



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2014

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 6th	Waffle Breakfast & St. Nick	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
December 6th	Bake Sale	7:30 till gone
December 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December	NO Board Meeting	
December 10th	CBC Christmas Party (see article)	

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The December schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., Dec. 3rd	Alan Hoyt	Bob Francione
Fri., Dec. 5th	Joan DeCap	Rose VanAcker
Sat., Dec. 6th	Celie Donohue (am)	
	Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., Dec. 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., Dec. 12th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Dec. 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 17th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., Dec. 19th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fulmer
Sat., Dec. 20th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., Dec. 24th	Closed	
Fri., Dec. 26th	Closed	
Sat., Dec. 27th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Dec. 31st	Closed	
Fri., Jan. 2nd	Closed	

Contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.

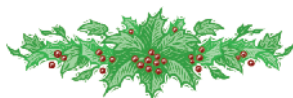


*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month @
Friends Circle, 701 - 18th Avenue, Moline**



CBC Christmas Party

There's still time to sign up for the CBC Christmas party. It will be held this year at the Friends Circle on Wednesday, December 10th. Happy Hour will be at 5:00 p.m. with a cash bar, and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00/person. To make a reservation, send your check to the CBC, 1608-7th Street, Moline, IL 61265 by December 5th.

The Kleine Winkel

The Winkel has some great Xmas gifts... klakke caps and rolle bolles for him, lace hankies and doilies for her. Perfect stocking stuffers... bobbin lace bookmarks. Stop in and check out all our gifts at the Center.

News of the Membership

Thank You to: **Bob Francione** for old photos; **Betty Freeman** for the recording of Belgian artist Roswitha; Walt Sonnevillie for Belgian pamphlets; and to **Dr. and Mrs. Louis DePorter** and Melanie DePorter for providing the cost of framing the official document given to Ralph DePorter by Pres. Lyndon Johnson, signed by both he and Sec. of State Dean Rusk, congratulating Mr. DePorter on becoming Honorary Consul of Belgium.

Congratulations to **Alan Hoyt** on his Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. on October 30th.

Sympathy is offered to **Diane and Dick VanBell** on the death of Diane's father, Archie Roedts.

DECEMBER
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for December's waffle breakfast will be Tara and Bob DeBlay, Kim Kochuyt, Bill Cornelis, Angie Jennes, and Cheryl Westin. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie DePaep will supervise the kitchen, Joan DeCap will be cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure all runs smoothly.

Annual Bake Sale

WANTED: Donations of your great bread, cakes, pies, cookies, and treats! The annual bake sale will be December 6th from 7:30 until all is gone. Come enjoy waffles and take home a great baked item. We would appreciate your dropping off your baked item(s) by 7:30 a.m. on Waffle Sat., December 6th.



St. Nick Appearance



St. Nick will appear at the December 6th waffle breakfast at Friends Circle and will have treats. Bring your children for pictures between 7:30-10:30 a.m. He will then be at the Center until 1:00 p.m. Also at the Center, beginning at Noon, the movie "Dog of Flanders" will be playing.

Birdies for Charity

Chairpersons Mary and Larry Lorensen wish to thank everyone who pledged to this year's Deere Classic golf tournament Birdies for Charity program on behalf of the CBC. Checks from the pledges were distributed at the end of October, and the CBC received \$1856.00. The tournament also provided a 10% bonus this year that increased the amount raised by the CBC to \$2041.60.

All of this money is used for the Center's Scholarship Fund and is the main fundraiser for the scholarship program. We hope that more people will join us with a pledge during next year's Birdies period, to further this worthwhile effort. And a big Thank You to Mary and Larry for heading the program for the CBC.

Up in Smoke

No doubt you saw recent news video of NASA's Antares rocket explode shortly after its launch towards the International Space Station. That rocket carried two experiments developed in Belgium. One was examining how astronauts adapt to the absence of gravity, and the other was meant to analyse characteristics of fluids in space. The development of the experiments took researchers two years to develop, and it's unclear whether part of all can still be carried out when a rocket again is launched to the space station.

Menin Gate

Prior newsletters have had several articles noting the centenary of the First World War. But in this issue, we'd like to provide a little more about a special memorial. The town of Ypres (Ieper) was totally destroyed during the war. It has since been rebuilt and has become a symbol of the horrors of that war with numerous cemeteries, statues, and relics. At the same time though, it has also become a symbol for peace. The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is probably most well-known memorial in Ypres.

The Menin Gate Memorial was erected in 1927. It was chosen to be a memorial as it was the closest gate of the town to the fighting, and many of the Allied troops would have marched past it on their way to the battle. It was dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown (over 300,000 were killed, with 90,000 having no known grave). It symbolizes to the broader public, all fallen people in the Great War and has become an international symbol of war and of peace.

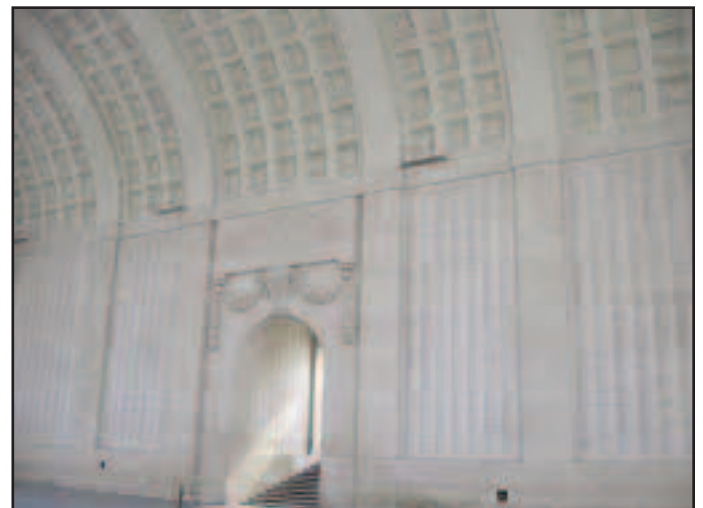
Although the Menin Gate makes the cruelties of war tangible, even a century later, at the same time it carries out the spirit of No More War. By visiting and honoring the impressive memorial, people not only remember the souls who fought for our freedom, but also support their ideals.

Following the opening of the memorial, the citizens of Ypres wanted to express their gratitude towards those who had given their lives for Belgium's freedom. Every evening at 8:00 p.m., buglers close the road which passes under the memorial and sound the "Last Post." If you've never seen it, it is an extremely moving experience for townspeople and visitors alike.

(Thanks to Bert Segier and others)



↑ Menin Gate
Names of the Missing ↓



And You Thought Rap Music Was Bad

You stop at a stoplight and the car next to you is playing rap or hip-hop music at a high volume. The bass is turned up to the max, and loose parts on the car are vibrating like crazy. Or, you live near a stoplight and a similar car waits for the light. Meanwhile your pictures bounce on the walls of your house. Sound familiar? How about this... a 66-year old woman from Oudenaarde, East Flanders faces a one-year prison sentence after being accused of tormenting her neighbors by playing music by Flemish singers day and night at top volume.

The woman had become attached to the music genre known as schlager, after the death of her husband. Police confiscated her stereo system on more than one occasion, but she would just go out and purchase another one. The courts will render a decision by the end of November.



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Those “Nasty” Sprouts

“Eat your Brussels sprouts” has been the battle cry of parents everywhere, trying to get their children to eat their vegetables. No one is exactly sure why those mini cabbages get such a bad reputation. After all, they’re sweet and nutty with a subtle flavor not unlike green beans or broccoli. The fork-tender texture is made up of layers that are pleasantly complex on the tongue. Maybe it’s just because kids just don’t like vegetables.

Many sprouts still hang on the stalk in fields across Belgium, waiting for the first frost to be harvested. Periods of frost turn the starches in the plant into sugars, resulting in a less bitter taste. Brussels sprouts are at their best between October and December.

Once boiled or steamed, they are best tossed in a pan and sautéed with butter, salt and pepper, and a pinch of nutmeg. They really don’t need more than that. Try it that way and maybe the kids will learn to like them.



Suez Work Awarded

Two consortiums involving Belgian dredging companies have been awarded contracts to carry out work for the widening of the Suez Canal. Plans involve making the existing canal wider and deeper, as well as constructing a second canal parallel to the original canal.

The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, allowing shipping to avoid circum-navigating the African continent, saving some 3500 miles of travel. More than 17,000 ships pass through the canal, operated by the Egyptian state, every year. Currently, ships heading in one direction must wait for a line of ships to pass through the canal in the opposite direction before proceeding through.

The Belgian firms will construct 35 miles of new canal parallel to the existing canal to allow ships to pass one another. The consortium will also widen and deepen parts of the existing canal, built in 1869. The contract is worth over \$1.6 billion U.S.