



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2019

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Kevin DeRo

Vice President
Bill Cornelis

Secretary
Linda Polich

Treasurer
Ann Noyce

Member at Large
Steve Slininger

Scholarship Committee
Steve Slininger

Honorary Consul
Patrick Van Nevel
pvannevel@msn.com

Membership
Bill Coopman

Waffle Chairman
Angie Jennes
(309) 631-5766

Flemings in the World
Marlene Shattuck

Genealogy
Linda Polich
fredlinda1985@gmail.com

Archivist
Millie Kale

Marketing
Karen VandeKerckhove

Rolle Bolle
Rich Bassier

Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sept. 7th | NO WAFFLE BREAKFAST | |
| Sept. 7th | Belgian Lacemakers | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 9th | Board Meeting | 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 15th | Fall Belgian Fest | Noon to 4:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 17th | Anniversary Dinner | details coming |

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> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Wed., Sept. 4th | Steve Slininger | Steve Slininger |
| Sat., Sept. 7th | Closed (a.m.) | Barb Michalek (p.m.) |
| Wed., Sept. 11th | Bonnie Newman | Mary Lou Andrae |
| Sat., Sept. 14th | Mary Gardner-Karcher | Mary Gardner-Karcher |
| Wed., Sept. 18th | tbd | tbd |
| Sat., Sept. 21st | Closed | Closed |
| Wed., Sept. 25th | Bob Francione | Bob Francione |
| Sat., Sept. 28th | Diana Slininger | Diana Slininger |

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

Please Note . . .

There will be NO WAFFLE BREAKFAST on September 7th. There are several reasons for this. First, it's become harder and harder to get people to volunteer to help at the breakfasts. We have to continually ask the same people over and over, and it is not fair to them. We truly appreciate their stepping up, but they also get tired of constantly being called upon when there are many others who could occasionally devote some time. Second, the Fall Belgian Fest is just one week later, and again, we will need some volunteers to help with that, as well as helping man the Center's booth.

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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month



Stephens Park will again be the place to be on Sunday, September 15th, for the 7th Annual Fall Belgian Fest. From Noon to 4:00 p.m. there will be music by the Happy Belgians, Lily DeTaeve, and the Gray Wolf Band; “walking” Belgian waffles and food; rolle bolle tournament; children’s games; lace making demonstrations; Belgian horses and carriage rides; and, of course, Belgian beer. There may be a few surprises as well. Plan on helping us celebrate the neighborhood heritage like it was done in the old days!

A Special Anniversary

Save the date October 17th. That is the date of a special dinner honoring the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of a consulate in Moline for western Illinois and Iowa. The dinner and program are still in the planning state, but it will be at Oakwood Country Club. Several members of the Belgian government will be in attendance, as well as several visitors from Belgium.

More information will be in October’s newsletter, as well as in a special email. Please save the date and plan to attend.

Flanders Dries Out

Even though we live on the Mississippi River, we are somewhat familiar with drought. After a spring season of plenty of rainfall, we recently went through a period of below-normal groundwater levels. The EPA has created rules that large cities must comply with to avoid water runoff. Perhaps Belgium must begin a similar program.

Of 167 countries, Belgium falls 23rd in water scarcity, the third highest in Europe. This comes from a report by the World Resources Institute. Water scarcity, also known as water stress, is calculated using the ratio between natural water resources and demand. All of the countries in the highest category are in Africa and Asia. Qatar tops the list.

Regional differences make things even worse for Brussels, with the entire region falling into the highest category water stress. More than half of Flanders also falls into that category.

According to the report, global water use has doubled since the 1960s because of overpopulation, leading to increased personal, agricultural, and industrial usage. Climate change makes the issue even more serious.

According to a hydraulic engineering professor at KU Leuven, rainwater must be retained by allowing it to infiltrate into the soil. That means replenishing groundwater reserves, limiting building projects, and introducing more wells. Farmers must also drain less water. Reusing water needs to happen on a larger scale, as well as the need to conserve it.

Some Thoughts

I have been editing/writing this newsletter since the summer of 2007. That’s 144 issues. I try to provide information on what is happening at the CBC, as well as items about Belgium that I think you would be interested in. From comments I’ve heard, I’ve evidently done a pretty good job.

Something I’d like to include more of are articles about you members; perhaps your growing up in the Olde Town area, your relatives, and where in Belgium your relatives are from. Maybe you could tell about your parents’ or grandparents’ emigration from Belgium – something along the lines of the heritage essays we run every year. You certainly don’t have to consider yourself as a writer, as I can clean up any grammar for you.

I’ve asked before, but never had a great response, for early photos of the Olde Town area if you have any. If you can scan them and send them, that would be great. If you do not have a scanner, I can do that and return the photos to you, but I need a scan or an actual photo, not a photocopy.

I would really like to make these monthly missives more informative for you. My email address appears on the first page of every issue. I’d really like to hear from you. And so would other members.

There’s no better way to enrich your life and expand your appreciations for mankind, than spending time in a museum. You will never know what you might discover.

Scholarship Awards

On July 24th, three graduating high school students were awarded \$750 scholarships by the CBC, and the Van Tieghem family awarded a \$1250 scholarship to a student who had completed two years of college and was continuing on with his education.

The CBC scholars are Esmee Belzer, Jessica Elliott, and Oyniso Bakhriddivova. The Ruth Lambrick Van Tieghem scholarship was awarded to Christian Elliott.

We again congratulate these students and information on the four students and their heritage essays will be featured in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.



Rick Van Tieghem and Christian Elliott



(l-r) Jessica Elliott, Esmee Belzer and scholarship chair Steve Slininger



Scholar
Oyniso
Bakhriddivova

Patrick Van Nevel
explains the CBC
and the
scholarships.



Damien Gets a Street

Through a Flemish government initiative, a New York street was named for Fr. Joseph de Veuster, better known as the 19th century Father Damien. Father Damien is venerated as a saint for his work in Hawaii's leper colony during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Born in Tremelo, Flemish Brabant, in 1840, Father Damien is famous for having built a school, medical clinic, and fully functioning communities out of dilapidated infrastructure that was housing people suffering from leprosy. He organized a parish, celebrated the Eucharist, performed marriages, took confession, and administered the last rights. During his time at the colony, he conducted 6000 funerals and personally constructed 2000 coffins. Father Damien died in Molokai at age 49 from leprosy, and was canonized a saint in 2009.

Last May, East 33rd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue in Manhattan became Father Damien Way. It is located near

three major hospitals, including Bellevue Hospital Center, one of few hospitals that specialize in the treatment of leprosy.

Statues of Father Damien are present at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC and in front of Hawaii's State Senate building. Tremelo maintains a Damien Museum. He is buried in Leuven.

(Thanks to *FlandersToday*)



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
of Western Illinois, Inc.
1608 Seventh Street, Moline, IL 61265

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2019

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ___/___/2019

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.