



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



December, 2017

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Vice President**  
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**Scholarship Committee**  
Bonnie Tanamor

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pvannevel@msn.com

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**Waffle Chairman**  
Catherine VanHecke  
(309) 235-3765

**Flemings in the World**  
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fredlinda1985@gmail.com

**Archivist**  
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**Rolle Bolle**  
Bob Van De Voorde

**Newsletter Editor**  
Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

**Gift Shop**  
Diana Slininger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 2nd	Bake Sale	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 10th	CBC Christmas Party	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
	NO Board Meeting	

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

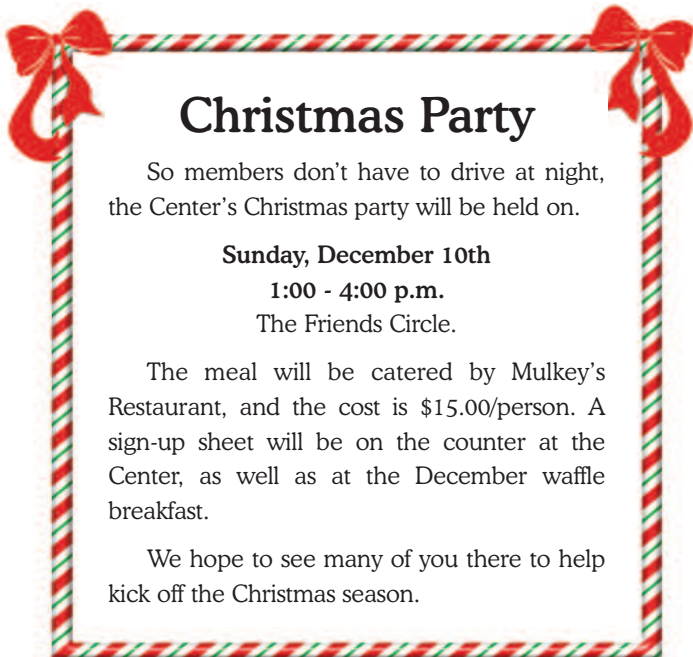
The December schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Fri., Dec. 1st	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Sat., Dec. 2nd	Barb Michalek (am)	Marlene Shattuck (pm)
Wed., Dec. 6th	tbd	tbd
Fri., Dec. 8th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Dec. 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 13th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., Dec. 15th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., Dec. 16th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Dec. 20th	Linda Polich	Barb Coppens
Fri., Dec. 22nd	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Dec. 23rd	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Dec. 27th	tbd	tbd
Fri., Dec. 29th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Dec. 30th	tbd	tbd

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



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



## Christmas Party

So members don't have to drive at night, the Center's Christmas party will be held on.

**Sunday, December 10th**  
**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
 The Friends Circle.

The meal will be catered by Mulkey's Restaurant, and the cost is \$15.00/person. A sign-up sheet will be on the counter at the Center, as well as at the December waffle breakfast.

We hope to see many of you there to help kick off the Christmas season.

## Thank You, Pledgers

This year's Birdies for Charity pledges totaled \$2,034 plus a bonus of \$203, which meant a total of \$2,237 for the CBC Scholarship Fund. Co-chairs Mary and Larry Lorensen thank everyone who pledged to Birdies this year to keep our program funded.

## Continued Special Thanks

We continue to salute members who have stepped up to sponsor a breakfast or the newsletter.

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); **Patrick and Barb Van Nevel** (1 breakfast and 1 newsletter); **Debbie and Mark Schwiebert** (1 breakfast), **Kevin DeRoo** (1 breakfast) and **Lizette L. Desseyn** (2 newsletters).

We have also received from **Pat Blondell**, the **Kevin DeRoo Family**, **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney**, **Phyllis Maxfield**, **Walter and Linda VanDamme**, **Lavone Slead**, **Donna Cavins**, **Barbara Michalek**, and **Alice Van Quekelberghe** additional donations.

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

## Christmas Bake Sale

Our annual bake sale will be held during the December waffle breakfast on **December 2nd**. Last year's sale was a successful fundraiser, and we'd like to repeat that again.

Can you donate your special creation of breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and treats? You can bring them to the CBC on Friday, December 1st, from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., or to the Friends Circle early on December 2nd. Please bake for us.



Will you bake for us?

## *News of the Membership*

*Get Well* wishes are extended to **Don DeBo**.


*Please Note:* **Dolores Bultinck** has moved to New Perspective (the former Lighthouse). Her address is 1900-10th Street, Apt. 371, Silvis, IL 61282 and her phone is (309) 278-1488.

## New Hours for 2018

**Beginning in January, the Center will only be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.** Finding volunteers to cover our open hours each month is getting more difficult, so unless people step up to help, we have to eliminate Friday openings.

## DECEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for December's waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Kim Kochuyt, Bill and Sandy Coopman, Yvette VanDriessche, Kevin DeRoo, and Diana Slinger. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier.



## VanTieghem Scholarship

The Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship makes an award to a student who has completed two years of college and is continuing with his/her education. This year's VanTieghem scholar is Alondra Rosas. She attended Moline High School, Black Hawk College and Trinity College of Nursing. She is a member of ALAS, Clean Sphere and is on the International Dean's List. Alondra volunteers at Trinity Unity Point Health, Gigi's Playhouse and in the reading program at a local elementary school. She is pursuing a career in Nursing.

### MY HERITAGE by Alondra Rosas

About twenty-four years ago, my parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico. When my parents first moved here, they only had six dollars. The same day they arrived, they found a job. It wasn't easy for my parents their first couple years. Since the majority of the Hispanic immigrants come to the United States illegally, the jobs that are available are not easy. The importance of the Hispanic heritage is not the food or the music, it is their work ethic, traditions, and family orientation.

There are many reasons why I cherish Hispanics; the work ethic is one of them. Usually illegal immigrants work under hot uncomfortable weather – any type of weather actually. They have difficult jobs that many people would not want to have. However, immigrants don't have many other options. They came here to work and give their kids a better future. Having any job in the United States, is a blessing to immigrants. I can speak for many, if not all Hispanics when I say that.

I will forever be grateful, for my parents have worked day and night for my brothers and me. To immigrate to a foreign country, where you don't speak their language, can be a very challenging risk for anyone to take. This is a risk many Hispanics have taken. They left their homeland, where they were born and raised, for a chance of a new life. That's why many people move to the United States, so their children can live the "American Dream." This has taught me that I have to work hard for what I want because good things don't come easy.

The Hispanic culture has many traditions it passes down through generations. One of them is a Quinceanera, which is a girl's fifteenth birthday party, and a religious ceremony. It celebrates a girl transforming into a young woman and learning her role as a woman. The most important part of a Quinceanera is the church ceremony – since religion is an important value in our culture. At the ceremony you receive

gifts from close friends and family you chose to be your "God Parents." Each gift has a meaning behind it that connects to God.

All of the gifts are blessed by the priest before receiving them. One of the gifts is a necklace with the Virgin Mary which symbolizes your faith in God, yourself, and the world. It is also used for protection as you enter a new phase in life. The earrings are another gift; they are used so you always listen to your parents, God, and advice from elders. The ring is God's endless love. It is also a promise to remain as your parents' princess until a king replaces it with an engagement ring. Because of the Hispanic beliefs, it has helped me into having a good relationship with God.

Besides the importance of having a good relationship with God, family is high on the list of Hispanic values. My family and I have a close bond. No matter how busy our lives get, on Sundays we make time for each other. Every Sunday is for mass and quality time with the family. It is important to my parents that we maintain a good relationship and spend as much time as we can together.

Traditional family roles have always affected the Hispanic heritage and it is still strongly emphasized today. A lot of times, Hispanics have a full house. The father of the family has the role of authority and respect. They are the ones who provide and protect their family. The mother is expected to nurture while the father is the main disciplinarian. She is also expected to be the caregiver of the children and the elderly family members.

We believe our elders should be in the hands of family since they were the ones to raise us. The kids are also taught to help as our grandparents age. We have to respect all of our elders and do as they say. When my grandparents visit from Mexico, my brothers know to escort my grandmother anytime we go out. With my grandfather, we are to do as he says and make him comfortable. It shows compassion and respect for our grandparents.

Respect is also to be shown to those who visit our home. The popular saying, "Mi casa es tu casa" really follows the values of Hispanics. They are to be greeted with a handshake or a hug – this also goes when entering another home. We are to offer our visitors something to drink or eat as soon as they come in. Some of the older generations may be offended if their food is denied; so it is always best to accept something that is given to you at a Hispanic household.

The values and beliefs are what shapes a person into whom they are. I was told by a coworker that she can see my

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### **VanTieghem Scholarship**

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family has strong values by the way I present myself. I was taught to interact and not shelter myself when I am around other people. I am also determined to complete a challenging task. She said I show how much respect I have for my elders when she watches me care for my patient, at my job as a CNA. Since these things are normal to me, I didn't realize people outside of my culture noticed it.

Thanks to the Hispanic culture and the traditions it comes with, it has shaped who I am today. I really feel like I'm doing something right when someone tells me to thank my parents for raising me into the young woman I am today. I love everything about the Hispanic culture. I love the food, the music, their determination, their beliefs and values – as well as how welcoming they can be. I will always be proud to be born to Mexican parents. I really cherish my culture, and I plan to pass down our traditions to my future children.

## **Diamonds Big in Antwerp**

During 2016, one quarter of the 26 tons of diamonds that were mined went straight to Antwerp. Since diamonds are traded several times, a total of 84% of the world's rough diamonds passed through Antwerp. In the case of cut diamonds, the total is 50%.



Why Antwerp? It has plenty of knowledge, experience, and a large, competitive market. There are 1,700 diamond companies in the city. Around 6,600 people work in the industry, with another 20,000 working indirectly in the Antwerp diamond business.

