



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



January, 2012

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
February 2nd	Belgian Bluff Meeting	(see story)
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.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The January schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., January 1st	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., January 7th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Maurine Schweitzer
Wed., January 11th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., January 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., January 18th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., January 21st	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., January 25th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., January 28th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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

From the Griddle

First, I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped on Waffle Saturdays throughout the past year. Our monthly breakfasts would not be successful without your assistance.

Second, a special thank you goes to Celie and Gene Donohue and Evelyn VanPuyvelde. Celie and Gene have worked the gift counter and kitchen on first Saturdays for many, many years – maybe 40? And Evelyn has been a waffle cashier for the past several years. And this brings us to the next subject. I’m looking for one or two people who would be interested in working the kitchen and someone to take the money from 7:30-9:30 a.m. during the waffle breakfasts.

There is a new volunteer board, with many spaces to fill. Can you . . . would you volunteer? We’d hate to see the breakfasts go by the wayside, as this is a great income source for the Center. They help pay for our rent and utilities. Memberships, which have been declining, don’t pay for it all. We need volunteers!

Catherine VanHecke
Waffle Chairperson

Historic District Update

Have you seen someone with a camera and a clipboard running around Olde Towne recently?

The City of Moline is working on compiling a National Register Historic District nomination for the neighborhood. Roughly bounded by 2nd Street, Stephen’s Park, 16th Avenue, 15th Street, and 19th Avenue, the Belgian Bluff Historic District will list close to 1,000 properties.

This past October, a community meeting was held informing the community about the project and its goals. Rebecca Gall, a historic preservation specialist at the city, is writing the district’s nomination and has been working to collect information about the history of Belgians on the bluff. Anyone that has older photographs of the area or knows information regarding who constructed buildings and/or houses in the area is encouraged to call or email Rebecca at (309) 524-2053 or email rgall@moline.il.us. Your insight will help record history!

The city plans to hold a second community meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Butterworth Education Center at the corner of 7th Street and 12th Avenue to discuss further the nomination, the Main Street program, and property owner concerns. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Birdies for Charity

Mary and Larry Lorensen, the Center’s Birdies for Charity chairpersons, wish to thank everyone who participated with pledges this past year, during the John Deere Classic golf tournament. The grand total raised was \$2,420.40. All of this money is used to support the CBC Scholarship Program. Without the generous support of those who pledge to Birdies, the Center would not be able to continue this worthwhile endeavor. Again, THANK YOU!

News of the Membership

Thank You to **Bob Hendrickx** for donating the huge collection of Belgian stamps, and to all who baked and/or donated to this year’s Christmas Dinner.

Sympathy is offered to: **Jo Ann DeTaeye-Greko** on the death of her sister-in-law, Jan DeTaeye, on October 19th, **Mary and Joe DeMeyer**, on the death of Joe’s brother-in-law, Ron Janssens, on November 15th; and to the family of Lillian DeClerck, wife of former CBC president Donald DeClerck, who died December 16, 2011.

January Waffle Volunteers

Volunteer cooks and servers for our January waffle breakfast will be Millie Kale, Margaret and Bill Wadsworth, and Charlie VanOoteghem. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter, Theresa Bailey and Marion Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will provide a big welcome for everyone.



Christmas Raffle

Winners of the Christmas Dinner raffle were: Steve Slininger, wine and Longaberger basket; Joe DeMeyer, Biscoff cookie assortment; Faye DeBisschop, Isabel Blooms; and Ray Coppens, Belgian beer and beer glass.



Raffle Winners: (l-r) Ray Coppens, Faye DeBisschop, Steve Slininger and Joe DeMeyer



St. Nick (Patrick VandeKerckhove) made an appearance at December's waffle breakfast to allow a photo opportunity and to pass out candy.

A Government . . . Finally

(From the *New York Times*, December 1, 2011) The financial markets have done what 18 months of talks, a large protest march, and a series of bizarre demonstrations failed to do: broken Belgium's political deadlock.

After an indecisive election in June 2010, the country's fractious political parties could not manage to form a governing coalition until this week, when a credit downgrade and the threat of being engulfed in the euro crisis brought new urgency.

Six parties, with enough combined Parliament seats to govern, reached a coalition agreement and presented it to King Albert II. Barring any new problems, Elio Di Rupo will be sworn in as prime minister.



Elio Di Rupo

A leader of the country's Socialists, Mr. Di Rupo, 60, will be the country's first head of government since the 1970s whose first language is French, a subject of controversy in a country divided between 4.5 million French speakers, who live mainly in Wallonia in the south, and 6.5 million Dutch speakers,

who live mainly in Flanders, the wealthier northern region, where separatist parties have gained ground.

Mr. Di Rupo, the son of an Italian immigrant, will take office committed to cutting 11.3 billion euros (about \$15.2 billion) from the national budget. He has also promised to improve his spoken Dutch, which is glaringly weak, in a country where officials and politicians routinely are fluent in both of the country's main languages, and in English, another tongue that gives Mr. Di Rupo trouble.

"If you're looking for public support for a government, it may be a problem when the leader of that government has difficulty speaking the language of the majority," Yves Leterme, the caretaker prime minister said on Dutch television.

An editorial in *Le Soir*, a French-language newspaper, said: "Elio Di Rupo speaks Dutch poorly and will never speak it better. Di is – everyone knows – feeble at languages."

Dutch speakers were once victims of discrimination by the country's French-speaking elite. Now they provide much of Belgium's economic dynamism, and often

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resent having to support the less prosperous French-speaking areas, leading to growing separatist sentiment.

Flanders is where the new government will be most sorely tested. The new coalition excludes the French separatists who won the most seats of any single political party in the last election. It does include the Flemish wings of the Socialist, Christian Democratic, and Liberal Parties.

Lieven De Winter, professor of politics at the Catholic University in Louvain, stated, "This government cannot be popular, due to the fact that it will have to implement cuts and the fact that the opposition in Flanders will say that everything they do is at the Flemish expense."

Even so, he said, the new government will probably survive until the next elections are due in 2014 – "not because of its dynamism or popularity, but through the lack of an alternative.

All You Do is Call

For residents of many rural communities, the prospect of getting anywhere by public transport can be a daunting one. Not so in Flanders: Twenty years ago, the Flemish public transport operator De Lijn introduced the concept of the belbus – a bus service that only runs when passengers book in advance.

Riders call for a bus (bellen is "to call" in Dutch), preferably a day ahead and no less than two hours in advance. A call center agent helps make the reservation and the bus will make the pick up at the planned time, at the planned belbus stop. A computer decides the most efficient itinerary for the bus assigned to the area. Flanders has 131 belbus areas divided over the five provinces.

As a note, Davenport/Bettendorf, Iowa has a similar service, Dial-A-Bus, that picks up riders at their homes.

