



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2014

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**  
Kevin DeRoo

**Vice President**  
Steve Slininger

**Secretary**  
Karen VandeKerckhove

**Treasurer**  
Patrick VandeKerckhove

**Member at Large**  
Paul Rumler

**Past President**  
Celie Donohue  
Museum Curator

**Scholarship Committee**  
Steve Slininger

**Honorary Consul**  
Patrick Van Nevel  
pvannevel@msn.com

**Membership**  
Bill Coopman

**Waffle Chairman**  
Catherine VanHecke

**Flemings in the World**  
Marlene Shattuck

**Genealogy**  
Linda Polich  
bergie1985@frontiernet.net

**Archivist**  
Millie Kale

**Rolle Bolle Rep.**  
Bill Fisher - 764-8068

**Newsletter Editor**  
Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

**Chaplain**  
Rev. Jim DeBisschop

**NEW LOCATION**

**MORE HOURS**

**YUMMY WAFFLES**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 3rd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 3rd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 12th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
May 25th	Open House	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 26th	Memorial Day Waffles	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The May schedule is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Gift Counter</b>	<b>Host/Hostess</b>
Fri., May 2nd	Celie Donohue	Celie Donohue
Sat., May 3rd	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)	Celie Donohue (a.m.) Barb Michalek (p.m.)
Wed., May 7th	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Fri., May 9th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., May 10th	Karen VandeKerckhove	Pat VandeKerckhove
Wed., May 14th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., May 16th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., May 17th	Karen VandeKerckhove	Pat VandeKerckhove
Wed., May 21st	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., May 23rd	Celie Donohue	Celie Donohue
Sat., May 24th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Sun., May 25th	Celie/Millie/Karen	Celie/Millie/Karen
Fri., May 30th	Closed	
Sat., May 31st	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher

Contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246 as soon as possible if there is a conflict with your scheduled time.

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

**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

Center Update . . . WE'RE BACK!

The move is over . . . the painting is done, the floor has been polished, the cabinet has a new look, and the windows are sparkling clean. April 4, 2014 was the date!

We are in our new location, not totally unpacked, but making progress. I held my breath as the Spiegel movers took the huge bookcase from one building to another, then the glass display cases and lastly, the many boxes of Belgian treasures . . . all intact, not one item broken.

In the packing, there were only minor injuries; a blood blister, a few slivers, and a display that fell on a toe – neither broke! Amen and thanks to God!

Many thanks to those who helped in the move. Millie Kale, Don DeBo, Millie's daughter Karen Olson, son-in-law Martin, and granddaughter Megan. Catherine VanHecke and Chris VanHecke carried the shelving and table for waffle breakfast items down 7th Street . . . now that's dedication. Thanks to Kevin DeRoo, Jeff DeRoo, Steve Slininger, and Art Holevoet. Gene Donohue hung pictures, organized the lower level, and turned his van into a semi! I spent quite a few hours on the project and it felt good to be able to set our treasures in a new, clean environment. While we were working, there were many people peering in the windows and cars slowing down to look. We are certainly visible and have hope for a bright future.

The plan now is to try to return to a normal operation with a few new twists. **The waffle breakfast will be May 3rd at the Friends Circle (701-18th Avenue, third door east from the corner) from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.** The Grand Opening of the Center, featuring the Belgian Lacemakers, will be Sunday, May 25th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. On Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day), there will be the traditional waffle breakfast, again at the Friends Circle from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Mary Gardner-Karcher will be calling for waffle volunteers, *or you can call her* at (563) 332-4621. I will be organizing and calling volunteers for the Kleine Winkel, and we're adding another day to the schedule. We will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays as usual, but **adding Fridays**. On the first Saturday at our new location – waffle day – the Center will be open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I would welcome your call as a volunteer at (309) 792-8246. I will be there most days in May to help with the transition and to show the volunteers where everything has been placed.

Celie Donohue



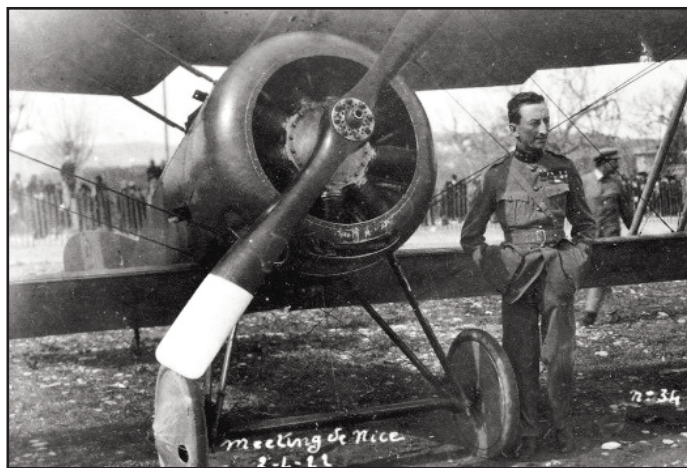
(l-r) Millie Kale, her granddaughter Megan Olson, and her daughter Karen Olson reorganizing at the new Center.

## Belgium's Balloon Buster

During WWI, the Germans used hydrogen-filled balloons and dirigibles for observation and bombing. From the ground, both were difficult to shoot down; normal ammunition seemed to have little effect. It wasn't until incendiary ammunition was created and used that the Allies began to have success in bringing down those bags of flammable gas.

While doing a little more research into this subject, your newsletter editor discovered a familiar last name among a list of pilots who had success against these dirigibles and balloons. That name was Coppens. I'm not sure if this pilot is related to any of the Coppens families from this area, but he has an interesting history.

Willy Coppens was born in Watermael-Boitsfort, near Brussels, in 1892. He was drafted into the Belgian army in 1912.



In 1915, he and 39 other Belgians learned to fly at their own expense in England. He had further flight training in France.

Coppens wasn't very successful in aerial combat until March 1918 when he made his first attack on German observation balloons. At the time, he didn't have incendiary ammunition, but he managed to puncture two balloons and caused the observers to bail out and the balloons to collapse. In early May, Coppens shot two more balloons down in flames.

One week later, using his tactic of close range fire, he cut a balloon loose from its mooring. It bounced up beneath him and briefly carried his plane upward. When his plane fell off the balloon, he restarted its engine and flew back to base. The balloon exploded.

On another attack, Coppens got shot at from a balloon. He parked his plane on top of it, shut down the engine, and waited for the damaged balloon to sag. When that happened, he slid off the balloon, restarted the engine, and flew away.

Between April and October 1918, he was credited with destroying 34 German observation balloons and three enemy airplanes. During June, he was promoted to second lieutenant. He became so well known that the Germans made extra effort in trying to kill him.

On his last mission, Coppens downed one balloon and was attacking another when he was severely wounded in the left leg by an incendiary bullet. He crash landed, was taken to a hospital, and had his leg amputated.

For his wartime service, flying ace Coppens was knighted by Belgium and decorated by France, Britain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, and Serbia. Willy Coppens retired in 1960 and died in December 1986.

## Museum Celebrates Diocese's Historically Ethnic Parishes

Museums display treasures, but visitors to the current exhibit at the Museum of the Diocese of Peoria will leave realizing they are part of the richness on display. The exhibit at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria is a tribute to the historically ethnic parishes of the diocese and runs until June 15th.

The display takes visitors back to when many parishes were founded along ethnic or national lines, including German, Irish, Belgian, Italian, Slovakian, Mexican, and Polish. While dozens were established during various immigration waves, the exhibit narrows them down to ten representative faith communities. While some have passed into history, most others now have diverse membership.

Parish stories about Our Lady of Guadalupe in Silvis, and Moline's Sacred Heart are included. No doubt this would make a great day trip.

(Thanks to *The Catholic Post*)



Max and Marie Grigsby view the panel highlighting the Belgian roots of Moline's Sacred Heart Parish. Marie is archivist at Sacred Heart and supplied materials for the display.

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

## CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

*May, 2014*

### *News of the Membership*

*Thank You* to **Don DeBo** for his \$1000 donation to the Center to help offset costs of the move to our new location, and to **Bill Fisher** for his many years as rolle bolle representative.

*Congratulations* to **Frank and Theresa Dewaele** who were honored at an open house on April 19th in observance of their 80th birthdays.

### **Birdies for Charity**

Pledge cards for this year's Birdies for Charity event have been put in the mail and by the time you read this, you should have received yours. Birdies pledges for the CBC are used to fund the Center's scholarship program that awards \$750 scholarships to three seniors who will be entering college in the fall. Please consider making a pledge again this year, or if you haven't pledged before, consider doing so this year. And you might even win a new Chevy, courtesy of the John Deere Classic and the area Chevrolet dealers.

### **How Common is Your Surname?**

Statistics from the Belgian Economy Ministry show that in 2013, the surnames Peeters and Janssens were the most common in northern Belgium. They were followed by Maes, Jacobs, and Willems in the top five. The Flemish top ten is completed by Mertens, Claes, Wouters, Goossens, and DeSmet.

In Wallonia, the surname Dubois was the top name, followed by Lambert, Martin, Dupont, and Simon. In Brussels, the names of Diallo and Bah beat out the typical Belgian surnames of Janssens, Peeters, and Dubois.

Where are all the Vans and Vandes?

*(from Gazette van Detroit)*

Remember the Fallen  
and Our Dearly  
Departed  
May 26th

