



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2015

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Volunteer Recruiter
Jan Irwin
(309) 230-1645

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| September 5th | Waffle Breakfast | 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. |
| September 5th | Belgian Lace Makers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| September 14th | Board Meeting | 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. |
| September 20th | Fall 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 September schedule is as follows:

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Gift Counter</i> | <i>Host/Hostess</i> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Wed., Sept. 1st | Alan Hoyt | Alan Hoyt |
| Fri., Sept. 4th | Rose VanAcker | Joan DeClerk |
| Sat., Sept. 5th | Grace Fisher (am) | Barb Michalek (pm) |
| Wed., Sept. 9th | Mary Lou Andrae | Bonnie Newman |
| Fri., Sept. 11th | tba | tba |
| Sat., Sept. 12th | Mary Gardner-Karcher | Mary Gardner-Karcher |
| Wed., Sept. 16th | Barb Coppens | Linda Polich |
| Fri., Sept. 18th | Georgia Slininger | Bev Fullmer |
| Sat., Sept. 19th | Jan Irwin | Jan Irwin |
| Wed., Sept. 23rd | Diana Slininger | Diana Slininger |
| Fri., Sept. 25th | Bob Francione | Bob Francione |
| Sat., Sept. 26th | Kim Kochuyt | Kim Kochuyt |
| Wed., Sept. 30th | Margaret Wadsworth | Bill Wadsworth |

Contact Jan Irwin at (309) 230-1645
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.

FALL FLEMISH FEST

The Flemish Fest will once again be held at Stephens Park from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20th. Rolle bolle, waffles, music, beer, food, and children's games will be featured. Join us for an afternoon in Olde Towne, just like the old days.



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

CBC Recognition Dinner

Oakwood Country Club in Coal Valley will be the site of the recognition dinner on October 24th, honoring Catherine VanHecke, Millie Kale, Dr. Jim VanSpeybroeck, Margaret Wadsworth, and Mike Kerckhove. The evening begins with cocktails (cash bar) at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm, and program following dinner. You will have your choice of three entrees: Flemish-style chicken, Belgian roast, and filet of sole. The cost is \$30.00/person. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Center, or you may mail in reservations to the CBC with your check and meal choice. For further information, call Kevin DeRoo at (309) 781-6332.

Power to the People

Belgian electricity provider Electrabel will build more than 100 wind turbines between now and 2020, doubling its existing capacity in the country. At present, Electrabel has 94 turbines in operation at 26 locations. Those turbines produce enough electricity (175 megawatts) to supply 100,000 households. By 2020, capacity will increase to 400 megawatts.

This year, 25 new turbines will be coming on line at six locations in Flanders and two locations in Wallonia. Construction will continue at the rate of about 20/year after that. The project requires an investment of about \$445 million US, with half from Electrabel and the other half from private partners and investment groups.

Look Out Peter Pan

Speculoos spread – the paste version of the famous sweet biscuit – has gone on sale in the U.S. The product will be known here as Biscoff Spread, which matches the name (a pairing of “biscuit” and “coffee”) of the speculoos biscuits sold in the U.S. For Lotus Bakeries, it will be an ambitious challenge to peanut butter, but offers an alternative to those allergic to peanuts.

Allergy to peanuts is on the increase and affects 3.3 million Americans to the point that warning labels are now standard on any products that might contain minute traces of peanut.

Peanut butter has been a staple of American sandwiches since it was first developed in 1894 by the Kellogg brothers (the cereal guys). Biscoff Spread is a nut-free alternative, and the company hopes it will create its own niche in the marketplace.

Bad Fruit

The Delhaize supermarket chain will begin selling boxes of “ugly vegetables” in an effort to tackle the problem of food waste. Ugly vegetables are those that do not correspond to shoppers’ requirements of regularity of shape, size, or color, but which meet the supermarket’s standards of quality and freshness. Delhaize will sell ugly vegetables in two pound boxes for a flat price of \$4.50, and will contain a selection of vegetables of the day, all grown in Belgium.



Every year, a third of food produced is not consumed. A large proportion of malformed vegetables don't get consumed in the food chain. Delhaize gives away unsold product, but this way the ugly vegetables will find a way to the consumer and are perfectly good to eat.

News of the Membership

Thank You to Ray VandeCastele for the Belgian flag and to Anna Johnson, Gerri Gerken, and Judy Linder for the book *Doris DePauw Driessens, Our Loving Mother*.

Congratulations to **Joe and Mary DeMeyer** on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

Get Well wishes are continued for **Celie Donohue, Millie Kale, Gene Donohue** and to **Albert VanPuyvelde**, who is now under Hospice care, but still living with Evelyn at the Fountains in Bettendorf.

SEPTEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for September’s breakfast will be Steve and Diana Slininger, Bob and Theresa Bailey, Pam Black, Teresa Nelson, and Jan Irwin. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie Jennes will supervise the kitchen, and Joan DeCap will cashier.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

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CBC Scholars

As in previous years, we publish the heritage essays of our scholarship awardees. Our first essay is by Lejla Garic. She graduated from United Township High School in East Moline with a 3.8 out of 4.0 grade point average. Her activities included president of the National Honor Society, member of the Spanish Honor Society, Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Academic Team, and volleyball. Lejla will attend Southern Illinois University in its Pre-Med program.

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

by Lejla Garic

Heritage is something that is important to know about for several reasons. It gives you an insight in the establishment of your family and their ethics, an appreciation for the journey your ancestors have gone through, and it gives your life a greater meaning. In comparison to my peers, my heritage is one that is very unique, due to the story of my parents and my own life.



Lejla Garic

My grandparents and their predecessors were all from Bosnia, formerly known as Yugoslavia. In 1992, the Bosnian War began, as a result of the breakup of Yugoslavia. The Bosnian War was the location of the first act of genocide since World War II. My parents were both 21 years of age when the war broke out, and sought refuge in Germany. They had met in Germany a few years later and got married shortly after. A year later in 1997, I was born in Schwäbisch Hall, Baden Württemberg, Germany.

When I was two years old, seven years after my parents had lived and worked in Germany, we went back to Bosnia. The war had ended in 1995, but the country was still in ruins. The estimated casualties were in the hundreds of thousands, and my father had lost his older brother. My parents had decided to purchase a plot of land and build a house for my grandparents to live in, because their home had been destroyed. We had spent the next two years building and furnishing the home for my grandparents, and my parents needed to decide on their next course of action.

In 1999, my parents and I came to the United States of America. We came straight to Moline, where my aunt and uncle and two cousins had already been living for a few years. I was two years old, and spoke mainly German with a small amount of Bosnian. A year later I would be starting preschool, and the only words I knew how to say in English were “thank you,” “please,” “I need to use the restroom,” “yes,” and “no.” Through extra

classes in preschool, and thanks to the fact that I was still young and was able to learn another language quickly and easily, I was almost completely caught up to my fellow classmates by my first day in kindergarten. Fast-forward to 2014, where I scored in the 99th percentile in English and Reading on the ACT.

I had to work very hard and was motivated strongly by my parents to not only catch up with, but surpass my classmates. From a young age, my work ethic was established; one that mirrored that of my parents. My parents had to work very hard to make ends meet in the beginning, all while juggling classes at Black Hawk College to improve their English. They had come to the United States to give both my sister and me the greatest opportunities possible; and this is where my main motivation lies – I refuse to let them down.

Every other summer, my family and I return to Europe to visit our family that is still there. In Germany, I get to see where I was raised and visit my aunt, uncle, and two cousins. In Bosnia, both sets of my grandparents, my aunt, uncle, and cousins, and distant relatives of my parents are still there. The purpose of these trips is to not only visit family, but for my sister and me to gain insight of our heritage and where many of our family customs come from. By seeing and experiences my heritage for myself, I am able to appreciate it on a deeper level than most – something I am grateful for.

Today, I speak English and Bosnian fluently, and have some retention of German as well. I have taken Spanish all four years of high school, and have performed very well in that class due to my brain and rhetoric being well adapted to learning a new language. I also carry with me many of the traditions and beliefs that my parents, grandparents, etc. have had instilled in the family. Although we are now citizens of the U.S.A., my roots will always be in Bosnia and Germany. I hope to one day tell my children all about my side of the story, and to have them gain an appreciation for their heritage. I like to reword a popular phrase to fit my story: you can take a girl out of Europe, but you cannot take Europe out of a girl.

What’s in a Name?

Emma and Lucah are now the most popular new baby names in Flanders. Elise and Liam were in second place. Emma has been the most popular for the past ten years. In Brussels, Linea and Adam were most popular. Aya and Mohammed were most popular last year in Brussels. (That probably tells you something.)

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2015

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ___/___/2015

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.