



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2013

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 5th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 14th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
October 26th	50th Anniversary Dinner	6:00 to 9:30 p.m.
October 27th	Open House at Center	2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
December 4th	Christmas Dinner	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., October 2nd	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., October 5th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)
Wed., October 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., October 12th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., October 16th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 19th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., October 23rd	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., October 26th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., October 30th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt

*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.*

Center for Belgian Culture's 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 26, 2013 • *More details on page 2.*

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

50th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner

Join us for our 50th Anniversary at Oakwood Country Club in Coal Valley, Illinois, on **Saturday, October 26th**, with a dinner and program to pay tribute to founding members, past presidents, and the six Medal of Merit recipients: Alan Hoyt, Kathy Knobloch Bustos, Mary Lorensen, and Larry Lorensen. Posthumous honors will be given to Lucy DeWaelche and Beverly Francque.

A cocktail hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the Happy Belgians Band. Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m. with food prepared from the recipes of Mrs. Maurice Bultinck, Catherine Coryn, Mrs. Ralph DePorter, Mrs. George Holevoet, Mrs. Gus VandeVoorde,

and others found in the Center's original Belgian cookbook. You have your choice of Flemish-style chicken breast, Belgian roast, or filet of sole. The program will follow dinner.

Cost is \$30.00/person all-inclusive (cash bar). Reservations, choice of entrée, and payment should be made by October 16th and sent to:

Anniversary
Center for Belgian Culture
712 - 18th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

50th Anniversary Open House

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, the Center will have an Open House on **Sunday, October 27th**, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The lace makers will be there and we'll have cake, coffee, and punch. Stop by to see what's old and new. Bring your children or grandchildren along to see lace being made and artifacts of our Belgian heritage.

A Special Thank You

The Fall Flemish Fest is over. Although the weather didn't cooperate very well, it didn't stop a large crowd from enjoying the Fest. We'll have a special section in the newsletter next month, but we wanted to give a special "Thank You" to the CBC volunteers who helped showcase our heritage: Betty Freeman, Marlene Gelaude-Shattuck, Millie Kale, Gene and Celie Donohue, Patrick and Barb Van Nevel, Catherine VanHecke, Pat VandeKerckhove, Steve Slininger, Kathy Bustos, Joan Rogers, Kevin DeRoo, Mike Kerckhove, and Dave Coopman.



The team of horses from Rock Creek Belgians makes one of its trips around Olde Towne to highlight the Fall Flemish Fest.



The CBC Lace Makers drew quite a few spectators to watch them make lace and view some of their creations.



Ron DePauw explains how rollle bolles are manufactured.



Doves and homing pigeons from Heavenly Heights Doves drew quite a crowd.

Scholarship Essay

Our essay this month was written by Mitchell Schneider. He attended United Township High School and graduated with a grade point of 3.52 out of 4.0. Some of Mitchell's honors included First Team and most valuable goalkeeper for Western Big 6 soccer, Western Big 6 Academic Award, and Presidential Academic Award. Mitchell is attending Scott Community College, then will transfer to Western Illinois University, and plans to be a math teacher.

My Belgian Heritage
by Mitchell Schneider

My great-grandfather Alberic VandeWiele was born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1899. When he was sixteen, he and a friend made the trip by boat to America and landed at Ellis Island. Great-grandpa came to America for work and to earn money. He went on to Detroit, then to New Mexico, and later to East Moline, Illinois. He came to the Quad Cities because he had heard there were many Belgians living here and to work at John Deere.



In 1935, Alberic VandeWiele married Mary Martens, another Belgian. Alberic and Mary had three sons. My grandfather Robert Jean VandeWiele was born at Moline Public Hospital September 30, 1936. John VandeWiele was born November 11, 1937, and Jerry was born December 4, 1941.

My grandmother, Ruth Ann Donelson was born on October 12, 1938, in a house in LeClaire, Iowa. On December 31, 1955, Grandpa, at the age of 19, married Grandma, at the age of 17. They had three children, Mark, Nancy (my mom), and Sue.

On July 6, 1985, my mother married my father, Jeff. I was born August 24, 1994. and my brother Jared was born May 27, 1997. September 27, 2005, my parents divorced.



Catherine, Steve, and Pat were kept busy making waffles for Fest visitors.

In 1975, Great-grandpa had the opportunity to return to Belgium and visit his 10 brothers and sisters. Once he made the trip, two of his brothers came to visit him in America. Great-grandpa did not speak English very well. It has been told it was a mixture of Flemish and English.

My mother was fortunate to visit Brussels when she was 16. She and her cousin Gregg made the trip to Belgium by themselves. They stayed with Great-grandpa's sister Irma. Irma did not speak English, and my mom did not speak Flemish. Somehow they communicated by pointing and using a translation book. My mom was also able to visit Holland and France. We still have Belgian lace and a windmill she brought back from her trip.

One of my mom's relatives from Belgium found her and started emailing. They now keep in touch using Facebook. Chris VandeWiele is her name and the two of them are trying to put together a family tree. It is nice to know there is still family over there and we can communicate. I love hearing about my heritage. Just knowing that my family has history in Belgium is great because I still have a whole different world to visit. We do not talk a lot about our heritage but after getting to know some information about my Great-grandpa it makes me want to learn more.

My heritage started in Belgium and now continues in America. My dream is to someday visit Belgium and visit where my ancestors started. All the great stories my mom has told me from her trip only makes me want to visit myself to experience all the beauty Belgium has to offer. Everyone tells me when they go to Europe that Belgium is an amazing place to visit, and they have really good waffles too.



The VanSpeybroeck family (The Happy Belgians) supplied great music and humor for Fest visitors.

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News of the Membership

Thank You to **Mary Rose DeCoster** for her donation of the Rene Magritte painting of "The Return."

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Charles Vandewiele**, 96, of Lambertville, Michigan, who died April 4th.

Garage Sale Success

The CBC garage sale, held at Bonnie and Jason Tanamor's garage in the historic district of Rock Island was hot, hot, hot in more ways than one. On the warmest days of the summer, people were out in droves. Business was brisk over all three days.

Thank you to all who donated items and to volunteers Denise Martin, Millie Kale, Margaret Wadsworth, Karen and Pat VandeKerckhove, Celie and Gene Donohue, and, of course, to Bonnie and Jason. The sale totaled \$692.53!

October Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the October waffle breakfast will be Pat and Karen VandeKerckhove, Gary Francque, Angie Jennes, Bertha Bredar, and Joanne Jennings. Gene Donohue will man the kitchen, Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will help everyone have a good time. See you there!



The lead Belgian grins for the spectators.
(Photo courtesy of the *Dispatch/Argus*)