



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



March, 2013

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
March 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 15th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 17th	Volunteer Dinner	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Sat., March 2nd	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)
Wed., March 6th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., March 9th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., March 13th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., March 16th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 20th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., March 23rd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., March 27th	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**

## A Special Gift of Thanks

It's always nice to receive a "thank you" when you've done something for someone. We've all received them over the years. Sometimes a little gift is offered in thanks. Here's a story on a special "thank you" received by one of our members.

About five years ago, the Center received a telephone call from Luz Upegui of Coal Valley, asking to speak to someone about lace making. The call was referred to Betty Freeman, a longtime member and lace maker at the CBC. After talking with Betty, Luz brought two girls from Bogotá, Columbia, to Betty's house to talk about Belgian bobbin lace making. Although the girls had made some lace, they wanted to know more and Betty, who has demonstrated lace making all around the U.S., was just the one to talk about it.

When the girls returned to Bogotá, they had been so impressed with Betty's teaching and work, that they started a lace club in their hometown and called it the "Betty Freeman Lace Club." In appreciation of her help and guidance, the club sent Betty two samples of their lace making. This past year, they sent her another gift – a set of handmade coasters.

Betty was very proud that the girls were interested enough in Belgian lace making to start a group of their own, and even prouder that they named the group after her!

Thank you, Betty, for teaching the young gals the art of bobbin lace making and continuing the rich Belgian heritage of this art. And thank you girls, for honoring your wonderful teacher.



Betty with her first two gifts of lace.



Betty and the last gift from Bogotá's Betty Freeman Lace Club.

## *News of the Membership*

*Congratulations* to **Louis and Georgia Slininger** on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary; **Colin Letendre**, Alleman High School principal, for receiving a papal honor, the Benemerenti Medal; **Kevin Rafferty** for being named this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall; and to **Joanne DeTaeye Greko's** brother, Don DeTaeye, for being honored for 20 years of service to the Moline Township.

*Get Well* and speedy recovery wishes are offered to **Art Holevoet** and **Sandy Coopman**.

*Thank you* to **Renee Lemburg** for the donation of a lace book and four Belgian records.

*Sympathy* is offered to **Margaret and Bill Wadsworth**, on the death of Margaret's brother and CBC member **Charles Van Ooteghem**, 89, of Rock Island, who died February 16th in Moline.

## March Waffle Volunteers

Volunteer cooks and servers for the March waffle breakfast will be Tim and Andrea DeWaele, Bertha Bredar, Joanne Jennings, Dan DePorter, Debbie Lenger and Gene Donohue. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Theresa Bailey will make sure everything runs smoothly

## The Other Belgian Air Force

A sport that many younger readers are probably not familiar with is that of pigeon racing. Although its interest has waned in recent years, there were over 150 lofts and an estimated 10,000 racing pigeons in the Quad Cities alone in the first half of the 1900s. The sport got its start here when Belgian immigrants, who came to take jobs at the many farm implement plants, brought with them some of the birds they flew in the old country.

Homing pigeons have fascinated and served people for centuries. Noah sent one out to see if the floodwaters had abated. Egyptian monuments from 1,300 years before Christ carry carvings of pigeons being released from cages as though they were carrying messages. Brutus used pigeons in 43 B.C. to send for reinforcements when under attack by Mark Anthony.

Homing pigeons brought news to New York newspapers before the telegraph was invented. They were used particularly to bring news from ships and to carry results of presidential elections. The birds also found use in the more modern day militaries of many nations.

Perhaps the best remembered homer was a bird named Long Neck, owned by Edward VanDamme and Charles Bomelyn. Long Neck was one of the best racers in the country. He won a 1,000-mile flight three years in a row. He took fourth place in his first flight from Colorado Springs in 1933 and third place in 1934. But the next year, he set a record of two-and-a-half days from Colorado Springs to his loft in Rock Island.

In 1936, Long Neck established a similar speed when the 1,000-mile flight starting point was switched to Texas. The following year, he led the field for three days despite unfavorable weather and wind conditions.

During 10 years of racing, Long Neck covered 25,000 miles. In 1940, he did not return from an exercise trip, and his owners believed hunters near the Moline airport shot him, as some of the others in the flock had been peppered with pellets from shotgun shells.

(Material for this item was gathered from *The Town Crier* by George Wickstrom, a former columnist for the Rock Island Argus.)



### Volunteer Dinner Wednesday, April 17th

This year's dinner to thank our volunteers will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner served at 6:00 p.m. The dinner is free to all volunteers. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Center, or you may call Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246. More information will be forthcoming in the April newsletter.

## Interested in Genealogy?

The Rock Island County, Illinois, and Scott County, Iowa, Genealogical Societies would like to invite you to attend the 39th Annual Genealogical Conference on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 8:00 to 4:00 at the Moline Viking Club. Cost is \$25 per person, which include a buffet luncheon. The Center for Belgian Culture will have an exhibitor table at this conference, along with many other vendors and exhibitors. The Featured Speaker is Lori Cox-Paul, Director of Archival Operations for the National Archives at Kansas City.

The conference registration brochure is available online at the Rock Island County, Illinois, Genealogical Society's website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgsrim/> (click on Annual Conference at top of page).

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*March, 2013*

### Save the Date!

A special party is approaching! Save the date of **October 26th** for a special dinner noting the **Center for Belgian Culture's 50th Anniversary**. The dinner will be held at Oakwood Country Club and will feature Belgian food and drink. There will also be an Open House at the Center on October 27th. Watch upcoming newsletters for further details and a special mailing of invitation.

### The Kleine Winkel

Just in time for St. Patrick's day . . .

**BELGIAN CHOCOLATES!**

Most men enjoy a good Irish stout,  
but all women enjoy good Belgian chocolate.

We also have those popular  
3' x 5' nylon BELGIAN FLAGS for \$30.00

### Why Coffee Tastes Bad - Sometimes

Ever wonder why room-temperature coffee tastes so bad? The temperature affects flavor. Researchers in Belgium found that certain taste bud receptors are most sensitive to food molecules that are just at, or just above room temperature. So hot coffee may seem less bitter (and, in turn, taste better) because our bitter-detecting taste buds aren't as sensitive when coffee is hot. Odors influence flavor as well, so even the bitterest hot coffee may taste delicious because of its pleasant aroma; room-temperature coffee doesn't smell the same. Now you know.

*From the Readers Digest*

