



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2012

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 4th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
August 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 13th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
September 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
September 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 10th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The August schedule is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Wed., August 1st	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., August 4th	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)
Wed., August 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., August 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., August 15th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., August 18th	Lois DeCoster	Fred DeCoster
Wed., August 22nd	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., August 25th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., August 29th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

Contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 508-0886 or
mcgkarcher@mchsi.com as soon as possible
if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

TAKING A BREAK

The village of Steenkerke in West Flanders has suspended all building works for the duration of the London Olympics. A glass-fiber cable linking London to the rest of Europe lies under the village and is crucial to providing television transmissions of the games to Europe's viewers. On the off chance that construction crews might accidentally damage the cable, Steenkerke's mayor agreed to hold up construction projects until after the Olympic games.

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

Scholarship Dinner

A full house was on hand June 27th for the Center’s annual scholarship dinner. The three CBC Scholars were: Kayla Vincent, United Township High School; Margaret Wendell, Alleman High School; and Emily Becker, Alleman High School. The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship was awarded to Jessica Middendorf from East Dubuque, Illinois, a student at St. Ambrose University.

President Kevin DeRoo welcomed everyone and Fr. Jim DeBisschop gave the blessing. There was a \$5.00 “grab bag” after dinner, and Catherine VanHecke was the winner of a \$20.00 gift certificate from the Olde Towne Bakery.

Thank you to all who worked to make this dinner a fun success with desserts and donated items for the grab bags. Special thanks go to: Larry and Mary Lorensen for all the work they do with Birdies for Charity to make the scholarships happen; to Steve Slininger, Scholarship Committee Chairman, and his group of judges; and to the Olde Towne Bakery for the gift certificate award.

It’s Everywhere

We read and hear complaints about union and non-union labor and substandard wages whenever a large construction project begins around the Quad Cities. And this issue is heard everywhere, including Belgium.

Up to 75% of Flemish companies in the construction sector have lost contracts to foreign competitors, mainly from Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania, according to a survey by the construction industry association Bouwunie.

The main reason given is the difference in salary costs. A local worker costs an average of around \$36.75/hour, while foreign workers, employed by contractors as independent workers, can be paid as little as \$6.12/hour. The foreign contractors pay less in social charges in their homeland than Flemish companies do, and they are not bound by the 40-hour work week. About 75,000 foreign workers are estimated to be at work on building sites in Flanders at present, with the numbers constantly rising.

Industry association Bouwunie is calling on the Belgian government to take steps to simplify the administration regulations. It hopes that on the European level, a single level of protection can be introduced for everyone working in the construction industry.

Sounds familiar, doesn’t it? (Thanks to *Flanders Today*)



(l-r) CBC Scholars Kayla Vincent, Margaret Wendell, Emily Baker, and VanTieghem Scholar Jessica Middendorf.

Belgium @ the Olympics

Belgium will be well represented during the London Olympics. When the 115-strong Belgian squad marches out in Olympic Stadium, the two most recognizable figures will be Kim Clijsters (tennis) and Tia Hellebaut (high jump). Hellebaut will also carry the Belgian flag during the opening ceremonies.

Other Belgium athletes will compete in track and field (dashes, relays, hurdles, decathlon, triathlon, and 5000m), badminton, gymnastics, cycling, mountain biking, judo, swimming (freestyle and relays), sailing, windsurfing, kayak, equestrian, and an unexpected double – men’s and women’s field hockey.

It will be fun to root for both the US and the Belgian teams.

Who Would have Thought

A Flemish company has won a contract to sell \$24 to \$49 million worth of high-tech products a year to China – up to 200 million bumblebees.

Biobest, based in Westerlo, Antwerp province, is a world leader in sustainable crop management, and will supply the Chinese with bumblebees to be used for pollination of commercial crops. The company is convinced of the huge market potential for the bees in China, thanks to an increasing awareness by Chinese consumers about food safety and the efforts of the Chinese government in promoting agriculture and protected horticulture.

The bumblebee is an extremely important pollinator of agricultural crops, and colonies of the bee are often placed in tomato greenhouses. The bumblebee can increase tomato yields by as much as 30%

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

Scholarship Essay

(The Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholarship awards \$1000 to a student who has completed two years of college and is continuing his/her education. This year's Van Tieghem Scholar is Jessica Middendorf of East Dubuque, Illinois. Jessica graduated from Galena High School, where she was ranked third in her class, and is majoring in mathematics at St. Ambrose University. Her university grade average is 3.82 on a 4.0 scale. At Ambrose, she was chosen as both an Education Department and Math Department Ambassador. In these positions, she represents each of the departments in working on future initiatives to improve department curriculum. Jessica has also been on the Dean's List for two years.)

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

by Jessica Middendorf



Growing up on a farm and in a big family, my parents have always told me that someday I will realize how important it is that I know how to work hard; they have always taught me about how important it is to have to work for what you want in life. Nowadays, I have come to realize that they were correct about everything.

These past few years, farm prices have been absolutely dreadful, and the sad thing is that the prices continue to decline. With having four other sisters, two of whom are currently enrolled in college, it is pretty hard for my parents to make ends meet with these horrid economic times, mostly affecting farm families like mine. It would be pretty impossible for my parents to put five kids through grade school, high school, and college.

My parents' philosophy has always been that they pay for our grade and high school education, and we pay for the rest. Of course, my parents are not going to hang me completely out to dry; they intend to help me out if I need it

badly enough. Whatever money I borrow from them I will, of course, have to repay them whenever I am able.

Having this scholarship will be a great help with chipping away at paying for my college education. As tuition continually rises, it is getting to the point where I am struggling very much with paying for each semester. I currently work through the work-study office at St. Ambrose, and through the summer, I will work for my dad on the farm, do housekeeping at Country Inn & Suites, and cut grass. College is not cheap and I know that I have to work a lot and very hard to pay for my education.

My heritage is extremely important to me because my parents passed down hard-working traits to me, and I have used these traits to work towards what I want in life. Even though tuition continues to rise, it won't stop me from furthering my education to achieve the goals I want to reach.

My entire life I have dreamt about becoming a teacher. It wasn't until my senior year in high school that I wanted to become a math teacher at the high school level. I have a sister who is currently in Advanced Algebra and every night she calls for me to help her with homework. Apparently she says that I teach algebra in a much simpler manner than does her teacher, and she understands it better. I believe that teachers are held responsible for teaching the next generation of leaders. I want to have the responsibility of not only teaching my students math, but also get them ready for the rest of their lives.

Just being able to do something I love to do and being able to work with students while getting paid sounds like a great career for me to pursue. Teaching has always been something I've wanted to pursue, and having this scholarship will be very helpful in accomplishing my lifelong dream.

August Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the August 4th waffle breakfast will be Barb and Ray Coppens, Steve and Diane Slininger, and Bonnie and Jason Tanamor. Mike Kerckhove will prepare the batter and brew the coffee, Joan DeCap and Marian Knock will take your money, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone has a good time.

News of the Membership

Sympathy is offered to the family of James DeDecker, 86, of Silvis (formerly of Moline), who passed away June 20th at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island.

It's time to **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** to the CBC. You'll find the handy **renewal form on Page 4** of this newsletter. For any group to remain viable, it needs members.

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August, 2012

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2012

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.