



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

www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

2019 Events

18 AUG **Belgian Heritage Center Kermis**
11:00am - 4:00pm

14 SEP **Hunter's Raffle**
11:00am-3:00pm

05 OCT **Great Fire (Peshtigo) Remembrance**
10:30am

06 OCT **Great Fire (Peshtigo) Remembrance**
10:30am and 1:00pm

09 NOV **Unveiling of "NEW" Packer Exhibit**
11:00am and 3:00pm

Be sure to follow us on Facebook or visit our website at belgianheritagecenter.org to stay up to date on events being added to the calendar.

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. For more information call Sue Havel at 920-493-2789 or email: events@belgianheritagecenter.org

What do Belgians and the Green Bay Packers Share in Common? Find out with unveiling of BHC / Packers Display on November 9!

How many of you knew that our beloved local Green-and-Gold football team owes some of its earliest ties to the red-yellow-and-black of our Belgian flag? In fact, Curly Lambeau came from Walloon Belgian ancestry, and his genealogical ties are well-researched. Lambeau's history and work in the area ultimately helped build the Green Bay Packers into the powerhouse they are now.

BHC will be unveiling a new addition to the Center's Museum displays that chronicles the wonderful history of Curly Lambeau, his Belgian roots, and how the birth of the Green Bay Packers ties to that very Belgian heritage. The BHC is working in conjunction with the Green Bay Packers to offer some engaging and interesting stories, displays, and pieces from the team's archives.

This will be a unique one-time event that you won't want to miss. More details forthcoming, but suffice it to say Packer fans of any nationality will wish to be at the BHC on November 9th!



BHC Kermis Highlights: Join Us August 18th!

- A Full Menu, including many traditional Belgian foods: Belgian Trippe (sausage with Pork, cabbage, & seasonings), homemade Belgian Booyah, Belgian Pies, homemade Tortes, Jutt (a Belgian cabbage dish), Burgers, homemade Ice Cream made with an antique tractor
- Huge Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction with over 100 prizes in total, including something for everybody with cash, gift certificates, large gift baskets, fishing trips, and Door County arts & crafts, and much more
- Live Music all day by the Mad Cats Variety Band from 11:00am-3:00pm
- Pair of local Breweries—Noble Roots and Thumb Knuckle—serving their brews, in addition to our own BHC “bar”
- Arts and Craft show with popular local vendors and artisans.
- Antique Farm Implement Display and Demonstrations, with a wide variety of engines and machines set up and run by Tim & Noel Baudhuin and friends
- Visit the BHC’s Museum Displays inside the Center and bring your old family photos to scan for inclusion in the BHC’s collection.
- Tours of the historic convent/schoolhouse will be given on the hour starting at 11:00am
- The Bay Area Genealogical Society and BHC representatives will be available to answer questions
- Children’s games

Kermis Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction Details and Donations

In addition to fantastic Belgian cuisine, live music, antique farm implement demonstrations, and much more, our Belgian Heritage Center boasts one of the biggest bucket raffles and silent auctions in the area!

Not only are there excellent odds of winning over 100 amazing prizes, but this is also the largest fundraiser of the year for the Heritage Center. Your support helps us continue and grow our mission of preserving and sharing our heritage, culture, foods, architecture and more. Every year, we see more and more visitors to the BHC not just from the area and around the U.S, but from abroad as well.

To that end, donations are now being sought for both the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction. No gift is too big or small to help make a difference. We love seeing the creative gift baskets donated each year, as well as the gift certificates from local businesses, handmade prizes, and anything else you care to share. Each year, we are amazed at the handiwork and generosity of our Heritage Center supporters!

Major donors and prize sponsors will receive recognition on advertising and promotional materials before, during, and following the event. All donations to our 501(c) 3 are tax deductible. If you’re interested in donating to the Kermis Raffle and Silent Auction, contact us on Facebook, email Contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org or mail to the BHC at PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. We’ll be happy to coordinate pick-up of any donations.

Save the Date for Hunter's Raffle: September 14

Save the date for the 2nd Annual BHC Hunter's Raffle Event! Not only will there be an even bigger raffle than last year, but another delicious meal as well. Raffle tickets will be available for sale at the Kermiss and until the time of the event, or until they sell out. Many awesome hunting firearms, crossbow, handmade outdoor products, taxidermy, gift certificates and much more. Ticket holders don't need to be present to win.

See displays of our Belgian Heritage as it pertains to hunting, fishing and the outdoors. Local craft brews and fantastic wild game meal homemade by the Belgian chefs at the BHC. Join in a friendly competition with our outdoor-themed game to win a gun and other awesome prizes. Games for the young hunters and fishers as well. Share your hunting stories and trophies from years past, as well as your plans for future hunts and outdoor adventures!

Remember, our Belgian ancestors prided themselves on self-sufficiency, which included hunting and fishing for local game to feed their families throughout the year. At the BHC, we celebrate that tradition of self-reliance and come together for this day of merriment, prizes, and preparation for Fall.

Last year was the first time for our Hunter's Raffle and this year promises to be even better!

Seeking Tax-Deductible Donations for Hunter's Raffle

With the Hunter's Raffle scheduled for September 14th and a big ticket filling up with much-desired items, the BHC can use donations to help offset both costs and prizes.

Support the Hunter's Raffle by sponsoring a gun, bow, or other outdoor prize already acquired by the BHC. Costs for sponsoring a prize vary from \$50 - \$500 and may include rifles, shotguns, fishing gear, outdoor artwork/prints, trail cameras, fire pit ring, grill/smoker, log bench/furniture, etc. Major donors and prize sponsors will receive recognition on advertising and promotional materials before the event, as well as throughout the day of the raffle.

In addition to cash sponsorships for our ticket prizes, we also welcome donations of gift certificates, gift baskets, handmade items, or anything at all related to the outdoors and our Belgian heritage.

If you're interested in donating to the Hunter's Raffle, contact us on Facebook, email Contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org or mail to the BHC at PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204.



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Waffle Breakfast

 thank you! 

All of us at the Belgian Heritage Center offer our most sincere thanks to those who came out to support our Waffle Breakfast that took place on June 23rd.



Woman's Work Oral History Project

"Women's Work" is a new oral history video by the Belgian Heritage Center. Stories in English and Walloon share what it was like for Belgian women in the early days. The video features wonderful, historic photos of women working at everything from household chores to farming and field work. The video will be completed early in August and will be shown at BHC as well as at the Women's History Celebration at Heritage Hill on August 11.

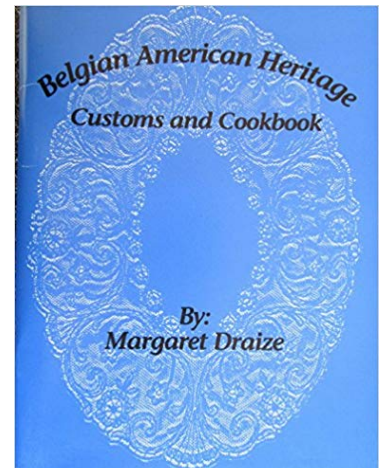
A very special thank you to those who shared wonderful pictures in response to our request on Facebook. Here's a sneak peek at what you will see in the video. We will also add a new gallery to "Our Photos" to share all of the photos and information about them.



*Anna Deenne - 1870 - 1957
Cooking meat at one of
the private homes she visited
for.*

BHC to Re-Publish Margaret Draize Belgian American Heritage Customs & Cookbook

A good part of our mission at the Belgian Heritage Center revolves around preserving and sharing our Belgian history. Local books are crucial to telling those stories, and one of the most sought after such title has been *Belgian American Heritage Customs & Cookbook* by the late Margaret Draize. Unfortunately, the book has been long out of print, and the last copies sold, as both Draize and her husband Ivan passed away many years ago. Both had been advocates for preserving the Belgian ways of life, customs, music and food, and now the Belgian Heritage Center is proud to be able to re-publish this title. The Belgian Heritage Center gratefully acknowledges the family of Margaret and Ivan Draize for their contribution and for allowing us to continue publishing this wonderful collection of Belgian traditions.



The process has begun, so if you are interested in obtaining a new copy of Draize's *Belgian American Heritage Customs & Cookbook* when it is finished, be sure to follow BHC on Facebook, subscribe to our newsletter, or keep an eye on our website for availability.

Here's just a taste of what's available in the book, which includes everything from tried-and-true recipes to more unusual how-to's for things like soap-making, butchery, and other old-fashioned skills. Intertwined with all of this is a nice mix of local tales and the wisdom of our ancestors.

BRAIN (117)
Wash and remove the fine outer tissue and blood vessels. Melt a tablespoon or so of butter. Add a chopped onion and the prepared brain. Saute, occasionally stirring. Salt and pepper to taste. Serves as a spread for bread.
* * *

RHUBARB WINE (97)
Add one quart boiling water to each quart of cut up rhubarb. Let stand until it ferments then strain. To each gallon of juice add 3 1/2 pounds of sugar. Skim off every day until it stops working. Then bottle.
* * *

Mother and Daughter Work to Preserve our Oral Histories

When Monica Thiry joined the Belgian Heritage Board and agreed to help with the Our Stories oral history project, she had no idea of the critical role that her mother, Mary Ann, would play. Monica was asked to help gather Walloon speakers who would agree to appear on camera and speak Walloon in order to preserve the sound of the language. She felt as though her mom had more connections for finding Walloon speakers so quickly enlisted her to help with that preliminary step.

They set up a time to visit each person in his or her home in order to explain the project. They suggested topics of stories that would be good to tell on camera. "It involved a lot of calling. We wanted them to be comfortable," Mary Ann explained. "Sometimes we would follow-up with a second visit a week or two before the taping and remind them of what stories they would tell." Monica added. The two of them then helped organize five full days of videotaping over a three year period with the Walloon speakers. "It turned out well. They did a good job," Mary Ann said.

The tapings were conducted by Balance Studios from Green Bay. They had recommended that the best way to showcase the Walloon was by hearing a story told first in English, followed by the same story in Walloon. However, none of the technical people at Balance Studios had any idea of what was said in Walloon. They needed someone to translate the Walloon from the raw footage. "Mom could do that!" Monica volunteered.

They agreed the hardest part of the project was the editing. They would often start with a 40 minute interview and painstakingly edit it down to a two minute clip. Monica would work with a story in English, and then Mary Ann would find the matching story in Walloon. Since Mary Ann was present when the tapings were done, she remembered what each person talked about on camera. Occasionally she encouraged a speaker, who may have veered from the original story told in English, to return to that same story in Walloon. "The stories are not word for word, but they are the same stories," Mary Ann said.

Because her sister, 16 years older, only knew Walloon when she started school, Mary Ann's parents realized that it was important for her to speak English when she started school. However, her dad wanted her to also know Walloon and therefore often spoke to her in Walloon. She laughed and said she would sometimes answer him in English. She now enjoys going to the Walloon speaking group in Champion. She said the group is geared toward people who know a little Walloon and like to practice. She said she is catching more than she did when she first started. "The more you speak it the more it comes to you. Some in the group are quite good."

In reflecting on the project, they are happy with the result. Mary Ann said, "It's important to have a little Walloon preserved so that our descendants can know what their ancestors sounded like. It's important to save that history just like we save pictures. There are even a few people who are trying to save the language and teach their grandchildren."

Mary Ann lives near Lincoln, a mile and a half east of where she grew up, with her husband, Wayne, who is also of Belgian descent. Monica lives with her parents and has a career as a pharmacist in Luxemburg.

The Belgian Heritage Center is very appreciative for all of the volunteer hours given by this dedicated mother and daughter duo!





Great Fire Remembrance

On Saturday, October 5th at 10:30am and Sunday, October 6th at 10:30am and 1:00pm Barb (Englebert) Chisholm will reprise her portrayal of her Great Grandmother, Emmerence (Gaspard) Englebert, who survived the Great Fire in October 1871. This massive forest fire which raged in and around Peshtigo, as well as in Southern Door County, greatly affected the Belgian settlement area. She will also tell the general story of the fire and how it influenced the area and its people. This is a story of courage, suffering and rebuilding lives after one of the worst natural disasters in United States history.

After and in between the presentations volunteers will be serving Belgian pie and coffee. Tours of the historic schoolhouse/convent on the BHC campus will also be available that day.

Retail Space is Growing

A reminder that the Belgian Heritage Center has an ever-expanding retail space. Proceeds from all sales go towards furthering the mission of the BHC. We currently offer a nice mixture of books, DVD's, audio CD's and other historical materials. In addition, we now have a special Belgian Heritage Center t-shirt design and coffee mugs, in addition to Belgian chocolates, flags, pins, and much more! A number of new items will be added yet this year.

Though we do not offer online sales or shipping at this time, more plans are in the works. The retail space is open during all events, or visit the Belgian Heritage Center during open hours from Friday through Sunday 10AM-4PM to make a purchase.

These items make great gifts for family and friends, and best of all, you're supporting BHC in the process.



Belgian Author Irene Litz-Barre Spoke about WWII Experiences in Belgium

It was a most meaningful Memorial Day weekend at the Belgian Heritage Center, as we welcomed Belgian author Irene Litz-Barre. Her book, *Following the Lines: World War II as Experienced by a Belgian Girl*, chronicles her family's work with the resistance during WWII in Belgium.

After the German invasion, her father was sent to the front while she and her mother evacuated under German Stuka attacks. On their exodus, they found refuge in Southern France. Upon return to their Belgian homeland, the family worked as agents of the underground resistance aiding the escape of Allied soldiers. She shed light on this little-known aspect of WWII, and included an interesting tale of crossing paths with a Walloon speaking American soldier from Wisconsin during the Liberation. She put a very human face to the struggles faced not only by soldiers during the war, but also by those like her Belgian family who braved great danger to aid the Allied victory.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Murrock

Thank you for your interest in Belgian Heritage!



Belgian Heritage Center
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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.

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