



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



September, 2018

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sept. 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 10th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16th	Belgian Fest	Noon to 4:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The September schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., Sept. 1st	Bonnie Newman (a.m.)	Linda Polich (p.m.)
Wed., Sept. 5th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., Sept. 8th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Sept. 12th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., Sept. 15th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Sept. 19th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., Sept. 22nd	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Sept. 26th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Sept. 29th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

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



Sunday September 16th
Noon to 4:00 p.m. • Stephens Park

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

CBC Scholar Recipient

Our first essay is by Mya Coene of Moline. Mya attended Alleman High School and is an Illinois State Scholar, member of the National Honor Society and Key Club. She was a Junior Rotarian, president of the French Club, and a member of the Student Council. Mya will attend Marquette University, with a double major in secondary education and history.

MY DIVERSE HERITAGE

by Mya Coene

They say, “Home is where the heart is,” but my heart does not reside only within my home. My heart, mind, and soul lie in my roots. I will never forget where and who I came from. The generations before me created my Belgian, Swedish, and Filipino background. My diverse ancestry has shaped and blended me into the independent, creative, and outgoing individual I am today. I cannot begin to describe just how special my family is to me. Whenever I feel lost or misled by the pressures of life and society, all I have to do is turn to my family for guidance and support. The power of family is a huge factor in my life because both sides of my family keep me anchored, but also motivate me to live my life to the fullest, be the best version of myself every day, and be ambitious in everything I do.



My mother’s side of the family did not originally reside in the United States, but in the Philippines. My mom, along with her parents and five sisters, immigrated to America when she was only seven years old, to make a better life for their family in the States. They settled down in Baltimore, Maryland, and grew up among many different ethnicities and religions. My Chua family is very important to me because they gave me a strong mother. Without her work ethic, kind heart, and strong sense of family, I would not be the person I am today. My Asian side of the family is full of determined, hardworking, loving, and kind women, men, and children who are scattered all around the States. They bring so much color to my life through travel, music, food, dance, and laughter. The Chua family has taught me the value of traveling hundreds of miles just to be together. We have been so many places and experienced numerous things. So, it is fair to say there is never a shortage of stories and wise words.

My father’s Swedish side is notorious for our big Carlstedt reunions. No matter how many years have passed, when we all get together, time seems to fade away. I love hearing stories about my grandma and her siblings, or my great-grandparents building their own house after they were married. These stories and our history is what bring us together. We

forget all about our differences and worries from our lives over the years. When we gather, it is a time of celebration and laughter. My great grandma and grandpa are the pillars of our family. Their strong 69 years of marriage have taught me the love and trust that endures between two people and consists at the core of a growing family. I dedicate my passionate, bubbly, fun-loving character to my Swedish heritage and my beautiful Carlstedt family.

My dad’s Belgian side has always been close to home. I was born and raised in the same area as my grandpa and father. The Coene’s have been proud alumni of Seton Catholic School and Alleman High School for three generations. My schooling has helped me carry on the important aspect of family in my academics, sports, clubs, and community service. My Belgian side of the family has really taught me the importance of cultivating a strong faith and a quality education at the foundations of my life. We have always gotten together on Sundays after church, whether it was at my great-grandma Margaret Coene’s house, or Panera. It has always been an essential part of being a close family, to gather at least once a week to catch up and see how everyone is doing. My Belgian culture ties me to the Quad Cities community, as well. The Center for Belgian Culture allows me to have a deeper connection to my Belgian background, because by Grandpa Dave, Uncle Ron, and dad are all proud members. I am so honored to be a part of the generations of Coene’s who have built their lives here. My Belgian family has never failed to support me in everything I do. They were there when I received my First Holy Communion, played my very last volleyball game at Alleman, was inducted into the National Honor Society, and countless other significant events in my life. I would not be so invested in my family and Belgian roots if it were not for my Coene family.

I grew up as one of the only Filipinas with Belgian and Swedish heritage in my schools. So, whenever I was feeling out of place, my family was always there to pick me up and remind me to be proud of whom I am. I have grown up feeling endless amounts of love, acceptance, support, and guidance in every aspect of my life, from academics to sports. No matter what side of the family I am with, they are always the large, loud family in the crowd cheering me on. Even though they may be embarrassing at times, I would not trade them for anything. I am so blessed to be such a beautiful blend of ethnicities and contain the wonderful characteristics from both sides of my diverse family. I have extraordinary role models to look up to, and I would not be who I am or where I am today without them. My family and my heritage have been, and always will be, the most important things in my life.

Does Anyone Know?

Does anyone know how to play the Belgian card game “bien?” I think that’s how it’s spelled. I saw it played once in Belgium and evidently it’s a very competitive game. The players were slamming down cards, got red in the face, and appeared as though they might have a stroke. Yet it looked like a fun game. But how is it played? If someone knows and would like to teach others on how to play, please let us know. We’ll set up a class at the Center.

Remains of Battle at Ypres

Bellewaarde Ridge in Zillebeke, a district of Ypres, has been put under temporary protection as an archaeological site. The First and Second Battles of Ypres were partially fought in Zillebeke, including the battle on Bellewaarde Ridge, on May 24-25, 1915. The ridge has been largely untouched since the First World War. The land owner apparently leveled it fairly smoothly and left much of it alone to turn to forest. According to investigations, the tops of the trenches are just 4” below the surface.

A network of explosion craters have also been left largely untouched, which is somewhat unique. Deeper underground are a network of tunnels that connect the craters. It is also expected that blasts in the shafts killed a number of soldiers who are still buried under the ridge.

The field of craters appears to be the best-preserved crater landscape in the Westhoek. The well-preserved craters, trenches, and shelters make this a site of great archaeological value. If the site is affirmed a heritage site, it will be legally protected from development or any other useage.

(Courtesy of *FlandersToday*)



Thank You!!!

A special THANK YOU is offered to **Catherine VanHecke** for her hard work and devotion to the CBC and especially as Waffle Chairperson. It’s hard to put into words the amount of time she spent in making sure that everything was ready and in place for us to enjoy the breakfasts for so many years. Thank you and very best wishes on your move southeast.

And thank you also to **Chris Van Lancker** of Model Printers for donating her time in laying out the CBC newsletter, and **Lizette Desseyn** for adding \$300 to her membership renewal for the sponsorship of two newsletters.



**Sunday September 16th
Noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Sunday, September 16th, is the date for the 6th annual Fall Belgian Fest. Stephens Park will again feature a rolle bolle tournament, performances by the Happy Belgians and the Gray Wolf Band, Belgian waffles, the Belgian lace makers, food, beer, and Belgian horses giving carriage rides. From Noon – 4:00 p.m. and there’s no admission charge!

SEPTEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for the September waffle breakfast are Gary Francque, Joe DeMeyer, Debbie Schwiebert, Jan Vershaw, Kevin DeRoo, and Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the waffle batter and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will be there for the last time as Waffle Chairperson. Please come, enjoy waffles, and wish Catherine only the best, as she gets ready for a move out of the area.



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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2018

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2018

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.