



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2018

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
November 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 12th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
December 1st	Bake Sale during Waffles	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 10th	No Board Meeting	

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The November schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., Nov. 3rd	Diana Slininger (a.m.)	Diana Slininger (p.m.)
Wed., Nov. 7th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., Nov. 10th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Nov. 14th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., Nov. 17th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Nov. 21st	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., Nov. 24th	CLOSED	
Wed., Nov. 28th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

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



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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

Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholar

The recipient for the 2018 Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholarship is Lauren VanSpeybroeck. Lauren is a graduate of Alleman High School and is attending the University of Northern Iowa. Her majors are Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Spanish Teaching. Her minors are Theatre Performance and English/Spanish Translation. Lauren's honors include UNI Out-of-State Scholar Award, Service Hour Honors, UNI Theatre Minor Awards, Ronald Reagan Poetry Award, and many more. The Van Tieghem family is pleased to honor Lauren VanSpeybroeck with the 2018 scholarship.

MY HERITAGE

by Lauren VanSpeybroeck

"If we don't have faith in the young people, then our country's in sad shape. We hear a lot about the bad ones, and not enough about the good ones. We need to devote ourselves to that." I am a firm believer in this ideal expressed by Albert Van Tieghem, founder of the Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem Scholarship, and so is the rest of my family. I am proud to have come from a family of educators. Great-Grandpa Omer taught my father and uncle to play the saxophone, Poppa Jim is a college statistics professor at St. Ambrose University, Gramma Rose is a piano teacher, my Aunt Jean teaches music at JFK School and St. Ambrose, and my mother is a computer instructor at Black Hawk College. Following in their footsteps, I will soon be an educator as well.



As a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Spanish Teaching major, I have a passion for education and the future of our country. My great-great-grandfather, Rene VanSpeybroeck, arrived in America in 1902, and was a newcomer in an unfamiliar country with an unfamiliar language. I cannot imagine how intimidating it must have been to start a new life with little to no knowledge of how to begin. In the summer of 2016, I helped teach English to immigrants and refugees at Black Hawk College, and last summer I taught English to the children of refugees from Burma and helped them grow accustomed to their new lives in the United States. In Waterloo, Iowa, there are four main ethnic groups from Burma who make up the organization of the Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) - Karen, Karenni, Burmese, and Chin. These people are so in touch with their heritage and were happy to welcome me into their communities. They taught me how to make traditional food, I learned pieces of the languages, and went shopping at local Chin and Karenni businesses. Hearing the stories of their homeland brought

back fond memories of my recent visit to that of my ancestors.

Years ago, my mother was searching the internet and found a professor at Harvard with the last name VanSpeybroeck. She wondered if we might be related, so she contacted him to find out. He responded that, no, we were not from the same area in Belgium, but that recently a VanSpeybroeck from Leopoldsberg contacted him with the same question. He put our two families in touch, and it turned out that we are related, Ever since then, we have been in contact.

Two years ago, my mother, father, sister, and I visited that family and some friends we have back in Belgium. The Leopoldsberg VanSpeybroecks were kind enough to welcome us into their home, and served us a delicious meal made from the fresh vegetables in their garden. We spent the evening talking about our ancestry, and they still had paper copies of our family tree. It was amazing to see how far back we could trace our name.

Our next stop after the VanSpeybroeck's was the Merlevedes' in Diksmuide, the family of my father's friend Katherine. He met her when she was an exchange student in the Quad Cities when he was in high school, and he and my Uncle Mike went to Belgium to visit her before I was born.

Although I had never met the Merlevedes, I felt like I had known them my entire life. The whole family met us at the train station, and we walked to their beautiful home for a fantastic homemade dinner. Fleur, Katherine's daughter, played piano, Rik, her husband, showed us the new parts of the house he was building and renovating, and my dad and their grandfather sang old Belgian folk songs like Mietje Katoen, Het Plekje, Bij denMolen, Sante Santoater, and Moederkealleen. They told us the stories of the town's destruction in World War I, how they still find landmines in neighbors' yards, and about the town's tradition to grow poppies each year in memory of all the lives lost during the war.

Belgium, though it was my first time being there, felt like a second home. We felt so welcome and had a wonderful time getting to know our family and spending time with old friends. I would most definitely love to travel there again. I am proud to be part of such a close-knit family so in touch with our heritage, and, who knows, maybe someday I will end up back in Belgium teaching English someday.

I don't know if I want to teach English in the United States or abroad, but I know I want to make a difference as a teacher for students of all ages, especially young people. I am

Christmas Bake Sale

Our annual Bake Sale will be held during the December waffle breakfast on December 1st. Last year's sale was a successful fundraiser, and we'd like to repeat that again.

The Center is looking for donations of breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and your "special" treats. You can bring them to the CBC on Friday, November 30th, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. or to the Friends Circle early on December 1st.



Will you bake for us?

MY HERITAGE

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proud of my heritage, but I am aware that as a fourth-generation European American, I have immense privilege in the United States. I hope to use this to continue my advocacy for people who do not have the same advantages as I. Through my experiences with Black Hawk and EMBARC, I learned so much about the joys and hardships of these resilient people, and am honored to have been given the opportunity to work with their organizations. I hope to continue pursuing my passion to educate future generations and encourage my students to have pride in their heritages and cultures.

Thank You

Thank You to Linda Van Damme for her membership renewal and additional donation to the Center in remembrance of Walt Van Damme.

NOVEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Thank You to those who volunteered for November's breakfast: Bill Cornelis, Luke Miller, LuAnn Haydon, Barb Coppens, and Pam Black. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and get things started, and Joan DeCap will cashier.



As always, **we need volunteers!!** Waffle breakfasts can only continue if we have volunteer help. If you can help, please contact Karen VandeKerckhove at (309) 762-6725.



Christmas Party

The Center's Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 9th at the Friends Circle from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Dinner will again be provided by Mulkey's and the cost will be \$15.00/person (in advance). Reservations must be made by December 1st, and can be made at the waffle breakfast that day, or any day the Center is open. Entertainment, drawings, and prizes . . . a fun way to kick off the holiday season.

The Kleine Winkel

The inventory blow-out continues. Everything that is in stock is 25% off from now until the end of the year. **Everything in stock is 25% off** (the only exceptions being pick boards and picks)! Stop by and do your Christmas shopping early!

An Ending

After 104 years, the *Gazette van Detroit* will cease publishing in December for Flemings in Canada and the U.S. At present, the *Gazette* is only published online and seemingly sporadically at that. The last paper version disappeared three years ago.

Camiel Cools, from Moorslede, published the first edition in 1914. The readership mainly consisted of emigrated West Flemings. The westerly province was plagued by great unemployment, and many West Flemings found work in the Detroit auto industry or in tobacco cultivation in Ontario, Canada.

In 2006, the paper escaped bankruptcy thanks to a grant from the Flemish government and some sponsorship.

The *Gazette van Detroit* wasn't the first newspaper for Flemish-speaking readers. In 1907, the *Gazette van Moline* began publishing and had a wide-ranging readership among the Belgians in the Moline area, as well as Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan, and New York. In 1940, the Moline paper was merged into the *Gazette van Detroit*.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

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Want to Live in a Castle?

Would you like to live in a castle rent-free? The government of Flanders is offering this opportunity at Gaasbeek Castle in Flemish Brabant. The castle is one of Belgium's best. Built in the 13th century as part of a line of defense for Brussels, it has turrets, towers, gardens, and out-buildings.

Your roomy three-bedroom flat, located on the second floor above the entryway, doesn't come without strings attached. You will be the castle's new caretaker.

The job is unpaid except for the flat (which comes with all utilities and internet), though you and your family will have full access to the 50-hectare property and three weeks' vacation. You will have to be on-site from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. every day, including weekends, but you do get a day off once a month.

The job also requires night-time rounds of the castle and grounds, answering the phone after hours, taking charge of early and late deliveries, hoisting the castle's flags, and feeding the peacocks. Did I mention you get one day off a month?

(From flandersnews.com)



Getting Greener

By 2030, wood burners and open fires will emit just half the damaging substances they do today. Currently they are responsible for half the particulate matter in Flanders.