



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



July, 2018

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Rolle Bolle
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Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., July 4th	Closed	Closed
Sat., July 7th	tbd (a.m.)	Marlene Shattuck (p.m.)
Wed., July 11th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., July 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., July 18th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., July 21st	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., July 25th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., July 28th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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



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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

**JULY
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers assisting with July's waffle breakfast will be Steve Slininger, Kim Kochuyt, Millie Kale, Colleen Reese, Annie VanDamme, Angie Jennes, and Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone's good time.



A Special Visit

As special treat for visitors to the Center is coming on the first Saturday of August! The Doris Southard Lace Guild will be having their bi-monthly meeting at the CBC on August 4th. The Lace Guild began in 1991 and is comprised of members from Eastern Iowa. The guild is dedicated to spreading the knowledge of bobbin lace making and its history, to anyone who would like to learn. Please stop by the Center and visit these lace makers from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on August 4th. They will be happy to discuss and demonstrate the various techniques of bobbin lace making.

News of the Membership

Thank You to **Chris Van Lancker** for contributing her time again for layout of our newsletter.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Barb Michalek** for a speedy recovery from a broken shoulder.

Congratulations to Jack Vercautren, grandson of **Bob and Theresa Bailey**, for being named Naperville (IL) Neuqua High School Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year.

Reader Follow-up

In last month's newsletter, we noted that a UNESCO committee advised the rejection of Belgium's application to recognize First World War sites as World Heritage. In an emailed note back to us, reader Siegfried Coopman of Belgium noted: "One thing about the WWI war cemeteries is certain; those men gave their lives to free our countries and must always be remembered for it. If we lost that war, probably we (would) now speak German instead of Flemish. Now there is more attention to those cemeteries because of the 100 years remembrance."

"Yvette's (Siegfried's wife) great-uncle died in that war at an age of 24. In 2005 we wrote a letter to the Belgian Army museum in Brussels, and we received his 'military dossier' with a picture of him included. An undertaker made a porcelain portrait and we placed it on a stone in front of his gravestone. Now he has a face for the cemetery visitors."

As noted in the June newsletter, a decision will be made by UNESCO at the annual World Heritage Committee session June 24th-July 4th in Bahrain.

Birdies for Charity

There is still time to return your pledge form or make a pledge to Birdies for Charity on behalf of the CBC. Forms are available at the Center.

The money raised from Birdies goes only towards the CBC's Scholarship Program, which awards stipends of \$1000 each to two high school graduates for use towards college expenses. You can pledge as little as one cent per birdie, made by the pro golfers during the John Deere Classic golf tournament, and you might even win one of the programs big prizes.

Nothing is Forever

Come September, there will be a big change at the CBC. Catherine VanHecke will be retiring as waffle chairperson. Catherine has given countless hours over the last nearly 10 years making sure that all is ready for waffle Saturday.



The chairperson's job is a big one, and your board is looking for someone to take over. If you are interested and can help with the Center's main fundraising activity, please contact Catherine at (309) 235-3765. She can explain everything and help with "training."

Belgium & United Nations

Belgium will sit at the top table of world diplomacy during 2019 and 2020 after it was voted onto the UN Security Council recently. It will sit as a non-permanent member for the two year period. Of the 188 UN member nations that voted, 181 voted for Belgium's candidature, many more than the 2/3s majority that was needed.

(From *Flanders Today*)

What One Finds

While doing some research for future newsletter articles, I continually found references to Weckel's Grove. Being ever inquisitive, your editor delved into what/where was Weckel's Grove, and what it had to do with the CBC. I found my answer in one of Fred Klann's columns in the *Moline Dispatch*.

Louis Weckel owned land on both sides of 7th Street, south of 30th Avenue, to near old Black Hawk Road. His land purchases began in 1852 and he would eventually accumulate 225 acres in that area. At one time, his son and grandson operated Weckel Hatchry at 3217 – 7th Street. On the north edge of the Weckel property, on the east side of 7th Street, there was a timber patch. For many years, that patch was called Weckel's Grove, and it was the scene of many picnics that folks, especially those of Belgian descent, will remember with pleasure.

Why you might ask would those of Belgian descent remember? The grove was the site of many festivities held by Sacred Heart Church, the Foresters, and the Belgian-American associations. Those picnics would draw anywhere from 3000-7000 people. Notes Band, rolle bolle and archery contests, and boxing matches were all part of the celebrations. The picnics not only drew crowds from Olde Towne and Sacred Heart parish, but from Rock Island, East Moline, and the outlying towns, especially for the rolle bolle matches. Good money, for the times, was always to be won at rolle bolle.

Newspaper articles of the day noted many Belgian names as planners, participants, and winners of the picnics and the contests. That got me to wondering . . . where some of these descendants are today. Why aren't they members of the Center? Why aren't they interested in their history? I have no answers, but realize that time has passed, families spread out, and other responsibilities and time take over. Such is life. And such a shame.

Positive Investment

Figures released by the Flanders Investment and Trade Agency reveal that overseas companies created 5,377 new jobs in Flanders last year – the highest number in 15 years. U.S. companies, together with those from the Netherlands, Germany, and France, were responsible for most of the new investment and related jobs. Manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and sales and marketing represented the most foreign investment projects.

(From *Flanders Today*)

Help Clearing the Ocean

Ships crewed by staff to maintain offshore wind turbines in the North Sea will begin to help clear waste. The ships will be equipped with huge rubbish bags they can use to pick up trash they come across in their work. Fishing boats have already been recruited by the Fishing for Litter project. Those boats have been equipped with the bags for nearly a year. When full, they are brought to port, where the trash is handled by the marine environmental department.

The rubbish caught in fishing nets was often just thrown back into the sea for practical reasons; the cost of bringing it in was too high. The bags now allow the rubbish to be collected and brought to port to be deposited. There is no cost to the fishermen. The wind turbine maintenance ships can now easily do the same thing, helping to clean up the North Sea and keep it that way.

We Should Do This

Belgian lawmakers recently passed legislation that may cost them dearly. Members who fail to turn up to 80% of their committee meetings will forfeit 10% of their salary. Lawmakers who don't turn up to at least half of all committee meetings lose 60% of their wages.

Belgium has been plagued by a series of scandals that revealed how lawmakers had been lining their pockets – receiving pay, but not doing their work. The law to sanction absenteeism among the lawmakers passed unanimously, and it becomes operational after the 2019 general election.

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July 2018

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2018

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.