



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



December, 2018

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Gift Shop

Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 1st	Bake Sale during Waffles	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
December 9th	CBC Christmas Party	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 10th	No Board Meeting	
December 26th	Center Closed	
January 2nd	Center Closed	
January 5th	No Waffle Breakfast	

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>
Sat., Dec. 1st	Diana Slininger (a.m.)	Diana Slininger (p.m.)
Wed., Dec. 5th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., Dec. 8th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Dec. 12th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., Dec. 15th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Dec. 19th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., Dec. 22nd	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Dec. 26th	Closed	
Sat., Dec. 29th	tbd	tbd

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



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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

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?



Thank You

Thanks to Debbie Johnson Schwiebert for the additional donation on her membership renewal.

From Catherine VanHecke

For the last twelve years, it has been my pleasure to serve the CBC as its waffle chairperson. The December waffle breakfast will be my last, as I will soon be moving to North Carolina. I want to extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all of the many volunteers who have helped make our monthly breakfasts so successful. There is no way we could have done it without your help. I also want to thank our patrons and past sponsors for their support month after month. Future breakfasts will be in good hands, and I hope you will continue to volunteer, attend, and support the Center's monthly breakfasts. Again, a sincere THANK YOU to you all!

DECEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for December's waffle breakfast are: Bill and Sandy Coopmen, Michael DeBisschop, Kim Kochuyt, Yvette VanDriessche, and Jane Vershaw. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and get things started, and Catherine VanHecke will be around so you can say "good by."



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.

Of Interest

In response to the item in last month's newsletter about the *Gazette van Detroit's* cessation of publishing, CBC member Rose (Lootens) Kollmorgen of Mequon, Wisconsin, sent this: "I came directly from Belgium in 1951 with my father, mother, and sister, sponsored by the *Gazette van Detroit*. They needed a linotype operator that could type in Flemish and couldn't find one in the U.S., so they sponsored my family. We arrived the last week of August, 1951, and a week later I started kindergarten (age 5) not knowing a word of English!! What an experience!"

A Birdies Thank You

Mary Lorensen, Birdies for Charity chairperson for the CBC, wants to thank all who pledged on behalf of the Center for birdies made during this year's John Deere Classic golf tournament. Our CBC Scholarship Program received \$2,530.16 in pledges and program bonus.

The Kleine Winkel

Remember, 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!

UNESCO Seems to be Spineless

This past November 11th was a national holiday in Belgium. That day marked exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War. It was also the official end of Flanders' centenary commemoration of that war.

The goals of the centenary program were to spread the message "War never brings peace," and to use tourist activities to discuss a period of history that was devastating, poignant, and immensely complicated all at once.

Another goal for the centenary was to get First World War sites recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage. But the evaluation of the joint proposal submitted by Flanders, Wallonia, and France, has been postponed until 2021. (You may remember from an earlier newsletter, that UNESCO felt it shouldn't glorify, honor, or commemorate aspects of wars and conflicts.)

Disappointed at UNESCO'S lack of action, Flemish minister-president Geert Bourgeois stated, "Our burial

and memorial sites highlight the importance of peace and reconciliation. We are talking about the first individual war graves in history, where hundreds of thousands of people still pay respect. We have to keep talking about it, pointing to the insanity of violence."

With UNESCO'S postponement, the government is starting preparations for a new campaign which will focus on the reconstruction that followed the war. "Flanders was in ruins after the First World War," explained Bourgeois. "People worked long and hard to restore the region to its former glory, and that deserves all of our praise and respect."

Perhaps UNESCO will obtain the intestinal fortitude to change its thinking and actually consider the proposal of recognizing the War sites as World Heritage before 2021.

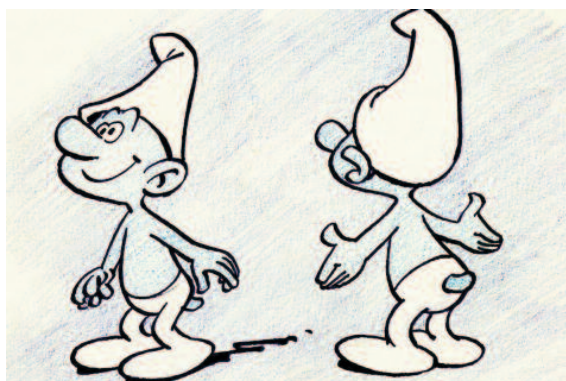
(Edited from *Flanders Today*)

Smurfs Turn 60

The first story involving the Smurfs appeared in print sixty years ago this past October. The group first materialized in a strip published in the Belgian comic *Robbedoes*. They were the brainchild of comic strip artist Peyo.

The Smurfs became a success and soon appeared in stories in their own comics. They have their own language, invented by Peyo when he couldn't think of a word for something: i.e., "Hand me that Smurf thing!"

The Smurfs have gone worldwide with animated cartoons and three Hollywood movies. A children's television channel is working on a 3D film that will air in 2020, and a Smurf exhibit is planned for next year's Brussels Expo.



Shopping Amazon?

With the holidays quickly approaching, keep the CBC in mind while shopping for gifts on Amazon. We are a participant of Amazon Smile. The program is easy to use. If you are already an Amazon user, log on to smile.amazon.com. Insert The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois where asked, and shop normally. If you are new to Amazon, you can create an account on this site, insert our name where asked, and shop to your heart's content. Amazon donates one-half of one percent of qualifying purchases to the CBC.

If you have any questions, call Diana Slinger at (309) 792-2790.



If the building looks familiar, it's because it's today's Belgian Village. In 1916, it was Ed Welvaert's saloon. Circa 1898, the building was a meat market.

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December, 2018

Lukken

This recipe makes 4 dozen.

- 1/2 dozen large eggs
- 1 lb. melted butter
- 1-1/2 oz. Whisky or Brandy
- 3 tbsp. vanilla
- 1 dash salt
- 1 lb. light brown sugar, packed (2 cups)
- 1 lb. white sugar (2 cups)
- 2 lbs. all-purpose flour (6 cups)

Melt the butter and let cool. Add eggs, whiskey, and salt, blend together. Add both sugars and mix thoroughly. While blending, mix in flour a little at a time until well blended. Remove any hard chunks of brown sugar. Roll mix into a tube and wrap with plastic wrap and store overnight in refrigerator.

Heat cookie iron on stove (a drop of water will sizzle when it's hot enough). Spoon a lump of dough on iron and close tightly. Cook for 20-30 seconds – until just lightly brown – and flip to other side for an additional 20-30 seconds. Repeat for each dough piece.

Lives Saved

Optatius Buysens was turned away from the military because of an old hip injury. But that didn't stop him. He voluntarily went to the front on September 26, 1914. He had some coins in his breast pocket, and the jangle of the coins attracted the attention of a German soldier, who shot him. Ironically, they were the same coins that saved his life, as they deflected the bullets.

The German soldier thought Buysens was dead, but he wasn't. Buysens fled, eventually to the UK where he fully recovered. He returned to Flanders after the war to start a family. Since Buysens produced children only after the war, those coins saved many lives that day.

