



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 762-0167

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2015

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 11th	Board Meeting	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
May 25th	Memorial Day Waffles	7:00 to 11:30 a.m.

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The May schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Fri., May 1st	Rose VanAcker	Joan DeClerck
Sat., May 2nd	Celie Donohue (am)	
	Grace Fisher (pm)	Barb Michalek (pm)
Wed., May 6th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., May 8th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., May 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., May 13th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., May 15th	Georgia Slininger	Bev Fullmer
Sat., May 16th	Jan Irwin	Jan Irwin
Wed., May 20th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., May 22nd	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., May 23rd	Kim Kochuyt	Kim Kochuyt
Wed., May 27th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., May 29th	Celie Donohue	Gene Donohue
Sat., May 30th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale

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

Remember the Fallen & Our Dearly Departed  
May 25th

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

## What A Difference A Year Makes

It is coming up on one year since the Center for Belgian Culture had its grand open house. We survived the packing, the move, and the “find a place for every treasure.” Even in the winter’s ice and snow, all got to the new location.

The museum has had many visitors and many new visitors. All seem to agree that the new location showcases the treasures so much better. Many said they had never seen some of the items before, although they were displayed at our old location.

I’m happy to say the Center has a few new acquisitions: Six large cookies (preserved) from Maison Jacobs in Dinant, Belgium, along with six pictures of the bakers and tools used in the 1860 bakery. Another was an immigrant trunk from Antwerp that sailed 3rd Class on the Red Star Line and documents from the owner, Henry DeMarteleare.

Four handwritten books, in Flemish, are on display and all were discovered in the large bookcase. One is the cookbook of Cecilia VanDierendonck, circa 1920. Another was written by Leonard Sonnevile in 1862 on how to survive in the New World. This book was also written in French. The third book was written by a WWI soldier in the Belgian army, Philemon Huyvert, circa 1915. It contains beautiful original poems and hymns. The fourth is the book donated to us by Lucy DeWaelsh from the DeRycke Florist describing all the flowers of Belgium.

Other new items are two rolle bolle prints and a poppy print by Adolph DeKeryel; more pigeon memorabilia; a lighted windmill; a document signed by President Lyndon Johnson congratulating Ralph DePorter on becoming Honorary Consul; and the lace from the DuPont estate. Soon to come is a display of the Belgian comic character Tin Tin. The Tin Tin comic, by Herge, was the first comic strip ever written.

We have acquired a tiny flower sprig with a ribbon of red/yellow/black attached to a note that says, “Belgian Babies 1918.” If anyone can shed light on this item, it would be appreciated.

It has been a labor of love to dress the new museum. Again, many thanks to all that lent a helping hand.

Celie Donohue, Curator

## Farewell to an Old Friend

For those of you who live out-of-town or who may have missed the article in the *Dispatch*, the Croatian Crest Club has closed its doors after 40 years of existence. The popular Friday Fish-Fry will no longer be served. No more drinks at the bar, wedding receptions, class reunions, or birthday parties.

Several issues factored into the decision to close: being along the flood-prone Rock River; costs for upgrading the building; and perhaps the biggest issue, the lack of volunteers and new members. Bookings for the facility were down due to the uncertainty of river flooding. Members of the club were aging and many could no longer volunteer. Younger people were not joining. All of this made for the painful decision to close.

Many groups are having trouble keeping membership alive; country clubs, service organizations, societies, and heritage clubs. Your CBC newsletter has had many pleas for volunteers and new members. It’s certainly understandable that younger families with children just don’t have the free time today that families had 20 or 30 years ago; too many activities pulling in too many directions.

Is there a lesson to learn here? Definitely! Spread the interest in your heritage to younger people. Volunteer if you can. By all means, urge someone in becoming a member. The CBC is certainly not ready to fold its tent yet, but without membership support, it could be sooner rather than later.

We bid a sad farewell to the Croatian Crest Club. It brought many years of fellowship and enjoyment to its members and the public. It will be missed!

*Happy Mother's Day*

MAY 10TH

## News of the Membership

*Thank You* to: **Jim Wells** for the donation of Belgian beer bottles, and to everyone who provided baked treats for the Spring Bake Sale.

*Get Well* wishes are extended to **Marion Knock** and **Bea DeBrabander**.

*Sympathy* is extended to **Tom and Cele Weaver** on the death of Tom’s sister, Margaret Hanson, of Montrose, Minn.; and to **Jim and Glenda Vyncke** on the death of Jim’s brother Joseph, of Silvis.

### MAY 2nd WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



The volunteers for the May 2nd waffle breakfast will be Dale and Mary Lou Andrae, Fred and Lois DeCoster, and Karen VandeKerckhove. 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 smoothly.

## Friends' Circle Celebrates 100 Years!

In April of 1815, a group of men felt that with so many Belgian families living in the western bluff area, there was a need for a social club to furnish a means of recreation and fellowship. A group of officers was elected and all agreed to call the club Friendscircle (no, that is not a misspelling). The Sonnevile Building at 9th Street and 18th Avenue was rented and the first of many monthly meetings was held there.

From that point on, the club steadily grew and offered decent entertainment for its members and their families. The club also held naturalization classes for those Belgians who had not yet become American citizens.

The club moved to 1722-1/2 Seventh Street in 1923. With more room, it was a popular place for cards, billiards, and rolle bolle and archery contests. As the treasury grew, it took over the ground floor of its club building and also operated a camp on the Rock River.

In 1965, and now known as the Friends' Circle Club, it started a bicycle race to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The next year, the race was named the Moline Criterium and was sponsored by the VFW. When the VFW dropped its sponsorship, the Friends' Circle raised the funds and sponsored the bike races until 1971.

Congratulations to everyone at the Friends' Circle in celebrating their centenary!



## Fewer Warme Bakkers

There are fewer “warme bakkers” in Flanders – those who make their own products and sell them on site – than there have ever been. Flanders’ retail industry recognizes a difference between a warme bakker, who bakes bread on the premises, and a koude bakker, who bakes and ships the product to other shops.

Part of the problem is that the investment required for a new bakery is almost prohibitive. An oven can cost \$127,000 US, and with installation and other equipment the cost can run as high as \$320,000 US.

Another reason is that younger people just aren’t entering the trade. Aside from the costs, the working hours are difficult – nights and weekends – and extensive technical skills are required. Makes you appreciate the Olde Towne Bakery just a little more, doesn’t it?

## Correctness Run Amok

Belgian police have agreed to stop using the word “gypsy” in official reports in response to a complaint by the Minorities Forum. According to the Forum, the word is a form of ethnic profiling, which classifies a person on the basis of appearance or conduct. The correct term to use will now be “caravan resident.”

## A New Street Name

New York City is naming a street after 19th-century priest Joseph de Veuster, better known as Father Damien, who is venerated as a saint for his work in Hawaii’s leper colony.

Born in Flemish Brabant in 1840, Father Damien is famous for having built a school, medical clinic, and fully functioning communities out of dilapidated infrastructure that housed people suffering with leprosy. A peninsula on the Molokai was home to hundreds of lepers in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Father Damien died of leprosy at 49, and was canonized in 2009.

The street, which will be named Father Damien Way on May 11th, is located near three major hospitals. One of them is Bellevue Hospital Center, one of the few hospitals on the east coast that specializes in the treatment of leprosy. The street name is an initiative of the Flemish government, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New York and the New York City Council.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)



Painting of Fr. Damien by British painter Edward Clifford, 1888

## *Global Warming and Belgium's Coast*

If you believe in global warming predictions, the Belgium coastline between DePanne and Ostend could be flooded by 2100 in response to rising sea levels, according to a report by a team of Flemish architects. This scenario is the most extreme of four options proposed in a recent study.

The aim of the report was to suggest solutions to the predicted 39-inch rise in the sea level caused by global warming. The architects are working with the Flemish departments of urban planning and public works and the maritime services division.

The most controversial plan – known as the Bipole scenario – would abandon the entire western coastal zone to the sea. “There would no longer be any active investment in keeping out the sea or in urban development or the economy. The western coast would be progressively de-urbanized and restored to its natural state,” the plan stated.

The resorts of DePanne, Koksijde, Oostduinkerke, Nieuwpoort, and Middelkerke would gradually disappear into the sea under that plan.

Another scenario called the Zone would involve the construction of a defensive wall along the entire coastline, with

pipes to carry excess sea water inland to polder land. The third option, the Archipelago, would leave the coast untouched while using large inland areas of undeveloped polder as catchment areas for flood water. The final plan, the Mosaic scenario, involves the construction of an elaborate network of canals to manage the water.

Having been to and enjoyed the Belgian coast several times, the Bipole scenario would ruin some truly beautiful coastal strand. And it probably wouldn't do much for the economies of those coastal resort cities. Perhaps the best answer to this is to reclaim land from the sea. The ultimate solution, no matter what, will involve massive amounts of money. And isn't that what always determines a solution.



The DePanne coastline