



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

JULY 2024

## BHC 2024 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

- 13  
JUL

Belgian Days Bus Tours and Booth
- 25  
JUL

BHC Night at Northern Sky Theater
- 18  
AUG

BHC Kermis
- 14  
SEPT

Bookmobile, Books and Booyah
- 5  
OCT

Great Fire Remembrance at BHC
- 8  
OCT

Great Fire Remembrance at National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion
- 11  
OCT

Hunters Raffle Drawing (Facebook Live)
- 29  
NOV

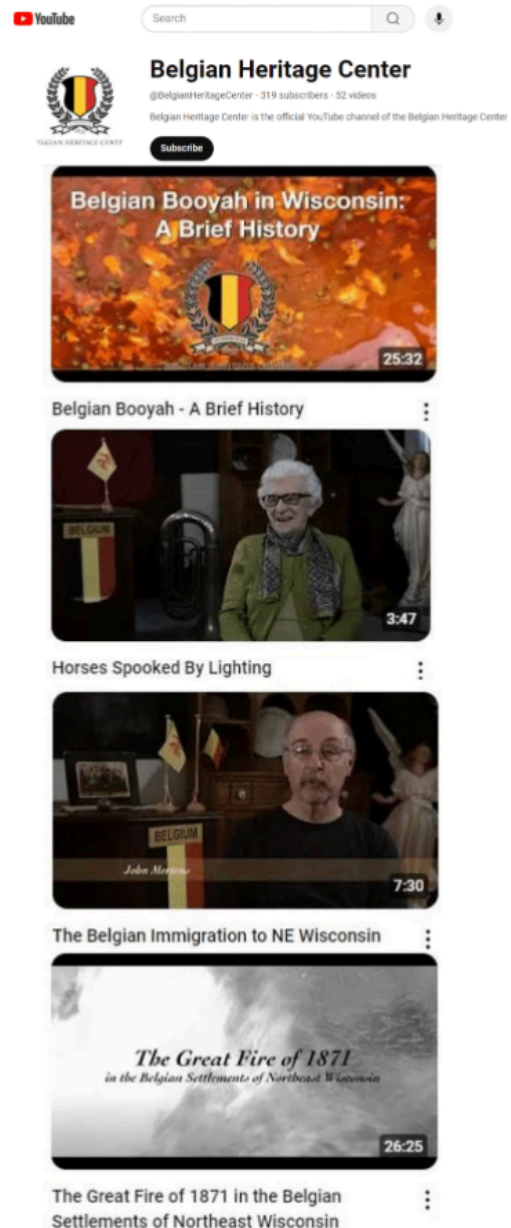
Thanksgiving Sale/Mosaic Workshop
- 7  
DEC

Mosaic Glass Workshop/Wine and Cheese Sampling
- 12  
DEC

Griffon String Quartet Holiday Concert

**Have you subscribed to BHC on YouTube?**

BHC's YouTube channel offers a wide variety of stories and information about the Belgian Settlements. A new video is posted every two weeks.



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

# Kermis Time!

Join us on Sunday, August 18 for our annual Kermis from 11:00 to 4:00 at the Belgian Heritage Center. The traditional harvest celebration will include:

- Live music from the popular band Mad Cats
- Historic farm implement display and demonstrations
- Tours of the restored school/convent
- Historical Exhibits and Displays
- Silent Auction and Raffles

There will be plenty of booyah, trippe, jutt, burgers, Belgian pies and tortes, and cold beverages including craft beers from Noble Roots and Thumb Knuckle breweries. Don't miss this great chance to experience Belgian tradition and reconnect with your Belgian roots!



## 2024 BHC Raffle Highlights

Support BHC and win big this year! There are many ways to win.

It's not too late to donate. We'd be happy to coordinate pick-up, or donations can be mailed or dropped off during Center hours (Fri-Sun 10-3). Kermis items should be received no later than Friday Aug 16<sup>th</sup>.

**KERMIS BUCKET RAFFLE:** BHC is pleased to offer affordable bucket raffle tickets for nearly 100 prizes. From unique gift baskets to replica tractors, gift certificates, wine tastings, beer, cheese, and event tickets, to one-of-a-kind handmade items--the Bucket Raffle is sure to please!

**KERMIS SILENT AUCTION:** The Silent Auction will be bigger than ever with a mix of both high-end and budget-friendly options including: Original artwork, signed GB Packers football, Belgian-themed items, and so much more!

**BOOZY BOTTLE RAFFLE:** Pick a card from the deck at the Kermis for a chance to win a cooler overflowing with some of the finest adult beverages this side of Fairland!

**NEW for 2024: MYSTERY TREASURE SAFE RAFFLE:** Buy a \$10 ticket for the chance to win a Winchester 20-Gun Fire Safe filled with over \$1,000 in treasures including: Firearms from Beretta & Winchester, Jewelry, Luxury and Leisure Gift Certificates, Hunter's Raffle tickets, and more. The safe is not just for guns – it has a superior fire rating and is great for any valuables. Limited to 400 tickets. Winner gets the safe, the combination, and all the loot! Tickets are on sale at BHC or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org).

**HUNTER'S RAFFLE:** Our highly-anticipated Hunter's Raffle tickets will go on sale by Belgian Days weekend. For 2024, the tickets are packed with over \$13,000 in prizes! We expect the limited number of tickets printed to sell quickly, so be sure to get yours! In addition to BHC, tickets can be found at sales locations throughout Door, Brown, and Oconto counties.

Visit our website  
[www.belgianheritagecenter.org](http://www.belgianheritagecenter.org)  
and follow us on Facebook for  
more information about the  
Kermis and Hunter's Raffles.

## 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

## BHC Storytellers and Displays at Northern Sky Theater July 25th

BHC will be at Northern Sky Theater in Peninsula State Park on Thursday, July 25 during the double feature of *Hell's Belgians* and *Belgians in Heaven*. Join us as we bring our story of the Belgian settlements to Northern Door! For more information and to purchase tickets in advance please visit <https://northernskytheater.com/2024-season/>

**Planning to attend these shows? Consider offering a ride to family and friends who may appreciate a chance to attend.**



Doc Heide of Northern Sky Theater gets a Walloon lesson from Arlene Jadin and Theresa Alexander.

## Bookmobile, Books & Booyah – Saturday, September 14

BHC will welcome the Door County Bookmobile and a wonderful gathering of authors on Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 to 2:00. Visitors can tour the newly renovated Bookmobile and learn about the important role it played in our rural communities from 1964 to 1990. Authors of some of our favorite books will be on hand for conversation and book signings. To top it off, you can take home some of BHC's famous booyah!



Fr. Edward Looney: author of *Little Chapels*, *Grateful Hearts* and *The Story of Sister Adele and Our Lady of Champion* and creator of the movie *Faith Along the Road: The Belgian Roadside Chapels of Northeastern Wisconsin*

David Siegel: author of *Forces of Change: Events That Led to the Development of the Green Bay Fire Department, 1836–1895* and a frequent guest speaker at BHC about the Great Fire

Louise Endres Moore: author of *Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman*

Christine DeSmet: author of Fudge Shop Mystery series, including *First-Degree Fudge*, set in Door County.

Virginia Johnson: author of *When the Night Rained Fire – October 8, 1871 Kewaunee County and the Great Fire* and *Here Comes the Mail – A History of Kewaunee County Post Offices*

## Return of the Giants!

BHC and the Peninsula Belgian American Club are bringing back an ancient Belgian tradition. Thanks to help from Southern Door High School, the giants that first paraded through “downtown” Brussels in 1985 have been restored and will make an appearance at Belgian Days on July 13 and the BHC Kermis on August 18. The giants were a gift to PBAC by people who came from Belgium to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the biennial exchange visits.

The tradition of Belgian processional giants goes back centuries and is recognized by UNESCO on its lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Giants represented various mythical, biblical or local characters. Our female giant represents Jacqueline de Croy, called Quiquine del Vi Tchestia (Jacqueline of the old castle). In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Jacqueline directed transformation of the castle of Walhain which had been built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The male giant is D’Josef d’ Amerique (Jef of America) and represents Jean-Joseph Strijckmans who was born in Walhain, Belgium in 1806 and came to the US in 1855. After several months, Jean-Joseph returned to Belgium and helped recruit about 250 Belgians to immigrate to Wisconsin. Upon his return to the US in 1856, Jean-Joseph settled in his new village which he called Walhain.



# The Legacy of Dr. Julius J. Bellin – Surgeon, Philanthropist and Builder

By Lou Ann M. Novak

Bellin Health and Gundersen Health recently announced their merger under the name Emplify Health. So, it seems timely to celebrate the life and legacy of Belgian descendant Dr. Julius J. Bellin (1870-1928).

Julius Joseph Bellin was born at the family farm on Pheasant Road in the Town of Lincoln, Kewaunee County, October 18, 1870. His parents were Isidore Joseph Bellin (1839-1920) and Philomene Josephine Moureau (1840-1936).

Isidore Bellin and Philomene Moureau were born in Walloon Brabant, Belgium and immigrated to the United States in 1856 and 1857, respectively. Isidore Bellin was a farmer and later, a store and saloon owner. The couple had five children: three daughters and two sons.

Julius Bellin attended public school in Kewaunee until the eighth grade. For higher education, he enrolled at Oshkosh Normal School and Northern Indiana Normal School. He then taught for several years to earn enough money to attend the Iowa State Medical College at Keokuk, Iowa. Bellin graduated in 1896 after training in both surgery and dentistry, which was common at the time. After passing the Wisconsin medical and dental licensing examinations, he began his practice in Greenleaf, then in Wrightstown.

In 1898 Bellin married Lulu Elizabeth Vieux, a descendant of Green Bay fur trader and pioneer Charles de Langlade. They had one child, Percival Isidore Bellin (1900-1950). Percival Bellin suffered complications of meningitis at an early age and unfortunately required home care for the remainder of his life.

The Bellin family moved to Green Bay in 1904. Bellin intended to practice surgery in Green Bay, but ran into problems since both St. Vincent Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital were Catholic institutions. Although Bellin had been raised Catholic, he converted to Methodist upon marriage. The Catholic hospitals refused to give Bellin operating privileges, partly because of religious differences and partly because the existing surgeons did not want the competition.

So Bellin joined Dr. Fred Brett at General Hospital, a hospital-in-a-home located at 112 North Adams Street. When Brett retired in 1907, Bellin took over the 15-bed General Hospital. The next year, Bellin moved General Hospital to the D.W. Britton house on the corner of Lawe and Webster Streets.

Bellin invited the Methodist Episcopal Church to back future expansion and they agreed. Two Deaconess nurses arrived to help manage the facility. The expanded facility was called Deaconess Sanitarium and was renamed Wisconsin Deaconess Hospital in 1915. The new hospital offered a Protestant healthcare alternative for patients.

A separate hospital building was completed in 1916 at a cost of \$60,000. The new facility allowed for 60 patient rooms and surgery facilities. Further expansion occurred in 1925 when Bellin and his wife donated \$50,000 to build a four-story wing, increasing the size to 100 beds.

On June 25, 1925, the Board of Managers renamed the hospital "Bellin Memorial Hospital" (over Bellin's own objections), "as a tribute to the good doctor's many years of charitable works and service".

In addition to hospital development, Bellin founded a school for training nurses (Bellin College) in 1909. He purchased a home in 1912 and remodeled it extensively (now the Astor Bed and Breakfast). And in 1915, in partnership with Dr. R. C. Buchanan, Bellin built the city's largest professional office building (the Bellin Building).

Bellin died on September 27, 1928 after a short illness. At the time of his death at age 58, Bellin had two more construction projects in mind: a hospital for crippled children and a clinic. Neither were ever built.

It has been nearly 100 years since Bellin Memorial Hospital was named in honor of its founder, Julius J. Bellin. Since then, the Bellin Health system has grown to operate two hospitals in Northeast Wisconsin and 64 clinics across the state, as well as in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. That's a fine legacy for the Belgian farm boy turned physician, Dr. Julius J. Bellin.

Julius J. Bellin, M.D. (1870-1928)



The Deaconess Sanitarium in Green Bay was the forerunner of today's Bellin Memorial Hospital. Julius Bellin purchased the D.W. Britton home for \$1000 in 1908. The house was torn down in 1952 to make room for a \$1 million hospital expansion.



# BHC Campus Improvements

Right after BHC closed for the 2023 season, work began on improvements, inside and out. Inside, we created a new Media Gallery and a display area on the altar. Outside, the votive chapel of St. Roch was relocated and new sidewalks were added to make it easier for everyone to enjoy the features on BHC's campus. All of BHC's parking lots and driveways were repaved. St. Francis & St. Mary Parish made a generous contribution to re-pave the driveway and parking lot for the historic cemetery and the Steel Wheel resurfaced their parking lot at the same time.

## What's Next?

Repairs to the classroom entrance of the School/Convent and Outdoor Exhibits to inform visitors about Belgian heritage whenever they may stop in.

These improvements were made possible by the incredible generosity of our many donors, sponsors, visitors and volunteers. We are very grateful to these contractors who donated a portion of their cost.

### Contractors

**Alberts Plastering, Inc.**  
**Buhr Construction, Inc.**  
**Ferguson Waterworks**

**Gunnlaugsson Electric LLC**  
**J & J Excavation LLC**  
**Massart Electric Inc**

**Peters Concrete Company**  
**Travis Price Masonry & Plastering LLC**



## Kermis Crisis of 1896

“Kermis” means Church Mass from the tradition of Belgian harvest festivals beginning with mass. Many Kermis celebrations today are closely connected with local parishes. But in 1896, there was much consternation in the Belgian communities about dancing, drinking and church-going. The controversy is described in “Letters Written in Good Faith – the Early Years of the Dutch Norbertines in Wisconsin” translated and edited by Dr. Walter Lagerway.

On September 16, Fr. Remigius van Rooy of Dyckesville informed the Berne Abbot in Holland of a developing crisis:

“We have declared war on the Walloons. This is the kermis (carnival) season. Last year Mgr. and the Synod made a decree that dances on Saturday evening and Sunday are forbidden *sub denegatione Absolutionis* (under pain of denial of absolution). But a Walloon does not concern himself with Absolution. The evidence:

1. Walhain, which was placed under interdict because of a Sunday dance. They have scarcely asked the Bishop’s pardon and promised not to dance any more on Sunday, in order to get the *interdict* off their backs when the Kermis season opens, and [they have] a dance on Sunday.
2. Thiery-Daems; dancing on Saturday evening, in my boarding house [inn] which also has a saloon. I went there before the dance and really warned them strongly; but with no success. You will understand that at the first opportunity when I was there on Mission, I said something... publicly announced in church that I had terminated my boarding house, and now I am boarding with a *Spiritualist*; but the woman is a God-fearing Priscilla, because there were no others near the church. According to a later order from the bishop, I must excommunicate my former landlord and his son next Sunday.
3. Delwich. Dancing on Sunday. According to an order from Mgr. all the inn-keepers or saloon keepers and all the young people of Delwich must be excommunicated. The same for Grandlez or Lincoln.
4. Next Sunday, it [the dance] will be here [in Dyckesville]. I have proclaimed to them all the decisions of the bishop: a. that it is *casus specialissime reservatus Episcopo* (a most special case reserved to the Bishop) for all those who take part in a dance; (according to a later decision of the bishop); b. that the inn-keepers and all young people will be excommunicated if they dance etc.



Thiry Daems Kermis circa 1897



I also wrote to a lawyer this evening to get information regarding the laws of the U.S. and the State of Wisconsin which prohibit dancing and tapping [liquor] in inns on Sundays. Mgr. has requested that these laws be applied in case of necessity. You can see that these Walloons have hard heads. If all these means do not avail, then, it seems to me, it is time to say **Eamus hinc** (Let us get out of here); these few details give you some idea of the present conflict. It is a difficult crisis.”

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed. About a week later, Fr. Bernard Pennings, then serving in Delwiche (Namur), sent his own letter to the Berne Abbot. After recounting his frustration with the Belgians in his parish, he explained that civil laws prohibiting dancing and drinking on Sunday were not enforced by local authorities. He addressed the practicality of church trying to enforce them, noting “it is easy to understand that you make yourself hated [by so doing].”

Fr. Pennings’ solution:

“The two previous Sundays I forbade one of the biggest saloon-keepers from tapping liquor and no one could get anything to drink. That suited a good many people, and several came to ask that we do it everywhere; I told them that would be all right, but that they could do it themselves just as well as I, and immediately I sent a note to the above-mentioned saloon-keeper that I would trouble him no more.

Father (later Abbot) Bernard Pennings, circa 1893.

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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*



Belgian Heritage Center  
PO Box 173  
Brussels, WI 54204

## BEN AND ANNA'S BAR - BRUSSELS

Ben and Anna (DeKeyser) Renard ran this tavern in Brussels for 30 years. They are pictured behind the bar with Ben's father, Frank seated to their left. The tavern later became the Brussels Diner. Thanks to Donna DeKeyser for submitting this photo of one of the many local taverns that dotted the Belgian communities.

