



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



June, 2017

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
June 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 12th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The June schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Fri., June 2nd	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., June 3rd	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., June 7th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., June 9th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., June 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., June 14th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., June 16th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., June 17th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., June 21st	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., June 23rd	tbd	tbd
Sat., June 24th	tbd	tbd
Wed., June 28th	tbd	tbd
Fri., June 30th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione

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



Flag Day
June 14th

**Happy
Father's
Day**

JUNE 18TH



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

Belgian Ambassador Visits

The Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Dirk Wouters, spent three days visiting the Quad City area. He visited businesses here and in Iowa City, the Hoover Library and Museum at West Branch, spoke at both St. Ambrose University and before the QC Chamber of Commerce, visited the CBC, and attended our monthly waffle breakfast. Some of the Center's board and volunteers were also able to meet with the ambassador at two receptions.

Ambassador Wouters has been Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and was one of the architects of the Belgian

EU-Presidency. From 2001 to 2016, he was the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the European Union. From 1995-2000, he was the Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations.

The Center thanks Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel for arranging the visit and Ambassador Wouters for taking time to discover a little more about the area, the people, and our Belgian heritage.



(l-r): Millie Kale, Jason Tanamor, Bonnie Tanamor, Patrick Van Nevel, Barb Van Nevel, Dave Coopman, the Ambassador, Angela Jennes, Steve Slininger, Catherine VanHecke, and Mary Jo DeLille



(l-r): Sage Jennes, Teresa Nelson, Ambassador Wouters, Jan Irwin, Bill Coopman, Sandy Coopman, Steve Slininger, and Karen Vande Kerckhove



Millie Kale greets Ambassador Wouters with a little Flemish perhaps.



Ambassador Wouters chats with two patrons at the waffle breakfast.



Ambassador Wouters and Bill Cornelis

News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Bill Wadsworth**, who celebrated his 90th birthday on May 6th.



JUNE WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for June's waffle breakfast will be Michael DeBisschop, Angie Jennes, Kim Kochuyt, Millie Kale, Jane Vershaw Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Pat VandeKerckhove will recruit memberships. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

Legacy, Letters and Lace

The National Air and Space Museum posted an interesting video on its website as part of an educational program called STEM in 30. The video is called World War I: Legacy, Letters and Lace. The program looks at advances in aviation during the war.

But what might interest you the most, is a segment looking at the Belgian Ambassador’s residence in Washington, D.C. featuring Ambassador Dirk Wouters’ wife Katrin, and another segment with Ambassador Wouters.

You will also hear some letters written by Belgian school children on how they were affected by the German occupation of their country, see examples of trench art, and learn how lace makers helped feed a nation. The curator of the Air and Space museum also answers school children’s questions about aviation during WWI.

Once you get past the introductory few minutes, you will find it an interesting program. The entire video lasts about 28 minutes. Here’s the link:

<https://airandspace.si.edu/events/world-war-i-legacy-letters-and-belgian-war-lace>

In Case You Were Wondering

Remember the story from last month about the two towns that merged and needed to arrive at a new name that wasn’t a mouthful?

The municipalities of Opglabbeek and Meeuwen-Gruitrode in Limburg have reached an agreement on their new name when the merger is complete in 2019. The new municipality will be called Oudsbergen, following a vote of the residents for the four names proposed by a local jury. The name refers to the nature reserve that adjoins both towns.

Don’t say your CBC newsletter doesn’t seek out the complete story.

What’s In a Name?

If you call someone a Smurf, you could be in trouble. Not from the creator of the cartoon character, but from the federal police in Belgium.

A man was pulled over twice on the same day on the Brussels Ring by traffic police. During the stop, the man took photos of the officers and posted them on Facebook, describing the officers – who are admittedly blue in appearance – as Smurfs.

The post led to legal action and the man received a suspended sentence and a fine of \$1500. He appealed, saying the name-calling didn’t meet the definitions of cyber-harassment. The officers insist their rights had been violated.

Stay tuned for the verdict.

Here’s An Idea

As many of you know, due to our former landlord’s financial issues several years ago, we were forced to move to a new location. That move has nearly tripled our rent. Commercial real estate rates are not cheap. On the plus side, we have a nicer facility for showcasing our Belgian heritage, and by utilizing the Friends Circle, we have a better facility for our waffle breakfasts.

The monthly waffle breakfasts help pay our rent. Dues help pay for our newsletter, our insurance, and our utilities. The Birdies for Charity program pays for our scholarships.

Your board has been looking at ways to meet our monthly expenses. With declining membership through attrition and lack of new members, positive cash flow is tough to come by. One idea that would help us is sponsorships of the breakfasts and the newsletters. **Would members be willing to help underwrite a breakfast or a newsletter to allow us to cover the cost of those two items?** That would help provide some extra money to allow us programming possibilities.

A sponsorship for a waffle breakfast would be \$300 and a newsletter would be \$150. Appropriate acknowledgement would be provided at the breakfast and in the newsletter, and a sponsorship would be tax deductible.

Can you help us?

Best Flemish Dutch Teacher

For the first time, a Flemish teacher has won the competition organized by Dutch public radio to find the best Dutch-language teacher. What makes Tamara Stojakovic’s achievement all the more remarkable is the fact that she came to Flanders at the age of 11, as a refugee from the civil war in Bosnia. She currently teaches in a suburb of Antwerp.

Tamara told VRT News, “When I first came to Belgium, I couldn’t speak a word of Dutch. There were no classes for non-Dutch-speaking children, so I was dropped into a normal primary school class. It was very difficult, but by reading a lot of Dutch-language books, my Dutch got better and better. It’s a difficult language, as I now realize since I teach it.”

Tamara has been teaching for seven years and happily stated about the award that “words and punctuation marks fail me.”



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Following Up

Last month we informed you of eighth grade student Caroline VanBell's well-crafted and extensively researched video "Feeding a Nation: Herbert Hoover the Humanitarian." It is the story of how Herbert Hoover began the European Relief Program that fed starving Belgians during World War I and some of the problems he encountered along the way.



Caroline VanBell

Caroline's video won the regional documentary National History Day event in Milwaukee, was first runner-up at the Wisconsin State History Day Competition, and was awarded the State Archival Award for her filmmaking efforts. In addition, her classmates voted her the honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington.

We hope you have had the opportunity to view this video. Here again is the link to that YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1N8pigD23I>.

What makes Caroline's subject matter even more poignant was Ambassador Dirk Wouters' visit to the Hoover gravesite in West Branch, Iowa. Ambassador Wouters spent several minutes at the grave, paying silent homage to the man who did so much for Belgians during the Great War.



Ambassador Wouters pays his respects at the Hoover gravesite.