



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



October, 2018

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 6th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
October 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 8th	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 October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., October 3rd	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., October 6th	Diana Slininger (a.m.)	Diana Slininger (p.m.)
Wed., October 10th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., October 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., October 17th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., October 20th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., October 24th	tbd	tbd
Sat., October 27th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., October 31st	Bob Francione	Bob Francione

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

Belgium Was Hot

This was the hottest summer in Belgium since records began in 1833. The average temp from June 1st to September 17th was 68 degrees, two degrees warmer than average. If that sounds cool, it's because it includes around-the-clock temperatures, so also the minimum temperatures. The previous record was held by the summer of 2003, with an average of 67.4 degrees.

Belgium also came close to beating its 1835 record of the fewest days with rain. There were 18 days then, 20 now.

Once September is complete, the month will no doubt be warmer than usual, as well. For the rest of the month, the temps are expected to stay about 68 degrees.

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

CBC Scholar Recipient

Our second recipient of a \$1000 scholarship is Sydney Sümer of Tremont, Illinois. Sydney graduated from Tremont High School Summa Cum Laude. She was a volunteer at the Pregnancy Resource Center, the Tremont Basketball Camp, and the Tremont Turkey Festival. She was part of the leadership team of her youth group outreach team, as well as its band leader. Sydney will attend Illinois Wesleyan University, majoring in Nursing, and has been pre-accepted into that program.

MY HERITAGE by Sydney Sümer

Growing up, I have been privileged to know my familial heritage and have the opportunity to be immersed in the culture of my Belgium ancestors. My mom has kept a detailed scrapbook of our family tree, and as a young child I remember pouring through it, fascinated by the number of relatives I had and the old pictures of them. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Belgium, meet many of my Belgium cousins, and visit the places where my ancestors grew up and where some of my family still lives today. I am proud to call myself Belgium and hope, in the future, to share with my children the rich history of their family.



My second-great-grandparents, Gustaaf and Pharilde Coopman, immigrated to the Moline-Rock Island area on April 27, 1909. Interestingly, when Gustaaf immigrated to the United States, the spelling of his name was changed from Gustaaf to Gustaf. Their family was active participants within the Belgium community, and Gustaaf can be seen in a handful of the pictures displayed at the Center for Belgian Culture Museum today. Gustaaf and Pharilde had four children, and their second child, William Coopman Sr., is my great-grandfather. William Sr.'s sons, William Jr. and David Coopman, are current members of the Center for Belgian Culture. William Coopman Jr. is my grandfather. Growing up, my family would plan weekend trips to my grandparents' house around the monthly waffle breakfast. I distinctly remember the joy of attending those breakfasts and being able to catch up with some of my family that I had not seen in a while. It was also very intriguing to me to see the different artifacts, both old and new, that are on display at the museum. It fascinated me how people would wear wooden clogs and display lace in their homes. I particularly recall the tiny, antique dolls wearing traditional, Belgium dress behind the glass shelves and loving how unique the outfit and culture is.

Some of Gustaaf's and Pharilde's siblings stayed back in Belgium, and recently my family and I were able to meet their

descendants. It was such a neat experience meeting so many of my relatives and listening to them tell of their way of life in Belgium and how it differs from mine in the United States. While in Belgium, my family and I walked around big cities, drove through the countryside, visited a beach, saw a World War I trench, and toured museums. It was amazing to eat authentic Belgium waffles and mussels along with scrumptious croissants. While in Belgium, my family and I visited the famous Manneken Pis statue, which I had seen a miniature model of both at the Center for Belgian Culture and in my family home. I was able to try authentic chocolate that my grandparents had brought home on some of their previous trips to Belgium. In honor of my Catholic upbringing and family heritage in the Catholic Church, we saw many old churches and chapels. My family and I climbed the 366 steps of the Belfort, and we even had the opportunity to go inside The Basilica of the Holy Blood in Bruges and see the revered vial that holds the blood of Jesus Christ.

Learning about my family and the Belgium culture both in person and through family trees is a priceless experience that I would not trade for the world. It is great to reflect on memories of visiting the Center for Belgian Culture and stories my grandfather and great-uncle have shared about their father and grandparents. I am thankful to have visited Belgium and be a part of the incredible culture, and I hope to continue the legacy of being Belgium to my future children as my parents and grandparents did to me.

News of the Membership

Condolences are extended to the family of **Betty Freeman**, 88, of Silvis, who died August 26th at Silvis, Illinois. Betty was a well-known lace maker and taught many the art of bobbin lace. Condolences are also extended to **Mary Gardner-Karcher** on the death of her mother, Frances Calsyn, 88, of Davenport, Iowa, who died August 26th.

Thank You to **Carl Freeman** for his memorial gifts to the CBC and to the lace makers, on behalf of wife Betty.

New Addresses: **Dolores Bultinck** has moved to the new Overlook Village in Moline. Her address is 941-6th Street Dr. #425, Moline, IL 61265. **Chet Van De Velde** is now at Friendship Manor, Silver Cross Center, Rm. 109, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Save the Date

The Center's Christmas Party will be held at the Friends Circle on Sunday, December 9th, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mulkey's Restaurant will again cater the meal. Details will be forthcoming, but please make a note of this date.

We Need Some Help

As noted several times previously, our Waffle Chairperson Catherine Van Hecke is retiring from that position and will be moving to North Carolina. For many years, she has handled the purchasing of supplies, preparing the sausage, and taking care of prep and clean-up for the breakfasts. We will soon be without Catherine's service and need a replacement(s) to take over those duties so waffle breakfasts can continue.

Discussing the situation with Catherine at last month's breakfast, she said she had been thinking about the situation and perhaps instead of one person doing it all, maybe it could be taken over by three volunteers: one to watch over and order inventory; one to cook the sausage ahead of time (which can be done at the Friends Circle kitchen); and one to set up/supervise the Saturday breakfasts.

One member has stepped forward to keep track and order inventory. Are there one or two more people willing to help us keep the waffle breakfasts going? Are there one or two more people who will step up and give a few hours each month? Are there one or two more people who are looking for something to do to give back? PLEASE let Catherine know. Her phone number is 309-235-3765. She will explain what each job entails and train you.

All too often we tend to take for granted that something will always be there. In this case, it won't, unless we get some help!

OCTOBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for the October waffle breakfast will be Michael DeBisschop, Kim Kochuyt, Yvette Van Driessche, Marilyn VandeMoortel, Jan Irwin, and Teresa Nelson. Mike Kerckhove will mix the waffle batter and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will help as needed. Please come and enjoy the waffles!



The Kleine Winkel

It's an inventory blow-out! Everything that is in stock is 25% off to members through the month of October. Beginning in November, the public can also save 25% as well. Yes, you read that correctly... **everything in stock is 25% off** (the only exceptions being pick boards and picks). Stop by and do your Christmas shopping early!

Heritage Will Be Good For You

Another Belgian Fest has come and gone and it may have been the best one yet. Sunny, hot, and a bit humid, but the crowd started arriving early. Rolle bolle had more participants than in the past and there was a large crowd of spectators all day. There were lines all afternoon for waffles, brats, beer and the carriage rides by the Belgian horse team. The lace makers demonstrated and answered questions throughout the afternoon. Great music was provided by the Happy Belgians, Lilly DeTaeve, and the Gray Wolf Band.

Many, many thanks to Catherine VanHecke, Angie Jennes, Steve and Diana Slininger, Bill and Sandy Coopman, Karen Vande Kerckhove, Daniel Smith, Millie Kale, all the lace makers, and to the Moline Second Alarmers for their help to the CBC.

And congratulations to Bill Cornelis, Glen Hostens, Payton Hostens, Kevin Rafferty, Bobbi Jackson, Sue Normoyle, Patrick Van Nevel, and Dave Coopman, (the Fest committee), for a job very well done!



Kathy Bustos and Marlene Shattuck

More photos on page 4

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Rolle Bolle Fun!



The Happy Belgians