



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



March, 2016

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 5th Waffle Breakfast 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
 No Lacemakers in March

March 8th Board Meeting 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., March 2nd	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., March 4th	Rose VanAcker	Joan DeClerk
Sat., March 5th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., March 9th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., March 11th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., March 12th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 16th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., March 18th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., March 19th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Wed., March 23rd	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Fri., March 25th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., March 26th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., March 30th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth

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

Lacemaker Info for March

The Belgian Lacemakers will **not** be at the CBC on Saturday March 5th. Marlene Shattuck will be volunteering in Haiti, and the others will be visiting with eminent lace expert Betty Freeman in Silvis. The talented gals will return in April.

Scholarship Applications

The CBC and Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship forms have been sent to area high schools and colleges. They are also available at the Center. Deadline for making application for either scholarship is April 16th.

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

Research Reminder

On Saturday, March 12th, the CBC's Mary Gardner-Karcher will be presenting "Researching Flemish Roots" at 10:30 a.m., at the Davenport Family History Center. She will be reviewing techniques and resources for tracking Flemish ancestry. Anyone can attend these classes and there is no charge. The Family History Center is located at 4929 N. Wisconsin Avenue in Davenport.

Flemish Researchers Battle Cyberbullying

A team of Flemish researchers, coordinated by Antwerp University, has developed a game to battle cyberbullying among students. The game is meant for students in the first year of secondary school, where cyberbullying is most common because of the major educational transition and changes in group dynamics. At this age, students also start to use social media more intensively. According to the researchers, one in 10 students has been the victim of cyberbullying in the last six months. Most cases involve insults and threats, mostly on Facebook and WhatsApp.

The game, called Friendly ATTAC, the player witnesses a fictitious case of cyberbullying and learns how to react. The kids learn how to support and stand up for the victim, and learn that they shouldn't "like" or "share" certain posts on social media.

The game is a prototype, and the researchers are looking for a publisher that can integrate the game into an educational kit. The game should eventually become part of a broad anti-bullying program at Flemish schools. Perhaps it will be adopted in U.S. schools.

Belgian "Recasts" New York Building

One of the finest examples of cast-iron architecture can be found at the corner of Bond and Bowery in New York. Its facade is now receiving a much-needed makeover by Ghent craftsman Peter van Cronenburg.

The building is a bit of a curiosity. The facade is made entirely of cast iron, in keeping with Manhattan's So-Ho cast-iron district. It was built as a bank in the Empire style and was completed in 1874, the heyday of cast-iron architecture. For a time, it housed a theatre, but today houses luxury apartments and ground floor retail space.

"It's rich in decoration and ornament, and all five floors are different in details. The ornamentation was intended to give an appearance of wealth, while cast iron creates an image of reliability," stated Cronenburg.

To restore the facade as it was, 164 unique molds had to be created to cast 2890 pieces in iron. All the pieces needed to be fit together like a puzzle. The monumental cast-iron staircases are currently being restored, as well as the railings around the building.

How is it that a Flemish company has been asked to carry out such a restoration on the other side of the world? The owner is Belgian and the managing architect has Flemish roots.

(From Flanders Today)



**MARCH
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**



The volunteers for March's waffle breakfast will be Tim and Jan Hufford, Rich and Carol Moon, Bev Fullmer, Millie Kale, and LuAnn Hayden. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will no doubt regale us with tales of her time in Tahiti.

*A Happy & Blessed
Easter to All*

The Story of Sister Adele

Editor's Note: Mike Kerckhove asked me if I had ever heard of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help near Green Bay, Wisconsin. I told him I hadn't, and he proceeded to tell me a little bit about it and Sister Adele Brise. We both thought it would make interesting newsletter copy. Much of what you will read was taken directly from the shrine's brochure. Perhaps you will want to visit it.

The 1850's were a time of great immigration to Wisconsin, where land was plentiful and affordable. Among those immigrating in 1855 was the Brise family, from Belgium's Brabant province, whose 25-year old daughter Adele was to have a significant impact on the spiritual welfare and education of the newly formed communities of northeastern Wisconsin.

Despite the loss of an eye as a young child and a meager education, Adele was known for her charming and inviting personality, fervent piety, simple religious ways, and confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. She originally hoped to enter an Ursuline convent prior to her moving from Belgium. In 1859, Adele would receive a mission from the Holy Mother of God through a series of apparitions.

Based on an account told by a Sister Pauline LaPlant, Adele, on her way to a grist mill, first saw a lady all in white standing between two trees. Adele was frightened and stood still. The vision slowly disappeared, leaving a white cloud.

The following Sunday, while on her way to Mass in the company of her sister and a neighbor woman, the lady in white appeared again between the same two trees. Following Mass, Adele related her experience to her priest who said that if it were a heavenly messenger, it would again appear and would not harm her. Again approaching the pair of trees, Adele could see the beautiful lady, clothed in dazzling white, with a yellow sash around her waist. She had a crown of stars around her head.

Adele asked, "Who are you and what do you want of me?" The apparition replied, "I am the Queen of Heaven. Gather the children and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves, and how to approach the sacraments. That is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing; I will help you."

According to Sister Pauline LaPlant, the manifestation of Our Lady then lifted her hands, as though beseeching a blessing for those at her feet, and slowly vanished,



leaving Adele overwhelmed and prostrate on the ground. When Adele got up, she immediately went about fulfilling the mission, a mission to which she devoted herself until her death in 1896.

Adele taught children their catechism and admonished sinners. Teaching from house to house, up and down the Green Bay Peninsula, she would travel as much as 50 miles on foot. Weather conditions, fatigue, lack of education or ridicule would not discourage Adele.

Eventually she was joined by several young women and St. Mary's Boarding Academy was founded near the site of the apparitions. Later, with help from the local Belgian community, Sister Adele (as she was now called) built a school, chapel, and convent in the town of Robinsonville. It should be noted that at the suggestion of Sister Adele, Robinsonville changed its name to Champion, the name of the town in Belgium where Adele had originally planned to join the Ursuline order.

The education offered at St. Mary's Academy encompassed academics, as well as the catechism, and was given free of charge. As the school's reputation grew, parents gladly sent their children, often over very great distances, to receive the quality education offered by Sister Adele and her little group of dedicated women.

Over the years, while Sister Adele and her religious community suffered trials, persecutions, and set-backs, they were also the means through which miraculous events and healings were manifest. One of the most

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spectacular of these occurred when the chapel grounds and buildings were left virtually untouched by the devastation of the Great Peshtigo Fire.

Lumber companies and sawmills had been harvesting the rich supply of wood this area offered, leaving piles of branches and sawdust as they produced lumber and wood products. On the same night as the Great Chicago Fire, October 8, 1871, a firestorm began near Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that spread through the woods and nearby towns, consuming everything in its path. Unable to outrun the flames, nearly 2,000 people died in the inferno. Driven by strong winds, the fire leaped across the Green Bay of Lake Michigan and began burning huge sections of the Door Peninsula.

When the firestorm threatened the chapel, Sister Adele refused to leave and instead organized a procession to beg the Virgin Mary for her protection. The buildings and fences in the surrounding neighborhood were all destroyed by the fire, but the chapel, school, convent, and fences surrounding the six acres of land at the St. Mary's Boarding Academy, together with all the people who had

taken refuge there, survived the fire unharmed and untouched.

In 1887, another miracle occurred when Father Vojtech Cipin witnessed and reported the miraculous healing of a 35 year-old man who suffered from diphtheria and had come to the Shrine seeking healing.

In 1928, the school Sister Adele founded was closed, but the story of Adele and the Marian apparitions continued to draw attention. Since 1861, thousands of pilgrims have come to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help to honor the Mother of God and implore her help.

In 2009, the Bishop of Green Bay, after a formal Church investigation, decreed "with moral certainty and in accord with the norms of the Church, that the events, apparitions, and locutions given to Adele Brise in October of 1859 do exhibit the substance of supernatural character, and I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief by the Christian faithful."

The Chapel of Our Lady of Good Help is located 17 miles northeast of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and one mile east of Champion. Perhaps it would make an interesting weekend trip.