



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



January, 2013

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
February 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
February 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
February 11th	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:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., January 2nd	CLOSED	
Sat., January 2nd	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)
Wed., January 19th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., January 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., January 17th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., January 20th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., January 24th	Georgia Slininger	Georgia Slininger
Sat., January 27th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., January 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.

Please Check Ahead

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



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

News of the Membership

Get Well wishes are offered to **Marian Knock**, who fell and injured her back quite severely. Marian has been one of the waffle breakfast cashiers for many years, but will now be unable to continue volunteering. We wish Marian well and thank her for the time she devoted to the CBC.

Volunteerism & Membership

Yes, we know we're probably sounding like a broken record. And yes, we know that many younger people have work and family responsibilities to deal with. And yes, we know too, that many organizations face the same issue as we do – THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Right now, we're looking for volunteers to help with: our Wednesday and Saturday open houses; someone to take over as gift counter buyer; waffle bakers and servers; and a person or persons to take waffle money from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? Not really. At the most, it would be three hours per month. And if enough people sign up, you might only have to work two or three times during the year.

The CBC depends on its volunteers. And with all due respect, the fact remains that many of our older volunteers find it difficult to do so. Can YOU volunteer? WILL you volunteer? Celie Donohue (309-792-8246) or Mary Gardner-Karcher (563-508-0886) will be happy to sign you up. It's fun and it's rewarding!

And as long as we're at it, when was the last time you asked a family member, friend, or neighbor to join the Center? They don't have to be Belgian. Perhaps they are interested in history, in emigration, or Moline in an earlier time. Or maybe they just enjoy waffles! All of this awaits them at the CBC. But without members, there will be no CBC. Why not suggest a membership to someone this month.

Possible Visit Follow Up

In last month's newsletter, we noted that we might receive a visit from a distinguished Belgian visitor. Unfortunately due to logistical issues, the visit could not be made has been postponed until later this year.

Because the visitor is from the Aalter area of East Flanders, we asked that you let us know if you were from Aalter, Bellem, Lotenhulle, or Poeke, or still have relatives there. Several people let us know about their Aalter area connection and we're keeping the names on file to give them notice when the rescheduled visit does happen.

January Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the January waffle breakfast will be Bill and Sandy Coopman, Dave Coopman, Angie Jennings, Sage Robinson, and Gene Donohue. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Theresa Bailey will pinch hit for the vacationing Catherine VanHecke, to make sure everything runs smoothly And as always, your CBC thanks you for your continued patronage at its breakfasts!

Murphy's Law

Murphy's Law is an adage that is typically stated as: "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." And one could add: "at the most inopportune time." That's exactly what happened during last month's waffle breakfast.

The morning started fairly well. The weather was decent, St. Nicholas was on site, the new coffee making system had been worked out, and waffle baking was underway. Then Murphy raised its head . . . one of the waffle irons decided it didn't want to heat up correctly. With more and more people coming through the door for their waffle "fix," Catherine VanHecke and crew were scurrying to keep up, using only one waffle iron. A substitute iron was brought into service, but it didn't work as well.

Enter former engineer Gene Donohue and former telecom manager (and longtime ham radio and broadcast engineer) Bill Coopman. The duo pulled the rascal iron into the Center's kitchen and began the process of exploratory surgery. They discovered a broken wire to the heating element. Using a few rudimentary tools (Bill had taken his all-purpose, all-occasion tool box out of the car the previous day), the pair stripped the broken wire and had enough slack so the wire could be wrapped around the heating element lug. Tah-dah . . . the iron was back at work.

Thanks to Gene Donohue and Bill Coopman for their emergency repairs to the waffle iron! And thanks to all the patrons who put up with the delay in receiving their first, and later, second waffle. What a great bunch of understanding people we have, who come to the CBC for waffle Saturdays!!!

The Kleine Winkel

All Christmas Items are 1/2-priced!

Visitors from Brussels



Waffle chairperson Catherine VanHecke (right) poses with Jerry & Teresa Moore of Andalusia, host parents of Lisa VanHoogenbeant, who is attending Rock Ridge High School.



Center President Kevin DeRoo poses with Laura Amdr'e and Anne Luche, exchange students at Bettendorf High School.

It's A Grand Opening

On September 27th, the Red Star Museum will open in the historic Antwerp warehouses of the Red Star Line shipping company. The museum is comprised of three buildings that were used by Red Star to process third-class passengers before they boarded the ship to their new lives.

The museum will tell the story of millions of Europeans who had the courage to leave everything behind and go away, in search of happiness and a better life. It's the story of high expectations and huge disappointments, a story about adrenaline and sleepless nights. In the old buildings of the shipping company, all these emotions and stories will be tangible and visible.

Any trip to Belgium after next September should include a stop at this historic site. The knowledge that a century ago, at that exact spot, your ancestors were going through the difficult departure procedure and waiting to embark will enhance your visit to the museum.

The CBC has provided some material for the displays and will be working with the artifact team to find more materials relevant to the people who settled in this area. And on that subject, the Red Star Museum is looking for photographs of Red Star Line passengers. Why not immortalize your ancestors and share your photographs with the museum. Those photos will be granted a prominent position in its exhibition.

Do you, or did you, know someone who traveled with the Red Star Line? As an emigrant in third class or as a tourist in first class? Do you still possess photographs as a reminder of the trip or passage taken just before, during, or after the voyage?

The museum will only require a scanned copy of your photograph; you can keep the photo itself. For more details about this process, go to www.redstarline.org and follow the links.



The artist's rendition of how the Red Star Museum will look when it opens. The observation tower at the center is modeled after the prow of a ship.

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Zeebrugge Welcomes Ship

The world's largest container ship, Marco Polo, made a stop at Zeebrugge during December. The ship, 1300 feet long, has a capacity of more than 16,000 containers on its deck. Several hundred feet longer than the Queen Elizabeth II, the container ship's arrival underscored Zeebrugge's importance as a major logistical hub for Europe.



A Similar Problem

Around the Quad Cities, we often hear of thieves making off with copper wiring and piping to sell to scrap dealers for cash. Several local communities have initiated programs where those dealers must make copies of drivers' licenses when accepting the material.

In Belgium, trains across the country have suffered a total of 52,000 minutes of delay as a direct result of copper cable theft. An undercover report by Belgian television showed that the sale of the stolen material was still relatively easy for thieves, despite measures to register the identity of all sellers.

Copper isn't the only metal that Belgian thieves evidently like to confiscate. In the Brussels suburb of Anderlecht, a bronze bust of politician Emile Vandervelde, a leading figure in the socialist movement, was stolen from the square that bears his name. Earlier in the month, a number of bronze crosses were stolen from a cemetery in Laken.