

Belgian Heritage Center



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

www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

April 2019

2019 Events

- ◆ Belgian Bread & Booyah Lunch - April 28
- ◆ Literary Day - May 25
 - ◆ Author Talks and Book Launch
- ◆ Belgian Waffle Breakfast - June 23
- ◆ Belgian Heritage Center Kermis - August 18
- ◆ Hunter's Raffle - September 14
- ◆ Great Fire of 1871 Remembrance - October 5-6

Watch for more events, as they are scheduled, such as the Craft Beer event, and a Wooden Shoe Carving Demonstration. Remember to check out and "Like" our Facebook page to learn about events and other BHC info.

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

Literary Day

Join us on Saturday, May 25 from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. for Belgian pie and coffee and learn about two books, one that connects us to WWII history and one that celebrates the unique stories of Wisconsin small towns, including Namur.

Author Irene Litz-Barre will speak about her book, *Following the Lines: World War II as Experienced by a Belgian Girl*. In this book Irene tells the story of her teenage years in Belgium spent in the chaos of World War II. In May 1940, after the German invasion, her father is sent to the front, while she and her mother evacuate under German Stuka bomber attacks. On their exodus, they find refuge in southern France. Three months later returning across the German demarcation line, they find her father also back home. He had escaped from the Germans twice. Soon, he is dangerously mixing secret underground activity with his Gendarmerie job supervised by the Germans..

In addition, author Melinda Roberts will launch her newest book, *Little Wisconsin*, which profiles Namur amid 100 other Wisconsin small towns. From the Native Americans who have been here for centuries to the arrival of European immigrants and Yankee pioneer settlers, Wisconsin's history is compelling, intriguing, and unique. *Little Wisconsin* celebrates the Badger State's storied past by introducing 100 communities with populations around 600 or less.

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Literary Day

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She provides an intimate look at the people and events that define every community, along with fun and fascinating facts—including the arrival of French emissary Jean Nicolet in 1634 and the state's fur-trading, logging, mining, and agricultural transitions. With full-color photographs taken by the author and a summary of what you can see and do in each community, you'll be inspired to pack your bags and head out for a visit!

Melinda is the grand-niece of Hjalmar Holand, one of the founders of the Door County Historical Society and author of *Old Peninsula Days!*

Book descriptions from Goodreads



Namur, Wisconsin

A resolution drawn up by Henry Quartemont and signed by the Town Board of Union to change the name of Fairland to Namur was readily accepted by all concerned. Namur was the original name of the settlement and legally was never changed. *Door County Advocate* - January 9, 1962

Known in the Photo L-R: George Lampereur, Hubert Lampereur, Lema (Chaudoir) Lampereur, Grace (Chaudoir) Lampereur, Harold Jeanquart holding the sign and Leonard Lampereur on the ladder. Back Row: Unknown and Judge Grover Stapleton

Ron Delwiche

It's hard to get Ron Delwiche to talk about himself; he is definitely not one to look for accolades. Words to describe Ron include humble, caring shy, and generous. However, the Belgian Heritage Center could not resist nominating our shining star for the Golden Heart Volunteer Award in the Lifetime of Service category sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Door County.



When asked what excites him about the BHC, Ron cites growing up in the area and being involved with the church. His passion was to see the building restored and renovated to become a place to celebrate Belgian heritage. Ron attends every board meeting as a key volunteer. He can be counted on to help with each fund raising event including our largest event, the annual Kermis, where, after working the day before on the massive set up involving tables, tents, booths and more, you will usually find him bartending.

Ron's most significant service to the BHC is in the area of facility repairs and maintenance. At the inception of the BHC in 2010, Ron took the lead, along with volunteers he recruited, in tuck-pointing the building and replacing over 100 damaged bricks with matching reclaimed bricks from a Belgian brick farmhouse. This was a massive project which restored the aesthetics of our historic building. The estimate for hiring a mason to complete this project was in the neighborhood of \$50,000 - \$75,000, which the newly formed organization could certainly not afford. In addition to that project, Ron also added shelf space inside the kitchen cabinets and led volunteers in various projects involving patching and painting of the interior of the building. Just last year he assisted with a kitchen makeover that included all new plastering and the installation of a new floor.

Ron led a project to clean and seal the old stones of the St. Mary's of the Snow Cemetery. Although the cemetery is not a part of the BHC, it is a part of the historic district that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located alongside of the BHC. The fragile stones were covered with moss and were getting very hard to read. The Board elected to make an attempt to preserve the markers with permission from the St. Francis and St. Mary Parish. As Ron described it, "It was a very intensive and labor-filled project to work on the historical memorial stones." This project was completed in 2018.

He retired from plastering in 2000 yet continues to work on a part-time basis. He is a veteran and a twenty-year member of the American Legion. Ron is an active volunteer with the Peninsula Belgian American Club and the Brussels Lions Club. As part of their work with the Brussels Lions Club, he and his wife, Suzanne, recently initiated a diabetes awareness campaign in Southern Door.

Ron will be married to Suzanne for 60 years this October; they have three adult children and five grandchildren. Very family oriented, Ron and Suzanne enjoy traveling to visit the 'kids' and grandkids, most living in southern Wisconsin. Ron smiles when he says there are always some projects for him to work on - which he thoroughly enjoys!

The awards ceremony will be April 11th at Stone Harbor in Sturgeon Bay.

Thank you for your interest in Belgian heritage!

Letter from the Presidents

Greetings!

The Belgian Heritage Center had a very successful year in 2018. This was one of our best years with our total receipts reaching almost \$125,000 through a combination of fundraising events, donations and proceeds from heritage tours and merchandise sales. We are especially pleased to say that we had 47 new donors making cash contributions. We are very pleased with the growing interest in BHC!

To keep the interest growing, we are offering new events meant to engage more people. We held our first Hunters Raffle in 2018 - the event was incredibly popular and will be back in 2019. This year, we will have a Literary Day featuring authors with connections to our Belgian heritage. We also offered people the chance to sponsor picnic tables used for our outdoor events - sponsors paid for the cost of a table with a plaque recognizing their donation. This was so popular that some of the tables sponsored had to be back ordered! We will be looking into more sponsorship opportunities in the future.

Our Belgian history exhibits continue to evolve and expand. We update our Historic Photo Gallery when new pictures are donated to us. If you have any historic pictures we would love to scan them and upload them to our gallery. Five new oral history videos were added in 2018, featuring wonderful stories told in English and Walloon.

In 2018 we installed new audio and video equipment. We have two large screen monitors and a sound system, so we are able to show our photo and video collections to larger audiences. This also enables us to have speakers and presentations at the Center, giving us the ability to have new events at the Center in the future.

Our kitchen received a face-lift this past year. The kitchen was re-plastered and re-painted and new vinyl planking was installed on the floor. The kitchen looks very nice. Our entrance was also updated with a fresh look with a new coat of yellow paint. A beautiful Donor Acknowledgement Display has been installed to recognize cash donors. Thanks to the talent of Gary Chaudoir, the display incorporates stained glass from the original church entrance.

One of our goals for 2019 is expanding our merchandise offerings and growing our retail sales. We are also planning badly needed work on slab and paving near the south (main) entrance in the fall. Please consider a donation to help us with the cost of these projects.

We sincerely appreciate the support of so many donors, sponsors and volunteers who make it possible to celebrate our Belgian heritage. Thank you to everyone who helped make our success possible. A list of our supporters can be found in this newsletter. Thank you all!

Sincerely,



Joe Alexander
Co-President



Monica Thiry
Co-President

Belgian Heritage Center 2018 Donors

Diamond (\$10,000 - \$20,000)

Anonymous

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

In Memory of Clyde Delforge

Door County Community

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Wisconsin Historical Foundation Inc

Working Draft Beer Co

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Bronze (up to \$249)

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Rodney & Sally Alexander

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Anonymous

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Belgian Heritage Center 2018 Donors

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Bronze (up to \$249)

In Memory of Gary L DeNamur
Old Bolts Car Club
Marilyn DeNamur
Diane & Jon Falk
Ronald & Jane Springaire
Gary & Karen Bellin
Brian & Lori Holtz
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Bruce & Pam Alberts
Kristin Alberts
Kelly Chaudoir
Dee Klutts

Can you identify this family?

(Circa 1902 Southern Door)

We are offering a BHC coffee mug to the first person who sends information to Ann Jenkins at jenkins.ann@gmail.com



Seeking Vendors/Crafters to Participate in the 2019 Kermis

The BHC is seeking vendors/crafters to participate in the 2019 Kermis on Sunday, August 18, 2019 - rain or shine. The Kermis is a cultural celebration in thanksgiving of the harvest which will include food, music, vendor/craft booths, and so much more.

Handmade products are preferred and no mass-produced manufactured items will be eligible. Applications will be examined on a first come basis and efforts will be made to not duplicate similar items.

A minimum \$5.00 administration fee is required to reserve your space and is nonrefundable. Space is limited. BHC is a not for profit educational organization. An application will be up loaded to the BHC web site soon (<http://www.belgianheritagecenter.org>). Or, you may contact Barb Maskell, the Vendor Committee Chair, at maskell7@yahoo.com.



Heritage Center Re-Opens May 3rd

The Belgian Heritage Center is open:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

May 3 thru October 27

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are also open throughout the year by
appointment only

Heritage Tours

Please remember that the Belgian Heritage Center is available for tour groups. In addition to the BHC tours may include the Peninsula Belgian American Club schoolhouse and many of the roadside chapels. If you are interested in booking a tour, please arrange in advance for a date in May through October by contacting tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org

Walloon Classes

Walloon classes will continue to meet in April at 6:00pm at the following locations:

First and Third Thursday: Thumb Knuckle Brewing Company, E0208 WI-54 Luxemburg

Fourth Thursday - Belgian Delight, 1100 CR-C Brussels

Please contact Monica Thiry at swlmon@yahoo.com or 920-559-3113 to start that conversation.

Board of Directors



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Belgian Heritage Center
PO Box 173
Brussels, WI 54204

BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

//We are pleased to support your efforts with a gift of: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

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

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- 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** _____

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