



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 2020

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Bill Cornelis

Vice President
Steve Slininger

Secretary
Linda Polich

Treasurer
Ann Noyce

Member at Large
Kevin DeRoo

Scholarship Committee
Steve Slininger

Honorary Consul
Patrick Van Nevel
pvannevel@msn.com

Membership
Bill Coopman

Waffle Chairman

Flemings in the World
Marlene Shattuck

Genealogy
Linda Polich
fredlinda1985@gmail.com

Archivist

Marketing

Rolle Bolle
Rich Bassier

Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger



Center Closed for Safety

With the growing numbers of virus infections, the Center will remain closed in November. There will be no waffle breakfast or meeting of the Belgian lace makers. Please stay safe, wash your hands, and wear your masks. Let's make this virus go away.

Greetings from D.C.

Dear American and Belgian Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I say a first hello to you from Washington, D.C. Having presented my credentials to President Trump on September 17th, I have officially begun my mandate as Ambassador of Belgium to the United States. It is my hope that these four years will make ever brighter the vibrant relationships that already exist between Belgium and the U.S.

I look forward to meeting with neighbors, businesses, think tanks, elected officials, universities and many others, forging relationships on my travels throughout America. I also look forward to working together with the United States and the European Union to tackle important challenges that affect us all, such as COVID-19 and climate change. Serving Belgium in this broad and exciting country is an honor. I know from past experiences that open dialogue and fruitful exchanges will define my time here.

Until we can gather again in groups, I raise a virtual Belgian beer to all of you!

Jean-Arthur Régibeau



Scholarship

The third recipient of a CBC scholarship is Leah Coene. Leah attended Alleman High School and graduated at the top of her class. She was a four-year member of the National Honor Society and is attending Iowa State University.

Heritage Essay by Leah Coene



My heritage has always allowed me to stand out in my class. Being the only Asian amongst my peers for over eight years of my schooling gave me a huge sense of pride in my culture. Having a Filipino background is not the only thing that defines me; my Belgian and Swedish sides of my family have always allowed me to expand my horizons. My roots have made me the creative, hardworking, and independent person I am today. My passion for food has been built through my culture and my ultimate goal now is to help people through their diets.

I am the first-generation on my mother's side of the family to be born in America. My grandparents moved themselves and their six children from the Philippines to Maryland when my mom was seven years old. Emigrating halfway across the world made each of them so strong and self-sufficient. My mom and her five sisters are such determined individuals who strive for the best in everything they do, and I admire that. Growing up with a parent like that has made me the tough woman I am today. Not only has my Filipino culture given me integrity, but also my love for cooking. I have very fond memories of making traditional meals for my family and coming together in our Filipino-American Association (or Fil-Am) group and connecting through food. Wrapping Lumpia into tight rolls with delicate sheets of dough, or trying to get the perfect caramelization on the top of a Cassava Cake without burning it is what ties me into my Filipino heritage.

I am lucky enough to know and see my Swedish 95-year-old great-grandparents on a regular basis. I have so many amazing memories of going to their house during Christmas-time and seeing the beautiful Dala horses. My great-grandpa Don always had a good story to tell about his childhood or a funny joke, and sometimes he would teach us some little words or phrases in Swedish. My great-grandma Pauline has shown me the traditional way of making Swedish meatballs and my love of Lingonberries. Their daughter, my grandma,

has made it a tradition to make some of my favorite Swedish cookies and listen to a playlist of fun Swedish songs. Mastering the Spritz extruder for Christmas cookies, getting the perfect amount of spices in the Pepparkakors, and cutting hundreds of Pepparnuts are some of my favorite Swedish memories.

My Belgian culture has been the side of my family that has brought me to the Quad Cities. From being able to attend Seton Catholic School and Alleman High School where both my father and grandfather went when they were my age, to having fresh Belgian waffles early on a Saturday morning at the Belgian Center with my family, it has given me a closer understanding of what my Belgian heritage is. My dad, grandpa Dave, and great-uncle Ron have been members of the CBC for several years and are always there to help me connect with my culture and teach me about what it means to be Belgian. My grandparents have always insisted that we get together every Sunday after mass, just to talk and keep up-to-date with our family. This has given me a closer sense of connection within our family and has kept me in my Belgian heritage.

I enjoy every memory and everything I have been able to learn through each one of my cultures. Being raised in a multicultural family has given me many opportunities, and I hope that with a major in nutrition and dietetics, I will be able to help others with their diets and bring a fresh and diverse outlook on food to others. I would also like to help people who have health conditions like diabetes, as my grandmother and great-grandmother do, and show them foods to eat in moderation.

My heritage has formed my passions, personality, and my life to be what it is today, and I would not have it any other way.

From Our Honorary Consul

We are happy to welcome our new Ambassador, H.E. Jean-Arthur Régibeau. He has hit the ground running and met with the Honorary Consuls via WebEx on Monday October 19th. Ambassador Regibeau is committed to visit as many places as possible when it is safe to travel. H.C. Patrick Van Nevel reported it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet our new Ambassador and he extended an invitation to visit our region.



Thank You!

The CBC Board wishes to thank the following people for their generous monetary gifts: Walt Sonnevillie, Al Van Tieghem, Leo Hugaert, Mary Joy Allaert Feeney, Rose and Donald Kollmorgen, Mary Gardner-Karcher, and Bob and Betty Van De Voorde.

Benefits and Results

In last month's newsletter, president Bill Cornelis urged members to promote membership in the CBC. When asked "why" should I become a member, here are some answers:

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Preserves our heritage
- Provides genealogy assistance
- An informative monthly newsletter
- Scholarships for graduating high school seniors
- Scholarship applicants receive additional points with membership of immediate family members
- A discount on gift shop purchases
- Monthly waffle breakfasts (once COVID rules are relaxed)
- Keeps the Belgian heritage alive in Olde Towne
- Helps keep the Center's doors open

WHAT MEMBERSHIP DOES

- Supports the Center museum
- Helps pay rent and utilities
- Provides continued heritage presence in the Quad Cities
- Provides archival assistance to heritage groups in Belgium
- Supports traditions like the Belgian Fest and the Western League rolle bolle competition
- Keeps the Center's doors open

The CBC Board welcomes and solicits YOUR suggestions and input. What might you like to see in the future? What might we do to make membership more meaningful to you? Would you volunteer to help with activities? Please let us know YOUR thoughts!

Virtual Tour Presentation

Please join Bonnie Newman and the CBC on a journey through Belgium. This fully customized and unique tour includes the top sights around the country plus time enjoying the where so many Western Illinois settlers came from.

Bonnie, Blue Horizon Travel, and Patrick Van Nevel will give a virtual presentation on Thursday, November 12th, at 7:00 p.m. Please call Bonnie at (309) 737-0059 or email her at Bonnie@bluehorizon.net by November 11th to register.

For an itinerary and tour registration form, visit: www.bluehorizon.net/tours_events/exploring-belgium/



Namur, Belgium

Every year, the European Best Destination website invites 600,000 internet users to vote for their favorite European destinations. In this 11th edition of the competition, Namur, Belgium came out 7th. "Namur is an incredibly charming, endearing city with the Belgian surrealism of Brussels and romanticism of Budapest or Bruges. Namur is so warm and friendly that it is like staying with your family."

Incidentally, Namur will be one of the stops on the Blue Horizon/CBC tour of Belgium next September/October. For more information, contact Bonnie Newman at Bonnie@bluehorizon.net. You can also see www.bluehorizon.net/tours_events/exploring-belgium/

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

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

November, 2020

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2020

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.

