



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



June, 2014

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 25th	Center's Grand Opening	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 26th	Memorial Day Waffles	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 26th	Center Open	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
June 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
June 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 9th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
June 25th	Scholarship Reception	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The June schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., June 4th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Fri., June 6th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., June 7th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)
Wed., June 11th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., June 13th	Celie Donohue	Bev Fullmer
Sat., June 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., June 18th	Linda Polich	Barb Michalek
Fri., June 20th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., June 21st	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., June 25th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., June 27th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., June 28th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

Contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246 as soon as possible if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

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

Scholarship Reception

Winners of the CBC Scholarships and the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship will be awarded on Wednesday, June 25th, at the Center. A social hour with light refreshments will start at 6:00 p.m., followed by the awarding of the scholarships at 7:00 p.m.

The CBC awards three \$750 scholarships to students beginning their college careers. The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship for \$1200 is awarded to a student who has completed two years of college, but will be continuing with his/her education.

News of the Membership

Thank You to **Angie DePaepe** for two framed lace pieces.

Get Well wishes are offered to **Marian Knock** for a speedy recovery.

65 and 50

Father Gerard Verhoye, the “Belgian priest,” is observing his 65th anniversary as a priest this year. He has served at St. Malachy in Geneseo, St. Joseph in Rock Island, St. Anthony in Atkinson, and St. Mary in Hoopole, among others.

Msgr. Dale Wellman is celebrating his 50th anniversary to the priesthood and the people of the diocese. He is currently the pastor at Sacred Heart in Moline.

The CBC congratulates both of these fine priests, who have served their parishes faithfully and with their generous spirits.

Upcoming Waffle Volunteers



Volunteering for the Memorial Day waffle breakfast are Joe DeMeyer, Angie DePaepe, and Pat and Karen VandeKerckhove. For the June 7th breakfast will be Bertha Bredar, Joanne Jennings, and Bev Fullmer. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone has a great time.

Flag Day – Saturday, June 14th

Happy Father’s Day

Sunday, June 15th

Birdies for Charity

If you haven’t yet returned your pledge for Birdies for Charity, would you please do so as soon as possible? And if you have never pledged, please consider doing so. Proceeds from the Birdies program are used to provide funding for the Center’s scholarships and are used only for this purpose. If our scholarship program is to stay funded, we need your support.

Pledge forms are available at the Center, and it only takes a minute or so to fill one out. You can pledge a penny or two per birdie made during the John Deere Classic golf tournament, or make a total dollar amount donation to the program. Either way, by donating to Birdies, the golf tournament will match up to 10% of what each charity raises in pledges. It’s sort of “free money.”

Please help us keep our worthwhile scholarship program funded.

Saving Face

The University Hospital at Ghent is one of the candidates being considered to carry out face transplants on 175 mutilated American soldiers. In 2011, Ghent plastic surgeon Philip Blondeel was the first Belgian to carry out a successful face transplant; an operation that took over 20 hours and used the largest amount of bone ever transplanted.

Choosing cooperating hospitals will take time and completing the transplants will take years. While there is progress in the entire process, it is not a fast fix for these soldiers.

Parking for Waffles

Now that our waffle breakfasts are at the Friends Circle, you can use their parking lot on 18th Avenue, just west of the Alternatives for the Older Adult center. You can also use the DeRoo parking lot whenever there is no funeral. Thought you’d like to know

The Things I Find Out

In last month's newsletter, you read about Willy Coppens whose surname is somewhat familiar in our area. I discovered his story while doing some research on WW I. This month, I was doing some research on early Belgians coming to America and discovered another familiar name; Hennepin.

Lodewijk (or Louis, if you prefer) Hennepin was a Franciscan priest from Belgium. But more about him shortly.

You might know that Hennepin is an important name in Minnesota. Hennepin County has the largest population of Minnesota counties. Hennepin Avenue is a major street in Minneapolis. The city of Champlin, Minnesota, celebrates Father Hennepin Days every June.

Closer to home, there is a town named Hennepin east of Princeton, Illinois. It is the county seat of Putnam County, once the largest county in the state and today the smallest (the only county without a stoplight). And of course, there is the Hennepin Canal that runs through parts of Henry and Rock Island counties. Both the town and canal received their names after Father Hennepin, as well. Actually the canal was named after the town, but you see the connection.

Now to Father Hennepin. He was born in Ath, Belgium, in 1626. Ath is in the province of Hainaut, which is in the Walloon region. He died in Rome in 1701. His baptismal name was Anthony, but he took the name Lodewijk (Louis) for religious life.

Hennepin entered the novitiate of the Recollect, a strict Franciscan community in France that emphasized the vow of

poverty and practiced austerity. As a priest, he served in Italy, Germany, and France. He became a missionary when posted to Holland in 1673.

In 1675, Hennepin was a member of an expedition to New France (Quebec) led by Rene de La Salle. At the behest of his superiors in 1679, he joined another expedition of La Salle's that traveled across Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, up the Detroit River, up Lake Huron, and across Lake Michigan to Green Bay. The group then went inland from the St. Joseph River to the Kankakee to the Illinois to the Mississippi. La Salle decided to return to Quebec, but urged Hennepin to travel up the Mississippi on a journey of discovery.

Precise details of Hennepin's travels vary, but one account noted that he came upon a waterfall nearly 60 feet high at present-day Minneapolis (the only falls on the Mississippi). Hennepin named them "St. Anthony's Falls" after his baptismal patron, and blessed the falls.

In 1681, Hennepin returned to Europe and over the next twenty years, wrote at least three books in French with accounts of his travels. He moved to Rome and was preparing for another trip to the New World, but died before he could make the trip.

Father Hennepin was definitely one of the early Belgians in America. Discovering his story also offered some interesting local history. It amazes me the things I stumble into. (With help from the Catholic Spirit.)



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Prime Minister, with ties to Moline, Dies

The former Belgian prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene died May 15th at the age of 73. A Flemish Christian-Democrat with roots in Bruges, Dehaene died following a fall in France, where he was on holiday with his wife.

Dehaene, who earned a variety of nicknames over the years, such as “the Flemish carthorse” and “the plumber,” was known for his tough negotiating skills but also for how he appealed to the public. He was a major political force in both European and Belgian politics, leading the country for seven years during the 1990s at a time when the Flemish and Walloon regions were gaining greater autonomy. He was also instrumental in ushering in the euro.

His leadership coincided with the Dutroux crisis in the mid-1990s, when Belgium’s international reputation was seriously compromised by several child murders and a botched investigation. Dehaene lost the leadership in 1999 following a second crisis – the cancer-causing dioxin food scandal. In the



election that followed, his party, CVP (now CD&V), lost its status as Flanders’ biggest party, a place it had held since 1945.

Having spent much of his career living in Vilvoorde, Dehaene went on to serve as the city’s mayor for six years. In 2004, he became a member of the European Parliament. As a widely respected elder legislator, he played a key role in setting up the European Union’s constitution that same year.

Dehaene only retired earlier this year after undergoing a successful surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Dehaene’s wife, the former Celie Verbeke, grew up in Moline and was the granddaughter of Edward Coryn, Moline’s first Honorary Consul to Belgium.

(From Flanders Today)