



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



June, 2022

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Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 4th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
June 8th	Board Meeting	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
	<i>(Note - new day and time)</i>	
June 11th	Learn the <i>Gazette</i> session	10:00 a.m. (cdt)
	<i>(see article)</i>	
June 11th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 15th	Scholarship Reception	6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
	<i>(see article)</i>	

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

Bet You Didn't Know

It seems like several times per year, I make this plea... we need volunteers. One thing that draws a community like the CBC together is the tradition and the spirit of volunteerism. The Center has always been operated and guided 100% by volunteers. People volunteer because they are part of a community, because they want the CBC to be successful, and because they want it to continue to support the Belgian heritage that is so rich in this area.

"Continue" is the key word here. We cannot continue without volunteers. And volunteerism seems to be a dying practice. Let's revive it.

We are totally appreciative of those people who fill board positions, who bake, serve, and clean up at waffle breakfasts, who work the gift shop, and help at the Belgian Fest in so many ways. But as current volunteers age, move away, or can no longer help in the manner they used to, we need others to step up.

In August, we will need a waffle chairperson. If you've never done it before, you won't be left alone - we'll provide plenty of help. We also need an archivist and a marketing person. And don't forget, helpers at waffle breakfasts, too.

A very special "Thank You" goes out to those who continue their service by volunteering at the CBC. But how about others? Can you and will you help? If interested, please call the Center and leave your name and contact information, or contact president Bill Cornelis and let him know. You will feel good about it and the CBC will appreciate your help.

OPEN Wednesday and Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Saturday of the month.

Learn the *Gazette* Reminder

On Saturday, June 11th at 10:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time), Mary Gardner-Karcher of the CBC, in conjunction with the Family History Center, is presenting a Zoom session on the *Gazette Van Moline* online access, and search tips for finding friends, family, and events affecting the Flemish-American community between 1915-1940. Mary will also give a brief update about our website and Center holdings.

Our local friends will be attending in person, and as we are setting up a Zoom for this, we would like to ensure our Belgian friends, family, and research colleagues can attend as well. Please let Mary know which email addresses you would like us to include in the invitation that we'll be sending in late May/early June. Mary's email is gardnerkarcher@gmail.com or her phone is (563) 447-0160.

If you would like to check out the *Gazette* in advance, here is the website URL for you:

<https://belgianmuseumquadcities.org/translations>.

Consider a Donation to Birdies

As many of you are aware, the CBC awards three scholarships each year to deserving graduating high school students who can use the money to help offset first year college costs. We raise the money through the local PGA golf tournament, the John Deere Classic. All money raised through this program goes only to our scholarship program. Please consider donating. Here is a direct link to the Birdies pledge with the CBC name and number already filled out:

<https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate?charity=925>

Kickserve Serves

If you didn't make it to one of our waffle breakfasts, but still want to satisfy that need, Tom Slininger has an answer. Following every waffle breakfast, he will sell packages of frozen waffles at the KickServe Coffee drive-thru on Moline's 7th Street and 19th Avenue, until they are gone. Each package contains four squares and sells for \$5.00/package. Complete reheating instructions are on the package. This is a limited time offer after each waffle breakfast.

Bolders' Anniversary

The United Bolders Club of Western Illinois is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this summer, and is ready to commemorate their rich tradition with a week-long celebration. It all starts with a banquet on July 9th at the Best Western Annawan Inn with social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Thom Cornelis will MC the event. Tickets are \$20/person until June 25th, the \$25 after. Anyone wishing dinner tickets or more information should contact Gary Krumdieck at (309) 781-2438 or bluzhnd@gmail.com.

The anniversary week celebration ends with the World Rolle Bolle Tournament on July 17th. The group's goal is to make this celebration bigger and better than any other past event. Here's the schedule: 7/10, Noon, Atkinson hosts at Atkinson courts; 7/11, 7:00 p.m., Hand-in-Hand hosts at Hampton Empire Park; 7/12, 7:00 p.m., Kewanee hosts at Flemish American Club, 7/13, 11:00 a.m., East End Club hosts at their Moline club; 7/14, 10:00 a.m., Friends Circle hosts at Stephens Park; 7/14, 5:30 p.m., Hand-in-Hand hosts at Hampton Empire Park; 7/15, Noon, Manlius Club hosts at Manlius; 7/15, 7:00 p.m., Geneseo Club hosts at Geneseo Moose Club; 7/16, 11:00 a.m. Geneseo hosts at Geneseo Moose Club; 7/16, 7:00 p.m., Atkinson hosts at Atkinson courts; and 7/17, 11:00 a.m., Annawan hosts at Howes Park in Annawan.

Celebration of Culture

Like everything else, the Center's costs have increased. Our rent drastically increased when we had to move from our 18th Avenue location. In the last year, our utilities have seen a large jump in cost, even though we are only open one-third of each month. We've increased the price of our waffle breakfasts to cover the higher cost of ingredients. Now, we must increase the cost of our membership fee.

Membership renewals begin in August. To help with the transition, renewals and new memberships will be good from August 2022 through December 2023. We will then renew every January. The new fee is \$35.00/family. Your membership includes the monthly newsletter, one query and three hours of research from our genealogist, and one translation.

This is a small price to pay for preserving and learning about the area's Belgian Heritage. We sincerely hope you will continue to support the Center for Belgian Culture!

The Dog Ate Your . . . What?

An eight-month old golden retriever puppy mistook an envelope full of cash for a chew toy and ripped up nearly 2000 Euros in banknotes. Sally, who had been attending doggy school to try to curb her tendency to chew anything, had been left alone for two hours while her owner worked in the garage. When the owner returned, he was shocked to see shredded bank notes scattered over the kitchen floor. Just over half of the banknotes were damaged.



Sally's owner took the damaged money to his local bank, but only the National Bank of Belgium could handle this situation, and it would take up to 10 days. In the end, the total money was recovered. And Sally? Probably off to more doggy obedience school.

(Thanks to Nick Amies)

Ukrainian Minors Placed

Borys and Pavlo are among 116 Ukrainian children who have been placed with Flemish foster parents since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



The two teens are friends. From Kyiv, they travelled to Belgium as unaccompanied minors without their parents. Upon their arrival in Belgium, the two were stranded at Brussels South Rail Station where they had to spend the night.

The station is a major transport hub where international trains arrive. Unlike in several other countries, Red Cross officials are not ready to support Ukrainian refugees around the clock, and the two friends spent their first night in Belgium sleeping on station benches.

The story has a happy ending: Borys and Pavlo have now been placed with Flemish foster parents. Of course, their story is not really at an end yet. They don't know how long they will be staying, but they are receiving proper care.

(Thanks to Colin Clapson)

Those Crazy Belgians

U.S. Army jeeps that were put out of action during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes forest were left on the battlefield to later be recovered by locals. The jeeps were given new lives in farming, forestry, and . . . racing.

Jumping and bucking across dips and moguls, Jeep Cross Country Rough Rider racing offered thrills and spills; much like truck-jumping does today. Except that racing in old WWII jeeps back in the early 1950s offered very little in protection for the drivers.



Europe's Largest Export Port

A merger complete, the ports of cities of Antwerp and Bruges now operate under one name: Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

With overall throughput of 289 million tons per year, Port of Antwerp-Bruges is an important hub in worldwide trade. Its central location, extensive connections with global markets and a large part of Europe, and an extensive infrastructure make the port, with its two locations, a very attractive partner. It is the largest export port and accommodates the largest chemical cluster in Europe. In addition, it is the largest port for transshipment of vehicles worldwide, and is the 12th largest container port in the world.

The port cities complement one another. Antwerp has strengths in handling and storage of containers, breakbulk, and chemical products while Zeebrugge is a major port for roll-on/roll-off (wheeled cargo) traffic, container handling, and the transshipment of liquid natural gas.

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North Sea Rubbish

Many of you are familiar with the Living Lands and Waters project here in the Midwest. It's a project that cleans up rivers and their watersheds. The North Sea has a similar project called Fishing for Litter and involves Flemish fishermen collecting all the litter that ends up in their nets. The rubbish is then weighed and registered in the harbor before it is disposed of.

Last year, Flemish fishermen retrieved a record 65 tons of waste from the North Sea. This is more than three times the rubbish caught at sea in 2020. It illustrated that Belgian fishermen are committed to keeping the North Sea clean.

The Fishing for Litter project was launched in Belgium six years ago. Belgian fishermen that take part in the program can leave the waste they catch at other participating ports in other European countries.



Happy Father's Day

JUNE 19TH

