



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265
(309) 762-0167
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



November, 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 Jennes

Newsletter Editor
Dave Coopman
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Chaplain
Rev. Jim DeBisschop

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 1st	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
November 1st	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 10th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
December 6th	St. Nick at Waffle Saturday	
December 10th	CBC Christmas Party (see article)	

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The November schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., Nov. 1st	Millie Kale (am) Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., Nov. 5th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., Nov. 7th	Joan DeClerck	Rose VanAcker
Sat., Nov. 8th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Nov. 12th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., Nov. 14th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Nov. 15th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., Nov. 19th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., Nov. 21st	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fulmer
Sat., Nov. 22nd	Kevin DeRoo	Kevin DeRoo
Wed., Nov. 26th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., Nov. 28th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., Nov. 29th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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



Happy
Thanksgiving

OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month @
Friends Circle, 701 - 18th Avenue, Moline



CBC Christmas Party

The Center's Christmas party will be held this year at the Friends Circle (1801 - 7th Street) on Wednesday, December 10th. Happy Hour (cash bar) will be at 5:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Mulkey's will cater the buffet dinner which will include several meats, potato, vegetable, and dessert. There will be entertainment as well. The cost is \$15.00/person. To make a reservation, send your check to the CBC, 1608 - 7th Street, Moline, IL 61265 by December 5th.

We will also have our annual Xmas Raffle that evening. Items this year are a large St. Nick in white fur, Belgian beer and mugs, a Santa cookie jar w/home-made Lukken cookies, and a gift certificate to the Olde Towne Bakery. Tickets are \$1.00/each or 6 for \$5.00, available at the CBC.

News of the Membership

Thank You to: **Dr. and Mrs. Louis DePorter** for a large scrapbook with information of the CBC during Ralph DePorter's time as Honorary Consul; and to Frank Lyons for the stained glass sun-catcher of a lace maker.

Sympathy is offered to **Ray and Barb Coppens** on the death of Ray's brother Donald on Oct. 14th, and to **Bill and Margaret Wadsworth** on the death of Bill's sister Marjorie on Oct.12th.

**NOVEMBER
WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**



The volunteers for November's waffle breakfast will be Sandy and Bill Coopman, Lois and Fred DeCoster, Angie Jennes, and Jan Irwin. 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.

Bloemen Van Vlaanderen

The Flowers of Flanders, a symbol of the immigrants from Belgium and their descendants, was a program begun by the CBC many years ago to pay tribute to our Flemish and Walloonian heritage. The memorial plaque has 100 brass plates which can be engraved to honor Belgian immigrants, families, descendants, or individuals. That original plaque has only eight plates remaining to be filled. If we have more donations, we will begin a second plaque.

Each brass plate represents a donation of \$100 or more. While commemorating your family name, you are assisting in the Center's future. If interested, send your check, name, address and inscription information (up to 3 lines, 20 characters per line) to the CBC Foundation, 1608 - 7th St., Moline, IL 61265. For questions, contact Celie Donohue at (309) 792-8246.

Lights on the Western Front

Ten thousand volunteers carried lit torches over a distance of 50 miles over the weekend of October 18th and 19th, marking what once was a frontier of destruction. Headlines praised the most impressive commemoration so far, of the First World War.

The Lichtfront, or Light Front, was a spectacle of fire and light staged for an international audience. It stretched, just like the Western Front of 1914-15, from Nieuwpoort to Ploegsteert Wood, the scene of fierce fighting on the Ypres Salient. Ploegsteert Wood is in the Walloon province of Hainaut and is the location of a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

Thousands of spectators joined the volunteers to take part in the Light Front. Street lighting in towns in the vicinity of the commemoration was turned off so the Light Front would stand out.

The Kleine Winkel

The Winkel has a new shipment of Belgian chocolates (sea shells and pralines) and is running a half-price special on Belgian clocks. The clocks were \$30.00, now \$15.00 with this notice (clip or print the notice and present at time of purchase to receive the half-price special).

"Belgian Clocks"

ON SALE for \$15.00
with this coupon

Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship Essay

The recipient of the 2014 Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarship is Gabrielle Van Speybroeck. Gabrielle is a graduate of UTHS and attends the University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in Biochemistry and Spanish. Gabrielle is in her second year in the professional program pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree.

Gabrielle was Valedictorian at UTHS, a National Scholar and on the Dean's List at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago. She is active in her community as a volunteer, tutor and an event organizer. Gabrielle is the Director and Founder of the Flying Fish Swim School. The program helps children with special needs learn to swim.

My Belgian Heritage by Gabrielle Van Speybroeck

The way that my parents raised me was very much culturally influenced. My father had always emphasized that helping others was a part of life that we never should neglect. At an early age, it was always emphasized that part of being a good person, and a good Belgian, meant helping others that didn't have the same as you. It also brought the family happiness knowing that we were able to spread good deeds among our community. I became aware of this and began to spread what I could to help the community as a junior in high school.



I helped to create the Flying Fish Swim School, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children with special needs and developmental and physical disabilities learn how to swim in a one-on-one environment. Doing what little I could to help the kids learn a skill and develop socially with people other than their parents, the children were able to grow. I felt proud of myself and the other volunteers for helping the community in a way that we had first thought wouldn't have as much of an effect - and really made an impact on those around us.

I was proud of myself - as a member of the Belgian community and just as a human being - for being able to put together a great organization which continued to grow. Now, there are multiple schools which are running in more than one state and continue to help kids with special needs every single month.

Growing up in East Moline, I hadn't ever given much thought to the fact that living there was such a unique place. Surrounded by all of the "Van"-Somethings, I had always known that a lot of my friends and families in the neighborhood were Belgian. Things changed, however, when I went to Chicago for my undergraduate studies.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, I was surrounded by so much diversity. It wasn't until I had left my home that I realized how special my heritage made me, and how it set me apart

from everyone else. "Is that Dutch? Scandinavian?" Always proud to tell my friends that it was indeed a Belgian name, I realized how much different my heritage was from theirs. I'd grown up listening to my grandparents tell me about their time playing as "The Happy Belgians" with my father and uncles. I had always appreciated it, and now even more so. Looking back at photos of my great grandpa "Spey" play alongside Bix Biederbeck and Whitey Kaufman, I began to really appreciate my heritage for what it was - a sense of identity not only back at home - but also here in Chicago.

I remember going back to Belgium when I was in Junior high and exploring the farmhouse where my ancestors grew up - even peeking through the window and noticing the envelope which still sat on the desk, hand written from a fellow "Van Speybroeck." Looking back on all of these experiences and how my time growing up was so unique, I realize how different it was from the culture of my new friends. It has made me lucky to be so unique in my experiences, when surrounded by diversity here in the city, I always feel special telling someone about my heritage and how I was raised.

Even now, as I begin professional school, I know that I will continue to carry my heritage with me wherever I go. I think that's a plus of having one of the longest names in the class - even the patients I have had the opportunity to interview and perform a short history on as a first year medical student have inquired about where I'm from. I'm always proud to tell them that it's Belgian - something you don't find a lot of in Chicago. Proud to always wear my culture on me sleeve - literally - I won't ever forget how I grew up and how it sets me apart from those around me.

As a medical student who hopefully intends to pursue pediatrics in the future, I continue to strive to be a good Belgian and a good human being in the world. As I had learned early on in life from my family and with my experiences with Flying Fish Swim School, there is always something good that you can bring into the world. I am glad I could be surrounded by a culture during my time growing up that was to foster this belief in me and help me grow into the person that I am today: proud of myself and my Belgian heritage.

Special Programs for Hoover

Next year will be a special year at the Hoover Museum in West Branch, as it honors Herbert Hoover as director general of the American Relief Administration that saved Belgians from starvation after WWI. Watch for announcements on the upcoming Hoover Museum programs. We will keep you notified.

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

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE

November, 2014

Honors in Belgium

Three Americans are being honored in Belgium. The first two, Lt. Ralph Talbot and Gunnery Sgt. Robert Robinson, both received the Medal of Honor during WWI, and are commemorated with a plaque in Pittem.

On an air strike against an enemy ammo depot at Pittem, their plane was attacked by 12 enemy scout planes. They downed one of the enemy planes before Robinson was shot and his gun jammed. Talbot maneuvered until the gun was cleared and then rejoined the fight. Robinson continued to fire until shot again. Talbot was able to shoot down another plane, and then escape the enemy fighters, taking Robinson to the nearest hospital. Robinson had been shot 13 times and had his left arm nearly severed. His arm was grafted back on by the surgeon-general of the Belgian army. Pilot Talbot was killed in a crash one week later.

The third American, commemorated with a plaque in Tielt, is Rene De Seranno. He was born in Moline in 1910, and moved to Tielt with his parents. The family returned to the states in 1922 and settled in Detroit. De Seranno became president of a fastener manufacturing firm. In 1972, he was appointed honorary Belgian consul for

Michigan and headed the non-profit organization that saved the *Gazette van Detroit* from extinction.



Robert Robinson



Ralph Talbot

