

Belgian Heritage Center



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

www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

December 2018

2019 Events

- ◆ Bread and Booyah - April 28
- ◆ Literary Day - May 25
- ◆ Belgian Waffle Breakfast - June 23
- ◆ Namur Kermis - August 18
- ◆ Great Fire (Peshtigo) Remembrance - October 5 and 6

On May 25th we will feature two author events for our Literary Day. Irene Litz-Barre will talk about her book, *Following the Lines: World War II as Experienced by a Belgian Girl*. In addition, Melinda Roberts will launch her *Little Wisconsin* book which profiles towns under 100 people including Namur!

Watch for more events, as they are scheduled, such as the 2nd Annual Hunter's Raffle, 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

New Stories Premiered

As part of our mission to preserve and celebrate the Belgian culture of Northeastern Wisconsin, we are very proud of the ten oral history videos that have been produced as part of the Our Stories series. These were all made possible by generous donations and grants. The last five were completed this fall and premiered at viewing sessions in October. The short videos highlight the following familiar aspects of our heritage: Immigration, Early Settlers, Walloon, Taverns, Importance of Religion, No Foreign Languages at School, The Chapel, Travel, Life on the Farm and The Kermis. All of these videos are available to view at the center on a touch screen kiosk or viewed upon request theater style on our new large monitors. Many of them involve stories told in both English and Walloon by our cherished bilingual speakers.



Events

Another big crowd enjoyed our traditional Kermis which required lots of tortes, pies, booyah and beer!



Barb (Englebert) Chisholm reprised her role as her Great Grandmother who survived the Great Fire. She is pictured here at our Fire Remembrance Day in October with historical author, Kathleen Ernst, who spoke about her book, *The Lacemaker's Secret*, a story about a heroic Belgian woman.



Kevin Moore making booyah!



Torte/Pie Booth: Mary Wulf, Lindsey Price, JoAnn DuBois and Carol Price



Noble Roots Brewing



Thumb Knuckle Brewing

Winter Walloon Classes

With the Belgian Heritage Center closed during the winter months, the next Walloon classes will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

Belgian Delight - Thursday, November 29

Thumb Knuckle Brewery - Thursday, December 6

Everyone is welcome. Attendance at previous classes is not required. For more information on these ongoing classes please contact Tim Jeanquart at 920-495-7365.



Young hunter Jack Jeanquart won both a BB gun and youth bear bow at our first Hunter's Raffle which brought in over \$8,000 to benefit the Belgian Heritage Center!

Dear Supporters,

We are approaching the end of another successful year. In 2018, we continued our progress to enhance the Belgian Heritage Center.

Here are few highlights:

- Unveiled a beautiful donor recognition board featuring restored stained glass from St. Mary of the Snows.
- Launched five new oral history videos bringing our total to 10 videos and nearly two hours of stories in Walloon and English.
- Installed new audio/video equipment to improve the sound quality of our presentations and to show videos, photos and other media on large screen TV's.
- Added another new event to our calendar - a Hunters Raffle and Wild Game Meal - which was a huge success. We are already planning another one for next year.
- Hosted heritage presentations and tours, weddings and a family reunion.
- Invited the community to attend focus groups to help guide our future endeavors.

We are already planning for 2019. An important undertaking will be to complete our strategic plan and prioritize new projects and improvements. We invite you to continue offering your ideas to improve our events, programs and the facility itself.

As always, we are extremely thankful for the generous support of our many donors and volunteers. We receive countless compliments from visitors to the Belgian Heritage Center about the exhibits, food, presentations and facilities, not to mention Belgian hospitality. We could not accomplish this without you. Thank you to everyone who contributed - we are grateful for your support.

Joe Alexander
703-216-4360

Monica Thiry
920-837-7510



We are very appreciative of the generous donations we have received this year. If you haven't donated yet, we hope you will consider a donation before the end of the year. We also encourage you to tell your family and friends about the important work we are doing to preserve Belgian heritage and culture. We will recognize our supporters and accomplishments in our Annual Report that will be sent early next year.

Donations can be sent to:
Belgian Heritage Center, PO
Bo 173, Brussels, WI 54204.
The Belgian Heritage Center is owned by the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. See the donor form on the back page.

If you prefer to receive our newsletter by email or if you would like to update your address, please email supportBHC@belgianheritagecenter.org. We also appreciate knowing if you receive duplicate mailings or would like to be removed from our mailing list.

Thank you for your interest in Belgian Heritage!



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): _____

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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 (major credit cards accepted).

- Please check if you **DO NOT** wish to be recognized in publications under the names provided above.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

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