



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2011

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 this month	
December 25th	Merry Christmas!	
January 1st	Happy New Year!	
January 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
January 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 9th	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>
Sat., Dec. 3rd	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Maurine Schweitzer Al Hoyt
Wed., Dec. 7th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., Dec. 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Dec. 17th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Dec. 21st	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Dec. 24th	Closed	
Wed., Dec. 28th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., Dec. 31st	Closed	

*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**

CBC Christmas Party

If you are quick, there is still time to sign up for 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. You can mail your reservation and payment to the CBC, 712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265, or pay on Waffle Saturday, but reservations must be made by December 3rd.



Include 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. It's always a fun time!

Genealogist

Your CBC board is happy to report that Linda Polich has volunteered to fill the genealogy position left vacant after the death of Bev Francque. Linda worked with Bev in the past and is involved with several Quad City genealogy organizations and the Rock Island County Historical Society.

What a Record

Flemish train conductor Johan Neyrinck experienced his first late departure in 36 years, when passengers on board his Nieuwpoort to Tielt train staged an impromptu party to celebrate his last day on the job, complete with balloons, streamers, and music over the loudspeaker. Neyrinck, who came to work armed with two pounds of pralines to share with his regular passengers was "completely overwhelmed."

(From *Flanders Today*)

The Kleine Winkel

"Belgian Clocks"

ON SALE for \$17.50
month of December only

They'll make great Christmas gifts!

Our Christmas Windows

The windows at the CBC have been decorated for the season. In the east window, you will see a "lady" making Lukken cookies. Elv and Bev Carlson, of the Fontaine House in Memphis, donated a life-size mannequin to the Center. Our mannequin is doing a fine job of baking, considering she has NO arms. She has been named Venus VandeBelge. So if anyone can find arms for a female mannequin, please contact Celie Donohue (309) 792-8246 or 13celie@gmail.com.



We thank the Fontaine House, as they were updating, and the Carlson's for thinking of the CBC.

News of the Membership

Thank You to: Loretta Ceurvorst for the two books on the Royal Family; and to all who baked, bought, and worked for the annual bake sale.

Congratulations to former long-time member Mary Carmack on her 100 birthday on November 6th.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Joe DeMeyer**, **Jerry DeDecker**, and **Art Poelvoorde**.

Sympathy is offered to: **Maureen Simpson** of Sun City, Arizona, on the death of her husband, Robert, 78, who died September 30th; and to **Rachelle Schopp** of Peoria, Illinois, on the death of her husband, Donald, 89, who died October 21st.

Teen with Local Ties a Star among Celeb Dancers

(Editors Note: This article was written by Brandy Donaldson, reporter for the Dispatch/Argus, and appeared in their Quad-Cities Online edition on October 25th. Victoria Rose Viren is the granddaughter of Virginia and former CBC president Wilbur Lievens, and the niece of member Greg Lievens. It is reprinted here as a salute to one remarkable teenager.)



Victoria Rose Viren

A Rock Island teenager will soon take center stage on one of television's most popular celebrity competition shows. Victoria Rose Viren, 17, currently in Los Angeles for an appearance on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," overcame a seemingly insurmountable obstacle to earn a spot on the show.

Ms Viren, who moved to Rock Island from California in September with her parents, John and Catherine Viren, was diagnosed at age 14 with a brain tumor that threatened to derail her life-long passion.

"It was a really scary part of my life," said Ms Viren, who has been a dancer since she was two.

"It all happened so quickly," she continued. "I got sick, then I was in the hospital and, within a couple days, I was scheduled for surgery and my life changed. I was in the hospital for about eight days after the surgery, then I was stuck in bed at home for another week or two," she said. "It was terrible. I couldn't dance. I obviously didn't feel good, but I pushed myself to take classes again, Ms Viren said. "Every day I pushed myself."

Her remarkable return to dance was documented by her instructors at the Anaheim Ballet. Their video, "Victoria's Story" on YouTube, caught the attention of DWTS producers who contacted Ms Viren to appear on the show.

"I didn't think they were serious," Ms Viren said. "I was really nervous. I didn't even know if I could do it. It's so big. Then I thought about it and it's really exciting and a great opportunity."

On the November 1st broadcast of DWTS, Ms Viren will dance a duet, live.

"It's a little intimidating, but it is a great experience," she said. "I'm really just trying to live in the moment. This is a good time to enjoy every moment. I'm really excited and happy."

Ms Viren said she is no stranger to big stages and bright lights, but nothing like DWTS.

"I've danced in New York City. I got to dance at the Lincoln Center and even in Las Vegas," she said. "But this is definitely one of the biggest things I've ever done. I don't even know how to sum it up. Everything is happening so fast, but this is something I know I will remember forever."

Ms Viren also said she hopes her turn in the spotlight serves as an inspiration.

"Everyone has their own personal struggles that they face," she said. "I want to help people and let them know they can get through it as long as they have the right attitude."

Although she is in Los Angeles rubbing elbows with professional choreographers and celebrities from DWTS, Ms Viren said she misses home in Rock Island. She also is excited to see what the future holds for her dancing career once she returns.

"Dancing is something that you feel. It's a passion," she said. "I don't see my life without dance. It's really hard to picture that. I don't know where I'm going to go, but I know dance is my future."

Mmmmm, Lukken

This recipe makes 4 dozen.

- 1/2 dozen large eggs
- 1 lb. melted butter
- 1-1/2 oz. Whisky or Brandy
- 3 tbsp. vanilla
- 1 dash salt
- 1 lb. light brown sugar, packed (2 cups)
- 1 lb. white sugar (2 cups)
- 2 lbs. all-purpose flour

Melt the butter and let cool. Add eggs, whiskey, and salt, blend together. Add both sugars and mix thoroughly. While blending, mix in flour a little at a time until well blended. Remove any hard chunks of brown sugar. Roll mix into a tube and wrap with plastic wrap and store overnight in refrigerator.

Heat cookie iron on stove (a drop of water will sizzle when it's hot enough). Spoon a lump of dough on iron and close tightly. Cook for 20-30 seconds – until just lightly brown – and flip to other side for an additional 20-30 seconds. Repeat for each dough piece.

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Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel (right) places the Belgian Fourragere on the uniform of Floyd Ragsdale at the Galesburg Armory ceremony.

Veteran Receives Honors

Army veteran Floyd Ragsdale, of East Galesburg, received two service awards during a ceremony at the Galesburg Armory for his service 67 years ago in the Battle of the Bulge, the last main battle of World War II before the ultimate Allied victory.

This past October, U.S. Rep. Bobby Schilling, R-Colona, presented Ragsdale with the Bronze Star for meritorious service, and was joined by Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel, in presenting the Belgian Fourragere for Ragsdale's efforts in the Battle of the Bulge. Ragsdale served in the 106th Infantry Division and also participated in campaigns in northern France and the Ardennes.

Rep. Schilling, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, said he was honored to award the veteran, who went beyond the call of duty in defending his nation.

December Waffle Volunteers

Volunteer cooks and servers for our December waffle breakfast will be Joe DeMeyer, Mary Ann Zimmerman, Art and Linda VanHecke, Bob and Theresa Bailey, Marian Knock and Al VanHecke. 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.

