



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2016

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Diana Slininger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
September 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
September 12th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
September 18th	Fall Flemish Fest at Moline's Stephens Park	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>
Fri., Sept. 2nd	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., Sept. 3rd	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., Sept. 7th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., Sept. 9th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Sept. 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Sept. 14th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., Sept. 16th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., Sept. 17th	tbd	tbd
Wed., Sept. 21st	Linda Polich	Barb Coppens
Fri., Sept. 23rd	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Sept. 24th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Sept. 28th	tbd	tbd
Fri., Sept. 30th	tbd	tbd

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

## Live to 150?

According to a Univ. of Leuven professor, a number of babies born today will live to become 150 years old. Professor Liliene Schoofs based her estimation on demographic data. Improvements in the standard of living has ensured that the lifespan of the average European has doubled in 130 years' time. She states, "Science is progressing so fast, that this age will only increase. Not everyone will become 150, but a number of people will." Not everyone agrees, and I'm not sure I'd want to.

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

## CBC Scholarship Essay

Scholarship recipient Zachary Vincent attended United Township High School in East Moline and graduated #2 in his class with a 4.0 out of 4.0 grade point average. He was captain of the soccer team, an Illinois State Scholar, National Honor Society member, and recipient of the Illinois Principle Leadership Award. He will be attending Washington University in St. Louis and major in political science..

### BELGIAN HERITAGE ESSAY

by Zachary 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. I believe that the values and morals that I uphold are directly related to my heritage. The things that I have learned from my grandparents and parents have been passed on through our family from our ancestors in Belgium. Recent events in Belgium have made it more evident to just where the values and teachings in my life have come from. After the terror attacks in Brussels, I was amazed by how the Belgian people responded. They showed strength, resilience, and love in the face of great danger. They did not waver in their dedication to their country or their trust in their government. I will admit that I sometimes fail to realize where my values come from, but after the attack I looked at a country that I have deep ties with and it became clear. The people of Belgium have served as a model for the world when one's lives and values are attacked. These people have also showed me that I too have to stand up and show my values when someone questions them. These events have increased my pride in my heritage and showed me that we are Belgian strong.



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. 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 Belgium ancestry; both my grandparents have family that emigrated from Belgium to America. One of my most memorable moments at Ellis Island was finding their names on the "Wall of Immigrants;" Cuvele, Jacques, 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 home land 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-worker, 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 off 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.

That devotion to helping others has driven me to pursue a career in political science. I have been interested in politics for a long time and knew it was the perfect career for me because it would allow me to help others while doing something I loved. I am looking forward to taking my experiences with me when I begin my career because I believe that I can relate to many constituents. My family history of immigration gives me great insight into the lives of others. My family came here to make a better life and chase the American Dream. I want to make my ancestors' a reality for families across the country. These families deserve the same chance at opportunity that my family had, and I want to ensure them that chance. It would be very gratifying for me to help a family grow in America and establish a life that could give future generations the same opportunities that I have. I owe much of my family's stability to the brave actions of my great-grandfather and my other ancestors.

I truly cherish the Belgium traits and values of my heritage because they have made me who I am today. I am grateful for my knowledge of my ancestors and am proud to descend from intelligent, strong, hardworking people. I am very lucky to have such a deep connection to my heritage and I wish that everyone would take the same amount of pride in theirs. Many aspects of life have profound influences on and shape us into the people we are, but heritage is the building block to of everyone's character.

## News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Margaret Wadsworth** on her 90th birthday and to both **Margaret and Bill Wadsworth** for their 68th wedding anniversary; and to **Albert Raes** on his 100th birthday!

## The Kleine Winkel

It's not too late to take advantage of the **20% discount** on any cap or t-shirt at the Winkel. They make great birthday or holiday gifts!

## A Cycling Gold Medal for Belgium

It's been 64 years since it last happened, but Flemish cyclist Greg Van Avermaet won the Olympic gold medal at Rio in the cycling road race, with a sprint finish over Poland's Rafal Majka at the end of the race.



The race took six hours and traveled 148 miles around Rio's winding cobbled hills, steep climbs, and twisting downhill turns at speeds up to 65 mph. And it was all done under a thick layer of heat and humidity.

The 31-year old Van Avermaet from Lokeren, is enjoying a banner year in general. He earned eighth in the ranking for sprinters at the Tour de France, won stage five and led the Tour for three days.

Flemish tennis player Kirsten Flipkens made worldwide headlines with a stunning first round victory, beating seven-time Grand Slam champion and four-time Olympic gold medalist Venus Williams 4-6, 6-3, and 7-6!

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

## A Great Market

Brussels' Grote Market has been voted the 13th world site worth seeing by TripAdvisor. The square is featured in the Travelers' Choice Awards for sightseeing, ahead of the Eiffel Tower, The Great Wall of China, and the Acropolis. The list is topped by Machu Picchu in Peru and the Sheikh Zayed mosque in Abu Dhabi.



## SEPTEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for September's waffle breakfast will be Jim and Barb Kuhl, Bill and Sandy Coopman, Georgia Slininger, Bertha Bredar, and Joanne Jennings. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.



This year's version will be held Sunday, September 18th, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Moline's Stephens Park. It will again offer waffles and Belgian brats, music by the Happy Belgians and the Fifth Fret, rolle bolle, several beers from Bent River, kids' games, lace making demonstrations, the Belgian horses, and more. Come enjoy the afternoon!

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**of Western Illinois, Inc.**  
1608 Seventh Street, Moline, IL 61265

**CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE**

*September, 2016*

**Membership Renewal** (Please detach and return)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/2016

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.*