



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



February, 2016

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(309) 230-1645

**Gift Shop**  
Diana Slininger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 6th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
February 6th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
February 8th	Board Meeting	7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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

## Schedule for Volunteers

The February schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., Feb. 3rd	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., Feb. 5th	Rose VanAcker	Joan DeClerk
Sat., Feb. 6th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., Feb. 10th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., Feb. 12th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., Feb. 13th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., Feb. 17th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., Feb. 19th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., Feb. 20th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., Feb. 24th	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Fri., Feb. 26th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., Feb. 27th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790  
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.

*Happy Valentine's Day – February 14th*

## Scholarship Applications

Applications for the Center for Belgian Culture and Ruth Lambrick VanTieghem Scholarships will be sent to area high schools and colleges in February. The CBC awards three \$750 scholarships to high school graduates to help with their college expenses. The VanTieghem Scholarship of \$1200 is awarded to a student who has completed two years of college and is continuing with his/her college education.

Copies of the application will also be available at the CBC. Watch for them later in February.

**OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

**VALENTINE  
WAFFLE SATURDAY**

No, we aren't serving waffles on Valentine's Day, but we are doing something a little special for our normal waffle breakfast on February 6th. In addition to our usual, great waffles, we will also have chocolate waffles. Add cherries and maybe some chocolate syrup and whipped topping, and you have a great Valentine treat. Of course you can also get them with any of our regular fruit as well. And the best part... there's no extra charge! See you on Saturday, February 6th.



**FEBRUARY WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS**

The volunteers for February's waffle breakfast will be John and Cheryl DeCap, Steve and Diana Slininger, and Sage Jennes. Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, Angie Jennes will supervise the kitchen, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will be thinking of us while she lounges in Tahiti.

*News of the Membership*

*Congratulations:* to **Kevin Rafferty** for being named as emcee for this year's Mardi Gras Ball of the Rock Island Junior Board; and to **Al VanTieghem** upon the publishing of his book, *They Said It Couldn't Be Done*, a history of the Mark Civic Center (now called the iWireless Center) from 1984 to 1995.

*Sympathy* is offered to the family of **Gene Donohue**, 85, of Moline, who passed away January 19th in Lone Tree, Colorado.

**Researching Your Flemish Roots**

The Davenport Family History Center has been offering Saturday morning classes on genealogy. On March 12th, the CBC's Mary Gardner-Karcher will be presenting "Researching Flemish Roots" at 10:30 a.m. She will be reviewing techniques and resources for tracking Flemish ancestry, including using the National Archives online and Family Search. Other topics will include: Parochieregisters; French Republic calendar; Civil Registers; Bevolkingregisters; Staten Van Goed; Bidprentjes; Flemish Names; and Place names.

Anyone can attend these classes and there is no charge. The Family History Center is located at 4929 N. Wisconsin Avenue in Davenport, Iowa.

**Easy Way to Raise Some Funds for CBC**

Amazon, the online store, has a program called **AmazonSmile**. It donates one-half percent of the purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations selected by its customers. Customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping as found on Amazon.com. **The Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois is registered in this program.**

The program is easy to use. If you are already an Amazon user, log on to smile.amazon.com. Insert Center for Belgian Culture of Western Illinois where asked, and shop normally. If you are new to Amazon, you can create an account on this site, insert our name where asked, and shop to your heart's content.

This is a great way to purchase a variety of items and help the CBC at the same time.

**The IKEA Syndrome**

We all know driving the highway can be dangerous. In addition to the usual careless or drunk driver, pothole, etc. Belgium seems to be experiencing another danger – the IKEA syndrome. Just exactly what is that? An increasing number of drivers are loading their cars with materials from the do-it-yourself stores and are not properly securing the materials. They set off into busy traffic with stuff loosely tied to the roof of their car or sticking out of the rear hatch. It isn't long before the load is scattered all over the road.

Over 4000 drivers were fined for losing their loads last year on Belgium roads. Evidently a quick trip to a DIY store can bring a lot of Belgium to a standstill. One man's bookcase can be another man's misery.



## Heritage Will Be Good For You

To say that our population is ageing is a bit of a truism, but it's one that is worth repeating, since this trend has significant implications for society. One of the consequences that can already be seen is the growing number of people who have dementia.

Approximately 116,000 people in Flanders are living with dementia, and that figure will increase by 30% by 2020 according to estimates. Research coordinator Herlinde Dely explained why memories from the past are so important to people with dementia. She stated, "When dealing with dementia, the memory slowly fades away, but not arbitrarily. The most recent memories are the first to fade, such as what people had for breakfast or who they saw yesterday. Memories from a person's childhood and youth remain intact the longest."

That is why talking about the past or listening to music from the past has an important value. "That process of reminiscence offers reassurance to people with dementia and puts them on the same level as caregivers in a conversation," she stated.

Heritage as preserved collective memory can play a major role in caring for people with dementia and their caregivers, according to Dely, by helping them talk about and remember the past. Research has shown that this has a strong, positive influence on the well-being of people with dementia, and helps avoid social isolation for both the elderly and their caregivers.

## Brussels Sprouts

European and international institutions have become the largest employers in Brussels, accounting for 121,000 jobs, according to the region's tourism authority.

The Brussels-Capital Region is home to 20 European institutions, 42 intergovernmental organizations, 20,000 lobbyists, nearly 1,000 foreign journalists, and 5,400 diplomats – the largest diplomatic corps in the world, which includes missions to Belgium, the EU, and NATO.

The latter two organizations are the most prominent, but the list also includes offices of the United Nations, the European Space Agency, the International Red Cross, and the World Bank, among others. Together, they employ 81,000 people directly and another 40,000 indirectly – a total of 16.7% of all jobs in the region, bringing more than \$6 billion to Brussels' economy.

More languages are spoken in Brussels than any other city, with the exception of London. The capital is third for regional GDP, sixth for infrastructure, seventh for financial networks, and eighth most business-friendly.

## Stars and Strips Made in Belgium

Flags that were used for the inauguration ceremony of president Barack Obama were produced at a location you may not have expected: Oostrozebeke, Belgium. The Waelkens Flag Company employs forty people. Small orders are embroidered, sometimes by hand, at the production facility in Belgium, while large orders are produced on silkscreen machines in Romania. About 2,000 flags a year are shipped to the U.S. by Waelkens.

## The Maiden Tower

That's not a UFO that landed on top of the Maiden Tower, but the result of a restoration. Evidently time has taken its toll and the tower is about half the size it once was. The Maiden Tower in Zichem, Belgium, dates from the 14th century, but it's not clear whether it was a residential or a defense structure. But it's the legend that gave the tower its name that appeals most to the imagination. A dramatic story took place there, at least according to local lore.



Apparently at one point – exactly when is not specified – a nobleman and his daughter, Rosita, lived in the tower. No man was good enough for Rosita, according to her strict father. When Rosita came home one day with a lowly soldier, her father was furious.

To try to make his daughter change her mind, he called two nuns and locked all three under the roof of the tower. But the nuns could not convince Rosita to give up her love, making her father even angrier. In his rage, he tied the girl and the two nuns together and dragged them to the river, where he pushed them into the water. All three drowned.

When he realized what he had done, the father went mad from guilt and grief. He claimed to hear the screams of his daughter at night, and one day was found dead at the foot of the tower. Legend has it that sometimes, in the darkness of night, the cries of the victims can still be heard along the river Demer.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

**Please Check Ahead . . .** During these winter months, please check ahead before visiting the CBC.  
We want everyone – visitors and volunteers – to be safe.

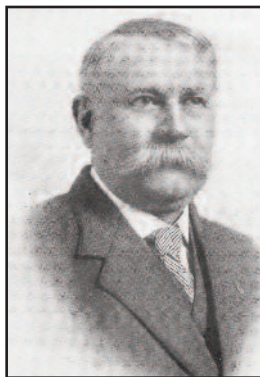
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*February, 2016*

## Patron to Moline's Belgians

Born in Lotenhulle, East Flanders, Belgium in 1857, Edward Coryn immigrated to Moline with his parents in 1880. Already skilled in the Flemish and French languages, he became fluent in English as well. He worked as a factory laborer, and then opened a grocery store. After fourteen years at the grocery, Coryn sold it to his employees and became the manager of the Moline Trust Savings Bank. Within a month, he was named a vice president of the bank. He was also an officer of the Moline Incandescent Lamp Company, and part owner of an office building and a popular department store.



While he was certainly a prosperous businessman, Coryn was most noted for his public service. In the late 1800s to early 1900s, Moline had the largest population of Belgians of any area in the United States. Coryn aided many of those arriving Belgians in finding places to live and work. He was the main organizer of the Belgian Working Men's Union, which offered working families with benefits when they became ill. He founded the Belgian-American Club to provide a social outlet for his countrymen. The club also arranged for English-language and civics classes to help the immigrants in their efforts towards becoming American citizens. Coryn was one of the founders of

the weekly Flemish-language newspaper *Gazette Van Moline* that covered news of the homeland and other Belgian settlements in the States and Canada. He was successful in petitioning the Peoria Diocese for the establishment of a Belgian church in Moline. Coryn was the first president of the National Belgian-American Alliance, a federation of Belgian-American organizations, to help assist not only immigrants, but their family members in occupied Belgium during World War I. For his service and contributions to his countrymen, Coryn was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Leopold and was made Moline's first Honorary Consul of Belgium.

With a deep interest in his adopted country, Coryn entered politics and was elected as an alderman. He held that position for eight years. From 1914-1916, Coryn served as Moline postmaster. In 1971, on the 50th anniversary of his death, a memorial plaque was placed at the municipal school of Lotenhulle to honor native son Edward Coryn for his life's work and service to the Belgian community in Moline.