



CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

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



June, 2018

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 2nd	Waffle Breakfast	8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
June 2nd	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
June 11th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
June 27th	Scholarship Presentation	6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

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

Schedule for Volunteers

The June schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Sat., June 2nd	Barb Michalek (am)	Diana Slininger (pm)
Wed., June 6th	Steve Slininger	Steve Slininger
Sat., June 9th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., June 13th	Bonnie Newman	Mary Lou Andrae
Sat., June 16th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Wed., June 20th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Sat., June 23rd	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., June 27th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., June 30th	tbd	tbd

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

Scholarship Presentation

You are invited to attend the awarding of the CBC and VanTieghem scholarships on Wednesday, June 27th, at the Center. A reception starts at 6:00 p.m. with the presentations at 6:30 p.m. Come meet and honor our scholars



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

An Interesting Beginning

In 1905, Edward Coryn and several others formed the Belgian Club (later called the Belgian-American Club). Its purpose was to better conditions for Belgians in the area, provide classes in citizenship and English, and provide a place for socializing. Early on, the club desired a Belgian Catholic church in Moline and petitioned the Bishop for such a church and a priest to guide it.

Bishop Spalding appointed Fr. John Culemans, pastor at St. Paul's in Rock Island, to oversee the development of the Moline church-to-be. Plans moved ahead and in September 1906, Mr. Charles King had purchased land at 5th Street and 18-1/2 Avenue to sell to the Belgian Club on which the church could be built.

However, the club members wanted the church built on 15th Street, somewhere near 16th Avenue. At a meeting, the club members all agreed not to support the church if it is built on the southwest bluff site. They petitioned the Bishop for the change. In early October 1906, the club took an option on land at the corner of 16th Avenue and 13th Street, and awaited an answer from Bishop Spalding as to the club's desire to have the church built on that site. Nothing else would be done until they heard from the Bishop.

Meanwhile, Fr. Culemans had work started on the foundation at the 5th Street site. The *Dispatch* newspaper noted that Bishop Spalding would lay the cornerstone on

November 4th. An article in the *Dispatch* on November 5th reported "that nearly 1000 people witnessed the laying of the cornerstone to the building, which at present is primarily for school purposes. The building is set back from the corner of the lot, as the corner is being saved for the church, which will be built over the course of some years. Plans for the church are still indefinite."

But how quickly things changed. The newspaper reported on November 12th that work on the 5th Street site was suspended pending a decision by Bishop Spalding in regards to changing the location to meet the desires of the congregation. Originally, with no unity among its prospective members, construction was started at a site available and satisfactory. Since that time, the members became more unified and secured the property on 16th Avenue.

Evidently the Bishop agreed on the 16th Avenue location, as the *Dispatch* reported on November 19th that work was moving well on the church/school building at the new location and the old location was up for sale. The new church and school would be named Sacred Heart.

While the new church/school was under construction, Sunday Masses were held at the Turner Hall in downtown Moline. By September 1907, construction was completed and the building welcomed its first students.



Sacred Heart Church and School, Circa 1910



Turner Hall, Circa 1910

Farm will Provide 10% of Needs

Work recently began on Norther, which will become Belgium’s largest offshore windfarm when it begins operations late next year. The project will include 44 wind turbines with enough capacity to power 400,000 households. It will be located nearly 14 miles off the coast of Zeebrugge, and it will stretch over 27 square miles. The total cost of the project is \$1.5 billion.

The project director said that it will produce 10% of all of Belgium’s energy needs by 2025.



Number 1,000

Brussels’ most famous son, Manneken Pis, has been dressed in his 1,000 costume. The little statue that can’t stop peeing is regularly dressed in costumes to mark special occasions. In the centuries that he has stood in the historic center of Brussels, he has been given costumes from kings and commoners, foreign dignitaries, and Belgian organizations hoping to bring attention to worthy campaigns or good causes.

Manneken Pis was first seen dressed up as a shepherd 402 years ago in a painting. However, it is not clear whether it was usual to dress up the statue in the 17th century.



The oldest surviving costume dates back to 1747 and was donated by the then French King Louis XV. He gave the statue the costume of a nobleman and Manneken Pis became a member of the Order of the Saint Louis.

(Thanks to *Flanders Today*)

← Manneken Pis oldest costume

JUNE WAFFLE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers for the waffle breakfast in June will be Kim Kochuyt, Michael DeBisschop, Steve Slininger, Jan Vershaw, and Yvette Van Driessche. Mike Kerckhove will mix the mix and start the coffee, Joan DeCap will cashier, and Catherine VanHecke will ensure everyone’s having a good time.

News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Bill and Sandy Coopman**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 4th.

Sympathy is offered to **Art Holevoet** on the death of his brother, Paul Holevoet, 69, of Atkinson, who died May 1st.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are once again looking for sponsorships to help offset our rental costs for the Center. You can sponsor a waffle breakfast for \$300 or a newsletter for \$150. As a 501(c)3, we are a tax deductible not-for-profit entity.

Past donors were Mary Joy Allaert Feeney, Chris Van Lancker, Dr. Volkan and Merry Sümer, Rafferty Funeral Home, Kevin and Colleen Rafferty, Patrick and Barb Van Nevel, Debbie and Mark Schwiebert, Kevin DeRoo, Lizette L. Desseyen, Shawn Van Driessche, and In Memory of Louis Slininger.

We also received additional donations from Pat Blondell, the Kevin DeRoo Family, Mary Joy Allaert Feeney, Phyllis Maxfield, Walter and Linda VanDamme, Lavone Slead, Donna Cavins, Barbara Michalek, and Alice Van Quekelberghe.



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This Doesn't Seem Right

UNESCO wants to open debate on the recognition of war cemeteries and memorials as World Heritage. This comes after a committee's advice to reject Belgium's application to recognize First World War sites as World Heritage. It was rejected, as UNESCO feels it should not glorify, honor, or commemorate aspects of wars and conflicts.

The rejection was a blow to Flanders, which worked for years on the application with Wallonia and France. The file contains more than 130 sites related to the First World War and was submitted during the war's four-year centenary. Nineteen of the included locations are in Flanders and include sites such as the Menin Gate, Tyne Cot Cemetery, and the Nieuwpoort Memorial. Less famous sites were also included.

Flemish minister-president Geert Bourgeois stated, "This is about cemeteries and monuments to remember the dead, about peace, values, individuals, and reconciliation. These are the principles on which UNESCO was founded."

A decision will be made as the annual World Heritage Committee session June 24th-July 4th in Bahrain. Flanders representatives will be there to defend the application.

A Mexican Touch

The flower carpet in central Brussels will have a Mexican touch this year on August 16-19th. The Beurs square will also have an exhibition to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Grand Place as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Grand Place first had a flower carpet in 1971. Dozens of volunteers contribute to complete the feat each year since then, putting some 500,000 flowers in the right place to create a giant carpet covering 1,800 square meters.

The carpet will have a Mexican touch for the first time and will be linked to Guanajuato, Mexico. That city boasts a rich flower tradition, just like Brussels. The design includes a colorful bird, two suns, and several pre-Hispanic warriors.

