



# BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

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

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

920-825-7319

SEPTEMBER 2024

## BHC 2024 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

5 OCT Great Fire Remembrance at BHC 10am

8 OCT BHC at Miracle of the Fire Remembrance at National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

11 OCT Hunters Raffle Drawing (Facebook Live)

22/23 NOV BHC at Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt

29 NOV Thanksgiving Sale/Family Mosaic Glass Workshop

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

## Great Fire of 1871 Remembrances

A remembrance of the Great Fire of 1871 will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 10:00 at the Belgian Heritage Center. The day will include a re-enactment of the experiences of Emmerence Gaspard Englebert, a Great Fire survivor, by her great-granddaughter, Barb Englebert Chisholm and a talk by Captain David Siegel of the Green Bay Metro Fire Department about the unusual nature of the Great Fire and why it was so deadly for so many.



BHC will also present a series of talks about the Great Fire at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion on Tuesday, October 8 as part of the Miracle of the Fire remembrance. Presentations include the re-enactment by Barb Englebert Chisholm and talks by Captain David Siegel and Sandy Lampereur Orsted about the devastation of fire and its effect on economic development of the Belgian settlements. As of this writing, event details are not yet finalized. Watch for more information at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org) or [championshrine.org](http://championshrine.org).

The Great Fire was a historically significant event that transformed the Belgian settlements. Everyone is welcome at both events and there is no admission required. We especially encourage students and anyone who wants to learn more about the Great Fire to attend.

If you can't join us at BHC, we invite you to learn about the Great Fire at the BHC YouTube channel, [youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter](https://youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter).

Please watch our newsletters, Facebook and [BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://BelgianHeritageCenter.org) for details.

**Correction from last issue:** The caption for the photo of Ben and Anna's bar incorrectly identified Ben's father. His father is Alphonse Renard. We apologize for the error.

# Thank You, Kermis Supporters!

BHC extends a huge thank you to the many people who supported our annual Kermis on August 18. We are very grateful to everyone who attended or supported the event through cash sponsorships, raffle donations, food donations and especially those who volunteered their time to make the event a huge success. In addition to celebrating Belgian heritage, the Kermis is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The money raised is used to continue our mission to preserve Belgian history and culture. We are truly blessed to have such generous community support!



Joe Alexander accepts a \$6,190 check from Destination Door County to create Outdoor Exhibits at BHC



Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction featured over 100 donated prizes; winners are posted on Facebook



Giants grace the entrance to the BHC during the Kermis

## Get Your Hunter's Raffle Tickets! 2024 Features over 50 prizes with value exceeding \$14,000!

The list of prizes for this year's Hunter's Raffle continues to grow! Not only is this our largest ticket ever, with 18 firearms, a crossbow, and smoker grill, but more than 50 total prizes will be awarded. In addition to the 39 prizes printed on the ticket, donations have also come in from Milton Propane, Kwik Trip, Morning Glory Restaurant, Badger State Brewing, Dollar General, Charapata Seed Sales, and Stodola's IGA.

Grab your tickets from the BHC, from any board member, or at the following sales locations: Steel Wheel Saloon (Namur), Rocky Ridge Shooter's Supply (Oconto Falls), The Blue Spruce (Spruce/Oconto Co), Tisch Mills Farm Center (Tisch Mills), and Royal Razor Hair Studio (New Franken). Contact us at [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or 920-825-7319 if you need tickets or would like to serve as a sales location. Ticket cost is \$10 each; 3 for \$20; or 20 for \$100.

### BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER HUNTER'S RAFFLE \$10 EACH 3 FOR \$20 OR 20 FOR \$100

DRAWING FRIDAY, OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 AT BHC VIA FB LIVE • 1255 COUNTY DK, BRUSSELS, WI 54204

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - Colt King Cobra Target .357 Magnum (Peters Concrete)                  | 19 <sup>th</sup> - Yeti Tundra 35 Extreme Cooler (John & Polly Alberts)                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Henry Brass .45 - 70 Side Gate (Jeff LeGrave/Bruce Alberts)           | 20 <sup>th</sup> - Winchester Wildcat .22LR OD Green (Dan & Michelle Lodahl)                             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Smith & Wesson 686 Stainless .357 Mag (JJ Excavating/Jason Jeanquart) | 21 <sup>st</sup> - H&R Pardner Walnut 12-GA (Rocky Ridge Shooters Supply/Kristin Alberts)                |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> - Browning A-Bolt Hunter .30-06 (Buhr Construction/Tim Buhr)            | 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Vortex Crossfire Red Dot LED Optic (Vortex Optics)                                    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> - Ruger American Gen2 Ranch .223/5.56 (Theresa Alexander Family)        | 23 <sup>rd</sup> - NWTF Framed Canvas Turkey Artwork (Cat, Fred & Henry Toutloff)                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> - Browning BPS Field 12-Gauge (Anonymous Donor)                         | 24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> - Barronett Radar Hunting Blind (Ardisam, Inc)                       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> - Ruger American Heartland .22 (Kristin Alberts/Larry Renier)           | 26 <sup>th</sup> - Browning Cellular Trail Cam (Rich Price/Price Financial Grp)                          |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> - Wicked Ridge M370 Crossbow w/AccuDraw (Dan & Michelle Lodahl)         | 27 <sup>th</sup> - Leupold BX-1 10x Binoculars (Tisch Mills Farm Center)                                 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> - Taurus Tracker .44 Magnum (Kelly & Jo Chaudoir/Kevin & Amy Moore)     | 28 <sup>th</sup> - \$100 Cabelas Gift Certificate (Mei Mei Yip)  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> - Winchester SXP Turkey Limited 20-Gauge (J Jadin Inc)                 | 29 <sup>th</sup> - Wildlife Food Plot Package (Rio Creek Feed Mill)                                      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> - Savage Axis XP Camo Scoped .270 Win (Badger Tiling)                  | 30 <sup>th</sup> - Horny Buck Seed Company Prize Pack (Doug Kosteva Family)                              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> - Beretta APX A1 OD Green 9mm (Massart Electric)                       | 31 <sup>st</sup> - Lodge Enameled Cast Iron Dutch Oven (Pam Alberts)                                     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> - Beretta APX A1 Carry 9mm (Hanmann Milling)                           | 32 <sup>nd</sup> - 33 <sup>rd</sup> - \$50 Marchants Meats GC (Marchants Meats & Sausage - Sturgeon Bay) |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> - S&W SD9 2.0 Stainless 9mm (Travis Price Masonry & Plastering)        | 34 <sup>th</sup> - \$50 Cabelas GC (Mike Pribyl/LG Seeds)  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> - Savage 93R17 Scoped 17 HMR (Tim & Barb Baudhuin)                     | 35 <sup>th</sup> - \$50 Fleet Farm GC (Marty Baudhuin)   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> - Rock Island Armory 410 Pump Camo (Portside Builders)                 | 36 <sup>th</sup> - 37 <sup>th</sup> - Country Visions \$50 GC Prize Pack (Country Visions Cooperative)   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> - Mauser 1911 .22LR Pistol (DeClark Plumbing)                          | 38 <sup>th</sup> - Handmade Deer Antler Walking Stick (John & Barb Maskell)                              |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> - Pit Boss Pellet Grill (Dan & Michelle Lodahl)                        | 39 <sup>th</sup> - Hunter's Goodie Basket (Rocky Ridge Shooter's Supply)                                 |

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

MORE PRIZES TO BE ADDED!

LIC. #0036981-A-50905

## Jutt or Ratatoi?

During Kermis we are often asked if jutt contains potatoes. There are many opinions on this subject, but here are the recipes from Margaret Draize's **Belgian American Heritage Customs and Cookbook**.

**Jutt** – Savory is best for this. Boil a head of cabbage until tender, drain, allow to cool so you can handle it with your hands. Squeeze dry and reheat and cut up in a pan with 2 or 3 tablespoons of sidepork drippings and maybe a little butter. Add salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste.

**Ratatoi of Cabbage** – Put peeled and quartered potatoes in a sauce pan, cover with water, add cabbage cut up in big pieces and a chopped onion, salt, pepper and a tablespoon of side pork drippings. Cook until potatoes are crumbling. Stir with spoon to break up big pieces but don't mash fine.

Belgian American Heritage Customs and Cookbook is available exclusively at BHC for \$20. Call 920-825-7319 or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) to order.

## Back to School – in the 1910's

Returning to school has long been part of our fall ritual. These photos from the 1910's are among dozens featured in BHC's School Days video available at [youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter](https://youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter).



School at Little Sturgeon, 1910



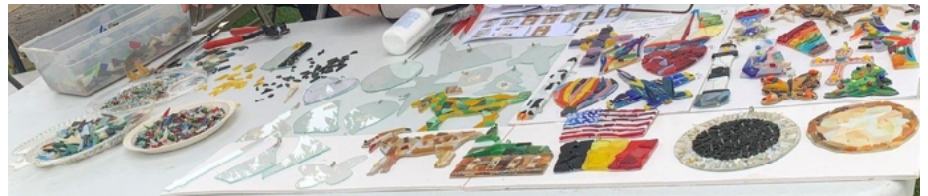
San Sauveur School, Lincoln/Red River 1915. Teacher is Guy H. Birdsall (his initials appear on the image). Top Row: Willie Fabry, Jule DeMeuse, Joe LeFevre, Sadie Desell, Eva Flavion, Angeline Thayse, Carrie Albert. Second Row: Louis Fabry, Louise Cesar, Elsie Albert, Mabel Noel, Miriam DeMeuse, Mary Thayse, Lawrence Fabry, Fred Routhieaux, Willie Van Bever, Ernest Englebert. Bottom Row: Bertha LeCaptain, John Albert, Alex Gilson, Louise DeBauche, Mathilda Thayse, Lucy Routhieaux, Louise DeGrave, Mary Cesar, Elmer Albert, Willie Routhieaux, Raymond Gilson, Henry Englebert.

Brussels Grade School 1910



## Mosaic Glass Workshops

BHC will host two mosaic glass workshops this fall. Participants will create stained glass mosaic suncatchers using pre-cut shapes such as butterfly, heart, flag, Christmas tree, circles, etc. and precut stained glass chips in various sizes, shapes and limitless colors. This workshop will allow you to create your own custom art to hang in your window, use as an ornament or give as a gift. Sessions are led by Gary Chaudoir of Chaudoir Glass Studio in Sister Bay. Gary's popular workshops have been featured at fairs and festivals for over 15 years, including BHC. **Seating is limited and reservations are strongly encouraged for both workshops. Call 920-825-7319 or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) for reservations or information.**



## Family Workshop Friday, November 29

Bring the whole family to BHC the day after Thanksgiving for a mosaic glass workshop designed for all ages. Workshop is priced per project and ranges from \$10 - \$20 per item depending on size and complexity.



## "New Event"

## Christmas Spirits Workshop Saturday, December 7

Gather your friends for a little Christmas spirit (and spirits) as you create your mosaic glass masterpieces. This workshop includes one suncatcher/ornament, two drinks (wine, craft beer or non-alcoholic beverage) and charcuterie buffet with Belgian chocolate for a price of \$35 per person. All participants will be eligible for a special drawing to win a little extra Christmas cheer. Two seatings are available at 1:00 and 3:00. Walk-ins are welcome but reserve early so we can seat your group together. Pre-pay your reservation by December 1 and receive a 10% discount.

**This session is for adults age 21 and up.**

## Bay Settlement Belgians of Willamette Valley, Oregon

Some of the early Belgian settlers in Northeast Wisconsin later made their way west as opportunities in the New World continued to arise. Coming from a country known for great beer, it seems fitting that hops picking became just such an opportunity for a group of Belgians from Bay Settlement.

By the 1870's there was great demand for hops which was used at that time for bread making and medicinal purposes as well as making beer. Willamette Valley in Oregon became the one of the largest and finest quality producers of hops in the US. One story suggests that it was brought to Oregon by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from Antwerp in 1844. The Belgian immigrants and family members pictured below made their way from the Bay Settlement area to Portland Oregon in the 1880's hoping to take advantage of a "hops boom".



Pictured, from top left:

1. Joe Vanderbeck
2. Wilbert Garrow
3. Sylvester Manning
4. Alphonse Vanderbeck
5. Joe Nys, Jr.
6. Fred Manning
7. Johnny DeJardin
8. Mr. Wilquot
9. Alice Manning
10. Dennis Manning
11. Unidentified
12. Jose Manning
13. Sarah DeJardin
14. Melanie Frohn Rubens
15. Georgian DeJardin
16. Emily Vanderbeck
17. Theresa Vanderbeck
18. Jean Duffeler – Lebbecke, East Flanders
19. Joe Nyes, Sr. - Meldert, Vlaams Brabant Province
20. Basil Dejardin - Genval, Brabant, Belgium
21. Joe Garrow - Nodebais, Brabant Wallon (Oconto)
22. Henry Rubens - Pietrebais, Brabant Wallon
23. Maggie Nys
24. Fannie Bierwart Vanderbeck
25. Edna Garrow
26. Mary Nys
27. Mrs. Joe Nys, Sr.
28. Unidentified
29. Unidentified
30. Unidentified
31. Alphonse Vanderbeck, Sr. – Archennes, Brabant Wallon
32. Unidentified
33. Gabe Vanderbeck
34. Goldie Frohn
35. Antoine Dejardin – Rixensart, Brabant
36. Unidentified
37. Amelia (DeConnick) Duffeler - Sint Gillis Dendermonde, East Flanders
38. Mr. Orth



Hops Pickers in Willamette Valley, circa 1900 photo courtesy Oregon Historical Photo Collection, Salem Public Library

Information for this article courtesy of Friends of Butteville ([butteville.org](http://butteville.org)) and Brian Martin, great-great-grandson of Jean Duffeler.

# Great Midwest Fires of 1871

By David Siegel, Green Bay Metro Fire Department (retired)

From the evening of October 8, 1871 through the next morning, enormous fires devastated Northeast Wisconsin. Best known for the massive loss of life in Peshtigo, the inferno also ravaged many other communities on both sides of the bay in Brown, Oconto, Kewaunee and Door counties. Flames even reached the outskirts of the City of Green Bay. At the same time, several forest fires destroyed even larger areas of the lower peninsula of Michigan and as well as several communities there. On the same night, the even better known Great Chicago Fire destroyed about 10,000 buildings and killed several hundred people.

Specific weather conditions led to the multiple, simultaneous and massive fires. The previous winter had low snowfall, while the spring through fall had been dry. By October many inland marshes had gone dry, forests and fields were ripe for fire.

Per an 1876 history, for two months before the October 8 disaster, the entire region suffered from many smaller fires. Throughout the woods, fields and homesteads, small smoldering fires burned — left unextinguished by railroad construction, lumber harvest, field clearing and everyday activities. These abundant, small fires generated so much smoke that ships transiting the Bay of Green Bay during mid-day used fog horns to avoid collisions and steered by compass. Occasionally small fires flared up, resulting in some property loss, but nothing catastrophic. For example, on September 20 flames destroyed 20 miles of telegraph lines. To counter the danger, during calm days people deliberately conducted controlled burns to eliminate flammable material near their farms and homes.

Mostly significantly, in the afternoon of October 8 a strong wind developed. In 1871, government agencies kept accurate weather reports which reflect a weather front moving through the Upper Midwest generating a strong, sustained straight-line wind from the southwest driving to the northeast. These winds stoked the numerous small smoldering fires into larger fires, feeding on the abundant dry flammable material. These resulting fires combined and grew into larger fires that further combined — creating a firestorm.

A firestorm is a devastating combination of weather and fire forces. In addition to the strong straight-line wind, the heat generated by the fire moves in the same direction as does the bellows-effect of air drawn in to feed the flames. These three

factors — wind, heat, bellows — merge in the same direction to drive the heat and flames at ground level, across the ground, as if a massive blow torch was pointed across along the land. As more material burned, the firestorm effect became stronger.



*Bella French, "The American Sketch Book," 1876*  
Darkened areas show areas affected by the firestorm.  
The strong wind drove from southwest (lower left) to northeast (upper right). Many smaller fires grew and combined resulting in the massive firestorms.



David Siegel

A firestorm is a truly massive force of nature. In flat areas such as Northeast Wisconsin, this firestorm front was estimated to move as fast as one mile a minute — 60 miles per hour. One survivor described the flame front moving, "faster than a racehorse." These forces carried burning debris far beyond, starting more fires in the dry forest, thereby creating more heat and bellows effect. The firestorm grew rapidly and destroyed anything in its path including farms, homes and villages.

A firestorm is a fickle phenomenon and the science is only partially understood. It will flow and rage in one area, while falter and diminish, sometimes only yards away. Minor variations in topography seem to dramatically alter the path. Many survivors described seeing flames destroy and kill within easy visual range. Outside Marinette, one witness described how small sand hills created "two branches" of the fire. The mill site of Williamsonville in Door County lay just beyond two modest hills that funneled the flames, killing 57 people there.

The 1871 firestorm destroyed massive areas while leaving pockets and small areas relatively unscathed. Beyond the destruction, the human calamity exceeded any other before or since in Northeast Wisconsin.

## House that Survived the Great Fire

The Neuville homestead in Gardner was settled by Jacque and Marie (Lalune) Neuville. Jacque was born in 1840 in Liernu and Marie was born in 1844 in Grand-Leez; both immigrated to the US in 1856 and married in 1863. Their stone house survived the Great Fire of 1871. The house is pictured below in 1905 with the family of Jacque and Marie's son, Isidore. In 1896, Isidore married Oralee Virlee, the daughter of Antoine and Rachel (Bonnett) Virlee.



*Neuville homestead*

Pictured from left: Isidore, Oralee holding Mose, Bill, Esther (later Mallien), dog Puppy, horse King, Cyril and horse Tag. Missing are sons Clarence and Anton who were at school. The house is still standing. Thanks to Evangeline (Mallien) Alberts and Larry Mallien for providing the photo and information.

## 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.

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## Belgian Heritage Center Donation Form

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

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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*



Belgian Heritage Center  
PO Box 173  
Brussels, WI 54204

BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

## Thank you CFL Chapter 180 - Maplewood!

Since 2015, the leaders of Catholic Financial Life Chapter 180 Maplewood have supported the BHC Kermis. They conduct 50/50 raffles, donate desserts and contribute funding to support BHC. To date, Catholic Financial Life has donated and raised over \$5,000 for BHC. And, they made many lucky raffle winners very happy! We are extremely grateful for their support.

*Front from Left: Dianne Uecker, Dolores Krueger, Suzi O'Hern.*

*Back: Lori Kruswick and Toni Rozek*

*Leaders Not Pictured: Judy Bochek, Sonya Jorns and Anthony O'Hern*

