



www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

March 2023

BHC 2023 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

23
APR

Bread and Booyah

26
MAY

**BHC Opening Weekend
(through October)**

25
JUN

Waffle Breakfast

20
AUG

BHC Kermis

16
SEPT

**Belgian Harvest Festival at National
Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help**

7
OCT

Great Fire Remembrance

OCT

Hunter's Raffle (Facebook Live Event)

24
NOV

**Thanksgiving Sale and Mosaic Glass
Ornament Workshop**

More events are in the works - watch future
newsletters, Facebook and
BelgianHeritageCenter.org for details

BREAD & BOOYAH Sunday, April 23

Join us for our first event of 2023!

Our Bread & Booyah lunch will be served on Sunday, April 23 from 11:00 to 1:00. We will welcome everyone back for the start of a new season with BHC's famous booyah, bread and homemade desserts. It is also a chance to see our exhibits and enjoy Belgian fellowship. Price is \$12 Adults, \$8 Children 4-12. Booyah to go will be available only after noon if quantities last. Price is \$10 per quart.

BHC 2023 OPENING Friday, May 26

We are counting the days until we re-open the Belgian Heritage Center for regular weekend hours on Memorial Weekend. BHC will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 26 through October 29 from 10:00 until 3:00. If weekend hours don't work for you, please call 920-493-5969 or email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org to schedule an appointment.

Consider the Heritage Center for your Next Event

The Belgian Heritage Center is a perfect church-like setting for weddings and wakes/funerals. The BHC is also available for rental for private events such as meetings, conferences and family reunions. Traditional Belgian food and a Belgian heritage presentation are available on request. For more information call Sue Havel at 920-493-2789 or email: events@belgianheritagecenter.org.

WALHAIN SETTLERS SAVE THEIR CHURCH



With Their Church Community in Danger, Belgian Settlers Stepped Up

By Lou Ann M. Novak

A small cemetery where Walhain Road crosses State Highway 54 west of Luxemburg is all that remains of a church parish once challenged by fire and fate. The Catholic parish at Walhain began in 1875 as a mission from St. Martin Church in Tonet. The mission grew and was incorporated as Saint Amand Church in 1883. Saint Amand (c. 584-679) was one of the great Christian missionaries of Flanders. He is venerated as a saint, particularly in France and Belgium.

By the 1890s, the parish had grown to nearly 25 families and merited a building of its own. Jean Streycman (Strechman) had come to Walhain in 1856 from Walhain-Saint-Paul, Belgium. Streycman built homes and furniture for the pioneer families in the area. In 1892, he took the lead in building a wooden church for the Walhain parish. Streycman's son Felix married Flora Gauthier at the first mass to be said at the church. A record filed by Norbertine Father Peter Van Heyster shows that in 1893 St. Amand served 25 Catholic families: 19 men, 21 women and 145 children. Mass was said once a month on Sunday. The building was heated by wood.

By 1912, the wooden building had fallen into poor condition and was destroyed by fire. Norbertine Father Milo Smits conducted a survey which showed that if the parish was discontinued, no family involved would be living further than three miles from another Catholic Church. Plans were made to discontinue the parish. But the St. Amand parishioners objected. A Walhain delegation traveled to Green Bay and met with Bishop Joseph John Fox. Bishop Fox was sympathetic to their cause. He had studied theology in Leuven, Belgium and his first assignment as a priest was as pastor of St. Kilian Parish in nearby New Franken. The Bishop agreed that the church served as the heart of any Belgian community.

A solution was found. Bishop Fox gave the parishioners permission to build a new church. The cost of the new building was \$9,000 and each family paid \$185 toward the cost. (\$185 would be equivalent to \$5,660 in 2023 dollars). The architect was William E. Reynolds of Green Bay. The cornerstone was laid on June 16, 1912. Construction of the church was a community project. The men provided labor in carpentry, masonry, bricking and roofing the structure. The women assisted with construction and kept the workers fed with Belgian tripe, meatballs, jut, head cheese, kaset cheese, fresh bread and Belgian pie.

The new brick building was large enough to accommodate an additional number of families. It was built in Romanesque style with dark stained woodwork inside and stained-glass windows, which were donated by members of the church. The first trustees were Oliver Gauthier, Felix Jandrain, Joe Ravit and Desire Theys. The first mass at the new St. Amand Church was celebrated on October 13, 1912. The first person baptized in the new church was Adeline Amanda Freix on October 13, 1912, whose middle name honored St. Amand. The church was officially dedicated on November 19, 1912 by Norbertine Father Bernard J. Schevers. At that time the parish had 20 families.

Many improvements were made over the years. These included a new steeple, a redesigned entrance and fencing around the building and adjacent cemetery. John Kitslaar of Green Bay decorated the church interior and new substantial pews were put in by the Swoboda Company of Kewaunee. In 1962, Father Smits offered a Solemn High Mass to celebrate the jubilee of the church which he and the parishioners had built 50 years previously. The parish in 1963 had approximately 75 families. St. Amand Church served the faithful of Walhain for 80 years. But in the 1990s, the Catholic Church was forced to

Walhain Settlers Save Their Church

consolidate or merge many rural parishes due to declining participation, financial challenges and a shortage of priests. In 1992, St. Amand was deconsecrated and the building demolished. Much of the stained-glass, art, and other furnishings became valued additions to local homes and other church properties.

Today the quiet cemetery is all that remains. A monument commemorates the church and the brave Belgian settlers who gave time, talent and hard-earned dollars to save their parish.



St. Amands Catholic Church under construction in 1912 in Walhain, Wisconsin. Louis Freix, is the fourth man from the left standing atop the walls of the church. This photo, submitted by Lou Ann Novak, was chosen as the January winner of BHC's monthly photo contest.



St. Amand's Cemetery today, courtesy Rich Kramer, findagrave.com

2022 Annual Report

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, much was accomplished in 2022 to share the history and stories of our Belgian heritage. Last year, BHC:

- Welcomed our biggest crowds ever for Waffle Breakfast, Booyah & Bread and Kermiss events
- Enjoyed record community participation in both Kermiss Bucket Raffle and Hunters Raffle from prize donors and ticket sales
- Launched the BHC YouTube channel, posting new videos every two weeks.
- Produced two new videos - History of Belgian Booyah and Preparing Small Batch Belgian Booyah
- Collaborated with other non-profit organizations, including Jerry Parins Cruise for Cancer, Door County Habitat for Humanity and National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help
- Hosted several large groups including Door County Historical Society, Door/Kewaunee Retired Teachers, Lifelong Learning, Learning in Retirement and Kathleen Ernst readers.
- Partnered with St. Joseph Church in Champion on their 160th anniversary by creating an exhibit celebrating Champion history and heritage.

BHC is very grateful to the many financial and in-kind donors who supported us this year. Please take a moment to review our 2022 list of donors. We sincerely thank everyone who supported BHC in any way including all those who donated money, time, photos, artifacts and stories as well as the hundreds of people who attended our events and visited our campus. We are truly blessed to enjoy so much support for our mission!

2022 Belgian Heritage Center Financial Donors

Diamond (\$10,000 – \$20,000)

Larry & Kathy Gentine

Platinum (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

David L & Rita E Nelson Family Fund of Community
Foundation of the Fox Valley Region

Gold (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Donna & Steve Bultman
Phyllis Haevers
Todd Huehns
Donald & Susan Jauquet

Francis & Rita Jauquet Family
Mark & Ann Jinkins
Maihaugen Foundation
Kevin & Amy Moore

Peninsula Belgian American Club
WPS Foundation
Mary & Cap Wulf

In Memory of Allen Alexander

Bruce, Pam & Kristin Alberts
Jack & Yvonne Alexander
Rodney & Sally Alexander
Terry Alexander
Allouez Parkside Village LLC
Joe & Marie Yolaine Binard
Donna & Steve Bultman
Christine Chaudoir
Bill & Cheryl Chaudoir
Barb & Mike Chisholm
Bill & Lisa Colombo
Jeanette Coppersmith
Julie Davis & Richard Barker
Roy & Betty DeBaker
Colleen & Chris DeNamur
Rebecca Derenne
Pat & Karen Du Chateau
Mark & Shelly DuBois
Diane Fontaine

Francis & Donna Gilson
Phyllis Haevers
Susan Havel
Pat Herman
Judith Hood, Big Hill Regency
House
Barbara & Richard Husch
D'Ann & Peter Jackson
Gordon & Judith Jesse
Mark & Ann Jinkins
Gregory & Josephine Joski
Charlie & Becky Kramer
Darrel LaLuzerne
Duane & Mary Lardinois
Jaymi LeBrun & Dan Scollan
Mary LeBrun
David & Becky LeBrun
Rose LeCloux
Janice Lemens

Arlene Lenius
Roger & LeeAnn LeRoy
John & Barb Maskell
Tim & Sue Moore
Al Moore
Jerome & Sandy Orsted
Bryan & Rene Pavlik
Sue Robertson
Jesse & Barbara Roth
Donna Tebon
Becky & Dennis Tremble
Barb & Dan VanDeHey
Gary & Lori VandenHouten
Mark & Mary Wagner
Suzanne Weidner
Joe Zellmer
Leonard & Janice Zittlow

Silver (\$250-\$999)

Bruce & Pam Alberts
Joe Alexander & Mei Mei Yip
Sam Alexander
Priscilla Baudhuin
Joe & Marie Yolaine Binard
Buhr Construction
Larry & Debby Chaudoir
Christine Chaudoir
Bill & Cheryl Chaudoir
Jeff & Karla Chaudoir
Debbie Dahms
Kerry & Jean DeKeyser
Brad & Diane Deprez
Door County Memorial Hospital /
Medical Center
Jeffrey Englebert
John & Nell Herlache
William G Laatsch & Frances L Hunter
Trust
Joseph & Sandra Hurley
Rick & Nancy Jeanquart
Jeff LeGrave
Fr. Edward Looney
John & Barb Maskell
Richard & Annette Mathy

Dana & Gabe Mattingly
Arlin Monfils
Janice Nelson
Jerome & Sandy Orsted
Monica Thiry & Bill Lohrey
Ken & Mary VanderLoop
Wisconsin Historical Foundation
Southern Door Business Assn
In Memory of Vincent and Angela
(Pierre) Gilson
Mike Gilson
Susan Gilson
Pierre Gilson
Yvonne Stukenberg

In Memory of Florence (Lampereur) Worachek

Diane Coppersmith
Theresa DeGuelle
Denice Lampereur
Mary Larson
In Memory of Ervin Jadin
Bruce, Pam & Kristin Alberts
Susan Havel
Alice Lampereur

Sue Robertson
Sandy VanBeaver
Jeanne Wiegand
In Memory of Julian Romuald
Mike and Barb Anderson
Joy Cline
Rebecca Derenne
Diane Ford
Hal & Dawn Marie Goodman
Bradley & Barbara Johnson
Pat Krahn
John & Barb Maskell
Steve & Vonnie McNicoll
Jerome & Sandy Orsted
Cheryl Reed
Lawrence Romuald
Jennifer & John Ruth
Paul & Vergil Schultz
Randal & Linda Tupa
Gary & Lori VandenHouten
Bernadine Williamsen

Bronze (up to \$249)

Kristin Alberts
Gary & Karen Alexander
Dennis & Dawn Arnold
Brendon Bailod

Lynn & Robert Baker
Barbara Barbiaux Lucak
Belgian Delight
Arietta & Gerald Bertrand

Fr. Anthony Birdsall
Joseph & Carole Boulanger
Nancy Burns

In Memory of Fred & Anne (Dandois)
 Bouchonville – Patricia & David
 Targett
 Al & Chris Carlotto
 Mary Cavanaugh
 Patty & Gary Chaudoir
 Ted & Dee Chaudoir
 Della & Gerald Clabots
 Bill & Lisa Colombo
 Country Visions Cooperative
 John Cross
 Edmond Delwiche
 Frances Delwiche
 Louis & Merianne de Merode
 Roy & Betty DeBaker
 Donna DeKeyser
 Mike & Beth Demeuse
 Sue DeNamur
 Milan & Janet Deprez
 Theresa & Lylas Dequaine
 James & Carole Derbique
 Mary Jo Derenne
 Thomas Derenne
 Stacy Derenne
 Maurice Devroye
 Maria Dhuey
 Door County Historical Society, Inc.
 In memory of Gary DuBois – Mae
 DuBois
 Eaton Corporation
 Andrew & Marie Engebose
 Barb Feeney
 Daniel Fierce
 Diane Fontaine
 Luella Froelich
 In Memory of Luella Froelich – John &
 Barb Maskell
 Dennis & Susan Frye
 Kathryn Fulwiler
 Jackie Gerend, Jackie's Hair Post
 Mary & Ronn Gilbert
 Sharon Grosbeier

Maynard & Megan Gunnlaugsson,
 Gunnlaugsson Electric LLC
 Hanmann Milling Co.
 Emma Hayot
 Dennis Herman, Herman Legacy LLC
 Roxie & Tom Hilbert
 Kristin & Bryan Howard
 J&J Excavation LLC
 Mary Ann & Bill Jacobs
 Jim & Yvonne Jandrain
 Tim Jeanquart
 Dennis & Sharon Jeanquart
 Gordon & Judith Jesse
 Joe & Dalene Kitslaar
 Nancy Kleppe
 Joan Kupchynsky
 Jillian LaLuzerne
 Richard Lampereur & Ted Fearson
 Mark & Ann Lampereur
 Jeanne Lefebvre
 Leland Lemens
 Lemens Hardware
 Bert & Diane Liebmann
 Barbara & Larry Mallien
 Becky & Howard Marks
 Julia Maskell
 Keith & Ruth Massart
 Audrey McGarvie
 Gene Mitchell
 In Memory of Ron Moede – Bonnie
 Moede
 Kelly & Louise Moore
 Nick & Kay Moore
 Logan Moore
 Tim & Sue Moore
 In Memory of Caro Nau – John & Barb
 Maskell
 Nicolet National Bank
 Jerry & Diana Ogren
 Joe Pagel, Drainage USA LLC
 Wayne Peters
 Pioneer Pantry

Linda Pirlot
 Mark & Pat Radtke Family
 Reynolds Packaging LLC
 Donna & Craig Rider
 Thomas & Kathleen Riopelle
 Ross Estate Planning
 Scott Savage
 Mikki Schieber
 Alden & Marie Servais
 Lois Smith
 James E Smith
 John & Mary Spude
 Lee Spude
 Barbara Styczynski
 Mike Sutton
 Tisch Mills Farm Center
 TR Cochart Tire Center
 Travis Price Masonry & Plastering LLC
 True North Real Estate LLC
 John & Judy Turner
 Suzan VanBeaver
 Gary & Lori VandenHouten
 Pat Vandervest
 Myron & Carol VandeVen
 Shari Vogel
 Cathy Vuksanovic
 Mark & Mary Wagner
 Jeanne Walker
 Jim & Teri Zellmer

In Honor of John & Barb Maskell
 Bill & Cheryl Chaudoir
 Jerome & Sandy Orsted

In Memory of Margaret Monfils
 Mark & Shelly DuBois
 Barb & Mike Chisholm

In Memory of Shirley Nooyen
 Susan Havel
 Rebecca Derenne

In Kind Donors

Pam Alberts
 Joe Alexander and Mei Mei Yip
 Theresa Alexander
 Yvonne Alexander
 Donna Bultman
 Bill & Cheryl Chaudoir
 Carrie Chaudoir
 Christine Chaudoir
 Kelly Chaudoir
 Ryan Chaudoir
 CFI Sturgeon Bay
 Barb Chisholm
 Donna DeKeyser
 Kevin DeKeyser
 Sue DeNamur
 Rebecca Derenne
 Shirley VanderMissen

Richard Dessart
 Denise Englebert
 Janice Englebert
 Gina Guth - The Flour Pot
 Phyllis Haegers
 Sue Havel
 Kinnard Heating and Cooling
 Colleen Jeanquart
 Mary Ann Jeanquart
 Ann Jinkins
 Lori Kruswick
 Jillian LaLuzerne
 Marchants Foods, Inc.
 Barb & John Maskell
 David Maskell
 John Mertens
 Mary Wulf

Amy Moore
 Kelly Moore
 Kevin Moore
 Scott and Tina Nowak
 Steve and Bonnie Pearson
 Peters Concrete
 Carol Price
 Verona Robillard
 Becky Reince
 Julie Rheingans
 Schartner's Implement
 Stodola's IGA
 Tadyach's Marketplace Foods
 Mary Ann Thiry
 Monica Thiry
 Ted & Tracy Vandermeuse

BHC gratefully acknowledges everyone who provided financial and in kind support. We cannot accomplish our mission without your help!

Please visit the BHC Facebook page for a complete list of the 127 Bucket Raffle and Hunter's Raffle prize donors. We work hard to keep track of everyone who donates, but if we missed you, please let us know.

The Church Card Party...



Tradition Lives On

The Sugarbush area in the Town of Humboldt, settled by Flemish and Walloon immigrants in the mid 1850's, has long had a tradition of the church card party. From the early days of the combined St. Mary's (Flemish) and St. Hubert (Walloon) churches, area residents participated in card parties as fund raisers for the church. On Sunday, January 8th, 2023, the Cuyoo card party hosted by the Good Stewards group was purely for fun. Randy Heurkens, a descendant of a Flemish father and Walloon mother (DeGrand) served as the scorekeeper for the day. Fifteen teams participated in the fun for a \$5 entry fee with payouts to the winners at the end. As usual, a hearty lunch was provided for the participants, including Belgian pie.



Church card parties were quite prolific throughout the Belgian settlements in Champion for St. Joseph at the Palm Gardens, Dyckesville for St. Louis at Wally's (at the corner of Hwy 54 and County S where the bank is today), Tonet for St. Martin's at Jonet's Hall, Thiry Daems for St. Odile's at the church hall, Walhain for St. Amand's at Vandeveld's Hall, Casco for Holy Trinity at the church hall, Rosiere for St. Hubert's at Ruben's Hall, Lincoln for St. Peter's at the church hall. References for these church card parties can be found back to the early 1930's through to the time many of the smaller churches were closed in the early 1990's. Some of the best publicized and most organized were those held in Tonet and Thiry Daems. Parties were organized into a 'season' of 4-5 parties that began in the fall after the harvest and most times ended before Lent. Each party had a chairperson and a vice chair with a volunteer committee that rotated with each party. Most parties afforded a payout for the top two winners in Cuyoo and Schafskopf (Sheepshead); door prizes were also awarded. And... as always, lunch was provided at the end of play. The Tonet card parties were held at 8 pm on Sundays and the Thiry Daems parties were held on Thursdays at 8 pm affording the locals a chance to attend several parties throughout the season.

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



Can You Help?



Volunteer Docents Needed

The 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. One way to learn about this role is to attend a Volunteer Training on Saturday, May 6 from 10 -11:30 am at the Center. Being a docent 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.

BHC Monthly Photo Contest

Win great prizes, share vintage photos and support BHC's mission of preserving our history. Each month, we will seek specific photos. To enter, share a historic photo on the month's theme. Either upload on the History tab of this website or email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org to arrange for scanning a hard copy. You keep your original photo and get credit for sharing. Monthly winners will receive their choice of *Belgian American Heritage Customs and Cookbook* by Margaret Draize or *Francois* by Josie Wautlet.

Monthly winners will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the year.

- January – Churches – Lou Ann Novak, winner
- February – Belgian Couples Snapshots
- March – Local Businesses (general stores, cheese factories, mills etc.)
- April – Snapshots of Children showing daily life
- May – Women at Work or Play
- June – Men at Work or Play

Cyber Security for Online Donations

BHC takes online donations only at our website, BelgianHeritageCenter.org. For security reasons, we do not take donations on social media sites or ask for donations via email. We only send a payment link if you ask us to do so. If you ever have concerns about online communication from BHC, please contact us at supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org or 920-825-7319.

BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION FORM

Name: _____ Donation: \$ _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at www.belgianheritagecenter.org (Paypal and major credit cards accepted).

Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, owner of the Belgian Heritage Center, is a 501(c)(3) organization

Sharing Belgian Heritage

In November 2022, Cornelia Elementary School in Edina, MN held its annual International Heritage Night. Students throughout the school shared their family heritage by setting up a booth for the event. Brad & Amy Bultman along with daughter Nora and son Jay created a Belgian booth where they served freshly made waffles with a choice of toppings.

Way to represent our Belgian heritage!

