

NO WAFFLES on 4th of July



Because of the 4th of July holiday, the Center will be closed on Friday the 3rd and Saturday the 4th. And because of the holiday weekend, volunteers for the July waffle breakfast were in extremely short supply; therefore, we will NOT be serving waffles at the Friends Circle on Saturday, July 4th.

News of the Membership

Thank you to **Ray Coppens** who made and donated a napkin holder for the waffle breakfasts. It has the Flemish lion on both sides and the Belgian flag on its front.

Congratulations to **Sue and Howard Ickes** on celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary.

Get Well wishes are continued for **Celie Donohue**.

Sympathy is extended to: **Joan DeClerck** on the death of her granddaughter, Courtney DeClerck, 29, of Moline, who died May 13th; and the family of **Maurine Schwietzer**, 83 and a longtime volunteer at the CBC, who died May 29th at Heartland Healthcare in Moline.

Learn About Your Family

If you are interested in learning more about your family history, Linda Polich (the Center's volunteer genealogy researcher) invites you to attend "Climb Your Family Tree" – a three-part series of Saturday classes sponsored by the Rock Island County Genealogical Society. The classes will be held on July 25th, August 29th, and September 26th.

Topics covered will include: Vital Records, Immigration, Naturalization, Federal Census, Military Records, Online Genealogy, and Writing/Publishing Your Family History. All classes will be held at the Butterworth Educational Center, 701-12th Avenue, Moline, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. each session. There is no cost to genealogical society members, but for non-members, a \$30.00 fee is charged. A registration form can be printed at:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgsrim/summer_classes.pdf or you can contact Linda Polich at 309-236-1985 or Lorraine Hathaway at 309-787-1826.

What's in a Name

De Lijn is Flanders' public transportation system for local and regional travel. It was looking for a name for its new extra-long – nearly 142 feet – trams, that carry 317 passengers. The trams have already been introduced in Ghent and will soon be launched in Antwerp.

Belgians are creative, and some of the names submitted to the transportation ministry were: Tramaconda, Tramzilla, Titramic, Supertramp, Trambo, and Traaaaaam. Pretty "punny" names, don't you think? But none of them made the final list. That list included names like Anaconda, Limo, and Tramigo. The new tram is officially known as Albatros.



De Lijn's new extra-long tram.

It's Not Just Big Brother

Recently there has been an uproar in the U.S. regarding the Patriot Act and its practice of collecting the records of our telephone calls. Politicians and citizens alike complain that it's an invasion of our privacy. Yet these same politicians and citizens use various forms of social media which do exactly the same thing – collect our information, track it, and even sell it to others. Belgium is doing something about this practice.

The Belgian privacy commission has warned Facebook that it could face legal action unless it changes its policies to protect its members and non-users from whom it collects data. Facebook secretly processes personal data from each Internet user who comes in contact with its products or services, and it does not ask for permission for the tracking and tracing. The commission states, "Facebook is in breach of Belgian and European Union data protection rules."

Now, if our government would only outlaw outbound tele-marketing and robo-calls in total!!

Your Newsletter Editor Says “DUH!”

Belgian tourism officials announced that 3.4 million euros has been appropriated to refit the three-masted sailing ship *Mercator*. It was built in the early 1930s as a training ship for the Belgian merchant marine. She was used to bring the remains of Fr. Damian (now a saint) back to Belgium from Hawaii in 1936. The *Mercator* has been anchored at Ostend since 1964 and is used as a maritime museum.

Now for the “duh” part. Back in 1982, my parents (Bill and Phyllis Coopman), aunt (Bernice Coopman, aka Sister Mary Ruth), and I (your trusty newsletter editor) traveled to Belgium to visit the “homeland” and meet some of the relatives there. While visiting with my grandmother’s nephew Gabriel Verkest and his family, we mentioned that we were going to visit Ostend later that day. Gabriel’s grandson Kurt was present during our visit and asked if he could go with us. Certainly he could.

We wandered the harbor at Ostend and visited the *Mercator*. Did we go aboard? Nope. Did I take a photograph of it? Nope. Did I even know its significance? Nope. But I did get a photo of Kurt on another sailing ship, somewhat smaller than the *Mercator*.

Why do I tell you about my faux pas? Just to let you know that you should take every opportunity of exploring the history and customs of the places you visit. Otherwise, you’ll never learn what you missed. I learned my lesson during the next four trips to Belgium. Someday I’ll tell you how my brother and I were nearly thrown out of a vinkensport competition.



Kurt DeRammelaere at the helm of a two-masted sailing ship.

Volunteers Always Needed

Noted elsewhere, the Center will NOT have waffles on Saturday, July 4th. Because of the holiday falling on our usual first Saturday of the month waffle day, there weren’t enough volunteer workers to appropriately bake and serve the waffles. It was bound to happen and this was the day.

You have read in this newsletter before that any organization is only as good as its member volunteers. And we do greatly appreciate the people who step up to help during both the breakfasts and at the Center open hours. However, we cannot operate without your occasional help. Remember the Croatian Club? Its membership was aging and younger people were not stepping up to take over. We don’t want to see that happen with the Center for Belgian Culture.

Waffle chairperson Catherine VanHecke and those who volunteer to work with her provide a terrific service in putting on our breakfasts. The money the breakfasts generate pays for our rent. Memberships pay for the newsletter and operational costs. Jan Irwin has taken on the task of calling for volunteers. We ask for your help in volunteering for the Center on occasion. It isn’t terribly hard work and can actually be fun.

Please consider volunteering. You can call or text Catherine at (309)235-3765, or Jan Irwin at (309)230-1645 anytime to let them know you are willing to help us.

New Displays at the CBC



Stop by the Center and see two new displays. The Belgian beer coasters have moved “upstairs” and can be found in a large glass container in the kitchen area. You can also see some material on *Tintin*, the first comic ever drawn/written, created by Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi, who wrote under the pen name Hergé.

While at the Center, check out the Belgian waffle cookbook. Besides enjoying the mouthwatering photographs, you might want to copy a recipe or two.



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
of Western Illinois, Inc.
1608 Seventh Street, Moline, IL 61265

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

July, 2015

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____ **Email:** _____

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2015

Would you like to volunteer? If yes, please let us know how below:

Annual Fees Enclosed (check appropriately):

Single/Family (one per household) \$25.00 _____

Senior (70+) Single/Family (one per household) \$15.00 _____



Please note that complimentary memberships are automatically renewed.