



[www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org)

[contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org)

920-825-7319

OCTOBER 2024

## BHC 2024 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

22/23  
NOV

BHC at Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt

29  
NOV

Thanksgiving Sale at BHC/Family Mosaic  
Glass Workshop

30  
NOV

Thanksgiving Sale at BHC

7  
DEC

Christmas Spirits Mosaic Glass Workshop

7/14/21  
DEC

Holiday Shopping/Order Pick-up at BHC

12  
DEC

Griffon String Quartet Holiday Concert

## BHC Course for The Clearing

BHC will conduct a course for The Clearing Folk School at BHC on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from noon-3:00 entitled "Belgian Life on the Door Peninsula and the Great Fire of 1871." Presenters include Capt. David Siegel, Sandy (Lampereur) Orsted and Barb Englebert Chisholm who will present a re-enactment of her great-grandmother's Great Fire survival story. We will cover the history and growth of the Belgian settlements, information about the Great Fire and many stories about the early settlers. Advance reservations are required. Please visit [theclearing.org](http://theclearing.org) or call 920-854-4088 for reservations or information.

Please watch our newsletters, Facebook and [BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://BelgianHeritageCenter.org) for details.  
[contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) and  
920-825-7319

## St. Nick / Christmas Gifts at Christkindlmarkt!

BHC will be at the Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt at Lakehaven Hall in Kewaunee on **November 22-23, 2024**. The Friday market will run from 3:00-9:00 pm and on Saturday from 9:00-4:00. The market is reminiscent of classic European Christmas markets (but completely indoors)! BHC will have a variety of items available for your St. Nick and Christmas shopping needs, including authentic Belgian lace ornaments and new Belgian T-shirts and sweatshirts. The Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt is an annual event sponsored by the Kewaunee Area Chamber of Commerce and is part of a weekend event also featuring a Christmas Stroll of Kewaunee County businesses, a Friday night Holiday Parade of Lights, and a visit from Santa. Come enjoy the event and pick up a few items for those Christmas stockings!

## REMINDER: Mosaic Glass Workshops – November 29 and December 7

Family Mosaic Glass Workshop will be held on **Friday, November 29** from 9:00 until 3:00. Workshop is priced per project and ranges from \$10 - \$20 per item depending on size and complexity.

Christmas Spirits Workshop will be on **Saturday, December 7** at 1:00 and 3:00. Price of \$35 per person includes one suncatcher/ornament, two drinks (wine, craft beer or non-alcoholic beverage) and charcuterie buffet with Renard's cheese and Belgian chocolate. Walk-ins are welcome but reserve early so we can seat your group together. Pre-pay by December 1 and receive a 10% discount. **This session is for adults age 21 and up.**

Call 920-825-7319 or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) for reservations or information.

*BHC's regular weekend hours have come to an end for this season, but we are open for visits and tours by appointment. To schedule a visit, please call 920-825-7319 or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) at least one week before your visit.*

## Thank You, DONORS

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's the perfect time to thank our many supporters. We are awed by the community's generosity - financial donors, raffle and event sponsors, contractor donations, visitors, volunteers and the many people who sent kind messages and words of support. Our sincere thanks to all who contribute to our mission:

*To preserve and share the history and legacy of the immigrants of the Belgian Settlement Area through programs and exhibits on the campus of the Belgian Heritage Center and by facilitating the efforts of others to preserve and share Belgian heritage for future generations.*

BHC's Board of Directors works hard to put donations to good use in support of this mission. Accomplishments in the last year include:

- black top paving of all parking lots and driveways
- construction of Jauquet Media Gallery and installation of video equipment
- construction of back office and storage area
- grading and underground drainage improvements around schoolhouse
- sidewalk improvements around schoolhouse
- relocated St Roch Chapel to more accessible site
- new accessible entrance to schoolhouse
- new welcome sign
- design work for five new outdoor exhibits

This work significantly improved our historic campus and visitor experience, but there is still much work to be done. These are two projects badly needed in 2025. Can you help? BHC welcomes donations of construction materials and financial assistance to make these repairs in the spring. Donors of \$600 or more will be recognized with a plaque installed in the buildings. If interested, please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or call Bill at 920-559-3113.

**Donations can be mailed to Belgian Heritage Center, PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Online donations can be made at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org).** The Belgian Heritage Center is owned and operated by the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

### TLC for St. Roch Votive Chapel

Roadside chapels are a beloved tradition brought to Wisconsin by Belgian immigrants. The chapel honoring St. Roch was recently moved to a new location on the BHC campus to make it more accessible to visitors, but it is in need of significant repairs. "Chapelle Saint Roch" was built in 1915 by Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Jadin on the northern outskirts of Brussels and later moved to what is now the Belgian Heritage Center campus. At almost 110 years old, it needs work on the roof, siding and trim and restoration of its original door and front step. After siding is replaced, it will be painted to restore its original exterior color. Estimated cost of repairs is \$6,000.



### Paint and Trim for the "Old School"

The school/convent at the BHC campus was built in 1894 and has served the Belgian community ever since. Initially a parochial grade school, it was later used for religious education and served as the clubhouse for the Peninsula Belgian American Club. In recent years, windows have been replaced, accessibility has been improved and the inside has been restored to give visitors a look at life in the late 1800's. The exterior needs trim, window caulking and restoration of its original paint scheme and front step. Estimated cost of the repairs is \$17,000.

### Our Amazing Volunteers!

BHC's work is accomplished by a dedicated and hardworking group of volunteers. They do everything from construction and maintenance, exhibit development and curating, content development for our website, newsletter, YouTube and Facebook, conducting tours and presentations, Walloon language preservation and the day to day management of BHC operations. Events like our Kermis, Waffle Breakfast, Booyah and Raffles are made possible by volunteers. We cannot thank them enough for the work they do to advance our mission!



## Holiday Shopping at BHC

Looking for St. Nick or Christmas gifts for your favorite Belgians? BHC can help! We have a wonderful selection of books, flags, apparel, ornaments, Belgian lace, chocolate, custom art glass and more! BHC will be open on these dates for shopping and order pick-up:

Friday, November 29 9:00 - 3:00  
Saturday, November 30 9:00 - 3:00  
Saturday, December 7 9:00 - 1:00  
Thursday, December 12 5:30 - 6:30  
Saturday, December 14 9:00 - noon  
Saturday, December 21 9:00 - noon

### NEW Belgian-American Apparel

BHC now has the Belgian American Friendship Flag design in crew neck sweatshirts (\$32), long sleeved t-shirts (\$25) and short-sleeved t-shirts (\$15). Sweatshirts are heather gray; both t-shirts are solid gray. Adult sizes M-2XL.

Show your Belgian pride and Walloon and Flemish roots with these t-shirts for just \$15. Adult sizes M-2XL.

**Belgian chocolate bars are back!** Large (3.2 oz) bars made by a Belgian chocolatier in the US are available in a variety of flavors for \$4. Get your St. Nick treats and support BHC at the same time.



You can view our full catalog on the Merchandise tab at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org). Orders for pick-up at BHC or via USPS delivery can be placed by emailing [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org).



**SAMPLE IMAGES – CUSTOM ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE  
MAY VARY**







## New Children's Book - Fr. Looney's Christmas Stories

BHC is thrilled to offer a new book by Fr. Edward Looney. Fr. Looney's Christmas Stories will bring new meaning to your celebration of Christmas and Epiphany, imagining the birth of Jesus and the Holy Family's journey to Egypt. Cost is \$12.

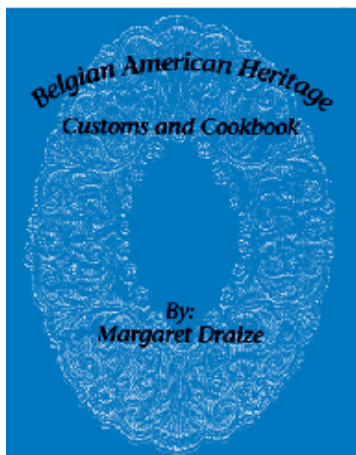
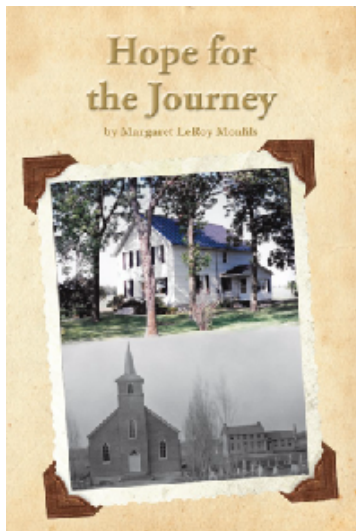
## Belgian Heritage Christmas Collection – Special Holiday Offer

To encourage people to learn more about their heritage, BHC is offering an incredible deal on our exclusive collection of Belgian history books. The three-book set includes important works by Belgian authors that together cover the history, traditions and experiences of our ancestors. **Francois** is the life story of a Belgian immigrant from the time his family decided to come to America, through the heartbreaks and successes of making a life in a new land. **Hope for the Journey** shares the story of four generations living and working together at the LeRoy homestead – experiences common to many Belgians as they kept the home

farm in the family over multiple generations. **Belgian American Heritage Customs and Cookbook** takes the reader through a whole year of cooking, traditions, old sayings, seasonal cuisine, canning ideas, home remedies. Bought separately, these books cost \$44.

The collection is available now for just \$30.

**This is a limited offer ending December 31, 2024.**



## Story of a Historic Treasure – the Jadin Granary



One of the most unique granaries in our local Belgian settlement, if not the state, is little known but carries the history of its family and Belgian settlers as a whole. The brick structure was crafted by Belgian immigrant Jean Baptiste Jadin, born in 1858 in the Warisoulx-Meux area of Belgium. He came to America in 1870 with his wife Hortense (Chantinne), settling in the town of Union on what is now Ledge Road.

Though the exact year of construction is unknown, it's likely that the all-brick building was built in the years immediately following the Great Fire. It was a slightly later addition to the farm, which at that time included a small log structure that once served as the settler's cabin but became a small barn/chicken coop, a much larger log home that has since been sided over for modern appearances, and two larger timber and board barns, now covered with red steel and in still in use.

The layout and construction of the brick granary reflect its intention not as a dwelling, but a farm building. Large sweeping brick arches decorate the wide door entries on both the north and south sides of the building. Interior layout of both brick and timber divide the granary into two separate storage areas with an open center, each accessible from both the interior and exterior for filling with grain, often wheat or oats in the earlier years. A wagon could easily be pulled straight through the center of building for ease of loading and unloading.

To fully appreciate the granary, one must look back at the family's history.

J.B. Jadin--known as Baptiste (or "Butt" as commonly pronounced) with the help of his wife and children, built up and farmed in that location his entire life before passing the farm to his children. Son Jule actively farmed that ground from young on, alongside his father.

Jule (1876-1904) and Louisa (Kinnard) Jadin (married 1899) had three young boys (as well as a daughter b/d 1901 who did not survive). They were: Mose (b. 1900), Adam (b.1902), and Alfred (Fred) (b. 1903) at the time of tragedy in the field directly behind the granary.



According to first-hand recollection from direct descendants Ervin Jadin and Mildred (Jadin) Granius, Jule was hooking a drag to his horse team when something spooked the horses and they ran out of control. The young farmer was dragged much of the length of the field, suffering injuries to which he succumbed several days later. A photo of his three young boys was taken just after the accident, as the photographer had been scheduled. Louisa went on to marry Jules' brother Jean Baptiste Jr in 1910, six years after the tragedy. The elder J.B. passed in 1920.

The family continued to work the land. Adam farmed just down the road at the corner of Ledge and Tru-Way Roads. Mose farmed in Brussels, and Fred took ownership and ran this farmstead.

The granary was and is the only brick building on the farmstead. It remained in the Jadin family for several generations. Then, it was purchased from the Jadin's by Raymond and Jennie (Derenne) Baudhuin, also Belgian farmers nearby, and then passed through the family, now under care of Bruce & Pamela (Renier) Alberts, continuing the farm tradition. The actual Jadin home has sold multiple times over the years and is no longer part of the farmstead ownership, but the two larger barns and the granary remain. The original cabin-turned-coop, which was located in the center of the property, has long been gone.

Sad though it is, stories like that are shared by so many local families whose ancestors did hard and often dangerous work to make an honest living. How many other stories could this old granary tell? Handwritten pencil notes on the inner walls and beams record information on the loads of grain put-up there over the years. An inner wooden staircase leading to the upper grain storage no longer survives but the majority of the remainder of the structure is intact. The large doors on either side have rotted away and been patched and/or replaced, as well as the addition of a new metal roof. More repair will soon be needed to shore up brickwork damaged by recent storms. But rest assured the building remains in good hands, with the Alberts family in contact with the state historical society. The out-of-the-way brick granary and its history will not soon be forgotten.



**PENCIL NOTES ON THE INNER WALLS AND BEAMS**

### Historic Building Preservation Tax Credits

Tax credits are available for historic preservation of commercial buildings and private residences. For information, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/taxcredits](http://wisconsinhistory.org/taxcredits) or contact Paul Porter at the Wisconsin Historical Society at (608) 264-6491 or [paul.porter@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:paul.porter@wisconsinhistory.org).



### Griffon String Quartet Holiday Concert – December 12

BHC is delighted to welcome back Midsummer Music's Griffon String Quartet to play a Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm. Last year, the audience was enthralled with the musicality and talent of the Quartet, so be assured it will be another amazing performance. The members of the Quartet include: Roy Meyer, violin; Oryann Tsaig, viola; Alex Norris, violin; Jesse Nummelin, cello.

Doors open at 5:30 pm, general admission. The concert is free, however donations will go to the musicians. Refreshments, including beer/wine/soda and water will be available for purchase.





## Walloon Language FAQ's

We often hear people give different explanations for the evolution of Walloon in Wisconsin. Dr. Kelly Biers at the University of North Carolina-Ashville has extensively studied Walloon in Belgium and Wisconsin. We asked him to answer the most common questions.

### Is Walloon a dialect of French or its own language?

Walloon is its own language! It is a sister language of French. They both developed at the same time from Latin.

### Is Walloon spoken in Belgium? How commonly?

Yes! It is spoken in **Southern Belgium**. There are four dialectal regions. The variety spoken in Wisconsin comes from the **Namur** and the **Brabant** regions. Today, it is mostly only the eldest population that speaks Walloon regularly, although there are efforts to maintain the language in some families. These efforts have been more successful in the eastern **Liège** dialect.

### Is Walloon a written language in Belgium?

Yes! However, it didn't start that way. Originally, Walloon was just a spoken language. Anything that needed to be written was written in French (although most Belgians had no need for writing until school became mandatory, and so not all Belgians could read or even speak French, even if they largely understood it). A writing system for Walloon was developed in 1900, and it is based on French spelling conventions. This was well after the main period of immigration to Wisconsin (1850s), and during a period when contact between Belgium and Wisconsin was much less frequent. The Belgians in Wisconsin never really knew that their language had developed a written system, but again, they didn't really need one. Any writing that needed to be done was in English, and Walloon worked just fine as a spoken language to be used at home and in the community.

### Correspondence to Belgian settlers from their families in Belgium is in French (though not necessarily proper French) – what is the reason for this?

Since Walloon wasn't written until 1900, any literate Belgians (most Walloons of this time were farmers who had no need for reading and writing) would have done their writing in French, which by this time had started to become the dominant language of business, school, government, church, etc. So, letters had to be

written in French. However, you can often see Walloon influence in the way Belgians wrote their letters. This is one of the reasons that people mistake Walloon for "bad French."

### Why is Walloon spoken differently by different groups in Wisconsin?

The exact reasons for language variation in Wisconsin is still something that is under study, but the answer is very likely some combination of the following:

- The immigrants who came from Belgium didn't all come from the same village, and there are documented differences in dialects of the villages from which they emigrated. For example, it is well known that some Wisconsin Walloon speakers pronounce "bread" as pauynh and some pronounce it as pwanh. Those two pronunciations are both documented in Belgian Walloon, from slightly different regions! So it is very plausible (but not yet confirmed), that those speakers' ancestors came from villages with those pronunciations.
- Early Wisconsin Belgians were fairly remote from each other. They did interact regularly, but perhaps some had less frequent contact with others. Language evolves naturally from one generation to the next, so it is possible that some families developed their own unique pronunciations of some words.
- Some Wisconsin Belgians learned French, and so their Walloon may have been slightly influenced by French, just like in Belgium. Josephine Wautlet's manual shows some evidence of French influence (at least in the spellings).

### Are there are other pockets of Walloon speakers? Where are they?

The Wisconsin settlement was and remains the largest Walloon settlement in the Americas. There was another small settlement in Superior, WI that formed largely from refugees from the Peshtigo fire. Some settled in Green Bay. Some of the early settlers never left New York. I am unaware of the Walloon language persisting in any of these places.

*Dr. Biers is looking for songs, stories and recipes that could be translated to Walloon or transcribed in the Wisconsin Walloon project sponsored by BHC. If you have any suggestions, please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org).*

BHC helps preserve the Walloon language through oral histories posted on our YouTube channel. There are many wonderful stories told in English and repeated in Walloon, including the examples shown. Please visit to learn our history in the immigrant's original language.





## Wallonie Wisconsin Society 50th Anniversary

In September, the Peninsula Belgian American Club celebrated a momentous anniversary alongside its sister club, the Wallonie Wisconsin Society, with a visit to Belgium. This enduring relationship, established in 1972, exemplifies the power of cultural heritage and the dedication to preserving connections across generations. Since Walloon visitors first traveled to Wisconsin in 1975, led by then-president Jacques Jacqmot and his wife Jacqueline, the commitment to nurturing ties between Belgian-Americans and their Belgian relatives has remained steadfast. Jacques Jacqmot, who still serves as president, symbolizes the deep loyalty shared by both clubs. This year marks an impressive 50 years of mutual dedication to strengthening bonds and honoring shared roots between American Belgians and their Belgian counterparts.

Our hospitable Belgian friends from the sister club, Wallonie Wisconsin, organized group excursions in Belgium to historic cemeteries, museums, including the Red Star Line museum and a guided bus tour of the Antwerp port, churches, a chocolate shop and towns that our ancestors lived in, among others. They partnered with the l'Office de Tourisme de Grez-Doiceau to showcase that region, including visiting a castle in Pietrebaix complete with the only surviving Belgian Dovecote, a vineyard, chocolate cafe, and church. The last day of the trip was a party celebrating the 50 years of the Wallonie Wisconsin Society, with a tasty meal and concert by the Jack Gondry et His New Music, a group that plays music by Glen Miller. American visitors were presented with birth, death or marriage certificates from some of their ancestors. Willy Monfils created a display about the history of the club and the people involved, from both countries. We are grateful for the warm hospitality from our cousins in Belgium.



*"WILLY MONFILS (RIGHT OF EXHIBITS FACING CAMERA) SHARES HIS WORK WITH GUESTS."*

## Help Us Manage Newsletter Cost

If you would like to save the cost to BHC to print and mail your newsletter, we will send it to you via email or you can see the content on our Facebook page. If you are interested, please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or contact us through Facebook. Donations to offset the cost of newsletter production and delivery (\$10 per year per person) are greatly appreciated.

## Belgian Heritage Center Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at [www.belgianheritagecenter.org](http://www.belgianheritagecenter.org) (PayPal and major credit cards accepted).

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

## CHRISTMAS PAST

Strings of popcorn and candles were traditional Christmas tree decorations in the late 1800's and early 1900's. This 1910 photo of sisters Mary and Irene Shinnick in their home near Casco offers a glimpse of traditional Christmas decorations, toys and home furnishings of that era.

Do you have photos or stories of the past? Please help BHC preserve our history by adding your photos and stories to our collection.

