



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2019

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
November 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 4th	Board Meeting	5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
	(note date & time)	

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. 2nd	Closed (a.m.)	Mary Gardner-Karcher (p.m.)
Wed., Nov. 6th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., Nov. 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Nov. 13th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., Nov. 16th	tbd	tbd
Wed., Nov. 20th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Sat., Nov. 23rd	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., Nov. 27th	Closed	Closed
Sat., Nov. 30th	Closed	Closed

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

Some Still Available

This year's Belgian Fest t-shirts seemed to be rather popular. There are still some available at the Center. The sizes are XL, 2XL, and 3XL and the cost is \$15.00 each. Stop by on a Wednesday or a Saturday . . . they may go fast.



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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

Scholarship Essay

This month's essay is by Esmee Belzer, who attended Davenport North High School. She ranked first in her class, was a student board member of the Davenport School District, and a Junior Rotarian. Esmee was also a three-year member of the National Honor Society; vice president of the student council and the drama club; and an inducted thespian in the Int'l. Thespian Society. Esmee is attending the University of Iowa majoring in biology, to continue on to Pre-Med.

HERITAGE ESSAY



by Esmee Belzer

I am thankful to be the daughter of two very diverse parents. My mother was raised in the Netherlands and eventually immigrated to the United States after spending a year as a foreign exchange student in college; half of my heritage is Dutch, passed down from her. My father grew up in North Dakota, but his early families were of German and Finnish descent. My parents eventually met when my mom was in college and my dad was in the navy – then I was born. This makes my descendency about 50% Dutch, with the other 50% containing other European countries, such as German, Danish, and Finnish.

My mother's Dutch heritage has allowed me to further explore European culture by travelling throughout Europe. As a young adult, I have visited Spain, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, and have travelled among a few others. The culture shock from the United States to various countries in Europe has taught me multitudes about who I am and where my mother's side of the family came from.

Every two to three years, my mother's family, named the Jongegan's, plans a family reunion to be held somewhere in Europe. Recently, this has included rural areas in Spain and France. Most of these relatives grew up in Europe (and some in South America), but they now live all over the world and as far as Australia. It is truly

amazing to see how far apart each individual's heritage has travelled with them. Even living this far away, my relatives have maintained similar European mannerisms; they still have tea every day, enjoy salty black licorice, and speak fluent Dutch. This is important to me because it gives me confidence that my heritage will remain affluent in my life as well.

The most significant memory I have with my extended Dutch family is when we spent a family reunion on a dairy farm on an island, called Schiermonnikoog, off the coast of Friesland. This island was completely isolated from the country; the only way to reach it was by an hour-long ferry, and the only mode of transportation once we arrived was, in true Dutch fashion, by bicycle. Even with a clear language barrier, as I never learned to speak Dutch, our deeply instilled roots brought us all closer together. We spent the week exploring the various windy beaches on the island, flying huge paracord kites that could you lift you up with the intense wind on the coast. This experience shaped me to become the person I am today, because it brought me out of my comfort zone, both physically and culturally.

Visiting Switzerland and the Netherlands made me understand the culture and mannerisms of people who are very similar to me and my family. Everytime we visit my relative in the these countries, I truly feel welcomed and at home, and I am immensely grateful to have experienced these varied cultures that my mother taught me so much about as a teenager. I hope to carry these mannerisms and diverse cultures with me for years to come.

NOVEMBER WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

November's waffle volunteers include Joe DeMeyer, Patrick Van Nevel, Pam Black, Jan Irwin, Teresa Nelson, Jackie Slininger, and Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the batter and get things started, and Tom 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.

What a Great Celebration

The Oakwood Country Club dining room was awash in the colors of Belgium as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Belgian government's establishment of an Honorary Consulate at Moline. We were honored to have Belgian Ambassador to the United States Dirk Wouters, Aalter Deputy Mayor Dirk De Smul, two guest families from Belgium, and the grandsons of Edward Coryn in attendance. Attendees enjoyed a buffet meal prepared from Belgian recipes, and there was plenty of Belgian beer available.

Congratulations must be offered to Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel and the committee of Ann Noyce, Linda Polich, Marlene Shattuck, and Dave Coopman for putting this great evening together.

Here are a few photos from the evening, and more will be shared in future newsletters.



First Honorary Consul Edward Coryn's grandsons (l-r) Ed Coryn, John Coryn and Tom Coryn with Linda Polich



Ambassador Dirk Wouters toasts Moline's Honorary Consuls



All served in the Belgian tradition



Aalter Deputy Mayor Dirk De Smul places an honorarium at the gravesite of Edward Coryn



Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel and wife Barbara with our guests from Belgium: (l-r) Barbara, Audrey Magniette, Mauro Callens, Hilde Vannieuwenhuyze (Callens), Andre Bollaert, Patrick, Paul Blanckaert, Marleen Van De Gehuchte (Blanckaert), and Dirk De Smul.

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News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Bea DeBrabander**, who turned 90 on October 7th, and to longtime member **Maureen Goethals Simpson** on celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends in Sun City, Arizona. Congratulations also for **Marlene Shattuck's** son, Sawyer, who received his white coat during third-year ceremonies at the University Of Missouri College Of Veterinary Medicine. His next step will soon be that of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Thank You to everyone from the CBC who helped at this year's Fall Belgian Fest.

Sympathy is offered to **Mary Lorensen** and the entire family of **Larry Lorensen**, 81, of Moline, who died October 6th at Unity Point Trinity in Rock Island, and to **Manny and Kathy Bustos** on the death of their niece, Deanna Bustos, 55, of East Moline, who died at home on October 1st.

Up and Away

For those of you who received an increase in your property values, Flanders is no different. Average prices are up 2.2 to 4.8% over last year, depending upon type of real estate. Median prices for semi-detached houses climbed to \$255,000. Apartment prices rose to an average of \$211,000 and villas saw an increase of 4.8% to \$361,000.

The most expensive homes were found south of Ghent and along the seaside resort area, where the median price will set you back \$632,700. Looking at Belgium as a whole, the most expensive place to buy is Elsene (Brussels) with a median price of \$821,500.

(From FlandersToday)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

