



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



January, 2017

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
January 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
January 9th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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>
Wed., Jan. 4th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., Jan. 6th	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., Jan. 7th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., Jan. 11th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., Jan. 13th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Jan. 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Jan. 18th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., Jan. 20th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., Jan. 21st	tbd	tbd
Wed., Jan. 25th	Dave Coopman	Dave Coopman
Fri., Jan. 27th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Jan. 28th	tbd	tbd

*Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.*

Please Check Ahead

Winter has now definitely arrived, bringing with it the usual snow and ice. When the weather looks "iffy," we suggest you call ahead to the Center to make sure it is open. We certainly don't want our volunteers or visitors to have any trouble reaching us.

OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Christmas Waffle Review

A bit brisk but sunny, and a good crowd joined us at the Friends Circle for waffles, raffles, and our annual bake sale. St. Nicholas greeted patrons, as well as hailed cars driving by on 7th Street. There were many tasty treats offered for the bake sale, but the bread loaves sold quickly. We still have a good supply of Lukken and packaged waffles for sale at the Center.

Thank you to Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel for donating the five poinsettias for door prizes. Winners that I noted were Sandy Coopman, Dan Dauw, and Barb Coppens. Raffle winners were Michael DeBisschop (Santa), Joan DeCap (beer), and Janine Thompson (sleigh). It was busy all morning long with everyone in a festive mood. And thank you to all who brought their special treats for our bake sale. It wouldn't be successful without your help!



Barb Michalek, Sandy Coopman, Denise Martin, and Millie Kale show off goodies for the bake sale.



Bonnie Tanamor and family members baked and served the waffles.



Steve Slininger and Mike Kerckhove



A Special Thank You

With the start of another year, the CBC would like to note some special volunteers who gave so much of their time for the Center during 2016.

It goes without saying that our waffle breakfasts would not be possible without the efforts of chairperson Catherine VanHecke. Catherine buys the supplies, bakes the sausage, gets the kitchen started and makes sure our patrons have a good experience every month. She receives assistance from Mike Kerckhove and Joan DeCap each month as well. Mike mixes the gallons of waffle batter, sets up our advertising banners, and gets the coffee brewing. Joan is our cheerful greeter/cashier, who accounts for the waffle income that pays for the supplies and our rent.

While many of the names change each month, we certainly aren't forgetting the waffle volunteers or those who help gift shop manager Diana Slininger with Center open houses. You see their names in the newsletter each month, and we definitely cannot operate without them. To all of them, on behalf of the Board, THANK YOU!

A Dangerous Fixation

We're all aware of the dangers of talking on our cell phones and/or texting while driving. Flanders has a bigger problem: more cyclists than ever before are using their smartphones while biking, greatly increasing their risk of an accident.



The Flemish Foundation for Traffic Knowledge (VSV) is calling for police to hand out even more fines to cyclists. Nearly 600 people were fined last year for using a phone while cycling. The amount of the fines – nearly \$140 per incident – is increasing, as is the number handed out.

According to Dutch research from 2010, about one-third of all cyclists send messages while biking and about half read messages. Smartphone usage has only increased in the years since.

According to a VSV spokesperson, "Typing a message takes about five seconds, during which people don't have their eyes on the road. Studies show that the risk of an accident then is 23 times higher than normal."

Technology is certainly wonderful, but it must be used carefully and appropriately. And we don't think "driverless bikes" will be in anyone's future.



It's a Cultural Experience

The next time you raise a glass of Belgian beer, you'll be experiencing culture. UNESCO has added Belgian beer to the list of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."

Belgium is known for its wide array of tastes, from extreme sour to bitter, produced in nearly every city and village within its borders. Its beer history stretches back to medieval monks.

Sven Gatz, Cultural Minister for Flanders compared the UNESCO recognition to winning the soccer World Cup.

And it's more than just drinking. Belgian beer is also used for cooking, producing products, and paired with food. It's the spirit of beer that seeps through society, the culture and the skill of beer-making, be it from Flanders, Wallonia, or the German-speaking region in the east.

The next time you sip a Belgian beer, know you are enjoying real culture!

And speaking of Belgian beer, Stella Artois is one of the oldest brands in the world, first appearing in 1336. Today, Stella Artois is the best selling beer imported from Belgium and one of the fastest-growing beers sold in the United States. AB InBev shipped 2.1 million barrels of the brew to U.S. locations last year, well more than double the 2010 shipment volume.

JANUARY WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for January's waffle breakfast will be Bill and Sandy Coopman, Angie Jennes, Joe DeMeyer, Millie Kale, and Debbie Schwiebert. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

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Interesting Moline School Information

While researching some photos of old Moline, I asked school board member Ben McAdams for some help in identifying the location of the First Ward School. We haven't figured that out yet, but Ben came up with some interesting items from board minutes.

In 1876, the high school graduated 6 students. In 1878, 12 girls and 1 boy graduated. Only 11 students graduated in 1884, and they were all girls. In 1900, 54 boys and 122 girls graduated from Moline High.

Interesting salary figures from 1900 included the superintendent's at \$2,000 (equals \$58,200 today by the contemporary standard of living method), and elementary principals' salaries ranged from \$326 to \$1,000 (\$9,487 to \$29,100 in today's terms).

A few other fun facts . . . Moline considered holding night school for students who had to work during the day to help support their families. Teachers who would teach at night were to be paid one dollar for the night. Lincoln School was built in 1890 at a cost of \$27,345. In 1898, \$30,000 worth of bonds were sold for the building of

Willard School. For the 1899 school board election, only two polling locations were used; the hook & ladder room at city hall and Garfield School, "known as part of the City of Stewartville."

If anyone happens to know where the First Ward School was (pictured), please let us know. It will save some research time.

