



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

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www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



March, 2018

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Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
March 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
March 12th	Board Meeting	5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The March schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., March 3rd	Barb Michalek (am)	Diana Slininger (pm)
Wed., March 7th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Sat., March 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., March 14th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., March 17th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., March 21st	Linda Polich	Barb Coppens
Sat., March 24th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Wed., March 28th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., March 31st	tbd	tbd

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

Scholarship Applications

Applications for both the Center for Belgian Culture Scholarship and the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship have been sent to area schools and are available at the CBC.

This year, the CBC will be offering only two awards, but they will be worth \$1,000 each. Since costs have risen steadily for tuition, board, books, etc., the CBC board felt this increase would be beneficial to the recipient. The scholarship is awarded to any high school senior who will be continuing their college education.

The VanTieghem scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student who has completed at least two years of college and plans to continue his or her education. The \$1200 award can be used for college expenses.

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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

News of the Membership

Sympathy is offered to: the family of **Donald De Bo**, 83, of Geneseo, who passed away February 10th at Rosewood Care Center in Moline; to longtime special friend of Don's, **Millie Kale**; and to the family of **Maureen Goethals Simpson** on the death of Joan Goethals Pinks, 78, of Holland, Michigan, who died February 8th. (Joan was the youngest daughter of Art Goethals.)

Continued Special Thanks

We have received a breakfast sponsorship in **Memory of Louis Slininger**, and 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), **Lizette L. Desseyn** (2 newsletters) and **Shawn Van Driessche** (1 breakfast).

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.

New Jobs in Flanders

Figures released by the Flanders Investment & Trade Agency reveal that overseas companies created 5,377 new jobs in Flanders last year – the highest number in 15 years. The total investment in 2017 came to approx. \$2.6 billion. Companies in the U.S., together with those in neighboring countries like the Netherlands, Germany, and France, were responsible for most of the new investment projects and related jobs.

Manufacturing, logistics, and research and development represented the most popular business activities, while sales and marketing ventures also accounted for a large portion of the foreign investment.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

MARCH WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for the March waffle breakfast will be Chad Coene, Luke Miller, Barb Copens, Kim Kochuyt, and Millie Kale. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone's having a good time.



At the Kleine Winkel

Last month the Kleine Winkel introduced its new double-sided Belgian garden flags. Both the Belgian flag and the flag with the Flemish lion have sold very well. We still have some as replicas of the Belgian flag and just a few with the lion. We can order more if you are interested. The cost is \$20.00 and they will make great additions to your gardens or shrubs.

CBC Board

The annual election of officers is coming up in May. We invite anyone with an interest in serving on the board to contact us. We are especially in need of someone with some accounting background to serve as treasurer. If you are so inclined, can you . . . will you . . . let us know! Your current officers and board members truly need some additional help, and what better way of making sure the CBC can continue in the future than to join and help.



Sabena Belgian World Airways - Part Two

On January 23, 1960, SABENA introduced its first Boeing 707 jet with service between Brussels and New York. By the end of the year, it added B-707 flights to Montreal and Mexico City. But by adding jets to its international and European service, the airline found it needed additional money to help pay for the costlier planes and equipment.

SABENA had a major reorganization of equity when the Belgian government increased its holdings in the airline from 51% to 95%. Part of SABENA's money problems stemmed from the Congo. Back in the mid-50s, the Congo generated 44% of SABENA's total traffic. But by 1969, the numbers were only half of that. The problems began when the Congolese government curtailed landing rights, seized assets, and froze SABENA's bank accounts while leaving large sums owed to the airline unpaid.

To help alleviate the loss of traffic to the Congo, SABENA attempted to diversify by adding more service to the Middle East and Japan. It later added the Southeast Asian destinations of Bangkok, Singapore, and Manila. The airline also added some South American destinations, but left that market after several disappointing years.

For much of its postwar existence, prosperity eluded SABENA. It's lucrative Congo market evaporated. Restrictive labor laws and a government policy that sought to maintain unprofitable prestige routes added to the problem. Massive operating losses were recorded in the early 1970s due to re-equipment costs. Wide-body and newer single aisle aircraft were not cheap.

By early 1980, SABENA dropped its Southern Asia service to concentrate on the lucrative markets of Montreal, Chicago, Detroit, and Atlanta. Cash infusions from the government and private sector helped the airline

to remain afloat. SABENA began seeking partnerships with other major airlines to strengthen itself. Air France and Swissair took large holdings in SABENA but profitability was still very tenuous.

Various cost-cutting measures were employed like cutting unprofitable routes, selling planes and leasing them back, and laying off employees. Still, severe losses continued. SABENA's decline accelerated after the World Trade Center events of September 11, 2001. Its partner, Swissair, filed for bankruptcy, and by November 7th, SABENA did likewise.

In the end, consistently poor traffic results, lack of capital, government influence, and mismanagement all contributed to the downfall of one of Europe's oldest airlines. However, through liquidation purchases and several mergers, a new airline emerged.

Brussels Airlines, owned by Lufthansa, serves nearly 100 destinations in Europe, Africa, India, and North America. While owned by a German company, its Belgian roots still survive.

(Edited and condensed from Maurice Wickstead's history of SABENA and special thanks to Airways magazine.)

A personal note: As a child, I always thought it "neat" when a television game show would award a European vacation prize that was flown by SABENA Belgian World Airways. I guess it was my pride in being of Belgian decent. Late in the 1980s, I visited Belgium on two different occasions and flew on SABENA. The flights, the personnel, the overall service (including the food) were outstanding. You couldn't find an overall better flying experience. With flying the way it is today, I'm certainly glad I had the opportunity of enjoying the Belgian airline's way of traveling to the "homeland."



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Traveling in Belgium?

The new Eurostar service connecting Amsterdam and London via Brussels offers advantages to Belgian travelers heading to London: twice a day, passengers heading to London can get there in less than two hours because there will be no stop in Lille, France.

Passengers wanting to go to Amsterdam from Brussels can use the two daily Eurostar services in addition to the 13 Thalys services and 16 Benelux trains that connect on a daily basis.



From the Weird File

A Belgian air passenger was forced to leave New Zealand after attempting to smuggle three sausages through Auckland Airport. An x-ray operator intercepted the smuggled sausages after the Belgian had attempted to conceal them in his backpack. New Zealand has strict rules on the importation of food-stuffs, designed to protect the unique biodiversity of the country. Evidently the items were pork and salami sausages, which could have carried diseases that could potentially harm New Zealand agriculture.

