



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2017

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 6th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
May 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 8th	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 May schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., May 3rd	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., May 5th	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., May 6th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., May 10th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., May 12th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., May 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., May 17th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., May 19th	Bev Fulmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., May 20th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., May 24th	tbd	tbd
Fri., May 26th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., May 27th	tbd	tbd
Wed., May 31st	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

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



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

Let's Learn Something

Last month you read a brief history of the *Gazette Van Moline*. This month, we'll look at musical instrument creator Antoine-Joseph (Adolphe) Sax.

Adolphe was born on November 6, 1814, in Dinant Belgium. His parents were musical instrument designers. Adolphe began making his own instruments at an early age, entering two of his flutes and a clarinet in competition at age 15. He subsequently studied performance on those two instruments, as well as voice, at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels.



Evidently Adolphe Sax was somewhat of a klutz as a child. He fell three stories, hit his head and could barely stand. At the age of three, he drank a bowl of sulfated water and later swallowed a pin. He was burned in a gunfire explosion and fell onto a hot cast iron frying pan, severely burning his side. He survived poisoning and suffocation in his bedroom, where recently varnished items were kept. Lastly, he fell into a river and barely survived.

Following his studies at the Conservatory, Sax began designing instruments. His first important invention was an improvement of the bass clarinet. In 1841, he made improvements to the valved bugle, and his examples became known as saxhorns. They paved the way to the flugelhorn.

Around that same time, Adolphe invented the instrument for which he is best known; the saxophone. He designed a full range of saxophones and they made his reputation.

Rival instrument makers attacked the legitimacy of his patents and mounted long campaigns of litigation, driving Sax and his company into bankruptcy twice.

Adolphe Sax died in complete poverty in Paris in 1894.

News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Mary Lou and Dale Andrae**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 13th, and to **Chet Van De Velde**, who turned 99 years old on April 21st.

Sympathy is offered to the **Bob Hendrickx** family on the death of his wife, **Elaine**, 91, who died April 22nd at the Clarissa Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf.

Can You Host a Belgian Exchange Student?

Rotary International Youth Exchange is one of the largest and most admired high school student exchange programs in the world. The Moline Rotary Club is an active participant in this program, and it is excited to announce that it will be hosting a high school student from Belgium during the 2017-18 school year.

The Youth Exchange program is entirely dependent on volunteer host families. Moline Rotary is seeking three volunteer host families for about four months each, beginning August 2017 through July 2018. Host families must reside in School District #40, as the student will attend Moline High School. Host families with students in the Moline-Coal Valley school system are preferred, but this is not necessary. Host families are responsible for providing a good host home environment, meals at home, and transportation to and from school. Exchange students are taken in as family members during their stay.

It can be a very rewarding experience for both adult host parents and host siblings. For more information, contact Gary Francque at g.francque@mchsi.com or at (309)764-0483.

A Volvo Made in Belgium

The Volvo auto assembly plant will begin construction of a new compact model later this year, with a second model to follow in the years to come. The first new model will be the XC40 SUV.

Volvo Ghent will invest over \$200 million in infrastructure for the new car, which will be offered exclusively for the European and U.S. markets. Further investment in the construction of a second vehicle will follow.

Volvo Ghent currently builds three models and employs 5,400 people at its factory.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

MAY WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for the May waffle breakfast will be Bill and Sandy Coopman, Angie Jennes, Jan Irwin, Teresa Nelson, Karen VandeKerckhove, and Steve Slininger. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

Naming a New Town

Some of us “oldies” might remember when there was talk of consolidating Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline into one “super” city. One of the major hang-ups was what to call the new city. Have you ever wondered how towns in Belgium got their names? Names like Erps-Kwerps, or Houthalen-Helchteren?

Recently, two Limberg municipalities, Opglabbeek and Meeuwen-Gruitrode, decided to merge in an effort to save money. But what should the new municipality be called? Opglabbeek-Meeuwen-Gruitrode is a mouthful, so residents of the two towns were asked for suggestions.

A jury whittled 547 suggestions down to four: Oudsbergen, Donderslag, Oudsberg, and Broekstede. Perhaps some were having a laugh with Donderslag, which means “thunderclap,” but apparently it’s an ancient name with local associations. Voting by residents of each town, 12 years of age and older, takes place until May 9th. We’ll try to give you the results.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

Birdies for Charity

By now, you probably received a letter and pledge card requesting your assistance in this year’s Birdies for Charity program on behalf of the CBC. It works exactly the same as in previous years: you pledge an amount (as little as one cent) for every birdie made by the professional golfers at the John Deere Classic PGA golf tournament.

Monies raised by the Birdies for Charity program are returned to the various not-for-profit groups soliciting the pledges. Money pledged on behalf of the CBC is earmarked for the Center’s scholarship program. It’s an easy way to help us continue to offer the scholarships.

By filling out a pledge card and guessing the correct total number of birdies made tournament week, you may qualify for the two-year use of a new Lexus or many other prizes.

We thank you for your past support, and hope you will again make a pledge to Birdies for Charity. If you didn’t receive a pledge card in the mail, extras are available at the Center.

Find Your Roots

In past issues, this editor has urged members to research their family’s past, interview relatives and take notes on their answers and information, and make copies for their children and even the CBC archives.

I ran across a brief tutorial on how to discover your roots, written by Deanna Bufo Novak, who founded www.myheritagebook.com, a site that creates personalized children’s books based on their heritage. You can start your journey into your past with these simple steps:

- Interview relatives, explore family documents, and write down everything in detail.
- Browse census records for names, ages, relationships, and birthplaces at the National Archives (archives.gov) and the Mormon-sponsored familysearch.org.
- Examine local property records and newspaper clippings. Local libraries and genealogy groups can help.
- Stay on track and organize information with family group sheets and research logs. There are free templates at ancestry.com.
- If you get stuck, consider hiring an expert. The Association of Professional Genealogists (apgen.org) lists members by state and specialty.

Regardless of how involved you become with a project like this, the results can truly be rewarding. Who knows what famous individuals or skeletons in a closet you might find. And for further information on genealogy, you can contact Linda Polich at fredlinda1985@gmail.com.

Match Made in Heaven

Think of a cheese platter, and you automatically pair it in your head with a glass of wine. That may be the traditional pairing, thanks to the influence of French cuisine and table habits, but you’d be better off with a glass of beer. Why? Carbonation.

Cheese is made from fat, and fat leaves a deposit on the inside of the mouth, particularly on the taste-buds. The film forms a barrier between the taste-buds and what one is eating and drinking.

Just as carbonated water seems to quench thirst better than plain water, beer has bubbles and does a better job of clearing the fatty film from the tongue between each bite of cheese.



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Great Video and Subject Matter

Many of us are aware of how Herbert Hoover began a program to feed starving Belgians during World War I. But not many of us know of the problems he ran into in trying to establish this plan. Those of you who surf the Internet can now find out.



As part of the project National History Day: Taking a Stand, Caroline Van Bell, an eighth grader from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, did some extensive research into the subject, including the interviewing of a Harvard professor who is an expert on the subject. She then produced a ten-minute video on her research titled *Feeding a Nation: Herbert Hoover the Humanitarian*, and posted it to YouTube.

The video includes a wonderful narrative with many great images of Hoover, the people involved, how the humanitarian project started, and a great film clip of actual Belgians being fed through the program. You will be

very impressed and will probably want to view it several times.

Caroline's project won the NHD regional documentary event in Milwaukee and was first runner-up at the Wisconsin State History Day Competition. Caroline was also awarded the State Archival Award for her film-making efforts.

Although Caroline will not be in the national competition in Washington, D.C., her classmates voted her the honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a class trip to Washington.

As proud grandparents Dick and Diane Van Bell, noted, "We hope the members of the Center have an opportunity to see her work and recognize her commitment to enhancing our Belgian history and culture."

You can view the video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1N8pigD23I>