



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2012

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### Newsletter Editor

Dave Coopman  
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### Chaplain

Rev. Jim DeBisschop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

|              |                    |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| October 6th  | Waffle Breakfast   | 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. |
| October 6th  | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  |
| October 8th  | Board Meeting      | 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  |
| November 3rd | Waffle Breakfast   | 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. |
| November 3rd | Bake Sale          | 7:30 to depletion  |
| November 3rd | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  |
| November 3rd | 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 October schedule is as follows:

| <i>Date</i>        | <i>Gift Counter</i>                          | <i>Host/Hostess</i>                             |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Wed., October 3rd  | Al Hoyt                                      | Al Hoyt                                         |
| Sat., October 6th  | Celie Donohue (a.m.)<br>Barb Michalek (p.m.) | Kevin DeRoo (a.m.)<br>Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.) |
| Wed., October 10th | Mary Lou Andrae                              | Clara Van DeVeire                               |
| Sat., October 13th | Mary Gardner-Karcher                         | Mary Gardner-Karcher                            |
| Wed., October 17th | Celie Donohue                                | Gene Donohue                                    |
| Sat., October 20th | Mary Gardner-Karcher                         | Mary Gardner-Karcher                            |
| Wed., October 24th | Georgia Slininger                            | Louis Slininger                                 |
| Sat., October 27th | Millie Kale                                  | Millie Kale                                     |
| Wed., October 31st | Margaret Wadsworth                           | Bill Wadsworth                                  |

*Contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 508-0886 or  
mcgkarcher@mchsi.com as soon as possible  
if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.*

## REPEATING . . . Volunteers Needed!

Last month's appeal for volunteers bears repeating. Can you occasionally give a few hours volunteering as an Open House host or on the Gift Shop counter? **We really need some additional help!** If you are willing, please contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 332-4621. Mary and the Center will appreciate it.

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

### A Great Idea

October is Family History Month – a perfect time to start writing your life story! One of the best gifts you can give to your children or grandchildren is the story of your life. You don't have to be famous for your family to be interested. Wouldn't you love knowing what your ancestor did on a day-to-day basis? Did they attend school? What was their first job? What was their childhood like?

What would you give, right now, to find a story written by one of your ancestors? Think of the joy you could bring to your descendants by writing your story.

Your life story can be simple or formal; as simple as a spiral notebook with handwritten, random memories of your life, or a more formal booklet with photos and scanned documents. Whichever format you choose, the time is now. Ready – set – start writing!

### The Kleine Winkel

Christmas Shirts have arrived!  
Limited quantity and sizes

SANTA – ST. NICHOLAS – BELGIAN-AMERICAN  
Adults - \$20 ♦ Children - \$18 ♦ Tiny-tot - \$15

### November BAKE SALE

HEAT THOSE OVENS! The Center's annual bake sale will be held in conjunction with November's waffle breakfast. Can you bake a pie, bread, some cookies, a cake, or some other homemade goodie? The sale is a fundraiser for the Center and is always well attended and appreciated. Please bring your baked donation to the Center by 8:00 a.m. on November 3rd.



### News of the Membership

Thank You to Art Holevoet for books, artwork, and tapes pertaining to Belgium; and to the VanHecke family for the 1872 edition of a travel conversation book Vlaamesche en Fransche.

Get Well wishes are offered to Judy DePorter and Dolores Bultinck.

### Animal Stories

When Belgian politicians went on holiday, journalists had little to write about. No fear, the rest of the animal kingdom stepped up to the plate during the vacation lull to provide column-inches of exciting copy.

Off the coast of DePanne, bathers spotted a basking shark. At about six feet long, it didn't cause much panic – despite its name in Dutch translating as "giant shark." It was led to deeper waters.

In the Merode area of Brussels, a police horse went for a stroll on its own. Perhaps tired of walking, it was spotted inside the Metro station. It was later captured in a different neighborhood.

Josaphat Park in Schaarbeek has a growing population of rabbits; most of them dropped off by owners no longer wanting them. In Mechelen, there is a plague of rabbits for the third summer in a row. Residents claim a drop in the fox population has left the bunnies with no natural predator.

The coastal town of Knokke-Heist is acquiring a fake fox attached to a remote-controlled car to try to chase away the seagulls that are pestering the area and attacking railway workers down the coast in Zeebrugge.

In a final note, the acting mayor of Bonheiden has responded to complaints of nuisance caused by two peacocks, by having them shot. The two birds, owned by one of the town's residents, pecked on windows and ate plants in neighboring gardens. The mayor explained that the birds were impossible to catch with nets, so hunters were called in to shoot them. (Elmer Fudd would have been proud.)

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

### Have a Wig to Donate?

Venus VandeBelge, the Center's bald, window display mannequin, is in need of hair to keep her noggin warm this winter. If anyone has a wig they would care to donate, contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246.

## Scholarship Essay

*This month's essay is by Emily Becker of Rock Island. Emily is a graduate of Alleman High School in Rock Island. She is an Illinois State Scholar, was a member of the National Honor Society, and has been involved with Girl Scouts since 2008. Emily graduated first in her class with a grade point average of 4.47 on a 4.0 grading scale. She is attending the University of Hawaii with a major of Marine Biology.*

### HERITAGE ESSAY

by Emily Becker

When asked about my heritage, I usually tell people I'm mostly Belgian, but with a few other nationalities mixed in for good measure. Belgian is the most prominent nationality in my family and through my grandma Dixon's extensive research, I have been able to learn a lot about my heritage. My grandmother has done an enormous amount of work, cataloging family history in binders complete with pictures, marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, and other articles pertaining to my ancestors.

My grandma first started her thorough genealogy project when she uncovered a wedding picture of her husband's maternal grandparents. She did a lot of research and found my great great grandfather, Emiel Hancq, was born in 1881 in Nevele, Province of East Flanders, Belgium. Emiel married Zulma Snoeck from Nevele and after getting married, they came to America in 1909 and settled in Rock Island, Illinois. They were members of St. Paul's Catholic Church and members of the Belgian-American Club of Moline. When Emiel declared his intent to become a citizen of the United States, he had to renounce his allegiance to Leopold II, King of Belgium. In 1918, Emiel died of an influenza epidemic that took more than 500 lives in the Quad Cities area. Emiel's parents, Polidor and Clemence Hancq, came to America in 1906 and also settled in Rock Island. After Emiel's death, Zulma married Emil Vanderginst in 1919, a widower with three kids who was the only grandfather that my grandfather knew. My grandfather remembers going to watch many of his relatives play rolle bolle at the Friends Circle in Moline.

My maternal great grandmother's father Cyriel Poelvoorde was born in 1881 in Pitthem, Province of West Flanders, Belgium and lived in Thielt, Belgium before emigrating aboard the vessel Finland, arriving in New York, New York on April 25, 1903. He settled in East Moline, Illinois and worked as a truck driver for the East Moline Lumber Yard. At the time he declared his intent to become a U.S. Citizen, an interesting thing happened. He had to delay his marriage to my great great grandmother, Anna Schuth, who was a U.S. Citizen. The naturalization law at

the time stated that because he was an alien and she was a citizen, she would lose her citizenship upon marrying Cyriel. If it had been the other way around and Cyriel had been the American citizen, Anna would have gained citizenship. My great grandmother can recall going to watch rolle bolle near where they lived. My grandmother has been able to trace Cyriel's history back to his parents Louis Poelvoorde, born in 1823 in Meulebeke, W. Vlaanderen, Belgium and Melanie Poelvoorde born in 1826 in Oostrozebeke, W. Vlaanderen, Belgium.

My grandparents and my great grandmother have been going to the Center for Belgian Culture for years to eat waffles and meet with my grandmother's second cousin Art Poelvoorde, whose parents also emigrated from Belgium. Many Quad City men of Belgian descent fought in World War II. Art was one of them and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. In April of 2010, Art was a member of the World War II Quad Cities Honor Flight that went to Washington DC to see the World War II memorial. During the flight they handed out letters to the veterans, and I wrote Art a letter thanking him for his service and for the tremendous sacrifice he made for our country.



When I think about my relative's journeys from Belgium to America, it reminds me a little bit of my own journey I will be making this August. I have chosen to attend the University of Hawaii and will be pursuing a career in marine biology. Just like my family members before me, I will be leaving everything familiar, my friends, and my family behind. Traveling across an ocean to pursue a dream is something that apparently runs in the family.

## October Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the October waffle breakfast will be Linda VanHecke, Theresa and Bob Bailey, Millie Kale, Tim Dewaele, and Andrew Dewaele. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter and brew the coffee, Joan DeCap and Marian Knock will take the money, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone has a good time. And as always, your CBC thanks you for your patronage to its breakfasts!

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**of Western Illinois, Inc.**  
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## **CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*October, 2012*

### **SAVE THE DATE**

It's never too early to make plans for a party, and we're doing just that. Save December 5th as the date of the Center's Christmas Party. More detail will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter, but the party this year will be held at O'Melia's Restaurant in Rock Island.

### **Rolle Bolle**

Looking for something to do? Moline's Stephens Park is hosting the Tri-State Classic Rolle Bolle Championships September 29-30. The tournament features men's and women's draw and double-elimination games starting at noon on Saturday. Sunday's team play begins at 10:00 a.m. for men and 11:00 a.m. for the women. The men are split into two flights and the women play double-elimination. There is big money involved, so the games should be exciting.

### **Olde Towne**

The Moline City Council recently passed a proposing ordinance for a special service area (SSA) in Olde Towne. There is now a 60-day waiting period before the SSI can be formally established.

An SSA is a district where property owners pay additional property tax. This money can only be spent within the district boundaries, which is proposed to encompass 7th Street from 12th to 19th Avenues, and 18th Avenue from 7th to 10th Streets.

A public hearing on the SSA will be held at 6:30 p.m. on October 9th at city hall.

### **Still Finding Them**

Minesweepers from the Dutch and Belgian navies recently exploded the 1,000th piece of WWII munitions in coastal waters, since the two services joined forces in 2005. The navies began working together after a Dutch fishing boat picked up a bomb in its nets that exploded on the boat's deck, killing three crewmen.