

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN
MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend this meeting should contact the Mayor's Office, (920) 459-3317. Persons other than commission, committee, and board members who wish to participate remotely shall provide notice to the Mayor's Office at 920-459-3317 at least 24 hours before the meeting so that the person may be provided a remote link for that purpose.

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Alexandria King-Close called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM in Conference Room 106 at City Hall (828 Center Avenue, Sheboygan).

Members Present: Chairperson Alexandria King-Close, Tomomi Kanemaru, Nicole Brown, Brittany Wagner, Sarah Engel-Streicher, Minami Beaudry, Lisa Salgado, Mayor Ryan Sorensen, and Veronica Valdez

2. Pledge of Allegiance

MINUTES

3. Approval of July 11th, 2024, minutes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. Correspondence

Marc Zimer met with Annie, Peter & Lisa at Paradigm 8-8-24 to discuss the possibility of Clervaux, Luxembourg becoming a Sister City. See attachments.

Masako, a chaperone in the Tsubame delegation, sent photos of a Sheboygan display at their city hall. Lisa shared the pictures with the MIC group via WhatsApp.

Coffee Talks with Esslingen, Germany. Alex is the lead. Give Annie contacts to connect people in similar work positions.

Masako, a chaperone in the Tsubame delegation, sent photos of a Sheboygan display at their city hall. Lisa shared the pictures with the MIC group via WhatsApp.

5. Esslingen

Coffee Talks with Esslingen, Germany. Alex is the lead. Give Annie contacts to connect people in similar work positions.

Please review HWY 42 Sign

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024

6. Esslingen Fest

Esslingen Fest date changed to October 5th 11am-6pm at Three Sheeps, combined with their Octoberfest.

Sheboygan will have trollies from Blue Harbor to other businesses with Octoberfest events being held that day.

We need everyone's help in locating a Polka Band for the event, as the one we usually get already had booked an engagement for that day.

7. Journey to Japan

A Journey to Japan Sept 21st 11-4pm (Rain date 22nd) at Christopher Gardens- **We need all MIC members to sign-up as volunteers on SignUpGenius. (1.5 hour shifts. All volunteers get a thank you bag & volunteers get lunch).** Nicole Brown sent out an email with the link. Tickets are now live on Eventbrite by Googling the event's name. Thank you Sarah!

Alex will be taking pictures at the event.

We got approval to order the Commemorative Booklets from GT Graphics, lunch for volunteers and gas cards for the Kendo club performing.

Tomomi is working with Masako to obtain some items made in Tsubame for raffle items.

Deb is working on exhibit regarding the Sister School exchange.

Veronica purchased a small amount of items still needed.

Garden Walk Through 8-28-24 3pm at Christopher Gardens. Park in the field. Meet at entrance.

A Journey to Japan DAY EVENTS:

Arrive 11am left of parking field on Garton Rd (the house on the left, just before Jay's house at the end)

Set-up 11am

12 Lunch at Greenhouse / Conservatory & runners to other locations

Event starts 1pm (people might come early plan to be ready by 12:30)

1:30 **Mayor & Gary St. Clair Speeches** at Greenhouse / Conservatory

1:40 Dance explanation & 3 min dance at Greenhouse / Conservatory

2 pm Kendo amphitheater field

2:30 Kyudo archery

3pm Kendo amphitheater field

3:30 Dance explanation & 3 min dance at Greenhouse / Conservatory

3:30 Kyudo archery

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN
MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024

4pm Event ends
Clean up by 5pm

8. Refugee Resettlement Support

Annie met with LOVE INC., which is a religious based organization. At this time individuals can contact them for a personal commitment to help refugees in Sheboygan. You do have to take a training course and make a religious commitment in order to participate.

Tomomi is involved with 2 families from Columbia who would need rides to doctors appointments on weekdays and other help. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.

9. Next Meeting - September 5, 2024

10. Adjourn

Adjourn at 6:34 PM.

In compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, this agenda was posted in the following locations more than 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting:

*City Hall • Mead Public Library
Sheboygan County Administration Building • City's website*



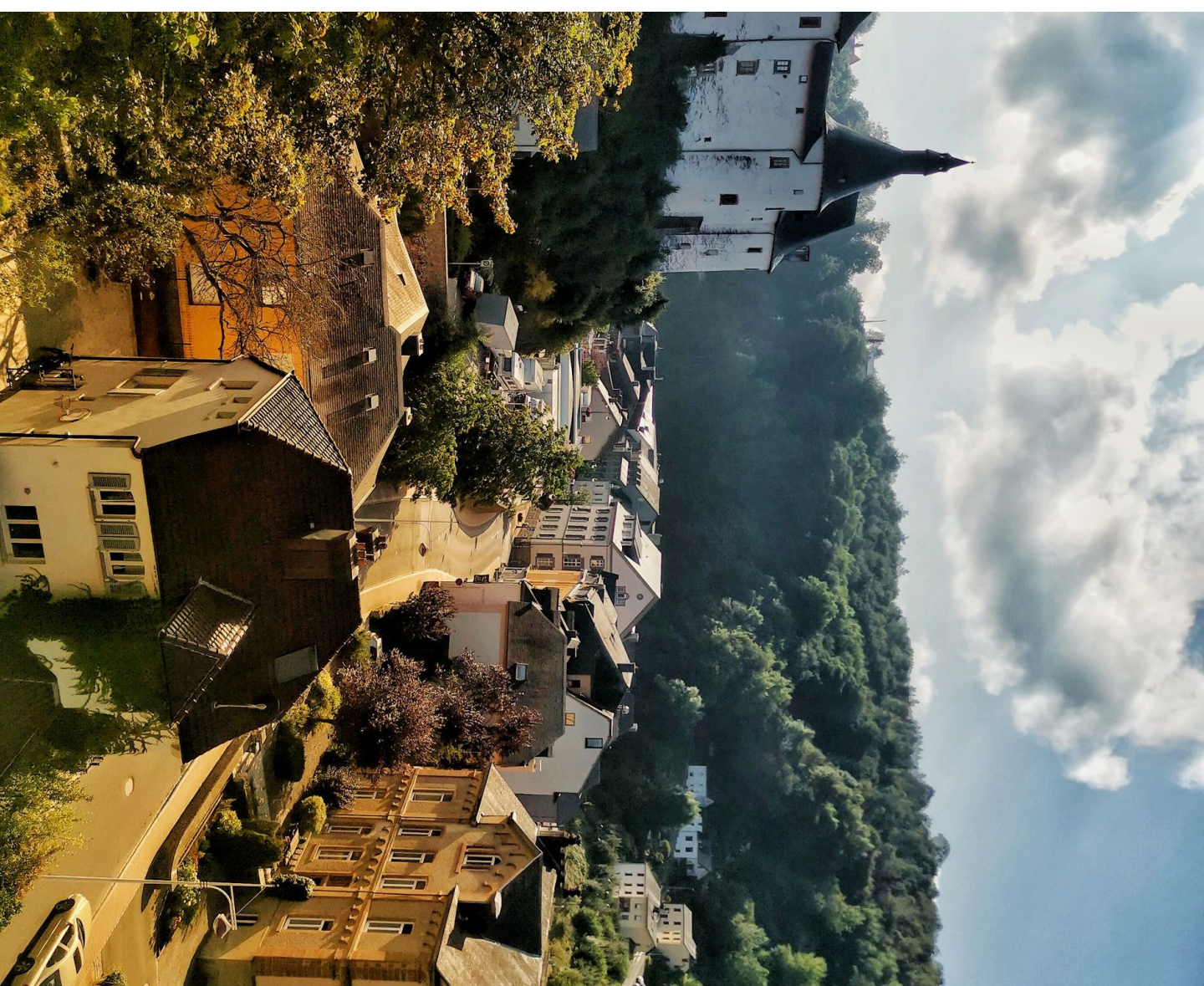
CLERVAUX, LUXEMBOURG

French-“Claire-voh”

Luxembourgish-Clierf “Clear-f”

History of Clervaux

- Located in the far northern part of Luxembourg, Clervaux's origins date back to the 900's and is located in the canton of the same name, Clervaux.
- The city has a river that runs through it, with great hiking trails. They have a focus on tourism, due to the natural beauty and rustic charm. The streets are winding, as it is built on a hill.
- You can arrive by train from Luxembourg City in 1 hour.
- Since 2020, all public transport in Luxembourg, including buses, trams and trains, is free of charge.





- Clervaux was founded by descendants of French royalty, from the House of Orange, of Southern France.
- Clervaux Castle was built in the 12th century. At the beginning of the 15th century, under the reign of the German House of Brandenburg, Clervaux castle was greatly extended.



Clervaux Castle



BATTLE OF THE BULGE

From 1927 to 1930, the castle became private property and was turned into a hotel.

After years of German occupation during WWII, the Luxembourgish people thought the war had ended with the liberation by American Forces in September 1944. However, on December 16-18, 1944, the Germans attempted a last desperate attack with the Battle of Clervaux, which was part of the Battle of the Bulge. The castle and the city were destroyed. Subsequently the Luxembourg State acquired the ruins and undertook a major restoration.

It is now a museum for the Battle of the Bulge, exhibiting weapons and souvenirs of the war. An American Sherman B-2 tank stands out front.



Diorama

- During the Battle of Clervaux, the castle had been the message center for Americans. The dungeon beneath, held 18 German Prisoners of War and 75 civilians, mostly elderly men, women and children who fled the artillery raining down on the town. On Christmas Eve 2004, Claude Joachim began constructing a diorama of the town, which is now held in the castle. There is also an exhibition of models of Luxembourg's castles.

- <http://www.diorama-clervaux.com/indexsherman.html>



Captain John Aiken, 28th Infantry Division

Army National Guard from Pennsylvania

- The German's goal was to separate the American forces from the British and Canadian forces and take Antwerp. Two US infantry regiments and supporting smaller units were in the region. Due to an interrupted call between two Majors and a written order sent in the morning, but not received until later in the day, there was miscommunication. They were to retreat due to oncoming Germans, but they thought they were to stay. After fighting with tanks and street combat, the American defenders along with Clervaux citizens were held up in the Clervaux Castle. With the castle on fire, surrounded by Germans, and troops out of ammunition, Captain John Aiken made the decision to surrender, to save the lives of those inside. He became a German Prisoner of War and survived. Aiken was called into active duty again in 1950, for the Korean War. At the end of his career, he became a full Colonel, in the Pennsylvania's Army National Guard. He retired in 1970 and died in 2003, at the age of 98!

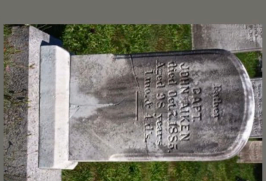
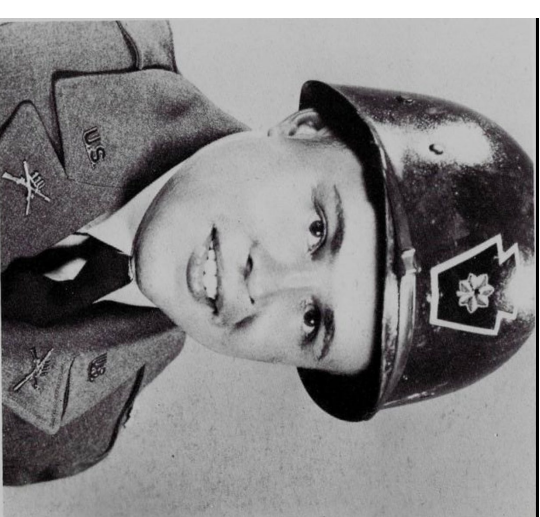


Photo added by [D J Pimentel](#)

Capt John Aiken

BIRTH 3 Sep 1787

Dartmouth, Bristol County,
Massachusetts, USA

DEATH 7 Oct 1885 (aged 98)

New Bedford, Bristol County,
Massachusetts, USA

BURIAL Rural Cemetery

New Bedford, Bristol County,
Massachusetts, USA



The memorial monument for the GI's who fought the Battle of Clervaux.

Unfortunately, this battle ended in a total disaster for the Americans, who lost nearly 60 tanks, while the damage on the German side was a lot less, with a loss of only 4 tanks. Notice the American flag. It was also known as the "Luxembourg Alamo" fought by the 28th Infantry Division Army National Guard from Pennsylvania & 106th Infantry Army Division from Puerto Rico.

https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Battle_of_Clervaux

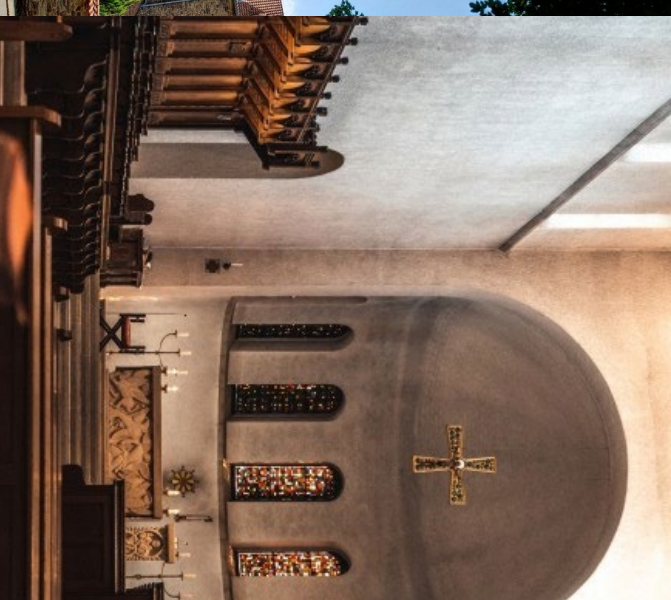
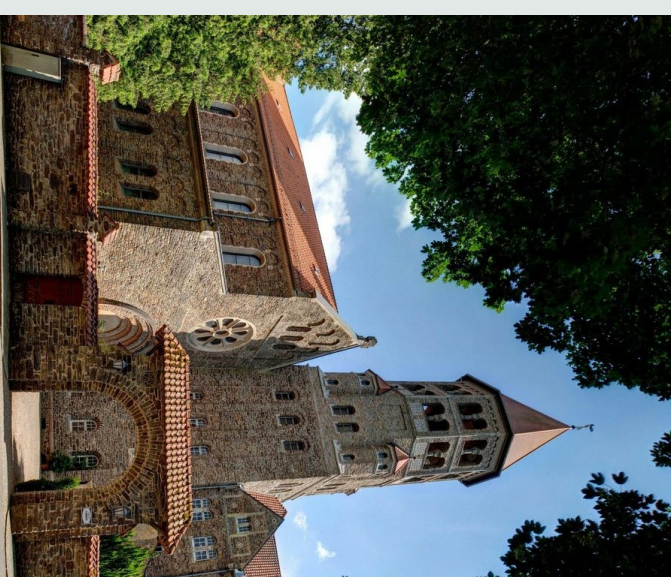
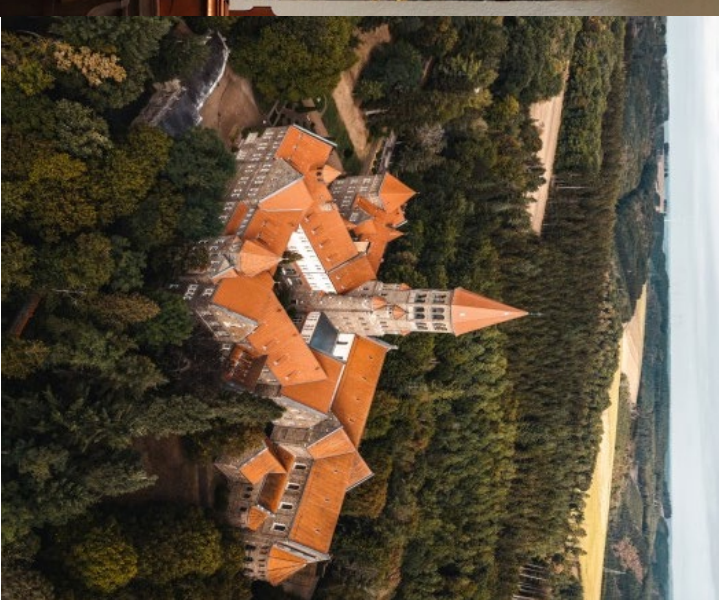
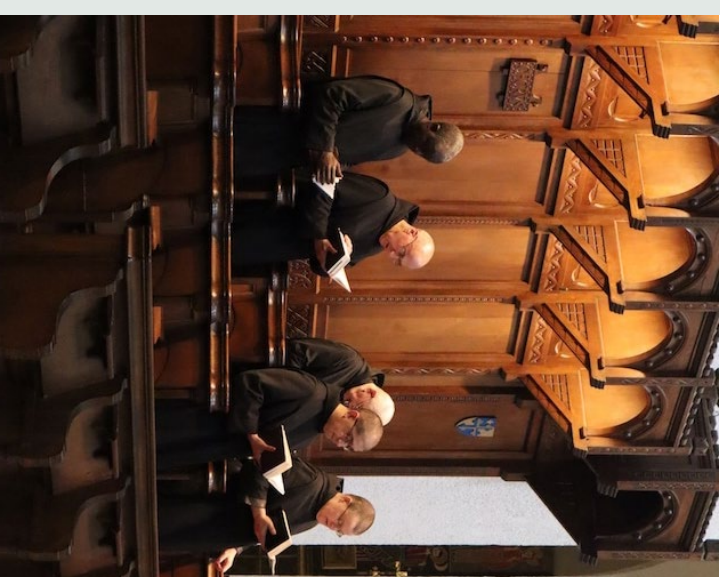
The Family of Man Photo Exhibit

- This photo exhibit by Edward Steichen consists of 503 photos by 273 photographers from 68 countries, with 37 themes. It toured the world several times and drew more than 9 million visitors in the 1950's and 1960's. After extensive restoration in Paris, the American government presented it as a gift to Luxembourg where Edward was born. The exhibition opened in the Clervaux Castle in 1994. The layout of the inaugural exhibition at MoMA in NY, is followed in order to recreate the original viewing experience, though necessarily adapted to the unique space of two floors of the restored Castle. It was named a UNESCO Memory of the World heritage since 2003.



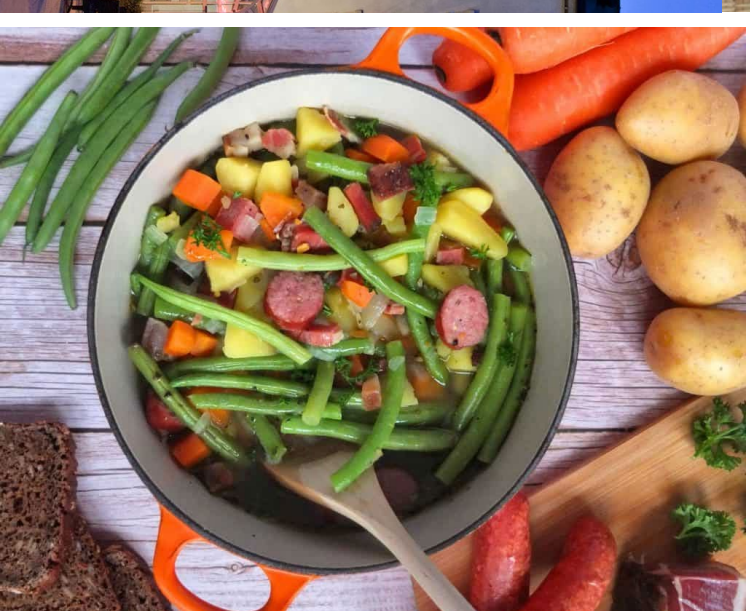
Cervaux Abbey

- The Benedictine Abbey of Saint Mauritius, towers majestically high above the town and is seen from everywhere in the surrounding area. It was built in 1909-1910 and founded by the Benedictine monks from the French abbey of St-Maur de Glanfeuil. Every first Monday of the month, the monks of the abbey open their doors for a guided visit to the church and the crypt. The visit starts just after the daily mass at 10 am, during which you will have the opportunity to listen to the magnificent Gregorian chants sung by the monks.





The traditional cuisine of Luxembourg includes Staerzelen (bacon-topped buckwheat dumplings) and Bouneschlupp (green bean stew with smoked sausage.) Clervaux has French-inspired restaurants, pizzerias and bakeries. Also enjoy, pinot noir from the Luxembourg Moselle, as well as local Éislek-made beers by Brasserie Simon.



Tourism, Nature & Gastronomy

- Clervaux is committed to preserving its fragile ecosystem with conservation initiatives, restoring degraded ecosystems and raising public awareness. It is home to rare plant species such as the wild orchid and martagon lily. The protected reserve is home to beech trees, flower-filled meadows, deer, fox, songbirds and rare bird species, such as the black kite and black stork.
- Since 2019, they now offer hiking with gastronomy tours. A nature guide offers a morning hike along the leading hiking trails in the region, followed by a 3-course meal for lunch, showcasing regional recipes and products.
- Camping along the River Clerve is very popular for tourists.

