



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



April, 2015

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 4th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
April 4th	Spring Bake Sale	7:30 to 11:00 p.m.
April 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 13th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
April 15-16-17	Lace Week Display/Sale	see story

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The April schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., April 1st	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., April 3rd	Closed	
Sat., April 4th	Celie Donohue (am)	
	Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., April 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., April 10th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., April 11th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., April 15th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., April 17th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., April 18th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Wed., April 22nd	Lois DeCoster	Lois DeCoster
Fri., April 24th	Kevin DeRoo	Kevin DeRoo
Sat., April 25th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., April 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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

*A Happy & Blessed
Easter to All*



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

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

LACE WEEK Display & Sale

“Lace Week at the CBC Museum” will be April 15, 17, and 18. Many pieces of bobbin lace from the estate of Emil DuPont will be on display, with some available for sale. The lace dates from pre-World War I era until the 1980s.

On Wednesday April 15th, there will be a preview for members only. Friday and Saturday (the 16th and 17th) will be open to the public. Hours each day will be 1 to 4:00 p.m. The Lace Makers will be at the Center on both Friday and Saturday to demonstrate and answer questions.

News of the Membership

Thank You to: **Art Holevoet** for the donation of six large cookies and six pictures of the bakers and materials used to bake the cookies at the world-famous “Maison Jacobs” (founded in 1860) in Dinant, Belgium. The materials are on display at the Center.

Congratulations to: **Bill Fisher** on his 80 birthday and for the nice write-up in the *Dispatch/Argus*; and to **Tom Weaver** for being awarded Jordan Catholic School’s 2015 Outstanding Alumnus for his contributions to and support of the school; and to Kathleen Repass, daughter of **Al and Judith DePorter**, for being named one of six Athena Award honorees by the Women’s Connection and the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce.

Sympathy is offered to **Bill and Margaret Wadsworth** on the death of Bill’s brother David, 90, of Milan, who died on March 7th.

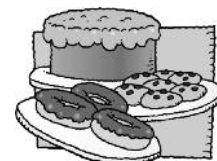
APRIL WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for April’s waffle breakfast will be Tim and Andrea DeWaele, Gary Franque, Bertha Bredar, Joanne Jennings, Teresa Nelson, Pam Black, and Jan Irwin. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie Jennes will supervise the kitchen, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone has an enjoyable time.

Spring Bake Sale - April 4th

The CBC’s Spring Bake Sale will be held Saturday, April 4th, during the waffle breakfast at the Friends Circle. We’re looking for donations of bread, coffee cakes, pies, cakes, and any treats you’d like to contribute.



The Kleine Winkel

Shop the Winkel the month for Belgian chocolate Easter candy and beautiful framed lace. As a special, all pens are on sale for the blowout price of 50 cents/ea.

A Member Update

Maureen Schweitzer, a longtime member and volunteer at the Center, is now living at the Fort Armstrong Senior Residence in Rock Island. Maureen loved her Belgian heritage and volunteering, especially with the lace-makers. She loved to bake and always brought special treats to the CBC that all enjoyed.

Now that she can no longer make it to the Center, she would love to hear from and visit with members. Her address is 1900 - 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Scholarship Applications

Time is running out for submitting CBC and VanTieghem Scholarship award applications. The deadline for the application submittal is April 18th. Forms for both scholarships are at area high schools and colleges, and copies are also available at the Center.

The CBC Scholarship program offers three \$750 stipends for winning high school seniors to apply to his or her college costs. The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship awards \$1200 to a college student who has completed the second year of college and plans to continue with his or her education.

It Was a Very Good Year

After the French, Belgians are the world’s biggest drinkers of Champagne per capita. Belgians guzzled nearly 10 million bottles of the bubbly last year, a 2.3% increase over 2013.

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Pledge cards will soon be arriving for this year's John Deere Classic golf tournament Birdies for Charity Program. The Center again thanks all who have contributed to the CBC through Birdies and hopes you will again honor us with a pledge. The pledge cards will also be available at the Center.

Birdies for Charity pledges are used to fund the Center's Scholarship Program. Each year the CBC awards three \$750 scholarships to area high school students to help them with their college expenses. Birdies for Charity pledges are the main source for these awards.

If you've never pledged before, it's easy. You pledge as little as one cent (or more) for every "birdie" the professional golfers make during tournament week, and put down a total number of birdies. If you guess the correct number of total birdies, you have the chance to win a new car. There are many prize opportunities, and it's a great way to support the CBC. All Birdies for Charity program costs are paid for by the John Deere Classic. It's an easy way to support the tournament and, at the same time, local charitable organizations.

Please consider renewing or making a first-time pledge on behalf of the CBC and its scholars.

Guys - Looking for a Woman?

Recent population statistics show a large gender imbalance in Belgium. Figures released in January of this year show that 11,190,845 people were legally registered as living in the country, but the sexes are not in balance. Presently there are around 200,000 more women in Belgium than men.

The population of Flanders works out at 6.5 million; Wallonia, 3.5 million; and Brussels region, 1.2 million.

The figures also reveal that the average Belgian is 41 years old, but there are great differences between municipalities. The eight cities with the oldest population are all located on the coast. Koksijde has the oldest, with an average population age of 52. However, the oldest Belgian lives in Antwerp and is 116 years old.

Municipalities with the youngest populations are located in central Belgium. Seven of the top ten with youngest populations are in the Brussels area. Sint-Joost has the youngest average population in the land at 33 years of age.

(From *flandersnews.be*)

Bet You Didn't Know This

One of the most widely used and effective military vehicles is – surprisingly – the bicycle. Silent, swift and inconspicuous, bikes were first used in 1875 by the Italian army. Bikes are useful in hit-and-run forays against superior forces, and a cyclist can pedal four times the distance he can walk, with a lot less energy.

Hundreds of thousands of bikes were used in World War I. Belgian bicycle commandos went behind German lines, sabotaging railroads and blowing up tunnels. By World War II, military cycling was routine. Every German infantry regiment had a company of bike troops. The Japanese were masters of bicycle warfare, and bikes were an important factor in their invasion of Malaya in 1941.

But bikes really came into their own in Vietnam. Needing only a path and using no gas, they are ideal for jungle transport. The Vietnamese victory over the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 was made possible by an uninterrupted flow of supplies from the north. That flow was made possible by a complex system of about 180,000 porters, each one riding a bicycle modified to carry 500 lbs. of rice and ammunition.

History repeated itself during the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, as thousands of cyclists pedaled along the Ho Chi Minh Trail to provide supplies to the Vietcong. In the end, not even America's modern weaponry could prevail over the old, reliable bicycle.

(From "Significa" by Irving Wallace)

The Ties that Bind

Belgium and Netherlands have signed agreements on cross-border co-operation on the subjects of airspace, embassies, fire-fighting, and radicalization and terrorism.

Beginning in 2017, the two countries will take turns patrolling the joint airspace of the Benelux, using fighter aircraft to react to threats coming from civilian aircraft. Luxembourg, part of the Benelux, also agreed with this as it has no fighter aircraft. Protection for all three countries from any military aircraft threat is handled by NATO.

The two countries agreed on the sharing of fire-fighting aircraft. Netherlands will provide the aircraft, personnel, and material. Belgium will reimburse only the actual costs of operations.

The two will share the Belgian embassy in Kinshasa, and increase co-operation on energy and taxation issues.

Belgium and Netherlands are already the leaders in the European policy to fight the radicalization of young people, and both pledge to work even closer on furthering policy issues. The Dutch government also commended Belgium for success of the operation to break up a terrorist cell in Verviers in January, in which two suspected terrorists were killed.

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Applications for Belgian Nationality are Down

The number of people applying for Belgian nationality has dropped sharply because of tough, new rules. There were 18,732 applicants in 2013, but only 113 last year. There is still a backlog of some 42,000 to be processed.

Tougher procedures were put into place in 2012 to replace the procedure that granted nationality automatically to anyone who had lived in Belgium for seven years.

Under the new rules, candidates must show that they can speak one of the three languages, are integrated into society, and have worked at least 468 days in Belgium during the previous five years. There are also strict requirements concerning absences from the country, even for short periods of time.

Residents married to Belgian citizens have fewer problems and are processed more quickly.

Critics argue that the rules prevent many people, particularly part-time workers, from applying for nationality.

(From *Flanders Today*)

What Becomes of the Broken Hearted

At the outbreak of World War I, thousands of Belgians began making their way across the English Channel. Among them was Franciscus DeRoover of Aarshot, Flemish Brabant.

Franciscus' wife died shortly before the family fled Belgium. He died in 1915, less than a year after arriving in the seaside town of Rhyl in North Wales, and was buried in an unmarked grave. His descendants believed the sorrow at the death of his wife and loss of his homeland sent him to his grave.

During the four-year duration of the war, nearly a quarter-million Belgians went to the U.K. While some of the locals began to resent their presence, that wasn't the case in Rhyl. Townspeople there turned out in groves to welcome the refugees.

Authorities in Rhyl, including the mayor and town council, recently unveiled a memorial to the Flemish man who died of a broken heart.