



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 2017

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Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 7th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
October 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 9th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
October 12th	Belgian Dinner	5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., October 4th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., October 6th	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., October 7th	Barb Michalek (am)	Karen VandeKerckhove (pm)
Wed., October 11th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., October 13th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., October 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., October 18th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., October 20th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., October 21st	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., October 25th	tbd	tbd
Fri., October 27th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., October 28th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

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

EMAIL only for CBC

Any new member or anyone who hasn't already provided their email address should send a note to belgium032@gmail.com. The newsletter, reminders, and special notices will be sent to you this way, and we promise you won't receive any ads or solicitations.

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

Belgian Dinner

The Center is hosting a dinner at the Moline Hy-Vee on Avenue of the Cities on Thursday, October 12th, beginning with a happy hour at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The meal will consist of four courses: soup, salad, Belgian meatballs w/potato and braised Belgian endive, and dessert. All will be prepared with recipes from the CBC's Belgian cookbook. Cost is \$30.00/person and that includes tax and tip. The bar is on your own, but Hy-Vee has a happy hour from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with drink and appetizer specials.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Center, or you can call the Center at (309) 762-0167, but payment and reservations must be made by October 4th. We hope we'll see you there.

News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Al Raes** of Moline, who turned 101 on August 29th.

Prayers are offered for the recovery of **Tim Hufford** and **Georgia Slininger**.

Sympathy is sent to **Tom and Jan DeSmet** on the death of Tom's brother Edward P. DeSmet.



Continued Special Thanks

We continue to salute members who have stepped up to sponsor a breakfast or the newsletter. This month, **Debbie and Mark Schwiebert** and **Kevin DeRoo** have each sponsored a breakfast.

Previous contributors have been: **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney** (3 waffle breakfasts); **Chris Van Lancker** (donates her time in the layout of the monthly newsletter); **Dr. Volkan and Merry Sumer** of Tremont, Illinois (1 breakfast); **Rafferty Funeral Home** (1 breakfast); **Kevin and Colleen Rafferty** (1 breakfast); and **Patrick and Barb Van Nevel** (1 breakfast and 1 newsletter); and **Lizette L. Desseyn** (2 newsletters).

We also received from the **Kevin DeRoo Family**, **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney**, **Phyllis Maxfield**, **Walter and Linda VanDamme**, **Lavone Slead**, and **Donna Cavins**, additional donations added to their membership renewals.

To those mentioned above, a special "Thank You" from your CBC Board. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated!

Volunteers Needed

You have seen this plea before in prior newsletters. We know it can be tough for younger people to provide time to a group, as they are usually busy running children around to their activities. But let's face it folks, we need volunteers for both monthly waffle breakfasts and to keep the Center open for visitors. It seems like the same people step up week after week or month after month. But that supply is dwindling, both because of burn-out and in some cases, due to age - they can no longer drive, or because of health issues.

Please consider volunteering to help out occasionally. The work isn't hard, and you meet some really nice people. We're only as good as our volunteers. Without them, we wouldn't be able to be open or offer our fundraising waffle breakfasts. And as always, THANK YOU to those who do volunteer time for the benefit of the CBC!!

Belgian Mayor for Nolo?

Brussels-born Patrick Van Hoorebeek hopes to become the first ever Belgian to become mayor of an American city. The 63-year old wine bar owner is a candidate for the mayoral election being held on October 14th.

Van Hoorebeek left Brussels in 1985 to visit his father who left Belgium 20 years earlier. However, he never returned and has been living in the U.S. for the past 32 years. He wound up in New Orleans where he opened a wine bar, the Bar Vin, in the French Quarter. That was his dream come true. Now he wants to realize another dream: to become mayor of his adopted home city.

He is running as an independent candidate and knows it will be difficult. He only has a little over \$10,000 to spend on the campaign, which has the slogan "More Wine, Less Crime." He states, "If people don't feel safe, they won't want to come and drink wine at my bar." He wants more cameras and police on the streets.

Just maybe he will strike a chord.



CBC Scholar Recipient

This month's essay is by scholarship recipient Arden Brewer of Overland Park, Kansas. Arden attended Blue Valley West High School where she was active in athletics and was involved in 15 theatre productions, including lead and supporting roles, set building, and sound. She was a member of National Honors Society; the National Math Honors Society; National Art Honors Society; and the National English Honors Society. Arden is attending Washington University in St. Louis, and will major in Molecular Biology and Political Science.

MY HERITAGE
by Arden Brewer

In eighth grade, our English teacher asked us to write a biographical novel about a member of our family. I was determined that in writing this biography I would discover something groundbreaking, some unique part of my familial history that would impress my family. What I received instead was an insight into my heritage: an explanation for my family's hard working, take nothing for granted behavior.



My searches resulted in my deciding to write about my Great Grandma Fleischman. She had passed away six months after my birth, so I never truly got the chance to get to know her. I vaguely knew of her, mainly that she had immigrated here from Belgium in the early 1900s. Eager to learn more, I began my research interviewing my Grandma Lorenson and Great Aunt Therese, her daughters, and searching online for news of the Boens family (her maiden name) in Belgium. What I found out was a past filled with hard work, pain, and love.

Great Grandma Fleischman immigrated to America at the age of seven, but even living just seven years in Belgium colored her life with that culture. She brought with her faith, her affinity for homemade foods filled with love, and her deep-rooted respect for her heritage. Her immigration was not an easy process. She had five other siblings, so the trip through Ellis Island was colored with the fear one of them would be denied entry. This ominous possibility almost came to fruition due to my Great Grandma's poor eyesight; she was held back and almost sent home, yet finally made it through. When her family finally arrived in the land of opportunity, they by no means had it easy. Her father and older brother worked in a brickyard, and her other older siblings also got jobs to help the family stay afloat. She was only able to attend school through 8th grade, at which point she dropped out

and became a live-in housemaid, assisting the cook and watching the children, only returning home on weekends.

What I found utterly shocked me. The hardships and pain I had only read of immigrants enduring in my history classes became a reality. I was overwhelmed by the pride I felt in my family for overcoming obstacles, taking advantage of every opportunity they received, and making something of themselves. This acquired information completed the puzzle as to why my family was so hardworking, so driven; they knew better than to take what they had for granted.

I was spurred to implement this mindset in my own life. It became evident in high school that this ideology would be part of what defined me. Determined to take the hardest classes, to constantly push myself and to dream big while doing it, I now make the most of opportunities I am lucky enough to be presented with. It has also allowed me to recognize traits in the actions of my grandma and mom, reminiscent of our heritage. Both are strong women who worked hard for everything they have. Both are also filled with love and pride and the ability, which has to be hereditary, to make the perfect coffee cake (Great Grandma's recipe). Since writing this book, I have a newfound appreciation when my grandma takes me to visit the cultural center; it is no longer "grandma's place she likes to go" in my head, it is a celebration of the heritage that made each of us who we are.

My Belgian heritage is a heritage of strength and endurance. It is a heritage of not settling for the current circumstances, but wanting better. It is a heritage of warm coffee cake (filled with love) on Christmas morning and the religion that fortifies me. It has only been three generations since my Great Grandmother's immigration, since she endured hardships to enter this nation and even more to stay afloat in it. It has been three generations since she dropped out of the 8th grade to work full time, and I am writing this essay today for a scholarship to aid in my attending college.

**OCTOBER
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers for the October waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Jan Irwin, Mike DeBisschop, Kim Kochuyt, and Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

October, 2017

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____ **Email:** _____

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2017

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.