



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



October, 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.
Bob Van De Voorde

Marketing
Angie Jenness

Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Chaplain
Rev. Jim DeBisschop

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 4th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
October 4th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
October 13th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The October schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., October 1st	Al Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Fri., October 3rd	Joan DeClerck	Rose VanAcker
Sat., October 4th	Millie Kale (am) Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., October 8th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., October 10th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 11th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., October 15th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., October 17th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fulmer
Sat., October 18th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., October 22nd	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., October 24th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., October 25th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., October 29th	Kevin DeRoo	Kevin DeRoo

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

The Kleine Winkel

Some new items in the Winkel are Belgian key rings for \$5.00 and Biscoff Cookie Butter spread (tastes like speculoos) at \$8.00/jar. We also have "Being Belgian is Beautiful" bumper stickers in stock again for \$5.00/ea. and a new supply of "Being Belgian is Beautiful" t-shirts in size 2XL.

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

Thank You to: **Steve and Diana Slininger, Mike VandeKerckhove, Angie Jennes, Celie and Gene Donohue, Millie Kale, Kevin DeRoo,** Kerry White, Tom Slininger, and all the volunteers who helped with waffles at the Fall Flemish Fest.

Sympathy is offered to the family of **Louise Stritesky**, 85, of East Moline, who died Sept. 3rd at UnityPoint-Trinity Rock Island, and to **Theresa DeWaele** on the death of her brother Stanley Banazek.

Garage Sale Report

The second annual CBC garage sale was held on August 29th and 30th at Bonnie and Jason Tanamor's home in Rock Island. This year's edition netted the Center \$594.86. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to all who helped at the event.



Part of the garage sale crew were (l-r) Celie Donohue, Diana Slininger, Jason Tanamor, Bonnie Tanamor, and Karen VandeKerckhove.



The rest of the garage sale crew were (l-r) Millie Kale, Catherine VanHecke, Steve Slininger, and Gene Donohue.

Fall Flemish Fest

If it's sunny, they will come. And come they did. Somewhere around a thousand people enjoyed the second annual Fall Flemish Fest held at Stephens Park. The Moline Boys Choir, the Happy Belgians, and the Chordbusters provided entertainment, along with antique cars, the rolle bolle tournament, food, beer, pigeons, and the popular horse hitch from Prophetstown's Rock Creek Belgians. There couldn't have been a nicer day or a nicer way to celebrate Belgian heritage!



The Rock Creek Belgians are hitched and leaving for the park.



A bolder rolls a perfect bolle.

Scholarship Essay

The last CBC scholarship essay for this year is by Marisa Coene. Marisa attended Georgetown Visitation High School and graduated with a 4.3 out of 4.0 grade point average. She was a member of the Cum Laude Society, a Youreach Tutor, and a gold medalist in the 2013 National Spanish Exam and earned second place in STEM Competition. Marisa also participated in spring track and varsity soccer. She will be attending the Catholic University of America majoring in biomedical engineering.

Next month we'll feature the Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem winner's essay.

My Belgian Heritage
by Marisa Coene

My Belgian heritage began its debut in my life as a shirt. It was a red shirt that said, "I've got Belgian genes" on the front. I was fairly young at the time, and I mistook "genes" for "jeans" – I didn't know the difference. So, I always wore the shirt with a pair of jeans (although I was pretty sure my jeans were not from Belgium). Well I grew to learn what genes were and what my heritage is and all that meant to me. I have quite a diverse heritage – I'm Belgian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Russian, German, and Irish. But the quarter that was Belgian always felt special. I loved hearing the stories my grandpa, the source of my Belgian heritage, would tell of his childhood and his father's childhood, and the story of how our family came to this country.



Although I grew up separated by a fifteen-hour car ride from my Belgian relatives who mostly live in Moline, my grandpa never let me forget where I came from. He lives close to us, and would often take care of my siblings and me when we were younger. He taught us a lot about life and about being Belgian. When we would go up to Moline to visit family, he would proudly show off his town, taking us to all the best spots – our personal favorite was Whitey's.

As I grew up, I wanted to know more and more about my Belgian heritage. My grandpa had done a lot of research on the history of our family and had put together a family tree through a program on the computer. He asked me if I wanted to help him and write down the history of the Coene family. I accepted whole-heartedly. This past summer I spent a lot of time with my grandpa going through all the information he had collected over the years – Mass cards, pictures, obituaries, and scanned copies of censuses, city directories, and even the ship's manifest that brought the first Coene family to the United States. I helped organize all the information we had and compiled a document with all the facts. I also recorded the stories my grandpa had told

me as a kid – the same stories he had heard from his dad. Now that I have all of the information gathered and organized in one place I hope to one day write a story out of it, encompassing everything that our Belgian heritage entails – the stories of hardship and triumph, the culture, the work ethic, and the importance of family.

The story of the Coene family starts in Maldegem, Belgium, the hometown of Petrus and Rosalie Coene and their five children. In the spring of 1881, the entire family boarded a ship to New York from Antwerp. They arrived in New York on June 9 and they were in Moline a week later. According to the 1900 census, they lived at 1706 Fourteenth St. and Petrus had a job as a sawyer. His son, August, my great-great grandfather, carried on the family name. Because he had a bad hip, he couldn't work in the manufacturing business – "the shops" as they were called, so he had to pave his own path to make a living, and that he did. After being an apprentice and working as a cigar manufacturer, he started his own business in cigar making; He created "Coene Star Cigar." (His slogan was: "mild and sweet: a good smoke"). Not only did he make a life for himself, August was also a 'mover and shaker' in the Belgian community. He was one of the members of the Board of directors of the Belgian Club in Moline. August had three children; his youngest, Francis, was my great grandfather. Francis opened Coene Star Plumbing & Heating – moving from cigars to pipes. He was a big volunteer, always helping people, and he passed that onto his children. His oldest son, Ron, is my grandpa.

I learned a lot from the story of my family's history. I witnessed courage, perseverance, and the value of hard work. I see these principles still alive and strong in my family today, especially in my grandpa. Hopefully future generations will recognize these values and will continue to live them out as their fathers and mothers did before them. There is a lot to be learned from reflecting on the past, and it can help guide us in our future.

OCTOBER
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for October's waffle breakfast will be Angie Jennes, Bev Fulmer, Georgia Slininger, Jan Irwin, Margaret Wadsworth, and Teresa Nelson. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie DePaepe will supervise the kitchen, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke sends best wishes from China.

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

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

October, 2014

Missing Mail

There seems to have been a problem with mail forwarding during the move to our new location. Although we filed a change-of-address with the post office in April, it appears that some of the earliest membership renewals never made it to us.

If you sent your payment by mail and your check still has not cleared your bank, would you please reissue it? We apologize for this inconvenience.

America's First Ladies

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum is featuring the exhibit "America's First Ladies" until October 26th. It features clothing and other artifacts of some of our Presidents' wives. Why not make a day trip to West Branch. And guys, your editor saw a similar display several years ago at the Lincoln Museum and it really was neat!

Belgian Businesses Suffer

No doubt you've seen ads here for the supporting of local small businesses, and we are not alone. Belgium has suffered a decline of nearly 18,000 locally-owned shops in the last five years.

In 2008, the number of independent retailers stood at 77,433. By the end of 2013, the figure had fallen to 59,804; a decline of nearly 23%. The causes are several: a growth in malls on the edge of towns and cities populated by large chains; an increase in the number of shopping centers; and the growing popularity of online shopping.

Unizo, the independent employers' organization, stated that municipalities have a huge responsibility to ensure their policies are supportive of the independent merchant. At the same time, shopkeepers need to understand that service is their most important way of attracting customers and not hesitate to look at innovative concepts.

