



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)

July 2020

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

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## New Front Entrance Doors

*The new entrance doors replace the old ones that were difficult to operate and often had to be propped open to keep from sticking.*



Greetings friends,

The volunteers at the Belgian Heritage Center are working to continue our mission even though this year has brought many unanticipated challenges. We will be open by appointment only for small groups starting in mid-July. If you would like to visit the center please call Barb Chisholm at 920-493-5969 or email [tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org) to set up a time. We will be doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our visitors and docents. At the time of reservation, the new procedures for visits will be shared, including having visitors use masks and staying physically distant from others.

Please continue to check our Facebook and web page for updates on events and new information.

The planned upgrades to our facility, made possible through donations and grants, are complete or in process. The air conditioning installation, kitchen plumbing improvements and new front entrance doors are complete. We look forward to a new lit sign at the road and increased security for the Center.

# Kermis 2020

Belgians and friends everywhere look forward to harvest time and the Kermis, a community event that brings people together in gratitude, camaraderie, and fun.

Here at the BHC Kermis falls on Sunday August 16. At this point, it is our plan that booyah and trippe will be offered "to go" and that the event will run from 11 am to 2 pm. If conditions permit, we may expand the event; stay in touch through our website and Facebook page for more information.

New this year-- an online virtual Kermis event to share our roots and to celebrate virtually on Facebook and the website! Enjoy and share our heritage out to the world!



*Anton LaCroix and Anna Derenne  
- Photo provided by Barb Engelbert Chisholm-*



*The "Dance in The Dust"  
Picture taken in 1937 near St Hubert  
Church in Rosiere  
-Photo provided by Randy Reubens-*

# Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Many Catholics celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But to many Belgian families, the "15<sup>th</sup> of August" was an even more important religious occasion than Christmas. Extended families would gather for big meals and to attend the mass and procession at "the Chapel" – now, the National Shrine of our Lady of Good Help. This is where Adele Brice, a Belgian immigrant, encountered an apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1859. The Chapel has been a place of prayer and healing for many Belgians since the earliest days of the settlement.



*Photo provided by National Shrine of our Lady of Good Help*



1984-85

*Girls on Left are Shelly and Lisa Nooyen*

*Photo provided by Shirley Nooyen*

Thank you for your interest in Belgian Heritage!

## BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY

After the Napoleonic wars Belgium became part of the United Netherlands. When the Belgian Revolution forced Dutch forces out of the country, the Belgian people drafted a constitution that allowed for a new constitutional and popular monarchy. On July 21, 1831, they installed Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha as king after he swore allegiance to the constitution, becoming the first monarch of the modern Kingdom of Belgium. This day is now celebrated as Belgian National Day, one of ten public holidays in Belgium. The King traditionally gives a televised speech on National Day. The main festivities occur in Brussels, including church services attended by the King after which he reviews contingents of armed forces and police, followed by a parade, fireworks and a concert known as the "National Ball." Local celebrations outside of Brussels often include church services, flea markets, and food stands selling typically Belgian dishes such as frites or waffles. Because the Belgian climate often delivers rain on National Day it is sometimes referred to as the National Downpour (drache nationale).



**BELGIAN  
NATIONAL DAY**  
**JULY 21**

## Now Available for Online Purchase!

### MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE BY MAIL!

- BHC merchandise can be purchased without visiting our center.
- View our [Merchandise Catalog](#) of Belgian themed items.
- Send us your [Merchandise Order Form](#).
- We will contact you with payment & shipping information.
- BHC accepts payment by credit card or check.

[VIEW ORDER FORM](#)

[VIEW MERCHANDISE CATALOG](#)



T-SHIRTS | FLAGS | MUGS | BOOKS | DVDS | AND MORE!

Go to the new Merchandise page [BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://BelgianHeritageCenter.org) to find the catalog and order form.

# New Website Features



The Belgian Heritage Center is debuting four new features on our website to share historical images and stories. Please go to the Features tab at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org) to check them out.

**Featured Video** is a video clip from "Our Stories" - the oral history collection at BHC. In our current selection, we hear Emily (Jeanquart) Dhuey explain in English and Walloon what can happen when your horse team is spooked by lightening.

**Featured Photos** allows you to browse one of the galleries from BHC's photo kiosk, "Our Photo Album". The featured gallery through July is "Women's Work" showing the wide-ranging role of women in the Belgian settlement. You can also help identify people and places in photos missing key information.

**Featured Family** is a new program at BHC. A family story will be featured for one month and will then remain accessible on the BHC website. This month we feature Hubert Jauquet's story. He immigrated from Meux, Belgium with his family and started a farm that is still run by his great-great grandson.

**Can You Help Us** - Does your family have a story to tell? Now you can share photos and documents about the Belgian way of life. Who knows, maybe a little-known relative may find the profile! Capturing these stories now helps keep our heritage alive. For more information please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org/](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org/) with a brief summary about the story and the documents to be shared.



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Brussels, WI 54204

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## BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

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

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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.

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