 students. Her activities included president of the Spanish Club, Boy Scouts Venturing Program, Girl Scout camp counselor, and Art Club. Her honors and awards include National Honor Society, Illinois State Scholar, Prairie State Achievement Award for writing, 4.0 GPA Honor Role every semester, and student recognition awards in biology and chemistry. Carrisa is attending the University of Iowa and will major in anthropology.*

HERITAGE ESSAY  
by Carrisa Dewaele



Many people believe in only living in the present, but that is like driving a car down a road without ever looking back in the rearview mirror to see where you came from. Every day, I look in my life's rearview mirror and see a heritage that is rich in stories and lessons that inspire my future. I know the most about the history of my Belgian ancestors and both sides of my family can trace their roots back to

the northwestern area of the country. That Belgian ancestry has enriched my life with traditions that will always be a part of who I am and, most importantly, it is my heritage that has truly motivated my future career path.

My great-grandmother, Augusta Carpentier, was the epitome of strength. Looking at her life makes me understand what it means to be a hero and to selflessly help others. She lived in Belgium during World War I, and when the Germans occupied the country, she was forced to house soldiers and work for them. One day during work, she and her friends were walking with a wheelbarrow, cleaning a field. Then, a plane came into view. Realizing that the plane must be coming to clear the area for a landing site, she knew that her group was in the direct path of the plane's fire. Thinking quickly, my great-grandmother yelled for the women to dive under the wheelbarrow. She saved their lives, but by helping the others before herself, she could not get under the cover soon enough and was hit in her forehead by shrapnel. I am astounded and inspired by her courage and heroism in such a terrifying situation. She survived the plane incident and went on to work against the Germans, secretly assisting in passing letters into neutral Holland. She was later questioned and imprisoned for following her heart and doing what she knew was right. In 1920, she married my great-grandfather, John, and came back to America with him

to begin a new life in Moline. Her incredible story is what enchants me about my heritage and history in general. The courageous stories of the past continue to live in the next generation.

While the other side of my family does not have any thrilling war stories, I find their humble history just as captivating. My great-great-grandparents, Alois and Flavie Dewaele were from Belgium and came to the Quad City area to farm. Alois also worked as a bricklayer and Flavie would make raisin bread and bring other food to town on Sundays to earn extra income. They were truly hard-working people and did everything they could to make a good life for themselves. Alois's farm had corn, oats, a garden, cows, pigs, and chickens. He would get up at dawn to do his chores and then grab a team of horses to farm the fields. He would take a nap for one hour in the afternoon, take another team of horses out to tend the fields once more, and would finish the day with another round of chores. The farm families would come together during the harvest to share the work of bundling oats and the wives would prepare huge suppers with vegetables straight from their gardens. I look back today at their nostalgic way of life in complete awe and respect of how hard they worked to help their loved ones – to help me and my family.

Through the traditions that both sides of my family left behind, I remain connected to my heritage. The Dewaeles passed on their Lukken (Belgian cookie) recipe. Flavie used the same recipe we still use today as she lovingly cooked each waffle-like cookie with an iron over her wood stove. Now, every November, we come together as a family to make hundreds of those same cookies for the holidays. My grandma's house is filled with the aroma of Lukken, and I remember my ancestors through that tradition every season. Both families played *rolle bolle*, a game where the fat, disc-like *bolle* is rolled to a stake on a dirt court. A beaten and worn wood *bolle* from my Carpentier roots sits on a shelf in my house, everyday reminding me of my heritage. On the Dewaele side of my family, my Grandpa continues the *rolle bolle* tradition in a league and, along with my father, taught me how to play.

I believe the stories that I have been told about my heritage and what I have learned from my ancestors have greatly influenced what I want to do in my future. In college, I will be majoring in anthropology with an emphasis on archaeology. My greatest hope is that my studies will help me make incredible discoveries and more importantly

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## A Bleak Future May Brighten

Together with *frietjes*, chocolate, and the Atomium, they are Belgium's biggest icon: the draft horse. They're not seen often, but when they are, it's hard to ignore their statuesque shape: the muscular round flanks, the broad arch of the neck, and the slow, stomping gait. But their numbers are dwindling fast.

Bred for their gentle character, speed, size, and strength, draft horses were once Flanders' most important export product. As far back as 1760, breeders have been perfecting the full-blood Belgian draft horse, breeding specific strains in East Flanders, Antwerp, and Henegouwen.

The years between the First and Second World Wars marked the heyday of the Belgian draft horse, which was regarded as the best breed in the world. During this period, the country counted more than 240,000 of them. Every year, 15,000 were born and 30,000 exported.



Today, tractors have replaced the draft horse. But there may be some hope for the gentle giants. The agriculture ministry has announced that breeders of the Belgian draft horse will receive a subsidy for each foal born – fewer than 500 are expected this year. Subsidies have helped the breed survive before. In 1980, there were fewer than 3,500 draft horses left in Belgium. In 1990, the government gave breeders a foal subsidy, which swiftly helped increase their numbers to an estimated 6,000 in 2004.

While there are still about 450 active breeders in Flanders, most only breed the draft horse as a hobby. Breeding isn't cheap, but breeders just can't imagine a countryside without the unexpected sight of a stocky young foal bounding after its mother.

(Thanks to Sabine Clappaert, *Flanders Today*)