



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2013

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
August 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
August 29th-31st	Rummage Sale	8:00 a.m. to noon
September 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
September 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 9th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
September 15th	Flemish Fest	1:00 to 4:00 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
Sat., August 3rd	Celie Donohue (a.m.)	Kevin DeRoo (a.m.)
	Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Barb Michalek (p.m.)
Wed., August 7th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Sat., August 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Kate Gardner
Wed., August 14th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., August 17th	Kate Gardner	Kate Gardner
Wed., August 21st	Lois DeCoster	Lois DeCoster
Sat., August 24th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., August 28th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Sat., August 31st	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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.

Center for Belgian Culture's 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 26, 2013 • More details to follow.

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

News of the Membership

Thank You to Gilbert Holvoet for sending Belgian ribbon to be used at the 50th Anniversary dinner, and to **Bob and Theresa Bailey** for donating the Eureka vacuum cleaner to the Center. Thank you also to the person who donated the 1931 Needlecraft magazine that included pages about Belgian lace, its history, and lace and the royals.

Sympathy is offered to the families of **Al and Joan DeCap, Bob and Theresa Bailey, Catherine VanHecke, Mary Jo DeLillie, and Art and Linda VanHecke** on the death of **Al VanHecke, Jr.**, 81, of East Moline, who died July 1, 2013.

Get Well wishes are offered to Al DePorter.

August
Waffle Volunteers



Volunteer cooks and servers for the July waffle breakfast will be Bill Cornelis, Gary Francque, Angie Jennes, Ray and Barb Coppens, Judy DePorter, and Gene Donohue. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will help insure everyone has a good time.

Scholarship Winners

The Center held its scholarship dinner on June 26th, with a nice crowd in attendance. Recipients of this year's \$750 CBC Scholarships were Bryce Verlinden, Mitchell Schneider, and Tiffany Fields. As of newsletter deadline, the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship had yet to be announced.

Grab bags were sold to benefit the CBC. Kevin DeRoos won two passes to the John Deere Classic golf tournament, and Janet Wingler won the Olde Towne Bakery gift certificate.

Thank you to scholarship chairman Steve Slininger and his committee for their work in reviewing the many submissions.



CBC scholars are (l-r) Bryce Verlinden, Tiffany Fields, and Mitchell Schneider.

Consul General Visits

Belgian Consul General Marc Calcoen, in town to address an international trade and foreign investment seminar, made a stop at the CBC. As he viewed the Center's artifacts, he noted "Even if the people here might be more American than Belgian, I see they like to keep the memories. You have things here that I don't even recognize anymore."

Calcoen also made a stop at the rolle bolle courts at Stephens Park. Evidently the Consul General had never seen rolle bolle played, so the bolders there made sure he was introduced properly.



← Members Fred and Linda Polich (left) and Mary Lou Andrae and Bonnie Newman (right) greet Consul General Marc Calcoen



The Consul General shows excellent form for a first-timer.

Scholarship Essay

Our first essay was written by Bryce Verlinden. Bryce attended United Township High School in East Moline and graduated with a grade average of 3.36 out of 4.0. He was a member of Key Club, the Panther Press, and the tennis team. His honors included National Honor Society, Illinois State Scholar, and a Presidential Award for Educational Achievement. Bryce will attend Iowa State University and major in business management.

My Belgian Heritage by Bryce Verlinden

My knowledge of my family history on my father's side started when I was in middle school and did a project on my heritage. Ever since then, I have been very interested in where I came from. While my mother's side represents numerous cultures, including German, Irish, and Polish, my father's side interests me more. I say this because I am amazed that I can have so many relatives come from such a tiny, yet important, country.

My Belgian heritage dates back hundreds of years. My grandfather, Bill Verlinden, researched our family history and came across numerous discoveries. One of those discoveries included finding out that our last name came from a woman, named Mechtildis, who lived in Helden, Netherlands. It did not come from a man, for the man, named Petrus, that she married had no last name, so he adopted hers. Another discovery he made was that our last name actually means those who were with the Linden tree. I had never known there was such a tree that existed until I analyzed his research. It is definitely interesting to know that you're named after a tree. I personally think this is really cool.

Unfortunately, my grandfather could not research any farther back than the early 1600s, but after he put together an entire book on our family history, I have been enriched on my family history more than I could ever had imagined. I only knew before this research was done that my grandfather was a first generation American for his parents, Maurice and Yvonne, were both born in Belgium. However, after reading my grandfather's research I soon realized that there was a lot more family history than I knew about. There are many different cities including Uitkerke, Zuyenkerke, Antwerpen, Blakenberge, and St. Pieters. While the Verlinden side of my family is full of Belgian history, my grandmother's side of the family is also full of Belgian history.

My grandmother was born Sandra Clauw to Joe and Shirley Clauw, who owned Clauw's Tavern in East Moline. The Clauw family can be traced back to the mid 1700s in Belgium. After studying my grandfather's research, I learned that the Clauw side came from Clercken, Belgium. My great-great grandfather, Achille Clauw, came from Belgium to the United States when he was 21, making my great grandfather, Joseph, a part of the first generation of the Clauw family in America.

My family also still takes part in many Belgian traditions. My grandmother still makes waffles for breakfast, and the men always play rolle bolle. Every year we go camping, and a camping trip is not complete without a few games of rolle bolle! Also, I have been able to meet some of my relatives from Belgium. There have been a few who have actually stayed with my family and others who have stayed with my grandparents. The opportunity to meet them has definitely improved my understanding of the Belgian culture and language. There are not many teenagers my age who are able to say they have met part of their family from another country.

Overall, I am very proud to be Belgian and I embrace my family's heritage. It still amazes me that of all the places in the United States my Belgian ancestors decided to settle in the Quad Cities. When I asked my grandfather, he responded that it was probably because of the farmland and of course, John Deere. It is important that I can continue to pass on the knowledge of my family and our traditions to future generations of the Verlinden family. There are way too many people out there who do not know much about their family history, and I always tell my friends to start inquiring on their own heritage. The different traditions and cultures that we all have help shape these United States of America into a very unique one.

RUMMAGE SALE

The CBC Rummage Sale will be in Historic Highland Park, 1628 - 22nd Street, Rock Island, August 29th, 30th, and 31st. Hours will be 8:00 to Noon, unless we're all having fun and want to go longer.

If you have items to donate or would like to volunteer, please call Jason at (563) 305-7241. He will schedule pick-up times for the donations Friday (evening), August 23rd and Saturday, August 24th.

Mark your calendar and remember to stop by and visit with fellow members and do a little shopping. Hot dogs and cold beverages will be available for sale.

All Items not sold will be donated to the local DAV in Davenport.



Sunday,
September 15, 2013

Stephens' Park
Moline, IL

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
of Western Illinois, Inc.
712 - 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August, 2013

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2013

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.