



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



April, 2018

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Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
April 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
April 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 April schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., April 4th	Angie Jennes	Angie Jennes
Sat., April 7th	Barb Michalek (am)	Millie Kale (pm)
Wed., April 11th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., April 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., April 18th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., April 21st	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Wed., April 25th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., April 28th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

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

CAN YOU HELP THE CBC?

The annual election of officers is coming up in May. We invite anyone with an interest in serving on the board to contact us. We are especially in need of someone with some accounting background to serve as treasurer. If you are so inclined, please let us know! Your current officers and board members truly need some additional help, and what better way of making sure the CBC can continue than to join in and help plan for its future.



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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

News of the Membership

Sympathy is offered to: the family of **JoAnn DeTaeye Greko**, 87, of Moline, who died February 21st at Hope Creek Care Center, East Moline; and to the family of **Walter VanDamme**, 81, of Colona, Illinois, who died February 1st in McAllen, Texas.

Continued Special Thanks

We continue to salute members who have stepped up to sponsor a breakfast or the newsletter. Previous contributors have been: **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney** (3 waffle breakfasts); **Chris Van Lancker** (donates her time in the layout of the monthly newsletter); **Dr. Volkan and Merry Sumer** of Tremont, Illinois (1 breakfast); **Rafferty Funeral Home** (1 breakfast); **Kevin and Colleen Rafferty** (1 breakfast); **Patrick and Barb Van Nevel** (1 breakfast and 1 newsletter); **Debbie and Mark Schwiebert** (1 breakfast), **Kevin DeRoo** (1 breakfast), **Lizette L. Desseyn** (2 newsletters) and **Shawn Van Driessche** (1 breakfast).

We have also received from **Pat Blondell**, the **Kevin DeRoo Family**, **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney**, **Phyllis Maxfield**, **Walter and Linda VanDamme**, **Lavone Slead**, **Donna Cavins**, **Barbara Michalek**, and **Alice Van Quekelberghe** additional donations.

**APRIL
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**



Volunteers for April's waffle breakfast will be Gary Francque, Joe DeMeyer, Jane Vershaw, and Yvette Van Driessche. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone's good time.

Unhappy Belgians?

Results of a National Happiness Survey show that Belgian seniors are happier than the people of Generation X (between 35 and 49 years old). Research undertaken by Ghent University shows that over one in three Belgians feels happy. Half of all Belgians are satisfied with their life.

This being said, a quarter of Belgians are unhappy, a share that is below the EU average! There are a few regional differences, but Brussels people are the unhappiest.

Age does make a difference: baby boomers are the happiest Belgians thanks to their savings and the quality of life this gives them. Generation Xers are less happy. They are busy with their career and their family is a burden on their purse. Leisure time is scarce.

(From flandersnews.be)

At the Kleine Winkel

Spring is here and with it, two unique items from the Winkel. The first is the Center for Belgian Culture polo shirt. They sell for \$30/each and you'll want to hurry as quantities and sizes are limited. The second item, and what better way to decorate your garden, is the Belgian garden pennant at \$20. Stop by and check out these and our other items for sale.



The Roots of Our Roots

From approximately 57 BC to 431 AD, Rome ruled over Gaul, an area that is now France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. The land was then inhabited by independent tribes of Celtic origin. Julius Caesar’s account of his efforts to subdue the area gives us the first written record of what came to be called Belgium.

The Romans looked on Belgium as a defensive barrier to the Franks, Germanic tribes that eventually settled in what is now Flanders. Language patterns followed the settlement patterns. Germanic speech evolved into Dutch in the north, and the Latin of Rome developed into French in the south. These language patterns, which were established by the third century AD, have altered only slightly up to the present day.

With the collapse of the Roman Empire in the fifth century, the Franks held sway for more than 550 years. With the death of Charlemagne in 814, the country was divided into France, the Holy Roman Empire (Germany), and the “Middle Kingdom,” a buffer state comprised of the Lowlands and Belgium. Feudal states developed, and in the later Middle Ages, the dukes of Burgundy ruled the Low Countries.

In 1516, Belgium became a possession of Spain and remained so until 1713, when the country was given to Austria as settlement in the War of the Spanish Succession. Belgium was annexed by France in 1795, and placed under the rule of The Netherlands after Napoleon’s defeat in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. In 1830, Belgium declared its independence, adopted a constitution, and chose its first king, Leopold I. He was succeeded in 1865 by his son, Leopold II.

(Prepared and written by Jane Stewart Cook)

Cooling Hot Water

Belgium has launched the Maritime Security Cell to constantly monitor cargo, dredging, or any other Belgian ships that travel through waters considered dangerous, mainly those known for terrorist activity and piracy. These currently include areas off the coasts of Yemen and Syria, as well as the Gulf of Guinea.

This Security Cell is in addition to a law passed in 2010 that allows frigate crews monitoring waters off the coast of Somalia to arrest pirates.

(From flandersnews.be)

Those Sporty Belgians

While doing some research, I found an article in the January 1, 1923, issue of the Moline *Dispatch* that I thought would be of interest to you. The words are those of *Dispatch* reporter G.A. DeKeyser.

“During the year just drawing to a close Belgians of the quad-cities and vicinity indulged more freely in their various national sports and games, rolle-bolle, pigeon flights, cards, and billiards, than they ever have before. A record number of rolle-bolle tournaments were staged in East Moline, Moline, Rock Island, and other Belgian colonies of this vicinity, and all drew a record number of participants.

A decided departure from the old rolle-bolle policy has been clearly evident during the past few years, as fans now play their favorite game indoors. Heating systems have now made it possible to convert this outside summer game into an indoor winter sport. Nearly all Belgian colonies of the United States have one or more inside rolle-bolle tracks.

The oldest and leading rolle-bolle club of the quad-cities is the East Moline Bolders’ Club, with headquarters at 1140 - 15th Avenue. During this past year, a new club was organized in Moline at Pete Bruyntjens restaurant, 206 - 3rd Avenue. The infant society asserted itself by staging many important tournaments, which drew large participation.

Early last spring, the Tri-City Pigeon Club and the East Moline Union Pigeon Club were organized, bringing the total to five, named and located as follows: Moline Pigeon Club, 1712 - 7th Street; Tri-City Pigeon Club, 106 - 5th Avenue, Moline; East Moline Union Pigeon Club, 1231 - 13th Avenue; and the Rock Island Homing Pigeon Club, 700 - 7th Avenue.

The aggregate number of pigeon fanciers in the quad-cities clubs is nearly 300, and the total population of their lofts amounts to nearly 15,000 birds.

The past season was disastrous for quad-city fanciers who lost several hundred birds on account of bad weather and various other causes.”



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History of Note's Band

Saint Cecelia is the patron saint of music and is honored during the week we here in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving. Back in Belgium, St. Cecelia's Day, celebrated on November 22nd, was always a big day with music and feasting. But more about that shortly.

Recent arrivals to Moline in the summer of 1907 were Honore Note and his friend Nazaire DeLanghe. Both, who had been members of an army band in Belgium, joined the Belgian-American Club and found other ex-Belgian army musicians or men who had played in Belgian community bands. They suggested a band be organized among Moline men of Belgian descent.

To support the band financially, the leaders established an honorary membership. The honorary members paid \$3.00/year, and the money was used to purchase uniforms, music, pay rent, and to buy an occasional case of beer.

Joseph Van Lancker, one of the original honorary members, recalled the first public appearance of the band: "Sacred Heart parish planned a three-day festival. The uniforms ordered from VanderVennet's store arrived

in time for the festival. The band members went to the store, donned their uniforms, and marched to the Turner hall where the festival was being held. Many people had turned out for the event and the band played all the way over to it."

Members called the band Note's Band in honor of its principle organizer. Honore Note, a tailor by trade, received considerable distinction as a musician and as a director. Even after Note retired and left Moline, the band retained the name.

(to be continued next month)

