



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



January, 2016

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Volunteer Recruiter
Jan Irwin
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Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 1st & 2nd	Center Closed	
January 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
January 11th	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The January schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Fri., January 1st	CENTER CLOSED	
Sat., January 2nd	CENTER CLOSED	
Wed., January 6th	Dave Coopman	Dave Coopman
Fri., January 8th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., January 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., January 13th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., January 15th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., January 16th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., January 20th	Linda Polich	Linda Polich
Fri., January 22nd	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., January 23rd	tbd	tbd
Wed., January 27th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., January 29th	tbd	tbd
Sat., January 30th	tbd	tbd

Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.

WHAT A NEAT IDEA . . . Ghent-based package delivery service Bubble Post has been named Mobility Champion 2015 by the union for the self-employed. The company is "a role model in the field of ecological transport," the prize jury said. Bubble Post accepts goods on the outskirts of 19 cities in Belgium and the



Netherlands, delivering the packages via pedal vehicles or small electric and natural gas powered vehicles to locations in city centers. The service both lowers CO2 emissions and improves traffic congestion in city centers.

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

Christmas Party Winners

Raffle winners at the CBC Xmas Party were: Pami Triebel (grill tools and apron); Mary Jo DeLille (sign, chocolate, and hats); Georgia Slininger (chocolates and dish); Nick Huyten (Santa sleigh); and Mary Lorensen (beer).

Winning prizes from the CBC, Walgreen's, and Jewel/Osco were Bill Coopman, Fred Polich, Joan DeCap, Mary Gardner-Karcher, Larry Lorensen, Barb Michalek, Milt Witherspoon, Margaret Wadsworth, Don DeBo, Alan Hoyt, and Lois DeCoster.

The party was well attended, the food was great, and everyone enjoyed the music provided by a chorus from the Black Hawk College music department.

Help Us Show Our Heritage

Over the last several years, various media crews from Belgium have been to Moline and the CBC to research our Belgian community. Their work produced a television program on immigration to Moline, a section of a Flemish-language book about Belgian immigrants to western Illinois, a display at the Red Star Museum, and the gathering of information on immigrants and their work in local industry.

During the fall, three writers/producers returned to Moline to update their original research for a project that has received funding and will focus on Belgians in the Illinois Tri-Cities, Geneseo, Atkinson, Annawan, and Kewanee areas. This group will be returning later this spring to gather further information about and from these areas.

While the Center has a good collection of photographs and printed material, we're looking for your photos of the earlier days around the Belgian community. Do you have photos that show the activities of the Belgian-American Club, rolle bolle tournaments, church activities and picnics, family get-togethers, or Belgians at work in their shops? How about photos of the early Olde Towne area? Would anyone have any home movies?

The Center would like to have good copies or originals to scan and return to you. The images would then be provided to this group for use in their upcoming production. Please look through your family archives to see if you have anything that relates to your Belgian heritage. We'll make sure you get credit when providing your information. You can email scans to me at dtcoopman@gmail.com or drop them off at the Center.

News of the Membership

Maureen Goethals Simpson wrote us to let everyone know she's still alive and well and living at 9719 W. Alabama Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351.

CBC Medal of Honor Recipients



On October 24th, the Center for Belgian Culture recognized five individuals for their service to the Center with a dinner at Oakwood Country Club. Honored were, left to right, Margaret Wadsworth, Dr. Jim VanSpeybroeck, Catherine VanHecke, and Millie Kale. Mike Kerckhove was also honored, but was unable to attend. Thank you to this group for their service and volunteerism to the Center!

JANUARY WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Although the Center will be closed on January 1st and 2nd, we'll still be serving waffles on Saturday the 2nd at the Friends Circle. The volunteers for the January waffle breakfast will be Gary Francque, Luke Miller, Jessica Mulder, Teresa Nelson, and Jan Irwin. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone has a good time.

Jan Irwin is always on the lookout for waffle volunteers. If you can ever help at our waffle breakfasts, please give Jan a call at (309)230-1645.

Genealogy Class

The Davenport Family History Center has been offering Saturday morning classes on genealogy. On March 12th, the CBC's Mary Gardner-Karcher will be presenting "Researching Flemish Roots" at 10:30 a.m. She will be reviewing techniques and resources for tracking Flemish ancestry, including using the National Archives online and Family Search. Other topics will include: Parochieregisters; French Republic calendar; Civil Registers; Bevolkingregisters; Staten Van Goed; Bidprentjes; Flemish Names; and Place names.

Anyone can attend these classes and there is no charge. The Family History Center is located at 4929 N. Wisconsin Avenue in Davenport, Iowa.

Americans Commit to Belgium

American companies contribute to Belgium not only through their economic activities, but also through their "deep engagement in local communities," according to a new report issued by the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham). AmCham carried out a survey of 75 American companies of varying sizes, which employ nearly 70,000 people in Belgium – just under half of the U.S. company total. The survey aimed to find out about community involvement and gathered information on 150 projects, including sports programs, training, litter clean-up, and home maintenance projects for the handicapped. Projects were typically a mix of volunteer work and donations of cash, goods, or services.

Community impact projects, say the report, "are an effective tool for employee engagement, building pride in one's employer, and developing a bridge between employees and the local community," and can benefit a company's core business.

Projects tended to focus on youth issues. Employees were encouraged to volunteer on company time, and senior management took part in four out of five projects. Examples included the recycling of electronic waste in East Flanders by Temco, workshops for IBM employees to help immigrants integrate in Brussels, and volunteers for the Special Olympics in Antwerp by the staff of Coca-Cola.

Dank U . . . Bedankje

As 2015 comes to a close and 2016 begins, it's time to reiterate our Thank You to all of the volunteers who have given their time to help at waffle breakfasts, to work at the Kleine Winkel and as hosts during the Center's open hours, and to help with the various duties relating to the Center. Diana Slininger, Jan Irwin, and Catherine VanHecke are extremely appreciative of all the help you volunteers have offered. Any organization is only as good as its volunteers, and we have some wonderful people who step up weekly and monthly to help.

Your newsletter editor again issues the challenge for others to step up and volunteer for the Center for Belgian Culture. Volunteer to help at a waffle breakfast or open house. The work isn't difficult and can be downright fun. But the same people can't do it all the time. Please realize that if we don't support the CBC, we won't have a repository for our great Belgian heritage. It would be a shame to lose it. Please consider volunteering to help keep our traditions alive and available!

Volunteering equals commitment.

Who's Smart?

Hasselt, the capital of Limburg province, is the smartest city in Belgium, according to a survey carried out by the technology industry federation Agoria. The survey looked at the number of digital companies, air quality, and energy consumption, among other criteria. Hasselt finished on top, followed by Namur, Leuben, Mechelen, and Genk.

The survey, which looked at the 20 largest Belgian cities, is a worthwhile measure for residents and investors alike. According to Agoria, "Investors look worldwide for the most suitable location for their activities, and criteria such as quality of life, mobility, air pollution, energy policy, and know-how form part of that decision."

Among the other criteria studied were the state of the buildings and the volume of household waste produced. Hasselt scored high in all five areas. The worst-scoring city in Flanders was Antwerp.

Please Check Ahead . . . During these winter months, please check ahead before visiting the CBC.

We want everyone – visitors and volunteers – to be safe.



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Do You Have Photos Like These?

