



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2013

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
May 27th	Memorial Day Waffles	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
June 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
June 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 10th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
June 26th	Scholarship Dinner	5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The May schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., May 1st	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., May 4th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) to be determined (p.m.)
Wed., May 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., May 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., May 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., May 18th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., May 22nd	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., May 25th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Mon., May 27th	Kevin DeRoo	Kevin DeRoo
Wed., May 29th	to be determined	to be determined

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.

Remember the Fallen & Our Dearly Departed
May 27th

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

Entirely from Chocolate

A train made completely of chocolate has set a new Guinness World Record as the longest chocolate structure in the world. Displayed at the Brussels South station, it is 112-feet long and weighs 2,755 pounds. Chocolate artist Andrew Farrugia spent over 700 hours on its construction.

The artist came up with the idea after visiting the Belgian Chocolate Festival in Bruges. He created two parts to the train. The first seven cars are modeled after new Belgian trains, and the rest is modeled after older train cars, including a car with a bar and restaurant on board.

The entire train was transported by truck in 25 wooden boxes from the artist's home in Malta to Belgium. Guinness confirmed the record after measuring the train's length and confirming only chocolate was used in its manufacture.



News of the Membership

Thank you to **Bill Cornelis** for the painting of the Red Star Line, to Elza Vols of Ankeny, Iowa, for the book *Daniel En De Openbaring*, and to **Donna Cavins** for the photo and article on DeGreve's Market.

Sympathy is offered to: **Margaret VanRaes** on the death of her husband **A.L. "Curly,"** 96, of Moline, who died March 11th; the family of **Margaret Hugart**, 103, formerly of Moline, who died March 28th; the families of **Georgia and Steve Slininger** on the death of husband and father **Louis**, 81, of Moline, who died April 10th; **Bill and Sandy Coopman** on the death of Sandy's brother, Judge Joseph Beatty (ret.), 64, of Rock Island, who died April 14th; and **Kevin and Jan DeRoo** on the death of Jan's mother, Francis "Pauline" Allardyce, 90, of Moline, who died April 8th.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Mary DeMeyer** and **Jan Hufford**.

Birdies for Charity

Many of you have already received pledge forms for this year's Birdies for Charity program, associated with the John Deere Classic. Pledges from the Birdies program provide the dollars for the CBC's Scholarship Program. We hope you will honor us with your pledge and quickly return your form. Forms are also available at the Center.

If you've never taken part in the Birdies program, participants can pledge as little as one cent per birdie made by the golf pros during the Deere Classic tournament. The money collected is returned to the non-profit groups who are part of the Birdies program, along with any bonus bucks the Deere Classic provides.

Money received from Birdies allows the Center to provide three \$750 scholarships for high school students entering college. We thank you for your past support and hope you will continue to help us provide these scholarships. And . . . the Deere Classic may even present you with a new Chevy if you correctly guess the exact number of birdies made during tournament week.

The Belgian-American Club

As this is the CBC's 50 Anniversary year, we thought you'd be interested in a little history of the earliest Belgian club in the area.

In April of 1903, a club was founded with the purpose of furnishing occasional entertainment for all Belgians and Hollanders in Moline. It was located in the basement of St. Mary's Church. Two years later, the club moved to the corner of 3rd Avenue A and 15th Street, in a building known as "Red Men Hall."

It was here that the club began life in earnest. Edward Coryn was chosen as the club's first president and it was decided that from that point on, the group would be known as the "Belgian Club."

The club offered various dramatic presentations and social gatherings. As membership increased, it began to be involved in patriotic and community affairs. The club also sponsored English-language lessons and citizenship classes. During December of 1905, a committee from the club met with the bishop of Peoria to plead the cause of a church for the Belgian settlers in Moline. The club took this cause even further, as it secured the sites where Sacred Heart church, rectory, and sister's house were built.

By 1911, the Belgian Club had become one of the foremost Belgian societies in the U.S. With increasing membership and community activity, the name of the group was changed to the "Belgian-American Club," and incorporation papers were filed with the State of Illinois.

When World War I began to affect Belgium, the club, with the assistance of the "Gazette van Moline," secured \$2500 for the purchase of two carloads of flour to be sent to help in feeding their compatriots. With the U.S. entrance into the war, a Red Cross unit was organized and 42 members of the club joined the American forces to fight.


In 1920, the Belgian-American Club was at the height of its success. The clubrooms, in the Model Printing building, were second to none in the area. A steward was always at the service of visiting members. The club was debt free and membership continued to grow. It truly was a haven for the men "whom fate had made neighbors in the great land of their choice."

While still in existence in 1950, the group was disbanded by the mid-1950s.

Scholarship Dinner

Come salute the CBC and Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholars on June 26th. A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10.00/person and reservations must be made by June 21st. There is a sign-up sheet at the Center, or you can contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246. We'll also have some grab bags for sale for \$5.00, with neat prizes and a large grand prize. Come help us honor our scholars.

**May
Waffle Volunteers**



Volunteer cooks and servers for the **May 4th** waffle breakfast will be Bill Cornelis, Kris VanHecke, Barb and Ray Coppens, Tim and Andrea DeWaele and Gene Donohue. Volunteers for the Memorial Day waffle breakfast on **May 27th** will be Tom and Steve Slininger, Angie Jennes, Jan Irwin and Bonnie and Jason Tanamor. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make be our hostess to make sure we all have a good time.

We Need Volunteers

Once again we'll make a plea for volunteers to step forward and help us. We need people who are willing to work the open houses on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If we get enough, you might only have to work once or twice a year. Please contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 508-0886 if you can help.

Boston in Brussels

In 1972, Boston University became the first major American university to offer graduate business management degrees in Europe. The programs prepare students to meet the unique challenges of a multicultural marketplace. Students can earn: M.S. in Leadership; M.A. in International Relations; M.S. in Finance; and graduate certificates in project management, human resources, marketing, and management.

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May, 2013

We'll Meet Again

He was five years old when some passing British soldiers took his photo. Recently, one of those soldiers, now living in New Zealand, tracked the young boy down from the other side of the world.

Rene Stroobant still lives in Diksmuide, West Flanders, where the soldiers, on the march to Berlin, took his photo in 1945. The troops were billeted in the local St. Aloysius College, which also served as a hospital. Injured soldiers repaired uniforms, and one of them made a small one for Stroobant. When the regiment went on its way, that was the end of the story. Until now that is.

Bob Bamber, 89, got to wondering what had become of the little boy in the photo. He called the New Zealand TV program *Missing Links* for help.

Growing up, Stroobant had made a name for himself as a trade union representative at a former shipyard on the Scheldt river, and later, as an alderman in Diksmuide.

The New Zealand TV crew found Stroobant and put him in touch with Bamber. "He's too old to come to Belgium," said Stroobant, "but I will soon have a meeting with his granddaughter who will come to Sint-Niklaas. It seems her grandfather has a message for me."

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

**Sunday,
September 15, 2013**



**Stephens' Park
Moline, IL**

Celebrate the history of the Olde Towne neighborhood with an afternoon of Belgian tradition, culture, food, and sport!



1:00-4:00 pm • FREE ADMISSION