



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2012

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 5th	CBC Christmas Party	see details inside
	No Board Meeting this month	
January 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
January 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 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 December schedule is as follows:

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



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



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

The Kleine Winkel

The Kleine Winkel is ready for Christmas with beautiful tapestries from Belgium, speculoos cookies in snowman bags, Christmas ornaments, Christmas shirts, Lukken irons, rolle bolles, and T-shirts. We also have gift certificates for future waffle breakfasts and for shopping at the Winkel.

Speculoos

In Belgium, it's *speculoos*. In Germany, they're *speculatius*, and in the Netherlands, they are known as *speculaas*. No matter how it is spelled, this cookie has a rich history.



Traditionally, speculoos are baked on the eve of St. Nicholas, which Belgians celebrate on December 6th. The cookies were historically baked in the shape of St. Nicholas, although today they are found in many shapes. For those not familiar with the tradition of St. Nicholas in Belgium, children put shoes by the chimney before going to bed. Well-behaved children are rewarded with oranges, speculoos, and other gifts in their shoes. Ill-behaved children are threatened with being stuffed in a sack and carted off to Spain by St. Nicholas' helper, *Zwarte Piet* (Black Peter). The children have a strong desire to behave, especially with speculoos as a reward.

How did speculoos get its name? There are many versions, but the most widely accepted is that speculoos derives from the Latin "speculator," which was used to designate bishops. This version makes the most sense, since the cookies were often baked in the shape of St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra. Other possible explanations include: the name could refer to spices in Latin (*species*), or could have come from *specula*, or mirror, referring to the wooden molds used to make the cookie.

Though the cookie has a mysterious name and are traditionally associated with the Christmas holidays, today they are baked and consumed year round. The composition of the cookie is quite simple: crunchy brown sugar biscuits made with cinnamon and a good dose of nutmeg.

While speculoos is generally served with hot chocolate or coffee, it can also be enjoyed with beer. In Belgian coffee shops, a speculoos is almost always served with it, for nibbling or dunking. Two of the leading commercial brands are Vermeiren and Biscoff. No matter which you choose, it is sure to be a delight to the tastebuds!

(Thanks to Destination Dessert)

News of the Membership

Thank You to all who baked or bought at last month's Bake Sale. It was a great success.

Sympathy is offered to: the family of **Helen Maes**, 102, a former long-time member who died October 24th in Moline; the family of **Clara VanDeVeire**, 94, of Moline, who died October 31st; and to **George Lambrecht** on the death of his sister Helene Verstraete, 90, of East Moline, who died November 4th.

We Lost Another

This past October, we lost another very dedicated volunteer, Clara VanDeVeire. In addition to being a founder of the Humane Society of Rock Island County, Clara worked for years, side by side, with Mary Lou Andrae. We cannot thank Clara and Mary Lou enough for all the time given to the Center.

Obviously, we need new volunteers to step to the plate. We've asked this before, and our volunteers don't last forever. Won't you please volunteer with us? Mary Lou would be a great person to teach the operations of the gift counter. And Mary Gardner-Karcher would be elated to hear from you, at (563) 332-4621. Won't you give three hours a month to the CBC?

Birdies Thank You

Mary and Larry Lorensen, CBC Scholarship co-chairpersons, want to thank all who pledged at least one cent per birdie for the Center during this year's John Deere Classic golf tournament. The pledges, and the bonus bucks provided by the tournament, brought in \$2,132.56. All of this money is used only for our scholarship fund. Each year, the John Deere Classic leads all other PGA golf events in per capita giving for charity. This year, the tournament passed on \$6.79 million to 493 local and regional charities. Thank you to our donors and thank you to the John Deere Classic for providing this great charity fundraiser!

Please Check Ahead

During these winter months, please check ahead before visiting the CBC. We want everyone – visitors and volunteers – to be safe.



St. Nicholas will make a special guest appearance at December's waffle breakfast. Bring the kids to meet the "real" St. Nick!

Bet You Didn't Know

Your newsletter editor was perusing the *Gazette Van Detroit* website the other day and clicked on its History tab. What I found was an interesting recap of how the paper came to be. But even more interesting was what I found out about Belgians, particularly the Flemings, and their connection to the United States.

The Flemings financed and settled with the Pilgrims in New England, colonists of Jamestown, and Henry Hudson's voyages. The Flemish, together with the Walloons, made up the first contingent of settlers on Manhattan in 1624.

I'll bet you didn't know that descendants of these first Flemings to America include the founding fathers and mothers of the United States. Most of us are unaware that some prominent men and women have ancestral roots in Flanders: Benjamin Franklin (Leper); Chief Justice John Jay (Thourhout); First Lady Elisabeth Monroe (Kortrijk); as well as at least four Presidents. Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt can trace their roots to Pieter Winne (of Ghent), and Presidents George H.W. and George W. Bush can trace their ancestry to Willem Baudartius (of Deinze). Even Henry Ford has a connection: his mother came from Belgium before the Civil War.

And now YOU know. For further information, check, www.gazettevandetroit.com.

(Thanks to *Gazette Van Detroit*)

A Possible Visit

In early December, we may receive a visit from a distinguished visitor from Belgium. His schedule is being arranged at the moment and depending upon various protocols, he might have time to stop at the Center.

He is from the Aalter area of East Flanders. If you are from Aalter, Bellem, Lotenhulle, or Poeke, or still have relatives there, let Dave Coopman know through his email (d.coopman@mchsi.com). While we're hoping the visit can be accomplished, it is not a sure thing, as governmental business takes first priorities and we're sure you'll understand this.

December Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for our December waffle breakfast will be Bertha Bredar, Joanne Jennings, Jeff DePorter, and Judy and Dan DePorter. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter and brew the coffee, Joan DeCap and Marian Knock will take the money, and Theresa Bailey will pinch hit for the Hawaii-bound Catherine VanHecke, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Belgian Top Gun

By now most of you have seen, or at least heard of, the movie *Top Gun*. It starred Tom Cruise as “Maverick,” a student top gun Naval aviator. Now we’ll introduce you to Belgium’s Top Gun, Commandant Aviator Michael Artiges, who is in the U.S. to train new generations of F-16 pilots for the United States Air Force.

Commandant Artiges is now at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, undergoing training that will help him train USAF F-16 pilots for the next three years.

Artiges joined the Belgian Air Force in 1993, and earned his wings in 1995. Since then, he has accumulated 2450 flight hours, including 2050 hours in the F-16.



The USAF has 10 foreign exchange officers at Luke, most of them pilots, who come from countries like Chile, Denmark, Japan, and Poland. Artiges is completing initial training meant to familiarize him with the aircraft he will be flying here. Afterwards, he will start his instructor pilot training, and then will begin training incoming Air Force pilots.

Artiges has been at Luke Air Base before. He was there in 1999, on the receiving end of top gun training that he will soon be handing out to others. This time his wife and children have joined him, and the family plans on making the most of their time in the States and hope to expand their cultural experience.

