



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Newsletter

2018 Events

- ◆ Belgian Booyah & Bread Lunch – April 22
- ◆ Belgian Waffle Breakfast – June 24
- ◆ Fish Boil – July 21
- ◆ Namur Kermis – August 19
- ◆ The Great Fire Remembrance - October 7



Closed for the Season

The Belgian Heritage Center will be closed for regular hours over the winter and will re-open in May 2018.

You may still visit by appointment or schedule a group tour by calling 920-825-1199, or Email: contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org

Remembering the Great Fire

On October 8, Barb Chisholm told her story of the Great fire of 1871, also referred to as the Peshtigo Fire, from the perspective of her great-grandmother, Emmerence (Gaspard) Englebert. The presentation was held on the anniversary of the fire that spread thru the Belgian community 146 years ago.

Booyah was served between a morning and afternoon presentation. Those attending had the opportunity to view the exhibits including the most recent addition of the interactive picture and video galleries.



Add your Photos to the Interactive Gallery

We are looking for all types of photos to include in “**Our Photo Album**” on our new interactive exhibit. You can upload online or bring to the Belgian Heritage Center where we will scan for you.


- **Upload Your Photos Online in three easy steps**

1. Go to BelgianHeritageCenter.org
2. Select the BELGIAN HISTORY tab
3. Select the orange box and follow the easy upload instructions

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS LIKE THESE?

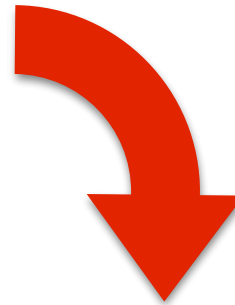
The Belgian Heritage Center is looking for photos for our new exhibit space! If you have any photos, personal or professional, that look the these... please consider submitting them to us!

YES, I HAVE PHOTOS AND I CAN HELP!



- **Bring your photos to the Belgian Heritage Center** during any of our events, during regular open hours, or by appointment. One of our volunteers will scan the photos and record identifying information.

****Your picture will be credited in the photo exhibit. Make sure to give us as much detail as possible with each image you submit****




Oral History Project Continues - Walloon Speakers Wanted

The newest interactive exhibit at the Belgian Heritage Center is a collection of video stories told both in English and Walloon by some of our remaining Walloon speakers. They talk about daily life, making a living, what they did for entertainment, religion and how they were not allowed to speak Walloon in school.

The Walloon language was very commonly heard in our area just a generation ago. Many of us have memories of our parents and grandparents speaking it as their first language. Now, Walloon is disappearing both in northeastern Wisconsin as well as Belgium. We at the Belgian Heritage Center are anxiously working to preserve the language as much as possible for future generations to hear. People have estimated that there may still be 100 Walloon speakers spread throughout the Belgian settlement area and Green Bay. Are you one of them? If so, we need your help.

WALLOON SPEAKERS



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 to start that conversation.

Many Enjoyed Belgian Heritage Tours

tours, church groups and civic organizations. This included Belgian roadside chapel tours as well as tours of the Belgian Heritage Center and the Peninsula Belgian American Club schoolhouse.

Barb (Englebert) Chisholm, our board historian, has been busy all season giving tours to families, private bus

All proceeds and donations benefit the Belgian Heritage Center. If you are interested in booking one of Barb's tours for next year, please arrange in advance for a date in May through October. You may contact Barb Chisholm at: tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org

New Accessibility Lift

The new accessibility lift (located at the East entrance of the Belgian Heritage Center) was installed in August, just in time for the large crowd at the Kermis. We are extremely grateful to the following donors who provided the lift which now allows all visitors to enjoy the Belgian Heritage Center.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

- **Raibrook Foundation, Inc.**
- **Door County Community Foundation, Inc. Sustainability Grant**
- **Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc.**
- **John & Nell Herlache**
- **Glenn Timmerman**

BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

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

Name(s): _____

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- 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



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Dear Supporters –

We are pleased to report that 2017 has been our best year yet. These are a few highlights:

- Launched our first two interactive exhibits – a historic photo gallery and oral histories told in English and Walloon
- Installed a wheelchair lift making the Belgian Heritage Center accessible to everyone
- Increased attendance and net proceeds at all of our events and added a new event commemorating the anniversary of the Great Fire of 1871 (Peshtigo Fire)
- Hosted several private events including Belgian heritage tours/presentation and a wedding

As this year winds down, we are also looking to the future. In 2018, we will be updating our plans and prioritizing new projects. We are working on new features to provide visitors even more about the history of our Belgian community, the Walloon language and genealogy. We will also be installing a wonderful donor recognition display.

After just seven years, we have accomplished so much with the support of our incredibly generous donors and volunteers. We sincerely thank all of you for your contributions, whether it was time, money, stories, photos or support for our events.

Sincerely,

Joe Alexander
Co-Presidents
Belgian Heritage Center
www.belgianheritagecenter.org

Monica Thiry



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

PO Box 173

Brussels WI 54204

Community Discussions for The Future....

OUR MISSION: To preserve and promote our unique Belgian culture, history, and architecture and share the story of the Belgian Settlers in Wisconsin

This is the mission that was decided upon back when the Belgian Heritage Center was established in 2010 and has guided us in our efforts. In just seven years, we have accomplished many of the projects and initiatives we set out to do first. As we continue planning and setting goals for the future, we want to consider questions like: Are there things we could do to support our mission that we haven't identified? What should our priorities be? What are we doing well and what can we improve?

As part of a strategic planning process, we are going to have community discussions of approximately 60 minutes with folks who have feelings 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. This will be an opportunity for you to voice your opinions about the Belgian Heritage Center and how it can best serve our community. If you are interested in participating in one of these discussions, write to Contact@BelgianHeritageCenter.org

If you would like to support the Belgian Heritage Center and our mission to preserve Belgian history and culture, you can send a check to : Belgian Heritage Center, PO Box 173, Brussels WI 54204 -or - donate online at: BelgianHeritageCenter.org

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