



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



April, 2013

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 8th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 17th	Volunteer Dinner	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
May 4th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 13th	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 April schedule is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Wed., April 3rd	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., April 6th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Mary Gardner-Karcher (p.m.)
Wed., April 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., April 13th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., April 17th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., April 20th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., April 24th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., April 27th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher

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.

## We Weren't the Lone Ranger

We here in the Midwest weren't the only ones wondering where spring went. An unusually late heavy snowfall across Belgium led to chaos on the roads. Delays were reported of up to three hours on main roadways. Luckily there was only one fatality reported. Many bus routes were cancelled, high-speed trains blocked, and commuters were stranded at stations.


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

**A Note from Our Waffle Chairperson**

I want to extend thank yous to Bob and Theresa Bailey, Kris VanHecke, Gene Donohue, and all the volunteers who helped with waffle breakfasts while I was wintering in Hawaii. I understand we had great crowds. A special thank you to Bill Coopman and Gene Donohue for their “emergency surgery” on one of the waffle irons that decided to poop out just as things got going. And as always, thanks to the wonderful patrons of our monthly waffle breakfasts!

Catherine VanHecke

**April  
Waffle Volunteers**



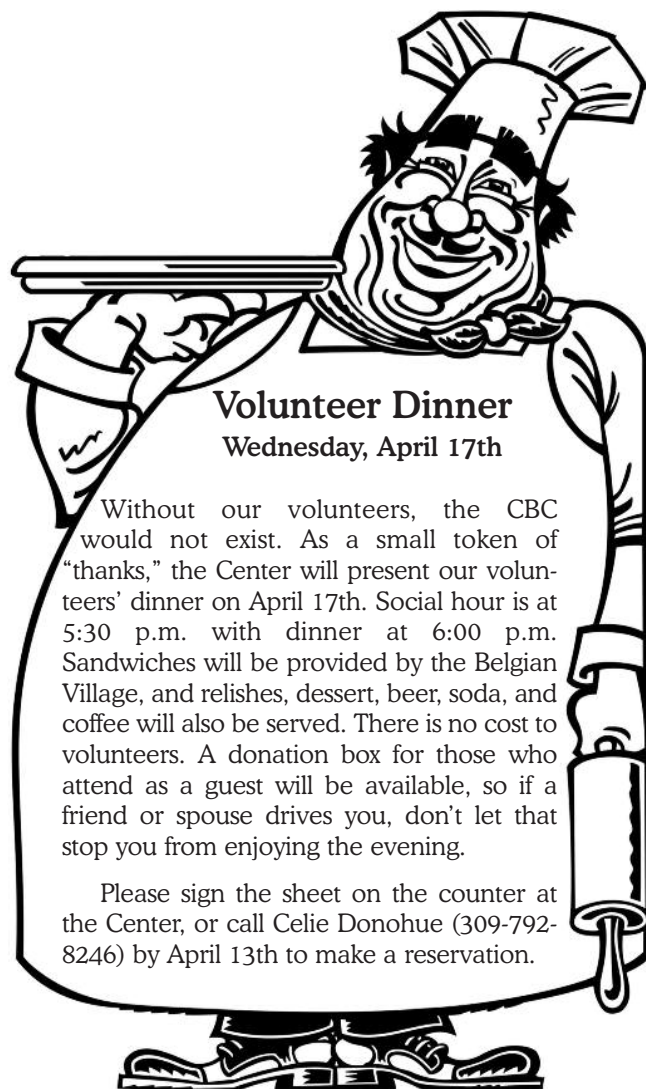
Volunteer cooks and servers for the April waffle breakfast will be Millie Kale, Jane Vershaw, Gary Francque, Christine VanHecke, Lois and Fred DeCoster, and Gene Donohue. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everything runs smoothly and tell us about wintering in Hawaii.

**From Belgian to Western**

CBC officers Karen and Pat VandeKerckhove again wintered in Alamo, Texas. Together with their friends Janice and Eric Vanneste of London, Canada, they traded in their wooden shoes for western boots at a luncheon style show, benefiting scholarships for Alamo high school students.



Karen & Pat give their best “Dallas” imitation at the Alamo, Texas, style show. Nice hat Pat!



**Volunteer Dinner**  
Wednesday, April 17th

Without our volunteers, the CBC would not exist. As a small token of “thanks,” the Center will present our volunteers’ dinner on April 17th. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Sandwiches will be provided by the Belgian Village, and relishes, dessert, beer, soda, and coffee will also be served. There is no cost to volunteers. A donation box for those who attend as a guest will be available, so if a friend or spouse drives you, don’t let that stop you from enjoying the evening.

Please sign the sheet on the counter at the Center, or call Celie Donohue (309-792-8246) by April 13th to make a reservation.

**Do You Have Photos?**

The Center and the Rock Island County Historical Society are looking for photos from the Olde Towne area and we’re hoping for your help. We won’t keep your photo, but will scan and make a print of our own (or you can scan it and email it to [d.coopman@mchsi.com](mailto:d.coopman@mchsi.com)).

We would especially like photos of businesses from any date prior to 1970. Remember Lundholm Drug, the Coffee Cup Café, Giefman’s, DeGreve’s Market, Lecat Shoe Repair, Lyphout Hardware, Sunnyside Florist, Verhetzel’s Barber Shop, Taghon’s Department Store, Hendrickx Dry Goods, Blancke’s Market, Goethals’ Clothing, or VanHulle’s Jewelry Store to name just a few? Let us know what you have and we’ll make arrangements to copy.

## News of the Membership

Thank you to **Dr. Tim Ducey** for repairing and painting our display windows.

Congratulations to **Evelyn and Al VanPuyvelde** on being featured in an article in the Bettendorf News for nearly 64 years of marriage.

Sympathy is offered to **JoAnn DeTaeye Greko** on the death of her brother Don, and **Lou Rae Hoogerwerf** on the death of her husband Thomas.

Get Well wishes are also extended to **JoAnn DeTaeye Greko**.

## Belgium Rises

Belgium has risen to 18th place in a list of 140 countries according to the competitiveness of their tourism industries. The annual rankings are produced by the World Economic Forum, and place Switzerland, Germany, and Austria in the top three places. Last year's report put Belgium in 23rd place.

The survey looks at the regulatory framework, business infrastructure, education and cultural resources, as they relate to the tourism and travel industry. Belgium scored particularly high for air and ground transport infrastructure and for health and hygiene.

## First Ever Treatment for Eye Disease

Belgian company Thrombogenics has gained approval of the European Union drug safety authorities for the introduction of its drug ocriplasmin, sold under the name Jetrea.

Jetrea is a new treatment for an eye condition known as vitreomacular traction (VMT), in which the liquid inside the eyeball tends to adhere to and distort the central area of the retina. By injection of only half of one milliliter of Jetrea into the eye, the liquid inside the eye becomes thinner, stops adhering to the macula, and the distortion goes away. The ailment affects more than 250,000 people every year in Europe and about the same in the U.S.

The arrival of Jetrea is eagerly awaited. At present, the only effective treatment for VMT is costly and painful surgery. Jetrea has been approved by the U.S. drug safety authorities and is already on sale here. The use of the drug will be limited, largely because it is so expensive – almost \$4000/dose in the U.S.

## CBC Bed & Breakfast

The Center has been serving our monthly waffle breakfast for years. Recently, our undercover street reporter Mike Kerckhove discovered that the Center briefly opened as an inn – sort of.

On the day of one of our recent snowstorms, member Art Holevoet had a doctor's appointment in Davenport, Iowa. Art lives in Atkinson, Illinois. The storm wasn't supposed to arrive until much later in the day, so Art felt there would be no problem in driving the 40-plus miles to keep his appointment.

As usually happens with weather forecasts, the opposite happened. While Art was at the doctor's, it began to snow. He thought he could make it back to Atkinson, but east of Coal Valley his truck slid into the ditch. A passing motorist was able to pull Art and his truck from the ditch, but Art felt it wise not to continue the thirty miles to Atkinson in the snow.

Art headed for sanctuary at the CBC. Our next-door neighbor, Dr. Tim Ducey, offered Art a room in his office, but Art didn't want to impose. Instead, Art threw some blankets on the floor and slept the night at the Center.

Art had a warm place to stay out of the weather, plenty of material to read, a bottle or two of beer if he wanted it, and frozen waffles to heat up in the morning if he so desired. So for one evening, the Center for Belgian Culture provided bed and breakfast, although the bed (the floor) may have been a little firm.

## The Kleine Winkel

Just in time for the Center's 50th Anniversary . . .

Very soon we will be selling the  
"ORIGINAL" BELGIAN T-SHIRTS  
"Being Belgian is Beautiful" on the front  
and the Rampant Lion on the back.

In case you were too young or you just don't remember, these shirts were the first items sold nearly 50 years ago. Those who came up with the idea and did all the silk-screening were Adolph DeKeyrl, Ruby DeKeyrl, Lucy DeWaelche, and Art Holevoet.

The new edition of the shirt will have one small difference as there will be "50" added to honor our anniversary.

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## **CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*April, 2013*

### **Special Volunteering**

During February, Center board member and lace maker Marlene Shattuck, son Jesse, and her mother Diane Gelaude made a trip to Haiti as volunteers for Friends of the People of Haiti. The three paid their own way to the mountain village of Trouin. Marlene and Jesse helped re-roof houses and poured cement floors. Diane worked on updating the sponsor children and keeping the information current.

Friends of the People of Haiti is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial and spiritual aide to the people of Trouin. Originally it started with a medical focus. As clinics began to be established in the towns and villages, the organization added construction and education aid.

The education side of Friends raises money to sponsor one child per family in a school. The child is provided with a uniform and school material, and is expected to keep up his/her grades.

The group stayed at a local parish. Upon leaving their quarters each day, Marlene and Jesse would walk up to one hour to and from the small houses on which they would

work. A translator would accompany them to the work. Marlene noted that most of their treks were up and down mountainsides, as Trouin is located in a mountainous region of Haiti.

Stated Marlene, "It was an amazing trip and I would definitely do it again!"



Uniformed Haitian school children of St. Anne's Parish.