



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

www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

OCTOBER 2022

BHC Is Open

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

2022 Events

8
OCT

Great Fire Remembrance

23
OCT

Hunter's Raffle Drawing (Facebook)

20
NOV

Helen Gillet Cello Concert at 4pm

25
NOV

Thanksgiving Sale and Special Opening Hours

Volunteer Docents Needed

BHC needs 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.

Belgian Booyah: A Brief History

Our documentary video *"Belgian Booyah: A Brief History"* is now on the BHC YouTube Channel. You will discover the tradition and history of Belgian Booyah, a thick soup/stew simmered in large outdoor kettles. Booyah is served at large events such as Kermis, family reunions, and church picnics throughout northeast Wisconsin. Each chef guards the secret recipe and touts the best kettle to enhance Booyah's savory flavor. Watch to learn this and so much more.

"Preparing Small Batch Belgian Booyah" Video on DVD - \$15

Create your own batch of delicious Belgian Booyah. Now available for purchase in the BHC retail shop or through the BHC website, "Small Batch Belgian Booyah" on DVD. Follow along with our very own wife and husband duo, Barb and John Maskell, as they show step by step how to prepare a small batch of delicious Belgian Booyah for your next dinner. Hear tips and tricks to prepare the hearty soup. Learn bits of Belgian lore and discover "secret" ingredients. Recipe included. A great gift idea!



John and Barb Maskell

St. Joseph Champion - 160th Anniversary



In 2022, St. Joseph Church in Champion ("Aux Premier Belges") celebrates its 160th anniversary. Ten years ago, for the 150th anniversary, parishioners did a masterful job of researching the history of the parish. This year, the church community wanted to learn more about the history of the Belgian settlement from the earliest days starting in 1853. Karen (Ducat) Hucek reached out to the Belgian Heritage Center for some assistance. Members of the community and researchers at the Belgian Heritage Center conducted further research and prepared for historical exhibits to be shown at a celebratory event on Sunday, October 2 after the 9 a.m. mass. The exhibits will include information on settlement of the pioneer families, the early hardships, and challenges (Civil War and Great Fire), the churches, schools, businesses, and town government. Additional information in the form of videos and slides from the Belgian Heritage Center were also made available (e.g. Walloon language, ethnic foods, historical pictures). The



Belgian Heritage Center would like to thank St. Joseph's for the opportunity to partner and share information on our rich Belgian history, especially in continuing to build the collection of historical stories and artifacts. Materials used in the October 2 exhibit will be available for viewing at the Center after the event through the end of October. If you or your group would like assistance in learning how to research further aspects of your Belgian Heritage, please contact us via Facebook or our website at belgianheritagecenter.org. The Heritage Center would like to thank the following for their assistance in preparing for the event: the UWGB Archives & Area Research Center, the Kewaunee Historical Society, the Brown County Library Local History & Genealogy Department, Neville Public Museum, John Mertens (for his research on Belgians in the Civil War), Ron Flemal (for his PenBelGen family tree), the Champion Walloon Practice club, and the many local Champion descendants who shared their stories, artifacts, and insights.



In front of what would become DePeau's Bar – (photo credit to Della (DeKaster) Clabots - November 6, 1907 - Wedding Day for Joseph DeKaster & Hortense Pinchard)



Great Fire of 1871 Remembrance

A remembrance of the Great Fire of 1871 will be held on Saturday, October 8 at the Belgian Heritage Center. The day will include a re-enactment of the experiences of Emmerence Gaspart Englebert, a Great Fire survivor, by her great-granddaughter, Barb Englebert Chisholm at 10:30 and 2:00. At 12:30, Captain David Siegel of the Green Bay Metro Fire Department will speak about the unusual nature of the Great Fire and why it was so deadly for so many. Barb and David are wonderful presenters and will bring to life the terror and devastation of the Great Fire. Lunch will be available for purchase including tripe and Salmon's hot dogs.

The Great Fire was a historically significant event that literally transformed the environment of the Belgian communities. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission required. We especially encourage students and anyone who wants to learn more about the Great Fire to attend.

If you can't join us at BHC, we invite you to learn about the Great Fire at the BHC YouTube channel, [youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter](https://www.youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter).



David Siegel



Barb Chisholm

National Historic Marker Maintenance

In 2022 for National Historic Marker Day, BHC volunteer Bill Chaudoir took it upon himself to clean up our national historic marker. He pulled weeds & shoveled new stone donated by Peters Concrete in spring. This summer he buffed and repainted the signs. Next time you visit, take a look at our National Historic Marker that honors the Belgian Settlement in Wisconsin.



Bill Chaudoir

Ausloos Brick/Belgian Brick Homes in the Champion Area



While exploring local Champion history, research was conducted on a brickyard owned by the Lambert Ausloos family. Servais & Joanna (Labours) Ausloos immigrated to Aux Premier Belges in 1856 from the Flemish area of Hoegaerden, Vlaams Brabant Province with their two children, Lambert and Rosalie; a third son, Francoise, had died at sea.

In May, 1894, Lambert started his brickyards with a force of 40 workmen and Alphonse DeJardin as foreman. (*Several brickyards were in operations in the years following "The Great Fire of 1871" to meet the building demand for clay brick as better protection against any future fires*). By 1899, the brickyard was doing a booming business and Lambert was selling a large part of his brick stock to Green Bay contractors. Son Joseph would take on operation of the brickyard in 1905 when Lambert passed but the brickyard would close by 1907 when Joseph died in the process of continuing to clear the land on the homestead.

The Great Fire of 1871 resulted in many Belgians choosing a brick or stone veneer for their homes. Like many of the Belgian Settlement areas in Brown, Kewaunee and Door Counties, the Champion area is dotted with red brick homes representing the Belgian farmhouse vernacular architecture. Some no longer exist but many are still present today. The Belgian Heritage Center is collecting images of the red brick homes (*old and present*) and the rich history of those homes. If you have pictures or stories to share about a home, please reach out to the Belgian Heritage Center.



Palm Gardens – (circa early 1900's – originally Delvaux's hotel, tavern and dance hall, photo credit to Dawn (Delvaux) Goodman & Debbie Delvaux)



Unknown Brickyard (circa 1900's) Image Courtesy of the Neville Public Museum of Brown County

Correction

In our August newsletter, we featured wonderful photos of the 1937 Kermis in Rosiere from a Milwaukee Journal article. We misspelled the name of Nancy (Pommier) Weidner when we credited her for preserving the pictures and submitting them to BHC. Our apologies to Nancy for our mistake. Thank you Nancy for submitting the photos for all of our readers to enjoy!

Champion Area Brick Homes



DeKaster Family Home
(no longer exists but was located on County K just west of Champion School)

*Photo taken about 1907;
photo credit to Della
(DeKaster) Clabots*



From left to right:

- **Ducat Home** (corner of County P & K)
- **Renier Home** (County K)
- **Debaker Home** (County Line Road)

Helen Gillet Concert



The BHC is delighted to welcome back Helen Gillet (pronounced "JI-LAY") for a concert this fall at the Center. She is performing on Sunday, November 20th, at 4 p.m. Onstage she is spirited and talented - and she also sings in Walloon and French! Those who attended last year loved the show.

Belgian-born cellist, singer, composer, improviser, and producer Helen Gillet grew up in Singapore, Chicago, and Wisconsin before moving to New Orleans in 2002. Gillet has a B.A. in Music & Anthropology from Beloit College and a M.A. in Cello Performance from Loyola University in New Orleans. From 1998 to 2000, she studied with North Indian Hindustani cellist Nancy Lesh, sparking her deep interest in improvisation. She has recorded, toured both solo and in bands and performed with a wide array of musicians. Gillet's performance includes an enigmatic quality, with improvisational versatility, and a true mastery of live looping technology.

The Belgian Heritage Center is excited to offer this fun and unique concert tied to Belgian roots. Don't miss your chance to enjoy this opportunity to hear an internationally known musician while celebrating the Walloon language and Belgian heritage.

Tickets are \$20 and VIP tickets for Walloon speakers are \$15. Tickets can be bought at the door, or in advance at BHC or online (Paypal and all major credit cards accepted). Please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org with the number of tickets you would like to order. You will receive an invoice from BHC with payment instructions.

The Center will be open for retail offerings and coffee will be served. Belgian pie, Thumb Knuckle beer, water and soda will be available for purchase. Volunteers who assist that evening will see the performance for free.

New this year! Earlier Sunday afternoon, a class is in the works for area students to study looping with Helen. Sponsorship is needed, with Donor recognition provided. Contact 920.389.1768.

Learn more about Helen's music at: www.helengillet.com. Facebook: Helen Gillet fan page. Instagram: Helen Gillet; Music Online: helengillet.bandcamp.com

See you at the show! Mercuh!



Helen Gillet

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

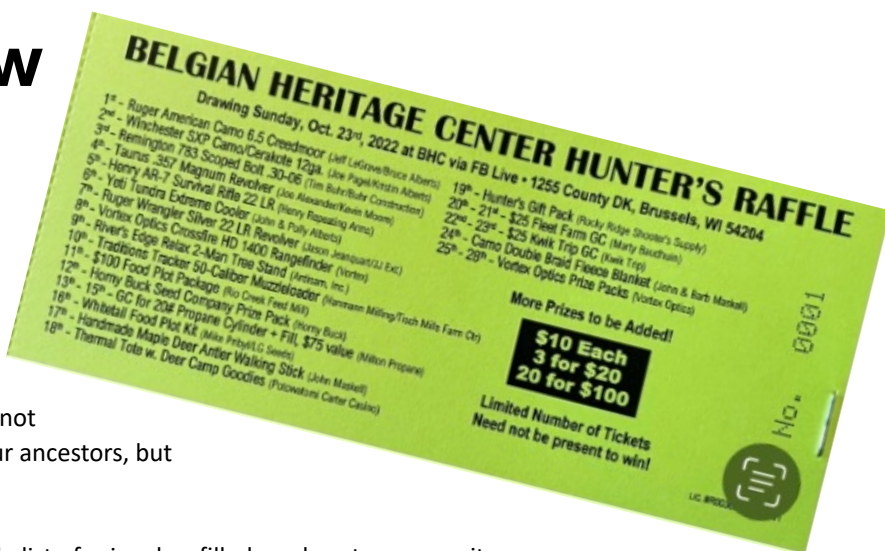
Saturday 11-7

Sunday CLOSED



BHC newsletter is sponsored in part by the Booyah Shed in Green Bay. For sponsorship opportunities, please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org

Tickets on Sale Now for the Annual BHC Hunter's Raffle!



We're pleased to offer raffle tickets packed with prizes for sportsmen and women. Our Hunter's Raffle is a great way to not only celebrate and remember the rich outdoor heritage of our ancestors, but to carry those traditions forward for future generations.

In addition, the process of putting together the Hunter's Raffle list of prizes has filled our hearts, as we witness continued incredible generosity from our community and beyond. While we have 28 prizes listed on the ticket itself, many more have come in since the tickets were printed. With a limited number of tickets available and a growing list of prizes, the odds of winning increase steadily.

We'd like to thank our sponsors and donors this year:

Jeff LeGrave	John Alberts / Alberts Plastering	LG Seeds / Mike Pribyl
Bruce Alberts	Ardisam, Inc.	John & Barb Maskell
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Kevin Moore	Rio Creek Feed Mill	Kwik Trip
Kristin Alberts	Horny Buck Seed Company	Marchants Foods
Henry Repeating Arms	Milton Propane	The Cafe at Bellevue



We couldn't do this without all these sponsors, nor could we do it without all of you! Each year, Hunter's Raffle ticket sales prove to be one of our major fundraisers of the year. That, in turn, allows us to continue our mission of preserving and sharing our rich Belgian legacy.

If you'd like to buy tickets for the Hunter's Raffle, they are \$10/each; 3 for \$20; or the best buy at 20 for \$100. Combine funds with a few of your friends and save money on tickets. Even if you're not a hunter and you win a firearm, we can help you exchange that prize for cash at our FFL dealer.

Tickets are on sale now at: the BHC, Steel Wheel Saloon, Rocky Ridge Shooter's Supply. Or, feel free to reach out to us via email, Facebook, or contact any BHC Board Member. Drawing is Sunday, October 23 at 1:00 on Facebook. You do not need to be present to win.



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 (major credit cards accepted).

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

Signature _____ **Date** _____