



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)

November 2023

## BHC 2023 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

4  
NOV

**Rededication of St. Hubert Chapel at St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery by Fr. Edward Looney at 9:00; followed by refreshments at BHC**

11  
NOV

**Room 108: The Clearing movie presentation at 4:00pm. BHC opens at 3:00pm.**

17-18  
NOV

**Christkindlmarkt, Lakehaven Hall, Kewaunee at 3:00pm**

24  
NOV

**Thanksgiving Sale, Book Signing and Mosaic Glass Ornament Workshop at 9:00am**

25  
NOV

**Thanksgiving Sales at 9:00am**

9 & 16  
DEC

**Ethnic Holiday Display at Hazelwood Historic House, Green Bay at 12:00**

16  
DEC

**Griffon String Quartet Holiday Concert at 3:00pm**

## Thank You Supporters!

BHC is very grateful for the wonderful support we received in 2023. Thank you to everyone who attended our events, purchased merchandise, visited our historic campus or followed us on Facebook, YouTube or the BHC website. We are especially grateful to our financial and in-kind donors for their amazing generosity, supporting so many ways to preserve and share our Belgian heritage. And a million thanks to our incredible volunteers who make all of this possible. Thank you to everyone who helped us advance our mission!

If you would like to donate before the end of the tax year, please visit [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org), email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or send a check payable to Belgian Heritage Center to PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. BHC is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donors receive a tax receipt. Thank you!

## BHC on YouTube

[Veteran's Day Tribute](#) Don't miss the special Veteran's Day Tribute on BHC's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter](https://youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter). The video includes submitted photos of our Belgian ancestors serving the US military. It's not too late to add photos of your ancestors. We will update the video to include additional photos submitted. We hope you will subscribe to BHC's YouTube channel. Every two weeks we post new videos featuring oral histories, photo collections and other Belgian history.

## Upcoming Events at BHC

### ROOM 108: The Clearing - November 11

On Saturday, November 11 at 4:00, enjoy an award-winning, locally produced, historical thriller film by Freddy Moyano that showcases local establishments including the Belgian Heritage Center. See people you might know! Seating is General Admission and a donation of \$5 is requested, with all proceeds benefitting BHC.

BHC will open at 3:00 for visitors. See a mini-exhibit of movie props! A very special item is a lovely dress originally worn at the 1887 Kermis by Antoinette Mohimont Bouche and again in 1937 by her granddaughter, Madeline Zephirin Neinas. Director Freddy Moyano will introduce the movie. Refreshments and beverages will be available for purchase.



### St. Nick / Christmas Gifts at Christkindlmarkt - New this year! - November 17-18

BHC will be at the Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt at Lakehaven Hall in Kewaunee on November 17-18, 2023. The Friday market will run from 3:00-9:00 pm and on Saturday from 9:00-4:00. The market is reminiscent of classic European Christmas markets (but completely indoors!). BHC will have a variety of items available for your St. Nick and Christmas shopping needs. The Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt is an annual event sponsored by the Kewaunee Area Chamber of Commerce and is part of a weekend event also featuring a Christmas Stroll of Kewaunee County businesses and a Friday night Holiday Parade of Lights. Come enjoy the event and pick up a few items for those Christmas stockings!

## GRIFFON STRING QUARTET

### Griffon String Quartet at BHC - December 16

BHC is pleased to welcome the Griffon String Quartet for a holiday concert featuring the late works of Ludwig van Beethoven and holiday favorites. As part of Midsummer's Music ensemble in Sister Bay, their mission includes presenting world-class chamber music and striving to provide all people with opportunities to connect with the music they perform. The concert will start at 3:00. BHC will open at 2:00 so visitors have time to view our historical exhibits before the concert. The concert is free with donations appreciated to benefit the musicians. BHC will offer craft beer, wine and a cheese bar featuring locally produced products for purchase. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 920-854-7088 or at [midsummermusic.com](https://midsummermusic.com).

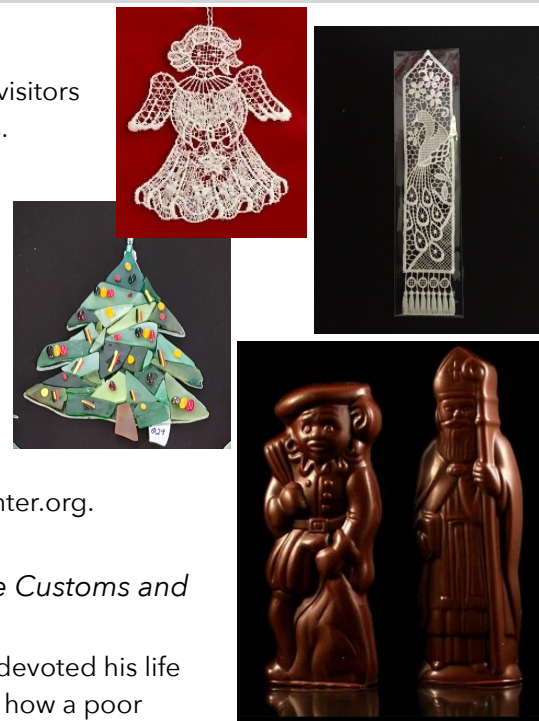
### BHC Ethnic Holiday Display at Hazelwood Historic House - December 9 & 16

Experience an Ethnic Holiday at Hazelwood Historic House, 1008 S Monroe in Green Bay on Saturdays December 9 and 16 from Noon till 5 p.m. The Belgian Heritage Center will decorate the kitchen to reflect Belgian holiday traditions. Other local organizations will decorate festive rooms according to their traditions. Discover similar and different customs that many cultures have through the holidays. General admission applies. Members -free; Adults \$6; Seniors \$5; and children \$4. Children under 5 are free. Family rate is \$15 of two adults and up to 4 children.

# Thanksgiving Special Events

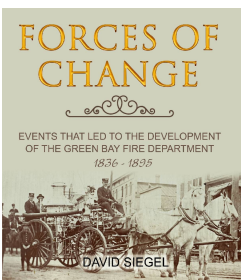
## Thanksgiving Sale - November 24/25

BHC will be open from 9:00-3:00 the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving for visitors to tour our exhibits and take advantage of special holiday merchandise offerings. Bring your family to learn about their Belgian heritage and choose from a variety of Belgian and holiday themed items including Belgian lace handkerchiefs, book markers and ornaments made of bobbin lace from Bruges, Belgium. We offer custom tatting by Sr. Agnes Fisher and exclusive Belgian and Christmas themed glass art by Chaudoir Glass Studio. You will also be able to purchase delicious Belgian chocolate St. Nicholas figures in dark and milk chocolate from BE Chocolat, a Belgian chocolatier. New this year is a St. Nicholas/Pere Fouettard solid chocolate set. During the onsite sale, we will offer special pricing on some of our most popular books. See our complete merchandise selection at the Merchandise page at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org).



*St. Nicholas and Pere Fouettard - from Belgian American Heritage Customs and Cookbook by Margaret Draize*

St. Nicholas was a Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. He came from a rich family but devoted his life to helping the poor and less fortunate with gifts and money. An old legend tells how a poor family had three daughters that couldn't afford a dowery for the grooms so they would be forced into slavery. But when St. Nicholas found out about this he threw gold pieces through their window for their doweries. God rewarded the Bishop's generosity by giving him permission to walk the earth on his feast day, bringing gifts to all good children. He is known as the special saint of children. Pere Fouettard, who travels along with St. Nicholas, might scold children that have been bad or even have them recite a prayer and promise to be good. At this time, St. Nicholas in his flowing robe, miter and staff will chase Pere Fouettard away and give the children gifts, fruits, nuts and sweets.



## David Siegel Book Sale and Signing - Friday, November 24

Captain David Siegel of the Green Bay Metro Fire Department will be at our Thanksgiving sale on Friday at 9:00 with his book *Forces of Change*, an extensive investigation into the early development of the Green Bay Fire Department. This story examines the events, mostly major fires, that prompted creation of the first volunteer fire companies, conversion to steamer fire engines, construction of a municipal water system, and transition to a full-time fire department. David is a favorite presenter at BHC for his informative and engaging discussion of the Great Fire of 1871.

## Mosaic Glass Workshop - Friday, November 24

Join Gary Chaudoir of Chaudoir Glass Studios for a mosaic glass workshop from 9:00-3:00. Gary will guide you as you create your own mosaic ornaments. Workshop price ranges from \$10-20 per person depending on the pattern selected and includes the price of one 4x6 inch ornament. Participants will choose from 15 different precut shapes (i.e. butterfly, Christmas tree, lighthouse, heart, goat, jet fighter, church, hot air balloon, etc.) using precut stained-glass chips, tumbled to remove sharp edges. Thousands of colors are available. This popular activity is fun for the whole family. Reservations are recommended for groups of 4 or more; please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) with your arrival time and number in your group. Please arrive by 2:00 to allow plenty of time to create your ornaments.





# The Belgian Roots of the Green Bay Packers



## The First Packers: 1919

Top from left: Herb Nichols, Sam Powers, Jimmy Coffeen, Martin Zoll, Alvin Martin, Charlie Sauber, Herman Martell, Wesley Leaper, Wally Ladrow, John DesJardien, Carl Zoll, Andy Muldoon, Gus Rosenow, Al Petcka, George Calhoun.

Center: Curly Lambeau

Bottom from left: Nate Abrams, Fritz Garvin, Tudy McLean, Tubby Bero

## The Belgian Roots of the Green Bay Packers

by Lou Ann M. Novak

As I gaze at Lambeau Field, a question nags me, "If not for Belgian immigrants would there be a Green Bay Packers football team today?" To start, just take a look at three members of the original 1919 Packers team: "Curly" Lambeau, John Des Jardins and Wally Ladrow.

**Earl Louis "Curly" Lambeau** (1898-1964), co-founder of the Green Bay Packers, was born at Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Marcelin Lambeau and Mary Sara LaTour Lambeau. All four of his grandparents had emigrated from Belgium. Lambeau was an outstanding athlete at Green Bay East High School and played halfback all four years of his attendance. Under Lambeau's class picture in the 1917 East High annual, it reads: "When I get thru with athletics, I'm going out and conquer the rest of the world."

After high school, Lambeau attended the University of Notre Dame to play for coach Knute Rockne on the Notre Dame Fighting Irish varsity squad. However, a severe case of tonsillitis forced him to return to Green Bay. After a long recovery from his illness, Lambeau went to work as a shipping clerk at the Indian Packing Company for \$250 a month. Rather than give up the game he loved, Lambeau joined George Whitney Calhoun of the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* to start a local football team. Lambeau's employer, the Indian Packing Company, agreed to sponsor the team and pay for its uniforms and equipment. The Green Bay Packers were officially organized on August 11, 1919 in the *Press-Gazette* office.



Lambeau spent over 30 years playing and coaching the Packers football team, leading the Packers to a stunning 200 wins and six NFL Championships. The home stadium in Green Bay is named Lambeau Field in his honor.

**John Arnold Des Jardins** (1895-1969) was born in Champion, Wisconsin, to Alphonse Dujardin and Alice Petiniot Dujardin. All four of his grandparents had emigrated from Belgium. Des Jardins, like Lambeau, attended Green Bay East High. One day Lambeau saw Des Jardins getting ready to ride his bike 10 miles and Lambeau asked him to try out for football because he was tough and strong. That was the first time Des Jardins had heard of the game. Des Jardins started for East for two years, but became ineligible because of his age during his senior year. He once broke Lambeau's leg at East High in practice. At the time, the East High Hilltoppers were undefeated and had one game to play. Unfortunately, they lost the game and the championship without Lambeau. Des Jardins played center/guard on the original Packers team Lambeau hand selected in 1919, playing on four of the final five Packers games during that first season. Des Jardins died August 11, 1969, on the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Packers.

**Walter "Wally" Paul Ladrow** (1895-1974), born in Brookside, Wisconsin, was the son of Jean Baptiste "John" Laduron, who had come from Meux, Belgium with his parents (Maximilien Laduron and Anne Josephe Herbignat) at the age of three. Ladrow's mother, Adele Chartrand Laduron emigrated from Canada in 1866. Ladrow also played football at Green Bay East High School. In addition, he played fullback for the Hillside, a town team representing the Astor Park area of Green Bay. Ladrow was temporarily sidelined by a broken collarbone in 1915. When the call went out that Lambeau was organizing a "best of the best" city team, Ladrow was healed and eager to play. Ladrow, a running back, was on the Packers roster during the first two seasons, 1919 and 1920. In 1921, the Green Bay City Directory lists Ladrow as a foreman at the Indian (soon to be Acme) Packing Company. Ladrow died July 22, 1974. He was the final surviving member of the Packers inaugural 1919 team.

Through the years other people of Belgian ancestry made significant contributions to the Green Bay Packers. There was **Frank John Jonet** (1883-1951), who was born in Tonet, Wisconsin. Jonet was involved as an accountant with the Packers from the very beginning and guided the reorganized Packers when they emerged from receivership in early 1935, saving the team for history. In addition, there was **Judge Robert James Parins** (1918-2017), who was born in Namur, Wisconsin, and became the first full-time Green Bay Packers president in 1982. Judge Parins served as a member of the Packers Board of Directors for 28 years. Both Jonet and Parins have been inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame.

Lambeau. Des Jardins. Ladrow. Jonet. Parins. All Belgian descendants who are part of Green Bay Packers history. Clearly, without these Belgian descendants, a small town in the Midwest might never have earned the nickname "Titletown."

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## BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION FORM

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

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Please make checks payable to: Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at [www.belgianheritagecenter.org](http://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*

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## Roadside Chapel - from Pulaski to Namur

Last fall, BHC was contacted by Ann Paluch looking for someone interested in a roadside chapel. Ann was moving and wanted to make sure it would remain in good hands. The chapel, honoring St. Hubert, was originally built in Rosiere in 1921 by Frank Cayemberg for Hubert Guilette. The chapel honors St. Hubert, the owner's namesake and patron saint of hunters. It was later moved to Flintville (Suamico), then to Tonet. In 1999, Joe & Anne Paluch, descendants of the Guilette family, moved the chapel to Pulaski.



Through BHC, the Paluchs found a new home for their chapel. Belgian neighbors Pam (Renier) Alberts and Rena (Monfils) LaLuzerne long dreamed of having a roadside chapel. Pam's husband Bruce, also of Belgian descent, lead the effort to move and renovate the chapel. Siding was replaced with local half-logs. New windows were installed as well as a beautiful stained glass window from the former St Mary of the Snows rectory, courtesy of Christine Chaudoir. Cedar shake shingles (like those made by early Belgians) were donated by Tim Buhr and concrete for the slab was donated by Peters Concrete. Under the guidance of Father Edward Looney, pastor to the Catholic parishes in Brussels, Rosiere, and Lincoln, the chapel's new home became St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery on Pit Road in Namur. The entire process was a community effort to save a traditional building and bring a prayerful place to the quaint country cemetery. A full listing of the renovation team and donors will be inside the chapel.

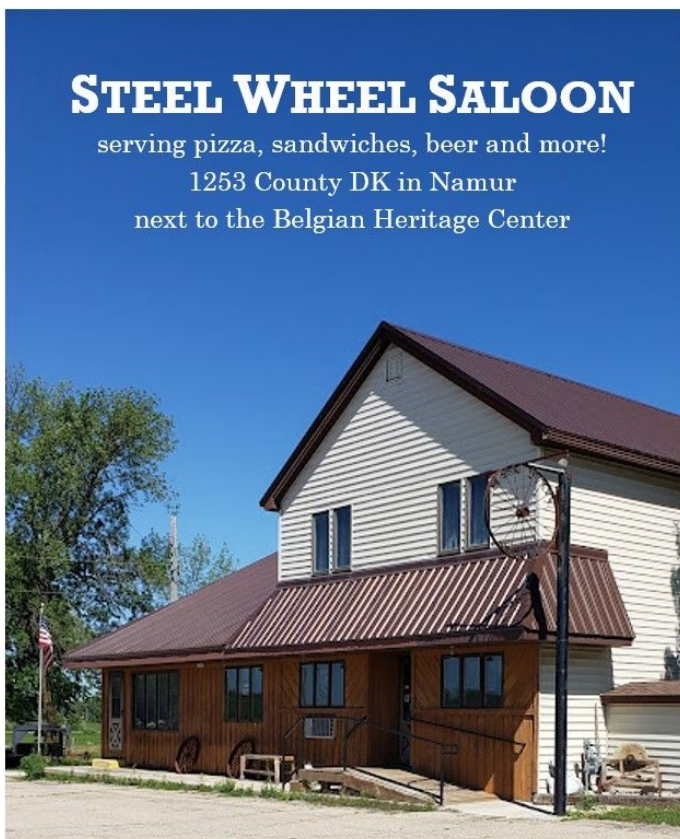
The chapel is now known as St. Hubert Chapel at St. Mary of the Snows, a nod to its past and present. Many original artifacts remain, including the kneeler and altar, and handmade door. Several of the original statues have been professionally restored, including one of St. Hubert, transported from Belgium by the Reverend Clement John Smith, then of Rosiere. The chapel is open to the public and is located a half mile from BHC. On Saturday, November 4, there will be a blessing and rededication of the chapel by Fr. Edward Looney at St Mary of the Snows Cemetery on Pit Road, followed by coffee and rolls at the Belgian Heritage Center. All are welcome.

## STEEL WHEEL SALOON

serving pizza, sandwiches, beer and more!

1253 County DK in Namur

next to the Belgian Heritage Center



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**Featuring our Friday Fish Fry**

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### Hours:

Monday 11-5

Tues, Weds, Thu 11-7

Friday 11-8

Saturday 11-7

Sunday CLOSED





## BHC Celebrates 170 Years in Grez-Doiceau

BHC representatives traveled to Grez-Doiceau for a celebration of the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the immigration to Wisconsin in 1853. Amy & Kevin Moore, Julie (Kinnard) Rheingans and Tom Kinnard attended for BHC and Bob Nellis traveled from Minneapolis. The event featured exhibits, a BHC video of past and present life in Wisconsin and a Belgian beer brewed for the anniversary. The event was attended by about 200 people, including Belgian members of the Chaudoir, Paye, Jeanquart, Mommaerts and Monfils families. While in Belgium, BHC was filmed by bx1 TV while touring Brussels and sharing information about our communities in the US. The trip was a great opportunity to discuss future collaboration with the Office of Tourism in Grez-Doiceau and the International Relations Commission of the City of Namur. We look forward to more events like this in the future.



*Food included booyah, trippe, Belgian pie and "Wisconsin" beer*



*Dignitaries from six small villages in Grez-Doiceau with Kevin Moore and Julie (Kinnard) Rheingans*



*Tom Kinnard, Julie (Kinnard) Rheingans, Amy & Kevin Moore enjoy waffles and Wisconsin beer at the Grez-Doiceau celebration*



*Road sign in Grez-Doiceau*

*Kevin Moore talks to bx1 TV in Brussels*





Guido and Vicki Lenaerts attended the Leuven Kermis in Belgium in September. Here are some great pictures of the event. Thank you, Guido and Vicki for sharing!



*Guido and Vicki Lenaerts, standing at left*