



Telling the story of the Belgian Settlement in Wisconsin and working to preserve unique elements of Belgian culture

[www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org)

AUGUST 2022

### BHC Is Open

Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 10am-3pm and by appointment. Call 920-493-5969 for information

## 2022 Events

21  
AUG

Kermis

17  
SEPT

BHC Displays at Belgian Heritage Event at National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

8  
OCT

Great Fire Remembrance

TBA

TBA - Hunter's Raffle

20  
NOV

Helen Gillet Cello Concert at 4pm

## KERMISS TIME

**Sunday, August 21**  
**11am - 4pm**

Join us on **Sunday, August 21** for our annual Kermis from 11:00 to 4:00 at the Belgian Heritage Center. The traditional harvest celebration will include:

- ◆ Live music from the popular band Mad Cats
- ◆ Farm implement display
- ◆ Tours of the restored school/convent
- ◆ Historical exhibits
- ◆ Silent auction
- ◆ Bucket raffle
- ◆ 50/50 drawings

True to Belgian tradition, there will be plenty of booyah, trippe, jutt, burgers, Belgian pies and tortes, and cold beverages including craft beers from Noble Roots and Thumb Knuckle breweries. Don't miss this great chance to experience Belgian tradition and reconnect with your Belgian roots!

## Volunteer Docents Needed

Now that BHC is open for the season, we need volunteers to work as docents during our weekend hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 3:00. Training will be provided and you can learn the ropes by working with experienced volunteers. This is a great chance to meet people interested in history and Belgian culture. Best of all, you might just meet a new relative. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Derenne at 920-389-1768 or [rdhealth6@gmail.com](mailto:rdhealth6@gmail.com).



# Kermis Time



## Call for Raffle Donations

We need your help to make our two largest fundraisers of the year—the Kermis and Hunter's Raffle-- a success! We are seeking gift certificates, cash prizes, gift baskets, handmade items, or anything you'd like to share with us. The BHC Kermis is August 21 and will feature bucket raffles and silent auctions! Donations are requested at BHC by August 15. The Hunter's Raffle celebrates the rich outdoor heritage our Belgian ancestors and is packed with prizes for outdoorsmen and women. Tickets will go on sale at the Kermis. Donations must be received by July 29th to be printed on the Hunter's Raffle tickets. The raffle will be held this fall at a date to be announced. To make a donation, please contact us via Facebook or email

[supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org). Thank you very much!



## THE BOOYAH SHED

1800 S Ashland, Green Bay

920-371-6249

Dine-in or Carry-Out

Homemade Booyah, Chili, Burgers, Brats, Pulled Pork, Chicken. Pork Tacos, Tots, Deep-Fried Cheese Curds, Desserts, Beer, Cocktails, and much more.

### Featuring our Friday Fish Fry

Visit our Facebook page for Full Menu

#### Hours:

Monday 11-5

Tues, Weds, Thu 11-7

Friday 11-8

Saturday 11-7

Sunday CLOSED



BHC newsletter is sponsored in part by the Booyah Shed in Green Bay. For sponsorship opportunities, please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org)



# Kermis Past



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

In October 1937, the Milwaukee Journal ran an article about the Kermis tradition in Rosiere. Nancy Woedner kept and preserved the pictures and captions that accompanied the article. We hope you enjoy this look back at Kermis 85 years ago.



**IT'S GREAT TO BE A RUBENS FRIEND** as Anton DeNamur (left) and Joe Vandertie find when indulging in the old Belgian custom of pie and beer. Even "aliens" say it isn't a bad combination, particularly the cheese-filled pie and beer.



Is the kermis popular? Just look at this row posters advertising various one in the region. The one we are visiting today is the one the man is pointing to and it was the seventy-ninth annual one.



**THE KERMISS CROWD** was very large this year, so the Rubenses had to borrow steins from a brewery and Mary Jane Sisel marks them with a tuft of string.



**THE KERMISS IS OVER,** but on Tuesday about one-fourth of the pupils are missing from their classes at Brussels high school.



# Liberation of Belgium

*Published with permission of Irene Litz-Barre from Following the Lines – World War II as Experienced by a Belgian Girl.*

In September 1944, Belgium was finally liberated from German occupation during World War II. In her book, Irene Litz-Barre writes about the day the Americans arrived in her village of Roisin as the last of the German soldiers left.

## “Ils sont ici – Sie sind hier – Here they are

Now, we had to actively prepare our decorations for THEIR arrival. We took the homemade flags out of their hideaway and started sewing blue, white, red, black and yellow ribbons on the sleeves of our shirts and blouses. Why there? Because the few Germans left, whose reaction we feared, couldn't see them under a jacket, and we would be ready in no time for the Great Welcome. Hearing the heavy noise of a convoy, we rushed to put the flags up. “Oh, OH! Put them down, it's a German tank division.” It happened a few times during forenoon, ups and downs, jacket off, jacket on. We crossed the street; we needed to gather news at our friends' place in the gendarmerie.

Wonderful! The Americans were coming out of the forest. The cleaned-out city could be crossed in less than an hour. Everybody was quite excited. While we were talking, a few shots rang out down the street. There were the “half-portion” leftovers who had escaped the night before. Obviously, they weren't aware of the rapid developments, or they didn't want to believe it.

Suddenly the last bells left in the church started a joyous carillon. THEY were there! Not even a mile away. The adolescent soldiers understood it was the end of their adventure, and they dropped their guns. They came close to the gendarmerie, most of them sniffing some tears, and they surrendered.

We went back home, put the flags up, and took our jackets off again. We were ready. Grandma was once more unable to stay too long on her feet. Grandpa brought her chair at the door; she didn't want to miss any detail of this historical moment. Many people were already on the sidewalks. Some armed Resistants were keeping a vigilant eye on windows and roofs. We were anxiously watching the top of our street. The owner of the house at the crest of the hill, a calm and serious accountant (*sic*), was in front of his house suddenly jumping and waving like a cartoon character. No doubt, THEY were there.

They arrived, four in a jeep, followed at a distance by another group. Four smiling guys in more casual uniforms than the ones we were used to seeing. Their jeep was covered with flowers, bottles of wine saved for years for this occasion. They could barely hold their guns. Everybody wanted to touch them, shake hands with them. They were moving extremely slowly, and it seemed they had given up the idea to do anything differently. They had to go through thanks, laughs, tears of joy...

## Surprise – Verwunderung - Surprise

The next day, heavy convoys went on, still well acclaimed, As they sometimes slowed down, we had time to offer them drinks and they offered us cigarettes. Packages we never saw before: Camels, Lucky Strikes, packed by five. Chocolate came later, when they stopped longer. Suddenly a soldier stuck his head out of a truck and said in Walloon “Bondjou a tertous” (“Hello, everybody”).

Surprise! Someone asked him “Vo ste d’par ci” (“Are you from around here”)?

“Ed su americain. Dj’ai appris ave m’Grandme qui n’dvise co qu’el Wallon d’ Thieu. D’ju ve du Wisconsin ou branmin des d’gins parl’te co Wallon.” (“I am American. I learned with my Grandma who only speaks the Walloon from Thieu. I’m coming from Wisconsin where many people still speak Walloon.”)

Thieu was a village just a couple of miles away. Oh, interesting, but where is Wisconsin? The truck took off. All we could do was to wish good luck to the young soldier and hope he could go home soon and tell his grandma he successfully used her language when crossing her home county.”

***We would love to identify the soldier and his Grandmother, but all we know is what is written in the book. Do you have any idea? If so, please let us know – we would love to share this information with Irene and our readers.***

To purchase a copy of Irene's book, email [supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org).



## Pierquet Family Military Service

Many of our Belgian ancestors answered the call to military service as early as the Civil War. The Anton and Laura Pierquet family of Green Bay is an inspiring example. Their nine sons served in the armed forces and seven saw action during World War II. All returned home safely. Cletus saw action in Belgium and was awarded a battlefield commission for his involvement in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. Pictured: Back row, left to right: Cletus (Army), Marvin (Army Air Corps), LeRoy (Naval Reserves), Cy (Army Air Corps) and Quintin (Marines). Front row, left to right: Clem (Navy), Tony (Navy), Clayton (Navy) and Mose (Navy). *Courtesy: Janice Heyrman Nelson*



## Playing Cooyah

Many of us learned to play the card game Cuyou or Cooyah (as it's spelled here) but how many of us remember much about it? According to the website pagat.com: "Couillon is a popular Belgian card game... The name "couillon" almost certainly derives from the Walloon word coyon (=testicle), which refers to the circles or balls that were tradiionally used as part of the method of keeping score. However, in Flanders and Luxembourg, the name has been modified to the similar sounding Kwajongen and Kujong respectively."

These are the basic rules of play but local variations exist:

1. Separate the deck using only the nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace cards.
2. There are four or six players in fixed teams of two seated in every other chair.
3. Dealer shuffles the cards. Person to the dealer's right cuts the cards.
4. Dealer deals 4 cards to each person.
5. The top card is turned up from the remaining deck and the suit of that card is the proposed trump.
6. Going clockwise, starting with the player to the dealer's left, each player has the chance to "go" by accepting the suit of the trump. If all four players pass, the bottom card from the deck is turned up and it becomes trump.
7. The player to the dealer's left plays the first card.
8. Each player must either play a card following the suit of the first player's card or a trump card. If the player does not have a trump or card of the lead suit, any card can be played.
9. The "trick" is won by the highest trump card, or if there is no trump card, the highest card of the suit that was led. The winner of the trick takes all of the cards. If there is a tie, the team that wins the next game gets an extra point.
10. Card values are:  
Any trump card always takes any non trump card: 9 & 10 - 0; Jack - 1; Queen - 2; King - 3; Ace - 4
11. The player that wins the trick plays the lead card of the next trick.
12. When all cards dealt have been played, points for each team are added up. The team with the highest total wins 1 game point. If the team that "goes" scores fewer card points than the other team, they lose a game point. If there is a tie, neither team wins a point. Play continues to 7 points or as decided before play starts.



Joe DuBois with back to camera in the foreground, then clockwise, unknown, Donald DuBois, Vincent Pommier, Jim DuBois (child), unknown, Cliff DuBois; courtesy Ann Jinkins



# Historic Photo Feature - Summer Kitchens



During the hot weather season, people in the Belgian settlement utilized their summer kitchens for cooking to keep their main houses as cool as possible. The summer kitchens were either semi-detached or detached in the form of a small building. They would usually house a small stove and a table for the family to have meals. The kitchens would also be used for the great volume of garden food processing necessary to survive the winter. With the abundance of brick homes and lack of electricity for even fans to keep comfortable, these kitchens were a blessing for the hard-working people of this area. Do you have a story about growing up with a summer kitchen? If so, please share it with us!



Baudhuin summer kitchen and outdoor oven; courtesy Belgian Heritage Center archives



Jeanquart-Chaudoir summer kitchen and bake oven, courtesy Theresa Alexander



Maccaux summer kitchen in Gardner - Built 1904 - Courtesy of UWGB Belgian American Research Collection



Martin & Laura Theys summer kitchen and bake oven, courtesy Della (DeKaster) Clabot



## Celebrating Belgian Heritage This Fall at Champion Shrine

*By Chelsey Hare, director of communications at the  
National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help*

This September 17, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion will celebrate its annual Belgian Harvest Festival to honor the heritage of its foundress and Marian visionary, Adele Brise. The life of Adele, her encounter with the Queen of Heaven, and the story of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help are steeped in the history and culture of the Belgian farmers who settled in this region. This family-friendly festival celebrates that local history and culture while also giving thanks for our Lord's bounty!

In planning the event, the Shrine has teamed up with the Belgian Heritage Center (BHC) to help bring an educational and historical perspective to the day. Throughout the festival, there will be videos, exhibits, food, and presentations that allow visitors to better understand the rich and unique traditions of the Belgian community.

The day's events will include:

- Traditional Belgian Booyah and desserts
- A special blessing of farm equipment and fall harvest crops.
- Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and enrollment of the Brown Scapular
- Video on the history of Belgian farming
- Screening of "Faith Along the Road," a documentary by Fr. Edward Looney on the tradition of roadside chapel.tractors
- The Great Fire Presentations by Barb (Englebert) Chisholm, a fifth-generation Belgian who depicts the tragedy of the Great Fire of 1871 through the eyes of her great-grandmother.

All are invited to attend the event and learn more about the Belgian heritage! If you are a farmer with equipment (included!) and harvested crops, we encourage you to bring them to receive a special blessing and thank our Lord for the bounty given and to be grown.

For details on the timeline of the day, please visit [championshrine.org/events](http://championshrine.org/events). We look forward to seeing you there!





Belgian Heritage Center  
PO Box 173  
Brussels, WI 54204

---

## BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

*I/We are pleased to support your efforts with a gift of: \$* \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Paid in Full
- ☐ Annually: \$ \_\_\_\_\_/year, for \_\_\_\_\_ years, beginning \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_\_

Checks may be made payable to the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204.  
Donations can be made at [www.belgianheritagecenter.org](http://www.belgianheritagecenter.org) (major credit cards accepted).

- ☐ Please check if you **DO NOT** wish to be recognized in publications under the names provided above.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_