



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2016

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
November 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 12th	Belgian Cookie Baking Demo	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
November 14th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
December 3rd	CBC Bake Sale	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The November schedule is as follows:

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

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

The Kleine Winkel

is still offering a 20% discount on t-shirts, caps and mugs.

Are you thinking ahead to Christmas for gifts?

Need an Electric Iron to make Lukken?

How about a new Rolle Bolle?

Call the Center to reserve one for Xmas.

November 15th is the deadline to order for delivery by Christmas.

OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

CBC Scholarship Essay

This month's essay is by CBC Scholar Hannah Stigner of South Bend, Indiana. She is the granddaughter of Alice Kerckhove and niece of Mike Kerckhove. She attended the Career Academy South Bend and was ranked eighth in her class. Heather played varsity softball at first base, pitcher, and outfield. She has been a trained weather spotter for the National Weather Service for the past four years, and is attending Iowa State University with a major of Meteorology.

MY HERITAGE by Hannah Stigner

When you're growing up, you learn about who you are as a person. As a child, I grew up in South Bend, Indiana, a predominantly Polish city. Being that I have grown up in a Polish city and I am Polish as well, of course I am influenced by that. Personally, I relate to being Belgian more than anything.

My family is from East Moline, Illinois, and when I was younger large parts of what I remember was going out to visit my grandpa and great-grandparents and learning about my ancestors and heritage. During that time, my great-uncle made a pedigree chart which continued to inform me about my heritage. Fun fact: Jeff Gordon is my favorite NASCAR driver. While reading about my ancestry, I had found out that I am related to his wife. Learning more about my heritage has made me realize quite a bit of amazing things.

During school, when my friends found out my mother's maiden name, which was Kerckhove, they asked plenty of questions: "Is that a German name? French?" Of course I loved telling them that it was in fact a Belgian name. You don't see much Belgian culture around where I live. I went to an

accelerated intermediate academy. One semester students were assigned to create a PowerPoint on our heritage and bring in a food to share with the entire fifth grade class. My great-uncle had made an entire ancestry chart, shipped out a traditional Belgian dress, and sent their recipe for Lukken, as well. As I ended up getting an A on the project, it impacted me in a much larger way. Doing that project made me realize that I am indeed unique. Being Belgian isn't just about heritage and what makes you a person, it is a sense of identity.

My great-grandfather died when I was fourteen years old. He was a World War II Veteran. When he passed, it made me want to learn more about my heritage even more. I wanted to know where my ancestors came from, when did they come over from Belgium, and why did they come over. Most importantly, I wanted to know what makes me who I am as a person today. As I mentioned earlier, I wanted to know when my family came over. My family came over in the early 1900s. When they came over, great great-grandmother Kerckhove brought her infamous honey cake recipe as well. I've held this recipe near and dear to my heart because it came from Belgium with her, over to the states. Of course, she would do most of it by taste even though there was an actual written recipe.

Sometimes I think back to when my great-grandfather passed and consider it unfortunate that he died before he could tell me and my brother more about our heritage. Then I remember, it's a blessing to even be Belgian. It is a blessing to have family still around and that can share all of the information that they have, with me. I consider myself fortunate enough to have the chance to look back on my roots. I am forever grateful of that because some do not get that chance.

Flemish Fest Recap

If you weren't there, you missed a great afternoon celebrating Belgian heritage. The Happy Belgians and the Fifth Fret band had toes tapping and people dancing. Belgian waffles were a hit as were the Bent River beers. The lace makers had an excellent demonstration of bobbin lace-making and of the finished product. The Alleman cheerleaders provided face painting, and there were also children's games. The popular Rock River Belgians horse team appeared again, as did the pigeons and doves (including a release). The rolle bolle tournament had a fine turnout and the weather couldn't have been better.

The Fest Committee thanks the City of Moline Park Department for once again allowing us total use of the park, and also thanks the firms and individuals who sponsored the Fest. Special kudos go to the Moline Second Alarmers for providing manpower, and to John Lartz for special electrical connections.



Committee members (l-r) Kevin Rafferty, Glen Hostens, Bobbi Jackson, Dave Coopman, Terri Smith, and Bill Cornelis salute the sponsors.



Christmas Bake Sale

Our annual bake sale will be held during the December waffle breakfast on **December 3rd**. Last year's sale was a successful fundraiser, and we'd like to repeat that again.

The Center is looking for donations of breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and your "special" treats. You can bring them to the CBC on Friday, December 2nd, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. or to the Friends Circle early on December 3rd. Will you bake for us?

News of the Membership

Thank you to **Betty Freeman** for her donation of the large pair of wooden shoes.

Sympathy is offered to **Joan DeClerck** on the death of her son, Gregory DeClerck, 60, of Moline, who died September 30th at Clarissa Cook Hospice House, Bettendorf.

NOVEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for November's waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Kevin and Colleen Rafferty, Dale and Mary Lou Andrae, Yvette VanDriessche, and Millie Kale. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

COOKIE BAKING DEMO

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Belgian cookie baking demonstration
by Catherine VanHecke.

The demonstration will be held at the CBC
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The cost is \$5/person
and will include refreshments.

Space is limited to 20 people,
so call the Center to make your reservations.
(309) 762-0167

How About a Little Help

Over and over, the same people step to the plate to help out at waffle breakfasts and the weekly Center open houses. If it weren't for those individuals, we couldn't have those monthly breakfasts or be open for visitors. Before our dedicated group burns out, how about YOU volunteering a few times a year. Remember the Croatian Club? It ceased to exist due to a lack of new members and volunteers. Do you want to see the CBC go by the wayside, too?

How about YOU stepping up to the plate and volunteering once in a while. It doesn't hurt, it can be fun, and you just might meet some other interesting people.

And a huge Thank You to those of you who do volunteer over and over to help the Center. We hope you realize just how much we appreciate all you do for us.

When Research Leads to Trouble

Last July, an Iranian student caused hours of chaos in Brussels when he was spotted wearing a coat with protruding wires. The student was held at gunpoint and surrounding streets were closed off until he could explain: He was a Ghent University PhD candidate who was measuring mobile phone radiation in the capital as part of his research. Police stated that he will not have to pay a fine or any costs of the police operation.

One would think, in this troubled world, that a PhD candidate would have thought to alert authorities as to what he would be doing. Perhaps he thought "it's better to ask forgiveness than to seek permission."



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Flemish Researchers Discover the Root of Parkinson's Disease

Researchers in Flanders have discovered that a malfunctioning stress-coping mechanism in the brain is at the root of Parkinson's disease. The scientists are connected to Flanders' life sciences institute, VIB, and the University of Leuven.

Genetic mutations that cause Parkinson's can prevent synapses – the junctions between neurons where electrical signals are transmitted – from coping with the stress of intense brain activity. This damages the synapses, which in turn disrupts the transmission of brain signals.

Synapses have to transmit an enormous number of electrical signals and some neurons fire more than 800 signals in just

one second. The researchers discovered that synaptic contacts have developed special mechanisms to deal with this barrage of signals. But if one of the mechanisms doesn't function properly, cellular stress is accumulated, which causes damage to the synapses and leads to neurodegeneration.

Fruit flies were used to understand the disease mechanism. Researchers will now examine whether an identical stress-coping mechanism is disruptive in humans as well. The next step would be to correct the dysfunction and find strategies to re-establish normal synaptic communication.

(Thanks to Flanders Today)

Center Closed for Thanksgiving

Due to travel, holiday preparations, and to allow our volunteers some time off, the Center will be closed on November 23th, 25th, and 26th. It will be open again on November 30th. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!