



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2012

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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pvannevel@msn.com

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bergie1985@frontiernet.net

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Millie Kale

### Rolle Bolle Rep.

Bill Fisher - 764-8068

### Marketing

Bonnie Tanamor

### Newsletter Editor

Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

### Chaplain

Rev. Jim DeBisschop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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.
October 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 8th	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 September schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., Sept. 1st	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.) Maurine Schweitzer (p.m.)
Wed., Sept. 5th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Sat., Sept. 8th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Sept. 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van DeVeire
Sat., Sept. 15th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Sept. 19th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Sept. 22nd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Sept. 26th	Georgia Slininger	Louis Slininger
Sat., Sept. 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.

## Volunteers Needed

Once again, we make the appeal for some help. Can you occasionally give a few hours volunteering as an Open House host or help with the Gift Shop counter? It seems like the same people fill the volunteer schedule month after month, and the CBC needs some additional people to help, especially when the snowbirds fly south. If you're willing to help, please contact Mary Gardner-Karcher at (563) 332-4621. Mary will appreciate it and so will your Center!

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

## UNESCO World Heritage List

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has recognized the major mining sites of Belgium's Wallonia region as World Heritage. The four coal mining sites are Grand-Hornu, Bois-du-Luc, Bois-du-Cazier, and Blegny-Mine.

The four sites offer a condensed insight into all aspects of mining heritage: expertise, landscape, remembrance, social, and architectural. They illustrate the intense migration flows that Wallonia experienced involving Flemish, Polish, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Moroccan, and Turkish workers. Among the 262 victims of the 1956 Bois-du-Cazier disaster, in which human error led to a fire spreading throughout the entire mine, a dozen different nationalities were identified.

The mining sites represent the different stages of technology and social development. Blegny and Bois-du-Cazier represent the "work" element, while Grand-Hornu and Bois-du-Luc represent the "social" element through architecture and the workers' villages. Their inclusion in the list creates a real opportunity for the development of heritage and tourism in Wallonia.

## September Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the September waffle breakfast will be Dan DePorter, Judy and Al DePorter, Joanne Jennings, Judy Hardesty, and Gene Donohue. 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.

## SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

*continued from page 3*

I truly cherish the Belgian traits and traditions of my heritage, like grandpa's waffles, and grandma's Belgian lace doilies on the coffee table, and making lukken cookies at Christmas. My heritage has made me who I am. I am proud of my heritage, and hope to pass Belgian traditions along to my family in the future.

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.

## News of the Membership

*Congratulations* to Lena Slininger, granddaughter of **Georgia and Louis Slininger**, for helping the Short Hills Country Club tennis team with the Harris Cup for the fourth straight year.

*Sympathy* is extended to **Jason and Kiley Francque** and the entire family of the late Bev Francque, former CBC archivist, on the death of Craig Francque, who died August 4th in Texas.

## Check These Websites

Those of you who use the Internet should check these two websites: [www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com) and [www.visitflanders.us](http://www.visitflanders.us). While the visitbelgium site relates primarily to the Wallonia region of Belgium, you will find many interesting tours featured, including Bastogne and its WWII battle sites. Information is provided on Brussels, and other cities like Liege, Namur (Wallonia's capital), and Durbuy (the smallest city in the world).

At the visitflanders website, you will find information on WWI battlefield tours and cities like Brugge, Antwerp, Ghent, and of course, Brussels.

Both sites provide extensive information on places to visit, festivals, great food and drink, shopping, lodging, and transportation. Even if you don't plan to visit Belgium in the future, these are two very interesting websites that will allow you to learn and see more about mother Belgium.

## A Local Connection

Some of our older members will remember a column in the *Daily Dispatch* called "News from Belgium." Marie VerBecke, daughter of this area's first consul, Ed Coryn, was the columnist. Marie's daughter Celie, married Jean-Luc DeHaene, who served as prime minister of Belgium from 1992-1999. He was able to create a coalition that became one of Belgium's most important governments, as it created the Belgian federal state.

DeHaene has written a book about his life in public service, especially his tenure as prime minister, titled *Memoires*. It's a rather large volume, 960 pages, published by Van Halewyck (ISBN: 9789461310941). The cost is 45 Euros (\$56.35 US). If you can read Dutch, this would make an interesting read. For more information, see [www.vanhalewyck.be](http://www.vanhalewyck.be).

**Enjoy your Labor Day activities,  
but above all, enjoy them safely!**

## Scholarship Essay

*(CBC Scholar Kayla Vincent is a graduate of United Township High School in East Moline. She was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the soccer team, and a diver on the swim team. She graduated with a grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 grade scale. Kayla is starting her freshman year at Illinois State University with a major in Nursing).*

### HERITAGE ESSAY

by Kayla Vincent

To me, heritage is what defines a person. Who we are as individuals comes from one's heritage, one's upbringing, and one's life experiences. In October of 2010, I fulfilled one of my life goals by traveling to New York City and visiting Ellis Island. I have many Belgium ancestors who began immigrating in the early 1900's, and I have always been curious to retrace their footsteps as they entered the United States. The experience was extremely educational and gave me a better connection to my ancestors. Although I did not know many of them, I have a sense of who they are through the stories, experiences, and traditions handed down to me by my parents and grandparents. Visiting Ellis Island gave me a great understanding of the hard-life endured by many immigrants, and their dream for a better life. Ellis Island was the first step towards my ancestors becoming Americans, creating a life here, and ultimately providing me and my family with the blessings we share today.

The maternal side of my family is rich in Belgian ancestry; both my grandparents have family that immigrated from Belgium to America. One of my most memorable moments at Ellis Island was finding their names on the "Wall of Immigrants;" Cuvele, Jaecques, Maddelein to name a few. My great-grandfather, Rene Cuvele, was the last of my ancestors to be born in Belgium. He was born in 1903, in Ruysselede, Belgium, and first came to America with his parents in 1906. When he was 16 years old, he returned to Belgium with his family when his mother missed her homeland and her family. As he became of age, he declared his desire to return to the United States. Not wanting to split up the close-knit family, his parents decided they would all immigrate back a second time. On March 23, 1921, the ship called the "Finland" landed at Ellis Island and the Cuvele family again stepped foot on American soil. He became a United States citizen on September 16, 1930, married my great-grandmother in 1931, and settled in East Moline, Illinois. They had three daughters; my maternal grandmother, Theresa (Cuvele) DeSmet, was their youngest.

My grandmother has shared many memories and stories about my great-grandfather, and my mother thinks my hard work and dedication comes from him. He was a hard-work-

er, no matter if it was helping out on the family farm, working at Roth Packing Plant, lining up odd-jobs to earn extra money, or picking corn by hand at nearby farms. Eventually, he was able to secure a full-time job at John Deere Harvester, while only having achieved a sixth-grade education. He was a family man, and would help any person in need; he was the type that would give you the shirt of his back. These are just a few of the traits he possessed, but they are the traits I believe I inherited from him. I am a hard-worker and take great pleasure in helping others.

Prior to my experience with my high school's extended campus health occupations program, I had not realized how much other people's feelings affected me and made me feel the need to offer others some form of help. The numerous volunteer and leadership opportunities I have had, as well as the many career directed classes I have taken, have reinforced the nurturing care I hope to give to others. Discovering how much I wanted to help others aided me in my decision to become a nurse. I know that to successfully achieve my vision for the future I will have to further my education, work even harder than I did in high school, and continue to develop my skills and abilities in order to fulfill my vision of helping those in need. I never fall behind in schoolwork and I know doing well in school will lead to success in life. I take my education seriously and want the best for myself. I am caring, trustworthy, responsible, self-motivated, and dedicated. I am committed to what I do and know the responsibilities that I have and never let anyone down. When I start something I have to finish it and I never back out of a commitment. These traits define me and who I am: my heritage, my upbringing, and my life experiences.



I am now on the verge of making my vision a reality by beginning my college career at Illinois State University. I have already been accepted into the University, and in addition I have been accepted as a Freshman Early-Admit student into the College of Nursing. This scholarship will not only help me financially in fulfilling my goal of becoming a nurse and helping others, but helps me say, "Thank You" to my parents. They have been so very supportive of me. They have not only instilled strong values and morals in me while growing up, but and have also given me the courage, the confidence, and the work ethic to not only dream, but to achieve. Being selected for this scholarship will help ease their financial responsibility of my education and is just one small way I can show them my appreciation.

*continued on page 2*

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**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*September, 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.*