



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



January, 2015

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Dave Coopman  
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**Chaplain**  
Rev. Jim DeBisschop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
January 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 12th	Board Meeting	

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The January schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Fri., January 2nd	Closed	
Sat., January 3rd	Celie Donohue (am)	Barb Michalek (pm)
	Grace Fisher (pm)	Alan Hoyt
Wed., January 7th	Alan Hoyt	Gene Donohue
Fri., January 9th	Celie Donohue	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Sat., January 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Bonnie Newman
Wed., January 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bev Fulmer
Fri., January 16th	Georgia Slininger	Jan Irwin
Sat., January 17th	Jan Irwin	Linda Polich
Wed., January 21st	Barb Coppens	Bob Francione
Fri., January 23rd	Bob Francione	Kim Kochuyt
Sat., January 24th	Kim Kochuyt	Bill Wadsworth
Wed., January 28th	Margaret Wadsworth	Gene Donohue
Fri., January 29th	Celie Donohue	Millie Kale
Sat., January 31st	Millie Kale	

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



# 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**

## Christmastime Waffles and Party

December's waffle breakfast and bake sale was a great success. St. Nick even made his annual appearance. The baked goods were plentiful, as was the good cheer. Although your editor wasn't able to make the CBC Christmas party, he was told everyone had an excellent evening.

Raffle winners at the party were: Jim Wells (Belgian beer); Leona Marie (Santa cookie jar with lukken); and Sue Ellen Jornd (St. Nick and \$20 certificate from the Olde Towne Bakery). Thanks go to Millie Kale, Steve Slininger, Karen VandeKerckhove, Catherine VanHecke, and Celie Donohue for serving as the party committee.



Linda Ortiz and Pami Triebel entertained the Xmas Party.



Jim Wells, Marilyn Oliver, and Jim Vyncke



Joan DeCap (left) made Belgian cookies at waffle Saturday.



Kim Kochuyt, Cheryl Westin and Tara DeBlaey are joined by St. Nick (Steve Slininger)

## News of the Membership

*Thank You to:* Everyone who donated or purchased baked goods for our Christmas bake sale; Dick Oberg for the large framed picture of a Note's Band flag holder; and Bob and Betty VandeVoorde for a picture of Catherine Coryn, Celie DeHaene and Bob at the Stephens Park dedication of the Belgian monument.

*Congratulations to* Lena Slinginger, granddaughter of **Georgia Slininger**, who had the lead as "Virginia" in the Playcrafters presentation *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus*; and to Nate Fowler, grandson of **Gene Fowler**, who received a four-year scholarship to Butler University to play basketball. Nate was the top center on his high school basketball team at 6'10" and 250 lbs.

## JANUARY WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for January's waffle breakfast will be Tara and Bob DeBlaey, Angie Jennes, Margaret Wadsworth, Gammon Ethington, Jan Irwin, Teresa Nelson, and Pam Black. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie DePaep will supervise the kitchen, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure all runs smoothly.

## Waffle Chairman says . . .

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered for our waffle breakfasts this past seven months at our new location. Each of you has helped make them very successful. Without your help, we would not be able to have these fundraising breakfasts. Thanks, too, to Joan DeCap for baking and handing out Belgian cookies, and to Steve Slininger, this year's St. Nick, for helping to make the December breakfast a little more special.

I also want to thank Dick Truitt and the Friends Circle for welcoming us to their hall. Visitors to the breakfasts no longer feel they have to "eat and run" to make room for more visitors. The new location has helped us continue our waffle breakfast tradition and the space allows for great fellowship among the patrons!

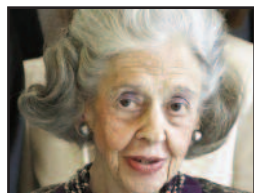
And since I have your attention, I'm asking for volunteers for the coming year of breakfasts. The work isn't that hard, it's fun, and you get a free breakfast. We can't do this without your help. Please call Jan Irwin, (309) 230-1645 or leave a message at the Center if you will help.

All the best in the coming New Year!

Catherine VanHecke

## Queen Fabiola Dies

Queen Fabiola, widow of King Baudouin, died at Stuyvenberg castle in Brussels on December 5th. She was 89 years old. Her funeral was held on December 12th.



Fabiola de Mora y Aragon was born in Madrid in 1928, the daughter of nobility. She married Baudouin in 1960 after he had been on the throne for nine years. The couple was childless, and when Baudouin died in 1993, the throne passed to his younger brother Albert.

Fabiola then moved out of the royal palace in Laken to move nearby Stuyvenberg, where both Baudouin and Albert had been born. She lived quietly, out of the public eye so as not to overshadow the new royal couple. One exception was her annual appearance at the Queen Elizabeth Music Competition, which she continued to patronize.

The former queen's health declined over the last few years, particularly after a respiratory infection in 2009, from which she never fully recovered. She was last seen in public in the summer of 2013 at a remembrance ceremony for her husband.

Her estate will go to the non-profit Hulpfonds van de Koningin (Queen's Aid Fund), which was set up upon her marriage to collect funds to aid the needy and to finance projects that aim to improve opportunities of young people and their families.

## Belgium and Its Fries

There's one thing that unites Belgians, who have long been divided on linguistic lines, and Belgium wants to hold on to it. The country wants to get Belgian potato fries recognized as global cultural heritage and have it put on equal footing with the Peking opera and the Argentinian tango. And it may get unequivocal support.



To become recognized by the United Nations' cultural arm UNESCO, the fries need to be endorsed by a minister of culture, and Belgium has three of them. UNESCO has a list of 314 items of intangible cultural heritage worthy of preservation, ranging from Turkish coffee to the polyphonic singing of the Aka pygmies of the Central African Republic.

Although they're associated by name with its neighbors to the southwest, Belgians claim ownership of the French-fried potato. The starch reached Belgium in the 16th century, but it was not until the 19th century that they were widely sold chipped and fried as a meal in themselves. Trade organization UNAFRI says 95% of Belgians visit a fritkot – a shack or trailer selling fries – at least once a year.

(from Yahoo News Digest)

## Another Reason to be Proud of Belgium

Belgium is the best performing country when it comes to women's rights, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Social Institution and Gender Index looks at 14 indicators in five sectors in 160 countries, including matters such as violence against women, civil rights, and age of consent in marriage.

The OECD stated that Belgium guarantees the rights of women within the family, protects women against violence, offers equal access to resources, and grants women equal civil and political rights.

## A Brief, Uplifting Item

Over 15,000 second-hand bras have been donated in Flanders as part of a Women Support Women campaign. The group's purpose for this program is to provide low-income women with quality lingerie.

(From *Flanders Today*)

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## It Seems We're Not Alone

No doubt you remember the uproar over America's spying on its European friends when Wikileaks published the documents stolen by Edward Snowden. It turns out that the U.S. isn't the only country spying on its allies.

Espionage by the British intelligence service GCHQ into Belgacom's telecommunications network was more extensive than previously thought, according to documents revealed by *De Standaard* and the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*.

In September last year, the German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported, based on documents leaked by Edward Snowden, that GCHQ operatives had hacked the computers of Belgacom employees, gaining access to Belgacom's network, as well as to Belgacom International Carrier Services, the subsidiary that provides phone and internet traffic in Africa and the Middle East.

The new revelations show that the initial hacking – codenamed Operation Socialist – took place before June



2011 and was much more extensive than Belgacom has admitted. Contrary to previous claims, the hacking gave GCHQ access to virtually every mobile number in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It wasn't just private clients of Belgacom who were under surveillance, but also the telephone networks of NATO and the EU in Brussels, as well as international delegations and embassies.

Belgacom declined comment, but the British government said the GCHQ's operations were "essential, legal, and proportional."

Snowden told *De Standaard*, "This is the first time that there has been 'smoking gun' evidence of a cyber-attack carried out by one country against the critical infrastructure of another. This example is breathtaking and shows the scale of state-sponsored hacking."

*(Thanks to Flanders Today)*