

# Belgian Heritage Center



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)

March 2018

## 2018 Events

- ◆ Belgian Booyah & Bread Lunch - April 22
- ◆ Belgian Waffle Breakfast - June 24
- ◆ Trout Boil - July 21
- ◆ Namur Kermis - August 19
- ◆ Great Fire (Peshtigo) Remembrance - October 7

## 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](mailto:events@belgianheritagecenter.org)



## New Life for Old Window

A search of a crawl space above the kitchen (the old sacristy) led to a fortunate discovery for all of us. Bill Chaudoir, past president of the BHC, was leading family members on a tour of the center during a family reunion. Seeing a trap door in the ceiling of the kitchen a few decided to explore. They came upon a glass panel lying on the floor covered in dust. Bill's brother, Gary Chaudoir, a glass artist, immediately noticed the shape was the same as above the old entrance to the church. It probably had been lying there gathering dust for over 50 years since the new entry was added to the church. They carried the window, along with a box of glass pieces and lead strips, out of the crawl space.

Gary hoped he could restore this beautiful piece for use at the BHC. In the spring of 2017 he got the message that Bill and Brian Delwiche were considering incorporating it into the design of the donor recognition board. Gary immediately figured out what it would take to do that.

The window was in fairly good condition other than the outside channel. Several outside glass pieces were broken or missing. He was fortunate to have the right glass on hand in his personal inventory from previous church glass repairs. The colors are stunning with brilliant reds and an unusual teal/blue green.

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## New Life for Old Window

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According to Gary, it was very professionally built with beautiful textures. Like many stained glass church windows from this period, he believes the glass was supplied by a company in Kokomo, Indiana which is still in business, and known for its superior quality and beauty.

Over a three week period, Gary completed the repair. He created patterns for the shapes that were missing, cut the glass, used new lead channel and rebuilt it in the same style as the original. He surrounded the entire piece with 3/8<sup>th</sup> inch zinc panel for strength. Where there were some cracks in the body of the piece he created a "lead line look" by soldering over the crack. He noticed that this process had been done in a couple of pieces previously, indicating the window had had some repair work done in the past.

Gary's completed project can now be appreciated as the crowning piece of the donor board which honors many of our supporters who have contributed to the continuing success of the Belgian Heritage Center.



Gary Chaudoir



## Donor Board

A BIG Thank You to Brian Delwiche and Gary Chaudoir for getting the donor display together, Ron Delwiche and Kevin Moore for assisting and getting it up on the wall, and Tim Moore for the lighting.





# Strategic Planning Focus Groups

The mission of the Belgian Heritage Center is to preserve and promote our unique Belgian culture, history, and architecture and share the story of the Belgian Settlers in Wisconsin.

In 2011, the Board of Directors convened focus groups and used the input to set specific goals and objectives for creating the Belgian Heritage Center. Many of those goals and objectives have now been achieved or are in progress. It's time to set a course for the coming years.

As part of a strategic planning process, focus groups will be convened with people who have ideas about what they would like to see happen at the Belgian Heritage Center. These discussions will be facilitated by Bret Bicoy of the Door County Community Foundation. Board members will not participate in these discussions. Meetings will last about 90 minutes.

This is an opportunity to voice your opinions about the Belgian Heritage Center and how it can best serve our community and achieve our mission. Focus group will be asked questions like:

- What areas of Belgian history and culture should be emphasized?
- What programs and features should be added?
- What are we doing well and what can we improve?

Focus group sessions are scheduled at the following times and locations:

**Date: April 5**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St. Francis Church - Brussels

**Date: April 13**

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: St. Peter Church - Lincoln

If you are interested in participating in one of these discussions, please email us at [contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org](mailto:contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org) or contact one of these Board members:

Joe Alexander  
703-216-4360

Monica Thiry  
920-837-7510

Ann Jinkins  
920-743-1189

Sandy Orsted  
920-493-2850

## Vestibule Gets New Look

When the BHC opens in the spring repeat visitors will immediately notice that the vestibule has been spruced up. Thanks to decorating advice from Mary (Moore) Wulf several small projects have been completed to give a much cleaner, less cluttered and welcoming appearance.

These projects include:

- New paint in the vestibule and new paint on an accent wall inside the BHC
- Additional crown molding, painted to match other trim and molding
- Broken tile repaired and replaced at the entrance
- A new floor mat placed at the entrance
- Safety strips added on the steps.

In addition to the makeover, the highlights of the space are the newly installed donor recognition board and framed pictures of the BHC building both past and present.

**Thank you for your interest in Belgian heritage!**

# Annual Message

Greetings!

The Belgian Heritage Center had an outstanding year in 2017. Receipts totaled \$104,349. Our two major sources of income were donations which totaled \$77,025 and fundraising events which totaled \$22,812. Our fundraising events continue to grow. Proceeds from 2017 events were up 65% over 2016 due to increasing attendance and sponsorships. Expenses totaled \$62,339 of which \$22,694 was spent for operating costs and \$39,646 for new features at the Center. Our net cash flow for the year was a very positive \$42,009, reflecting the hard work of our volunteers and generosity of our many sponsors and donors.

In 2017, we were able to install an accessibility lift, thanks to these sponsors: Door County Community Foundation, Raibrook Foundation, John & Nell Herlache, Glenn Timmerman and Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction. We also continued our effort to expand the Belgian history exhibits. When you visit in the spring, you will find new additions to the Walloon Oral History videos and Historic Photo Gallery.

We are pleased to announce that a new Donor Acknowledgement Display has been installed and will be unveiled this spring. The display incorporates stained glass from St. Mary of the Snows which was removed decades ago when the entrances were installed. Gary Chaudoir has done beautiful work restoring the glass and incorporating it into the display. It is a fitting tribute to our donors!

Our goals for 2018 include installation of new audio and video capability. We are raising funds now and hope to have large screen monitors and a sound system installed by the time we open in the spring. The cost of the project is \$18,498. This equipment will make our presentations much more enjoyable and it will be possible to show our photo and video collections to larger audiences. Please consider a donation to help us with the cost of this project.

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 has made our success possible. A list of our supports can be found in this newsletter. We would like to especially recognize John Herlache who has been instrumental in assisting our fundraising efforts, especially in obtaining grant funds from many sources. Thank you all!

Sincerely,



Joe Alexander  
Co-Presidents



Monica Thiry

# Belgian Heritage Center 2017 Donors

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

Anonymous  
Larry & Kathy Gentine

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

Anonymous  
The Maihaugen Foundation

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

Donna & Steve Bultman  
Coisman/Englebort Family Group  
Door County Community  
Foundation  
Excelon Foundation  
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Todd, Renee, Erik, Brock, & Christian  
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Monica Thiry  
Glenn Timmerman  
Rick & Julie Vandermause  
Wallonie Wisconsin Society  
WPS Foundation  
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Leonard & Janice Zittlow  
In Memory of Vincent & Angela  
(Pierre) Gilson, their children  
Mike & Melody Gilson,  
Pierre & Kay Gilson  
Susan Gilson & Nancy Batchelor  
Keith & Yvonne Stukenberg

## **Silver (\$250-\$999)**

Joe Alexander & Mei Mei Yip  
Daniel Alexander  
Timothy & Riddhini Alexander  
Sam Alexander  
Allen & Theresa Alexander  
Priscilla Baudhuin  
Joe Binard  
Ted & Dee Chaudoir  
Christine Chaudoir  
Gary Chaudoir  
Larry & Debby Chaudoir

Jeff & Karla Chaudoir  
Barb & Mike Chisholm  
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Brian Delwiche  
Crystal Delwiche  
Mildred Destree  
Francis & Rita Jauquet  
Dan & Michelle Lodahl  
Kevin Moore  
Tim & Sue Moore  
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Sturgeon Bay Rotary  
In Memory of Auguste Hayot  
Jerold & Cynthia Bechard  
Emma Hayot  
Norbert & Patricia Lenius  
S.F. Maclean  
John & Barb Maskell  
Thomas & Judith McDonald  
Armand & Linda Nault  
William & Janice Wotochek  
Leonard & Janice Zittlow

## **Bronze (up to \$249)**

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Barb & John Madden, in memory  
of Mary Ann Englebort  
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## **In Kind Donors**

Pam Alberts  
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Hoffman Planning, Design &  
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Ann Jinkins  
Rena LaLuzerne  
Fred & Mary Malvitz  
Marchants Foods  
David Maskell  
John/Barb Maskell  
Tim Moore  
Steel Wheel Saloon  
Peninsula Belgian American Club  
Peters Concrete  
Schartner's Implement  
Mary Ann Thiry  
Econo Foods



## Sponsor a Picnic Table !

The Belgian Heritage Center recently purchased some lightweight picnic tables that will be fully collapsible and easy to store and carry. We expect they will be a nice addition for our Kermis and offer flexibility for additional seating at all of our good weather events. In order to defray the cost of these tables, we are offering sponsorships of a table for \$150. With a sponsorship your name will be affixed to a table as the donor. Please consider sending your donation to the Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204 and specify that you would like to sponsor a table.



## Heritage Center Re-Opens May 4th

The Belgian Heritage Center is open:  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
May 4 thru October 28  
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](mailto:tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org)

## BONDJOU ! Do you speak Walloon?

We at the Belgian Heritage Center are anxiously working to preserve the language for future generations to hear. If you speak Walloon or if you have a relative or friend who speaks it, we would love to have an opportunity to connect. Please contact Monica Thiry at [swlmon@yahoo.com](mailto:swlmon@yahoo.com) or 920-559-3113 to start that conversation.

## Board of Directors



Joe Alexander, Co-President  
Kevin Moore, Vice President  
Sandy Orsted, Treasurer  
Allen Alexander  
Christine Chaudoir  
Barb Maskell  
Sue Havel  
Kristin Alberts

Monica Thiry, Co-President  
Ann Jenkins, Secretary  
Barb Chisholm, Historian  
Bill Chaudoir  
Brian Delwiche  
Tim Moore  
Dr, Joe Binard  
Bill Laatsch, Historian Emeritus

# Seeking Summer Intern

The BHC is offering a paid summer internship to a qualified applicant. Ideal candidates will have an interest in museums and/or education as a career. The candidates should be proficient in research, writing, and public speaking. Internships are supervised but ideal candidates will be independent and self-starting. The candidate must be currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program preferably in history, art history, anthropology, museum studies, or a related discipline.

The intern will assist with many aspects the BHC operations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Development of operational policies
- The ongoing digitizing of our records and images
- Special events and fundraising
- Requests for information and photos
- Promotions, advertising and email marketing

The length of the internship is approximately May - August for 40 hours per week including some weekends. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, see the complete position description on our website [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org) Questions may be directed to Joe Alexander at 703-216-4360, [joealex2@yahoo.com](mailto:joealex2@yahoo.com)

Can you identify any of these children?

**1954 Communion  
Brussels or Namur**

Please Email  
Barb Chisholm for identification at  
[barbmike71269@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbmike71269@sbcglobal.net)







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: \$\_\_\_\_\_*

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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](http://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*