



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2016

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Diana Slininger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 3rd	CBC Bake Sale	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 12th	NO Board Meeting	
December 23rd & 24th	CLOSED	
January 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
January 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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>
Fri., Dec. 2nd	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., Dec. 3rd	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., Dec. 7th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Fri., Dec. 9th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Dec. 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 14th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., Dec. 16th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., Dec. 17th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Dec. 21st	Linda Polich	Barb Coppens
Fri., Dec. 23rd	Closed	
Sat., Dec. 24th	Closed	
Wed., Dec. 28th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., Dec. 30th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Dec. 31st	Closed	

Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790  
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**

## Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholar

Recipient of this year's Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholarship is Aaron Deneckere. A graduate of Rock Island High School, he is a senior at Western Illinois University, majoring in Secondary Education-History. Aaron is active in both his community and church and has received many honors for his musical talents. He continues to participate in the QC Music Guild orchestra.



### MY HERITAGE by Aaron Deneckere

As a student in the history field of education, I stress the importance of knowing where a person comes from and how their ancestors have made long-term impacts on that person's life. However, when it comes to my own family's history, there is a blanket of fog covering what knowledge I possess. My grandfather on my father's side died when my father was merely thirteen years old. I am sure he thought he would have all the time in the world to describe our family's story to this son. What I know of my Belgian heritage comes mostly from what my father was told, which does not account for a whole lot of information, as a man does not often sit his young child down to talk in depth about familial origins.

My great grandfather immigrated to America roughly around 1910. One of the first things he accomplished was changing his last name. The name "DeNeckere" no longer capitalized the "n," but instead has been spelled ever since as "Deneckere." His reason for the change was so that it would look more American than Belgian. He eventually formed a contract with a Canadian railroad company and worked in the Midwest region of the U.S., where he settled down to start his family. He and his wife had a son, Jerome.

Grandpa Jerome was born in 1920 and grew up in Rock Island. At Rock Island High School, he played basketball and had a very successful team, even going to a few state championship games at some point. After high school, he went to Iowa State University. He also joined the Navy and fought in World War II. Upon returning home, my grandpa worked as a mechanical engineer for Montgomery Elevator Co., now part of KONE.

Jerome had a daughter with his first wife before divorcing her later. He then found his next love of his life in Dolores, whose first husband died in the war. Together, Grandma and Grandpa Deneckere had two children, Cathy and Steve. One particular memory my dad has of his childhood is when his grandpa would make his infamous Belgian raisin bread. It never had an official written recipe, but he would use a whopping five pounds of flour for the end product.

As I mentioned earlier, Grandpa Jerome died when my father was thirteen, in 1966. To give the family a Belgian experience, my great grandfather took my dad and Cathy to Belgium

three years later, in order to "see the homeland." While my dad does not remember a lot of this trip, he did get to see the Belgian traditions his grandfather had been proud to share with his family. My own Belgian cultural experiences have been limited to the Quad Cities and Door County in Wisconsin, but it is pretty interesting to know that I live in an area with the second largest Belgian population in the United States. In the Door County area, it was fascinating to learn that a terrible fire devastated a heavily Belgian-populated town and that the residents banded together to rebuild everything from the ground up and were strengthened as a community because of it.

It is really unfortunate that my grandfather died before being able to indulge in a lot of his culture with my dad. Even the information my dad has retained comes from when he was a child, where memory would be vague in the first place. Once again, it is important that families share with their younger members the traditions and personal stories of their heritage. Otherwise, this information is lost in history and the newer generations do not get to look back on and appreciate their roots as well as they should be able.

## Our "Big Bird" Thanks You

This year's Birdies for Charity program at the John Deere Classic golf tournament paid out over \$10.5 million to 495 area non-profit groups. The CBC participated again this year, to fund our scholarship program. Pledges received on behalf of the Center totaled \$2054.85, plus a bonus of \$205.49, for a total of \$2260.34. To date, we have raised a total of \$31,923.45 through the Birdies for Charity program. All of the monies go towards scholarships.

Our Big Bird (that's what Birdies for Charity calls the person the fundraising chairperson at each non-profit) Mary Lorensen, sends a heartfelt *Thank You* to everyone who has made a pledge to this great program. We couldn't provide our annual scholarships without your support!

## News of the Membership

*Sympathy* is offered to: Aunt **Catherine VanHecke**, parents **Art and Linda VanHecke**, and their son **Jim VanHecke** on the death of Jim's wife **Kris**, 51, of East Moline, who died suddenly at home on July 31st; and to **Evelyn VanPuyvelde** on the death of her husband **Albert**, 94, of Rock Island, who died November 7th at UnityPoint-Trinity Rock Island.



### The Kleine Winkel

Available for the holiday season, the Winkel has home-made Lukken cookies available, that were baked by Catherine VanHecke and Joan DeCap. The cost is \$8.00/doz. and supplies are limited, so purchase while you can. And, if you missed out on ordering a Belgian waffle/cookie iron, we have one left at \$170.00.


New at the gift counter . . . Dan Naert of East Moline has graciously donated to the Center several items from his personal collection of Belgian memorabilia. Stop by and take a look at the extensive collection of Manneken Pis figurines available for purchase. And thank you to Mr. Naert for his generosity!

### Christmas Bake Sale

Our annual bake sale will be held during the December waffle breakfast on **December 3rd**. You can also purchase chances on our holiday raffle and visit with St. Nicholas.

The Center is still looking for donations of breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and your "special" treats. You can bring them to the CBC on Friday, December 2nd, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. or to the Friends Circle early on Saturday, December 3rd.

### DECEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for December's waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Bonnie and Jason Tanamor, Denise and Ben Martin, Ryan McFate, and Kelsey Oertel. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast



Joan DeCap (left) and Catherine VanHecke arrange freshly baked Belgian cookies at Catherine's baking demonstration at the CBC. Cookies not eaten by attendees are for sale at the Center.

### Nasal Spray and Depression

A subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, based in Beerse, Antwerp province, is working on a nasal spray that eases depression and thoughts of suicide. Preliminary results suggest that the spray works faster than antidepressants.

In studies, patients felt like a "mental fog" in their head cleared up after just a few hours. Other antidepressants only start to have strong effects after four to eight weeks.

The company will test the spray on 1700 patients worldwide, and hope to bring it to market by 2020.

### Shopping Amazon? Remember the CBC

The holidays are approaching fast. Keep the Center for Belgian Culture in mind while shopping for gifts on Amazon. The CBC participates in Amazon Smile. Simply go to smile.amazon.com. If you are already an Amazon user, log on to smile.amazon.com. Insert The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois where asked, and shop normally. If you are new to Amazon, you can create an account on this site, insert our name where asked, and shop to your heart's content. Amazon donates one-half percent of qualifying purchases to the CBC.

Call Diana Slininger if you have questions.

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## **Brussels Beer Challenge**

Belgian beers have won 40 medals at the Brussels Beer Challenge, including the top award, which went to Oude Geuze Cuvée René from Lindemans brewery. The United States, however, took the most medals, with 45.

Last year, American brewers pulled ahead of the Belgians for the first time. Belgian brewers tend to stick to tried and trusted formulas, like the triple, red and brown ales, and abbey beers. U.S. brewers experiment with a wider range of styles and tend to do best in categories where Belgians are not competing. Among America's gold medals were four kinds of IPA, a bitter, a pumpkin ale, a coffee beer, and an American-style pilsner.

Over 1,100 beers were judged, including 250 from Belgium, 240 from the U.S., and 230 from Italy.



## **Center Closed for Christmas & New Year's**

Due to travel, holiday preparations, and to allow our volunteers some time off, the Center will be closed on December 23rd, 24th, and 31st. It will be open again on January 4th. Happy Holidays!