



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



June, 2019

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 1st	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
June 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 10th	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 June schedule is as follows:

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

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

A Huge THANK YOU!

Our Center recently received a generous \$11,225 donation from the former Croatian Club in Moline. As a non-profit organization, when the Croatian Club was forced to close due to lack of new membership and volunteers, all funds had to be donated to other non-profit groups.

Thanks to CBC members Fred and Linda Polich for working with the Croatian Club so that our Center could receive part of this distribution!

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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Persistence in Genealogy

Editor's Note: This article appeared in *HLN*, a Dutch-language newspaper. It is noted as the most popular newspaper in Flanders. Werner Vols is a member of the CBC and I thought you would find the article interesting.

Werner Vols, from Deurne, has been reconstructing his family tree for 38 years. He has already been looking for 35,000 records, and his family tree now has more than 180,000 people. "If you have been researching one particular branch of your family tree for 15 years, it is, of course, nice to reach King Filip like this!"

He lives in Deurne, but Werner is a 13th cousin of King Filip, Charlemagne is his 32nd great-grandfather and he is even related to Pieter Paul Rubens. After 38 years of genealogical research, Werner's pedigree goes back to 419 AD. "Of course you haven't found anything like that in one or two years," says Werner. "It took me 15 years to make the connection with the royal family. For example, I found that through Paola's pedigree you could link to my pedigree, so King Philippe and I are 13th cousins."

And Werner not only has roots at the Belgian royal family. "Of course it is nice if you discover at a certain moment that you are connected to someone like Charlemagne. Although he had so many wives and mistresses, half of Europe could probably be linked to him," laughs Werner. But how on earth do you get a family tree that has more than 180,000 people and goes back to the time of the Germanic tribes? "(It's) based on deeds and a lot of research. Most documents, such as birth certificates, death certificates, etc., can be found on databases on the internet. But those records only exist from 1500. If you want a family tree that goes beyond that, you have to proceed historically. That is, going to look up history books and all kinds of documents in the library or in archives."

Most of these deeds are then drawn up in Old Dutch or Latin, but fortunately there are a number of genealogists in Belgium who help each other. "I am certainly not the only one who is busy with his pedigree," says Werner. "The great thing is that we all help each other: to translate deeds, or to look up pieces in a library that is too far for me, for example. It really is a world of its own, genealogy, and you are often related to most of them!" And his hobby is not limited to Flanders. Werner was selected from 600 participants to speak at a conference on genealogy in Salt Lake City, in the United States. "Unfortunately, due to health problems, I could not go, but that was of course a great honor for me."

Every day, Werner is busy with his family tree from morning to evening, but neither he nor his family is concerned about that. "There are people who like to go to a café, there are people who go to work out every day, but I do



genealogy. Many friends of mine ask what is so nice about being with dead people. I see it differently: I find it enormously satisfying to find a branch from which no one else has made a family tree. I give those people a place in a larger whole, and that makes it so pleasant."

Influential Innovation

International news organization Reuters has named KU Leuven the most innovative university in Europe for the fourth year in a row. Reuters' annual list focuses on academic papers, which indicate basic research performed at a university, and patent filings, which point to an institution's interest in protecting and commercializing its discoveries.

KU Leuven is a 594-year old Dutch-speaking school based in Flanders. It again earned first place, in part, by producing a high volume of influential inventions. One of its recent highlights was the development of a panel that produces hydrogen gas from moisture in the air. After ten years of development, the panel can now produce 250 liters per day – a world record.

"This ranking confirms that our university is not just a place for intellectual debate, research-driven education, and ground-breaking fundamental research," said rector Luc Sels, "but we contribute a great deal to innovation. These achievements benefit the university, Flanders, and society as a whole."

KU Leuven's research and development tech transfer office has helped the university spin off more than 124 companies across a range of industries.

The university ranked seventh on Reuters' 2018 list of the world's most innovative universities, the highest ranking of any university outside the United States.

(From *Flanders Today*)

Flying Billboard

Many airlines throughout the world salute celebrations and special events in locations they serve, with special graphics. Brussels Airlines has unveiled its newest plane, inspired by the works of artist Pieter Bruegel. The plane is part of the Belgian Icon series, a collection of aircraft honoring local heroes that include Tintin, Magritte, the national football team, and the Smurfs.

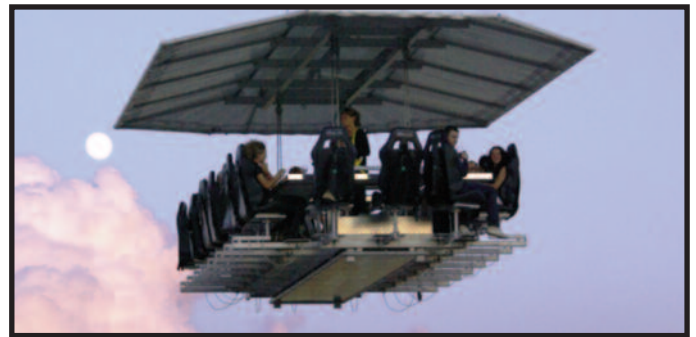
Contemporary Flemish artists Jos De Gruyter and Harald Thys have created artwork inspired by Bruegel that covers the plane. The two have a similar style to Bruegel in the way they depict places, people, and landscapes.

Their designs have taken elements from some of Bruegel's best-known works and created new compositions. Their detailed work on the interior and exterior of the plane took 19 days to paint by hand.



Dinner with a View

If you are traveling to Antwerp between June 3rd and the 9th, you may want to try this out. A table for 22 persons is suspended 180' above that city's beautiful Justice Palace. Guests are strapped into their seats and served a delicious meal by the city's star chefs, while they enjoy the view. The same experience will be held in Brussels from June 13th thru the 23rd. But book now, as these dinners fill up in a hurry.



Parents Need This

A romper suit that fits growing babies for a longer period has been named student business project of the year by the association that supports young entrepreneurs in Flanders. The product, already on sale, was the idea of five business students from Hasselt University.

The romper is three sizes in one. It has adjustable panels that accommodate eight months of growth, so parents don't have to purchase new suits for every size. That makes for nice savings!

The suits are so popular that they are currently sold out.

But our parents wished they had something like that for us!

(Thanks to *FlandersToday*)



JUNE WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

The waffle volunteers for June are: Kim Kochuyt, Mike Debisshop, Annie VanDamme, Colleen Reese, and Diana Slininger. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and get things started, and Steve Slininger 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.

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Congratulations
to all of this year's
Graduates!



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Mystery Program

Kathleen Ernest's program on her most recent novel, *The Lace Maker's Secret*, was co-sponsored by the CBC this past April. It was a saga of Belgian immigration in the 19 century and a mystery surrounding a modern-day murder in Belgian-American region of Northern Wisconsin. Around 40 people heard Ms Ernest discuss her writing process of taking historical places/periods and weaving contemporary mysteries around them.

In keeping with the book's title, the CBC's Diana Slininger displayed several examples of manufactured, tatted, and crocheted lace to highlight the differences of those styles of lacemaking. The attendees found the information interesting and feedback on the display was very positive.

Ms. Ernest also visited the Center and was very interested in rolle bolle and pigeon racing, as she didn't encounter those hobbies in her Wisconsin research. The Belgian immigrants in Wisconsin were mostly from Wallonia, not Flanders. She and her

husband spent about 90 minutes at the Center, with Millie Kale answering all the questions, as only Millie can.



Diana Slininger (on left) and Kathleen Ernest with the lace examples provided by the CBC.