Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Winter Issue ~ Vol. XIV No. 3

January 2018

carol jean smetana, editor

Mission Statement:

Promote the historical significance, enhance the beauty, and preserve the artistic heritage of **Bohemian National** Cemetery

Vision:

Create an appreciation of BNC in local, national, and international audiences

What's New with Friends of BNC

Can you imagine what Chicago was like in 1877? It did not include Foster and Pulaski in its boundaries prioritized the gatehouse, and in - when the cemetery was founded, it was located in Jefferson 2011, the grants we wrote to the Township and was incorporated into the city of Chicago in 1889. On donation money, and the volunteer October 29th, the board members of the **Bohemian National Cemetery Association** hosted a celebration, first in a tent and then in the gatehouse, of the cemetery's

140 years.

Friends of BNC has always our earlier years, from 2004 until Czech Government, much of the labor of Andy Bultas, Martha and **Chuck Cervenka, Jerry** Gaydusek, Chuck Michalek and **Ken Quick** combined to do so (continued on page 3)



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Enhancing the Beauty of BNC

In October, SavATree, a professional tree care service, returned to the cemetery and worked on eight more trees. To stay within our budget, SavATree removed the crowns on seven of the eight trees, and our volunteers cut down the trunks afterwards.

A grant to Friends of BNC from the Czech Government, supplemented by additional funds from Friends, financed this latest effort to cut down more of the many large dying trees that pose

a serious threat to cemetery monuments and visitors. Chuck Betzold has developed a detailed mapping of trees to help identify and prioritize those requiring urgent attention.

The work of removing diseased and dead trees throughout the cemetery will take several years, given the expense and dozens of trees needing work. In the meantime, Chuck Betzold and a core group of weekly volunteers continue to cut up

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Heritage Happenings

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Manuscripts, articles, photographs, and advertisements for *Heritage Happenings* may be submitted to carol jean smetana, 167 County Road A4A, Sapello, NM 87745-5026 or emailed to her at editor@friendsofbnc.org.

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Officers of Friends of BNC

President:

Marge Sladek Stueckemann Vice-President: Ray Malecek Secretary: Helen Gaydusek Treasurer: Glenn Spachman Directors:

Jerry Gaydusek
Mary Syrup
Jim Trnka
Fund-Raising Co-Chair:

Joseph Topinka

Membership: Gerri Romanelli Newsletter: carol jean smetana

Publicity: vacant

Sales/Marketing/Gala Chair:

Juli Nelson

Special Projects Co-Chairs: Jerry

Gaydusek, Chuck Michalek
Webmaster: carol jean smetana

Welcome to OUI New Members!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bures ... Western Springs, IL James Prihoda family ... Portland, OR

Lisa Zahlmann ... Missoula, MT

from the editor's laptop

The Bohemian National Cemetery Association's celebration of their 140th anniversary this past October prompted me to wonder, what happened next? What were the hallmarks of 1878, the cemetery's first full year of existence?

According to The Semi-Centennial Jubilee of the Bohemian National Cemetery Association, by Dr. J. E. S. Vojan, published in 1927, the BNC Association began 1878 with a focus on setting up the operations of the cemetery. Statutes of the Association and rules of order for meetings were written, cemetery regulations were established, and a job description was created for the grave-digger. The land was surveyed and divided into lots, which went on sale in mid-March and would generate much-needed income: the Association still had to rely on loans from societies and individuals for the bulk of its operating expenses. Trees were felled to make way for the cemetery roads, and in April, the cemetery grounds were enclosed by a new, six-foot high fence.

An adult grave cost \$5; a grave for a child between the ages of six and twelve cost \$3.50; for a child between two and six, the price was \$2.50; and infant graves cost \$1.50. Prices for the lots ranged from \$10 to \$30, and there was a provision for reducing the cost by up to 50 percent for poor families or widows. At the start of 1878, there had been 26 graves in the cemetery, three of which had been given free of charge. By May 1st, an additional 49 graves had been purchased, as well as eight lots. Bohemian National Cemetery was on its way.

Na shledanou! carol jean smetana

Děkuji Vám

Chuck Betzold for coordinating the project to remove dead and diseased trees at the cemetery; and **Chuck Michalek** for preparing the grant report on the project for the Czech Government;

Chuck Betzold, Carl Brader, Jerry Gaydusek, Chuck Michalek, Jim Miller, Bill Serviss, Bob Weniger: the volunteers who are working in conjunction with SavATree to remove dead and diseased trees at the cemetery;

Dave Pimm and the **BNCA Board** for planning and hosting the 140th BNC anniversary celebration;

Chuck Michalek and **Jeff Tucek** for photos of the 140th BNC celebration.



What's New with Friends of BNC

(continued from first page)

much to make the gatehouse the perfect place for a celebration.

Part of the 140th celebration program was the rededication of the 1893 bell in the gatehouse bell tower. How special to hear it ring again! Several years ago, when men went up to inspect the bell tower, they found bricks without mortar and tuckpointing desperately needed, so that was the project for one year.

As one of the speakers at the 140th anniversary celebration, I was delighted to remember all that went into refurbishing and beautifying this treasure!

Mark your calendar and join us on Sunday, February 11th, at 1:00 p.m. for our winter meeting at Sawa's Old Warsaw buffet, 9200 W. Cermak in Broadview. For only \$22, enjoy a huge selection of meats, side dishes, wonderful potato pancakes, coffee, tea and soft

drinks plus dessert. John
Pritasil will entertain us with
hilarious stories of "Growing
Up Czech." Look for
information on how to send in
your reservation and money
on the back page of the
newsletter. I hope to see you
there for a great time!

May you have a most happy and healthy new year.

Marge Sladek Stueckemann President

Upcoming Events at Bohemian National Cemetery





Bohemian National Cemetery Association Celebrates 140 Years of Service

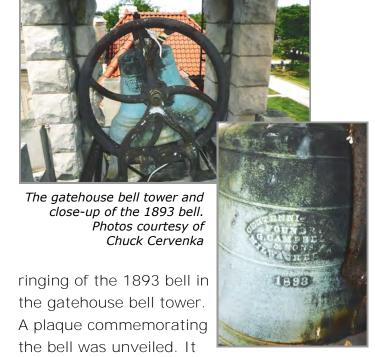
On October 29, 2017, the Bohemian National Cemetery Association hosted an afternoon reception to celebrate its 140th anniversary. The program took place in a tent erected on the grass in front of the



gatehouse, with speeches by BNCA President Dave Pimm, BNCA Treasurer Angie Bultas, Czech Consul General Bořek Lizec, and Friends of BNC President Marge Sladek Stueckemann. A framed poster of the current delegates was unveiled and will be hung in the board room in the cemetery office building. A highlight of the program was the



Dave Pimm (left), BNCA president, and Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, admiring montage poster of photos of current delegates to the cemetery. It will be hung in the board room in the cemetery office building. Both photos above and at right courtesy of Jeff Tucek



reads: "This memorial bell, installed for the Columbian Exposition—World's Fair of Chicago in 1893, is hereby rededicated to those who have honored Bohemian National Cemetery by allowing us to memorialize them through the passage of time. Celebrating 140 years of service 1877-2017."

After the official program, the gathering moved into the gatehouse to enjoy refreshments.





Friends Celebrates Cemetery Volunteers

To show appreciation for the volunteers who work throughout the year at the cemetery, Friends of BNC provided a nice pizza lunch for them just before Christmas. The volunteers spent the morning clearing and cleaning the south gatehouse and the old walk-in safe, and then enjoyed lunch in the BNCA boardroom in the cemetery office building. See "Enhancing the Beauty" on the first page for more details about the vital work

volunteers do to expand the work we're able to do on the tree project.

Volunteers make all the difference in how much Friends of BNC can accomplish. Please consider donating some of your time and energy. We welcome your active participation. Volunteers meet Wednesday mornings to help with cleanup and maintenance work at the cemetery. We also can use help with various

administrative functions, including publicity (the publicity chair position is currently vacant) and fundraising.

Please contact us: phone Marge Sladek Stueckemann at 847-362-9036; or email Marge or Chuck Michalek via email info@friendsofbnc.org; or write us at Friends of BNC, P.O. Box 72746, Roselle, IL 60172-0746. Whatever your skills, interests or experience, your participation is welcome!



Left to right, along the windows: Chuck Betzold, BNC Trustee; Bill Serviss, volunteer; Chuck Michalek, BNC Audit and Oversight; Jerry Gaydusek, BNC Audit and Oversight; Jim Miller, volunteer.

Left to right, foreground: Bob Weniger, volunteer; Sammy, BNC grounds staff; Angel, BNC grounds staff; Sonia, BNC grounds staff (mostly out of frame).

Photo courtesy of Chuck Michalek

Donations



Leadership (\$10,000 and above)

Chuck Michalek Jean Uhlir in memory of her daughter Linda

Benefactors (\$1000—\$9999)

Carol Krauser

Patrons (\$500 - \$999)

Joseph and Dawn Calek Henrietta Bartizal Pons Jane Pugh

Sponsors (\$100 - \$499)

Anonymous Pamela Carlson Joseph Hasman Marilyn John Edward Kletecka Lodge Yankee Jungmann #77 **ludith Lovaas** Katherine Mallin in honor of John A. Mallin Kathy Mallin in honor of Randolph Mallin Kimberly Martin Marlene Murray Joan Peterson in memory of Thomas J. Smart Family and Joseph Holub Family

Bill and Ruth Rosol Glenn and Susan Spachman Cheryl and Charlotte Svoboda in memory of Evelyn Fergle Kenneth Teska Apostol and Sharon Sladek Triffon Cheryl and Alan Zak

Eugene Sikorovsky Charlotte Sommer in celebration of Josephine Holada Sommer's 100th Birthday Lorraine Szabo Albert Walavich

Donors (\$25--\$99)

Patricia K. Devoe Earl Hajic Pamela Moong in memory of Vaclav and Anna Holoubek Fryml Joann Poplar Mary Sebahar

Thank you all for your generosity. Your donations help preserve and restore **Bohemian National** Cemetery.

Columbarium Restoration Project Update by Chuck Michalek

The Columbarium Restoration Committee continues to develop strategies for attracting donors to support the multi-year Columbarium Restoration Project. As noted in a previous newsletter, a major accomplishment involved this past summer's dome roof repairs and gutter replacement.

The next phase will address the limestone exterior walls. This will require extensive masonry restoration that will include: installing new steel lintels over windows; repointing mortar joints; repairing or replacing limestone coping and balustrade edges; sealing cornice joints; repairing spalling and steel anchors where needed, etc.

To publicly acknowledge individuals and organizations who contribute to the

restoration project, the committee is discussing with the BNCA Board of Directors the development of a donor

recognition area near the Ceremony Hall. Watch for more developments in future newsletter issues. If you would like more information on this project, please contact the Columbarium Restoration Project chairperson, Chuck Michalek, c/o

Friends of BNC, PO Box 72746, Roselle, IL 60172-0746, or via email michalekchas@aol.com.



Friends of BNC and the Columbarium Restoration Committee want to especially thank Mrs. Jean Uhlir for her significant contribution to the Columbarium Restoration Project, made in memory of her daughter Linda. According to Mrs. Uhlir, Linda, a member of Friends, had a special place in her heart for Bohemian National Cemetery. Mrs. Uhlir noted it is important to preserve historic places like BNC in order that future generations can continue to view and appreciate its special qualities and significance.



Enhancing the Beauty

(continued from first page)

fallen trees and branches and to trim dangerous hanging branches. Throughout 2017 the volunteers managed to cut down nearly two dozen additional trees in areas where there was no danger of the falling trees impacting any monuments.

The project funds were also used to purchase equipment for the volunteers, including a new chainsaw, hand tools, safety gear and a large lawn wagon to haul debris.

Friends of BNC has submitted another grant proposal to the Czech Foreign Ministry for this year, requesting additional funds to continue work on this important project. We will hear in July if our proposal is funded.

The photo (left) was taken in Section 14. It shows the debris piles from the smaller limbs that were cut apart by volunteers and are now ready to be loaded on our dump truck and hauled away to our dump site.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Betzold





Some of the equipment (left) purchased for the volunteers. Photo courtesy of Chuck Betzold



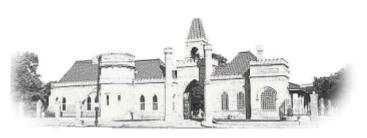
One of the volunteers (above) cuts up the trunk of a tree. The building in the distance is part of Northeastern Illinois University on the east edge of the cemetery.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Betzold

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

P.O. Box 72746 Roselle, IL 60172-0746

Phone: 847-362-9036 Email: info@friendsofbnc.org



Heritage Happenings

we're on the web www.friendsofbnc.org



Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery invites you for an

Afternoon of Friendship and Food

with Fun provided by John Pritasil, as he describes "Growing Up Czech"

Sunday, February 11, 2018, at 1:00 pm

Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant

9200 Cermak Road in Broadview, Illinois Handicapped accessible ~ plenty of free parking

Cash bar and delicious buffet with multiple meats, terrific potato

pancakes, side dishes, koláče and ice cream for dessert, coffee and soft drinks.

\$22 per person includes program, buffet, tax and gratuity.

Come hear John's tales of his Czech childhood and share some of your own!

Prepay your reservation by sending your check, postmarked by February 7th, to Friends of BNC, P.O. Box 72746, Roselle, Illinois 60172-0746 or call by February 9th with a credit card number

Juli Nelson at 630-887-0411