



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



September, 2014

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d.coopman@mchsi.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sept. 5th	Healthy Belgian Chocolate	3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 6th	Healthy Belgian Chocolate (at the Center)	9:00 a.m. to noon
Sept. 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 8th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 14th	Fall Flemish Fest	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The September schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., Sept. 3rd	Kevin DeRoo	Kevin DeRoo
Fri., Sept. 5th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Sept. 6th	Celie Donohue (am) Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., Sept. 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., Sept. 12th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Sept. 13th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Wed., Sept. 17th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., Sept. 19th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fulmer
Sat., Sept. 20th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., Sept. 24th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., Sept. 26th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Sat., Sept. 27th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

Contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.

Belgacom (the phone company) has begun removing the last 1000 public phone booths remaining in Belgium. The once-familiar landmarks are due to disappear entirely by 2015; their fate sealed by cell phone usage.

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

**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month @
Friends Circle, 701 - 18th Avenue, Moline**

News of the Membership

Congratulations to: **Jeff DeRoo** on his recent engagement to Candice Keenan.

Thank You to: **Marlene Shattuck** for professionally cutting and trimming St. Nick's hair and beard; **Karen and Pat VandeKerckhove** for donating a chair for gift counter use and a humidifier; and to **Celie and Gene Donohue** for two chairs for use at the archival table.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Jim Wells** and **Pat VandeKerckhove**.

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Emil Dupont**, 90, of Rock Island, who died on July 29th at Unity Point-Trinity Rock Island.

Waffle Breakfast News

PRICE INCREASE

We're no longer the Lone Ranger. We haven't had a price increase for our waffle breakfasts since 2007, but now we must. The cost of ingredients has been steadily rising and we can no longer hold our old pricing without losing money. Waffle prices will increase with October's waffle breakfast.

A full breakfast that includes a waffle, two sausages, and beverage, will now be \$7.00. One waffle only and beverage will be \$5.00. An extra waffle will still be \$1 more.

We sincerely thank you for your past support and hope this won't be a detriment to your continued support and patronage to our monthly waffle breakfasts!



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers for September's waffle breakfast will be Sandy and Bill Coopman, Mary Lou and Dale Andrae, Bertha Bredar, and Joanne Jennings. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie DePaepe will supervise the kitchen, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will make sure all runs well and everyone has a good time.

Come Taste

"HEALTHY" DARK BELGIAN CHOCOLATE

during a presentation at the CBC

Friday, September 5th

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 6th

9:00 a.m. to noon

Brought by Hollie (VanHecke) Kemmer



Museum Donations

From time to time, donations are made and are always appreciated. Due to limited space, we may not be able to display every item or hang every picture. However, the plan is to be able to show the items at a proper time and in a proper way. Special WWI items were recently donated to the museum, and they will be a front window display during the time we honor all veterans.

I am still sorting through boxes, and every day I find another treasure. Please don't be discouraged if you don't see your item displayed, as it eventually will be. If you have items to donate to the museum, please give me a call. Your interest is appreciated!

Celie Donohue, Curator, (309)792-8246

Heritage Essay *continued from page 3*

It always brings me joy to learn of my family history, whether it is the tale of a distant ancestor or even the story of how my parents met. To me, my great, great grandfather's story is a wonderful one. It makes me feel happy to have relatives who have worked so hard to achieve a dream while loving a family. It makes me proud to be Belgian, and it encourages me to work hard to prove that I am. Of course, the waffles, cookies and rolle bolles are a great bonus.

Scholarship Essay

This month's essayist is CBC Scholarship winner Sam Olson. He graduated from Sun Prairie (Wisconsin) High School with a grade point average of 3.63 out of 4.0. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Sun Prairie Jazz Band, the Madison Jazz All-Stars, and Sun Prairie Soccer. Sam received the Outstanding Soloist Award at the Ellington Jazz Competition in New York. He plans on attending the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and major in jazz studies and/or music performance

My Belgian Heritage
by Sam Olson

Belgian waffles, Lukken cookies and rolle bolle were the majority of my experience of my Belgian background. Since we moved from Illinois to Wisconsin, we didn't see that much of my mom's mom, Mildred Kale, whose parents were both from Belgium. Although it isn't much, I always cherish my time with Grandma, for it is the time I always learn more about my heritage.



I find it so fascinating to explore the history of my family or even any general history from the perspective of my family. I remember calling up my grandma to ask her about the wars of the past century for a middle school project. She talked for at least an hour, but it was just such an engaging phone call that the memory has stuck with me for years. Today, I am experiencing that feeling of captivation again as I read these news clippings and other pieces of literature from my grandma's library.

A particularly interesting piece I've come across is a letter from my great, great aunt, Odile, to her granddaughter, Denise. She tells the story of Denise's great grandfather's immigration from Belgium to the U.S., his hard work to bring his family along, and his spirited adventure to Alaska.

Alfons August De Meulenaere, who is also my great, great grandfather, was born in East Flanders, Belgium on February 11, 1862. He first came to the U.S. in 1891, lived and worked in Chicago, Illinois, for 3 years, and returned to East Flanders in 1894. Soon, he married Emma Marie Verplaetse, and they had children. In 1912, he went back to the U.S. with intentions to earn enough money for his family to sail to America.

What made his story very interesting was that Alfons had a spirit of adventure, and his dream was to explore western America and Alaska. He was very interested in the Klondike Gold Rush that was occurring in the Yukon at the time. He began his exploration of the land in Montana, where he turned down a job as a shepherd on a great amount of land with thousands of sheep. Then, by locomotive, he traveled to Denver, Colorado, paying his way by working on the trains. He loved seeing the mountains as they traveled through them, though it

wasn't enough sight for him. He still strongly desired to see Alaska.

On his way to Portland, Oregon, Alfons was lucky enough to meet two fellows who shared his dream of seeing the gold rush. When they couldn't find a way to Alaska from Portland, the three adventurers set off on foot toward Seattle, Washington, pulling all of their belongings on a sled. One of the newcomers was very familiar with most of western and northern U.S., so they relied on him to lead them to the nearest town when they needed to rest. In one of these towns, they were informed of the locations of cabins on the way to Seattle where they could spend the night. So, they followed their instructions, and followed each cabin-keeper's directions to continue toward Seattle, and soon enough they made it. Not long after they arrived, they inquired and found the way they would travel to Fairbanks. They worked in Portland until they could pay their way, and then they departed on boat.

My great, great grandfather and his two partners passed Vancouver, British Columbia, sailed through the Bering Sea and voyaged down the Yukon and Tanana Rivers until they finally reached Fairbanks. Without taking time for rest, the three men next trekked to the Klondike and immediately found their jobs in the gold mine. There they worked for three months before they saw their last chance to head back to the contiguous U.S. If they were to miss this opportunity, they would not have been able to leave for another year, and they would have been paid little to none for the mining job. As Alfons and his companions did not have enough money to live in Alaska a whole year, they decided to leave.

In late 1912, after boating back from the north and traveling back from the west, Alfons landed in Moline, Illinois. There he worked and lived and saved until he had enough money to pay his family's way into the country. By that time though, World War I had broken out in Europe. Being under German occupation, Belgium could not receive correspondence from any other countries. For four years Alfons could not communicate with his family, but he never gave up. Soon, as the German army was being driven out of Belgium, an American consulate formed in the capital city of East Flanders, Belgium, and eventually he was able to reach his family with word that they could come to the U.S.

So, my Great, Great Aunt Odile (the one who wrote the letter), with her mother and siblings, all went to Le Havre, France and departed on a French ship mainly transporting American troops back to their home. The ship landed in New York Harbor, and thanks to the hard and profuse work of Odile's father, his family became U.S. citizens as soon as they took their first step on American soil. A guide from the boat escorted them to Moline by train, and Alfons, his family and all their descendants lived happily.

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CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

September, 2014

Membership Renewal (Please detach and return)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Recruiting Member's Name (if applicable): _____

Date: ____/____/2014

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.