



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



August, 2017

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Kevin DeRo

Vice President
Bill Cornelis

Secretary
Angie Jenness

Treasurer
Steve Slininger

Member at Large
Bonnie Tanamor

Scholarship Committee
Bonnie Tanamor

Honorary Consul
Patrick Van Nevel
pvannevel@msn.com

Membership
Bill Coopman

Waffle Chairman
Catherine VanHecke
(309) 235-3765

Flemings in the World
Marlene Shattuck

Genealogy
Linda Polich
fredlinda1985@gmail.com

Archivist
Millie Kale

Marketing
Karen VandeKerckhove

Rolle Bolle
Bob Van De Voorde

Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Gift Shop
Diana Slininger

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 5th	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
August 5th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 14th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 17th	Belgian Fest	Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

Schedule for Volunteers

The August schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., August 2nd	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., August 4th	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., August 5th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., August 9	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Fri., August 11th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., August 12th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., August 16th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., August 18th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., August 19th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., August 23rd	tbd	tbd
Fri., August 25th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., August 26th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., August 30th	tbd	tbd

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

Membership Renewal Time

Memberships are one of the main income producers for the Center. They are also the vehicle by which our mission of preserving and forwarding the Belgian heritage is accomplished. In addition to renewing your membership, why not ask someone else to join? *The renewal form is provided on page four of this newsletter, for your convenience.* Why not renew today!

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

Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month

News of the Membership

Congratulations to longtime member and donor **Al VanTieghem** in honor of his 90th birthday (celebrated on July 8th) and **Ella May (Pisman) Winger** on her 90th birthday (celebrated on July 22nd).

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Evelyn VanPuyvelde**, 95, formerly of Moline, who died June 30th at Silver Cross Center, Rock Island, Illinois.

More Merger Talk

I ran across an item that had a little more than a passing significance to me. While not trying to single out one specific area of Flanders as “home” to many Belgians who settled in Moline, many folk who became residents of the Illinois Quad City area did come from the Tielt-Wingene area of West Flanders. My grandparents and several great uncles and aunts came here from Wingene, and there are still many cousins living there.

I have traveled to Belgium five times, and each time I visited Wingene. With the first visit in 1982, the town seemed somewhat locked in time; the late 1940s-early 50s. By my third visit in the mid-1990s, progress was very evident. The town seemed twice as large as the previous time I had visited, many new and modern homes had been built, and I wondered if Wingene hadn’t become a bedroom community of Brussels. But now, perhaps, the name Wingene might be disappearing.

Three towns – Wingene, Meulebeke, and Pittem – are reported to be discussing a merger. They are the latest in a series of municipalities in merger talks, after the government of Flanders offered extra financing to councils that pooled their resources. Also in West Flanders, Damme and Maldegem are in merger talks, as are Neerpelt and Overpelt in Limburg.

I know nothing is forever, and a merger would possibly be good for all three communities. But selfishly, as part of my family history, I would hate to see the Wingene name disappear.

(With help from *Flanders Today*)

AUGUST WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for August’s waffle breakfast will be Michael DeBisschop, Bill and Sandy Coopman, Yvette VanDriessche, Kim Kochuyt, Karen VandeKerckhove. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Pat VandeKerckhove will recruit memberships. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

Continued Special Thanks



It seems that if asked, people will respond. Earlier, **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney** provided sponsorship for three waffle breakfasts, and **Chris Van Lancker** donated her time in the layout of the monthly newsletter. This past month, we received breakfast sponsorships from **Dr. Volkan and Merry Sumer** of Tremont, Illinois (1 breakfast), **Kevin Rafferty** (2 breakfasts), and **Patrick and Barb Van Nevel** (1 breakfast and 1 newsletter).

We also received from the **Kevin DeRoo Family**, **Mary Joy Allaert Feeney**, and **Phyllis Maxfield** additional donations with their membership renewals.

To those mentioned above, a special “Thank You” from your CBC Board. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated!

Best Animal Instincts

Ghent University (UGent) is home to the best veterinary department in world, according to the Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects. Shanghai develops an annual list of the best universities in the world in 52 scientific areas. The ranking looks at more than 4,000 universities to develop the ranking.

UGent’s faculty tops the list of the world’s best 200 departments in veterinary sciences. The university also achieved a fifth place in food science and technology and was ranked ninth in agricultural sciences.



Let's Learn Something

Articles about the Menin Gate have appeared in the newsletter before, usually noting an anniversary, the buglers, etc. This time, your editor thought readers might find its history interesting.

Every evening at 8:00 p.m., traffic passing through the Menin Gate in Ypres is halted to allow a short, yet poignant ceremony to take place. "The Last Post" is played by local buglers to remember those who lost their lives during the First World War.

The Menin Gate was chosen as the location of this ceremony, which has been staged every evening except during World War II, because it was from this spot that countless thousands of soldiers set off for the front. And as we know, all too few made the return journey.

In the middle ages, what was to become the Menin Gate was called the Hangwaertpoort and was a narrow gateway on the eastern side of town. By the outbreak of WWI in August 1914, the gateway had become known as the Menenpoort, as it marked the start of the road leading to the town of Menen, about 16 kilometers away.

During the war, this road became known to the British Army as the Menen Road, and the gateway was called the Menin Gate. The gate was guarded by two stone lions, donated to Australia by the mayor of Ypres in 1936, as a

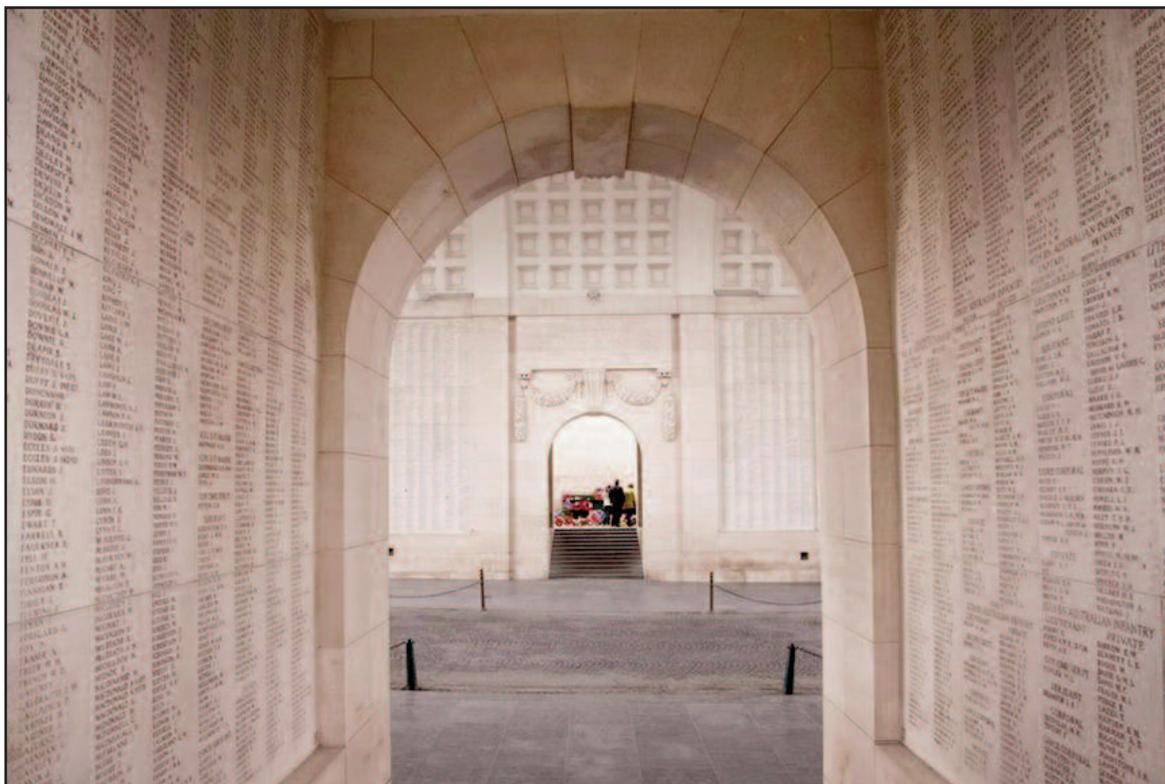
gesture of friendship and an acknowledgement of the sacrifices of Australia's soldiers.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing was inaugurated on July 24, 1927, by Field Marshal Lord Plumer in the presence of King Albert, hundreds of local residents, veterans of WWI, and relatives of fallen soldiers. The ceremony was also broadcast to the UK, allowing millions to listen in.

The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and soldiers who fell in the Ypres Salient before August 16, 1917, and whose graves are unknown. The names are engraved in stone panels fixed to the inner walls of the central Hall of Memory, to the sides of the staircases leading to the upper exterior level, and on the walls on the north and south sides of the structure.

Since November 11, 1929, "The Last Post" has been sounded at the Menin Gate every night and in all weathers. The only exception was during the German occupation of Ypres from May 1940 to September 1944. The ceremony resumed at the gate on the evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres, in spite of heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town.

On July 24th at 11:00 a.m., a special ceremony organized by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, marked the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Menin Gate Memorial.



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

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

August 2017

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2017

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.