

# Columbarium Restoration Project Is In Full Swing

Friends of BNC president Marge Sladek Stueckemann recently sent a letter to all members inviting individuals and organizations to support the ongoing Columbarium Restoration Project. The communication included a color trifold providing an overview of the project.

Preliminary estimates suggest repairs will cost over seven hundred thousand dollars. The columbarium's historical, architectural, and cultural significance certainly requires each

of us to give thoughtful consideration for how we might support the building's restoration. Donating to the project can also be a meaningful way for relatives and friends to remember a loved one inurned in one of the niches within the building's hallowed halls.

All donors will be acknowledged in this newsletter. A crafted donor wall will recognize different levels of supporters who give \$1,000 or more. Donors of larger gifts can have inscribed

*(continued on page 7)*

## Columbarium Restoration Project

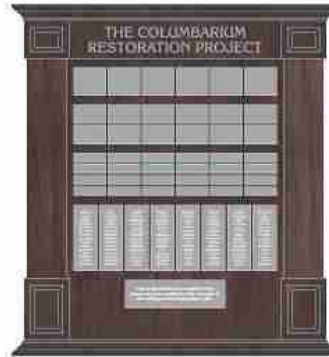
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personal nameplates that could be used to recognize a loved one or an organization.

More information is available on our website, or you can contact me at [restoration@friendsofbnc.org](mailto:restoration@friendsofbnc.org).

Look for updates on the progress of our campaign in future issues of *Heritage Happenings*.

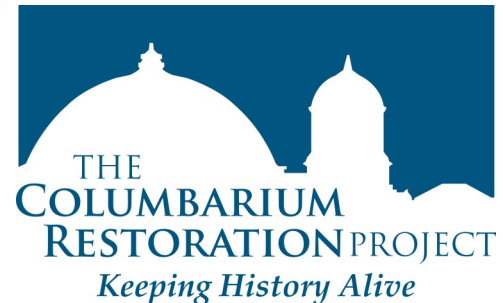
Thank you for your support of this important project.

**Chuck Michalek**  
**Chair**  
**Columbarium Restoration**  
**Committee**



Above: Artist rendering of the Donor Appreciation Wall with nameplates

Left: Donor wall carpenter Jeff Hamerman (left) and Chuck Michalek flank the Donor Appreciation Wall newly installed in the crematorium/columbarium building



# **Columbarium Restoration Project Update: Planning for Second Phase of Exterior Restoration**

*by Chuck Michalek*

Several CRP committee members met with representatives of Marion Restoration Inc., in August to review and update the proposal for the next phase of the restoration—critical repairs to the exterior dome walls. The work will include repairing the upper and lower cornices that surround the dome; repairing, resetting and sealing balustrades and coping units around the top of

the dome wall; repairing wall stones that have spalled due to rusting anchors behind wall sections; and replacing lintels above the dome's stained glass windows. The updated proposal will be reviewed by Friend's Board and BNCA's Board of Directors.

Work on this phase can commence in spring 2019 if we have raised the necessary funds. Friends applied for a 2019 grant from the Czech

Republic to assist with this project, and we are continuing our other fundraising efforts. To date, donations from individuals and organizations have raised almost 70% of the anticipated cost of this phase. We appreciate the many donations already made (see recent donations listed on page six). We still need to raise a considerable amount for this phase of work.

## Columbarium Restoration Project Update

Recently the boards of both the Bohemian National Cemetery Association and Friends of BNC voted to approve a contract with Marion Restoration for \$158,663.40 to begin significant repairs to the exterior masonry walls of the crematorium/columbarium building. In March, Mario Machnicki, owner of Marion Restoration Inc. and founder/owner of US Heritage Group Inc., appeared before the BNCA Board. His presentation included a summary of the **contractor's masonry** expertise, especially as it pertains to work on historic

buildings and the utilization of proper materials and masonry techniques.

Once the necessary work permits are secured, the next phase of restoration, including replacement of the stained glass lintels, will begin, hopefully by early summer. This work phase will primarily cover repairs to the drum walls surrounding the Ceremony Hall on the east and west sides.

You can find more details on Friends website, [www.friendsofbnc.org](http://www.friendsofbnc.org). Click on the Columbarium Restoration Project link under "Events" in the left-

hand column.

The target of the next phase of fundraising for this multi-year project will be the repair of the north (front entrance) and south walls.

Generous donations from individuals and organizations have already provided for dome roof and gutter repairs and the replacement of the front entrance stairs and railings. Please contact me if you or your organization would like a presentation on the ongoing Columbarium Restoration Project.

**Chuck Michalek**  
**CRP Chair**  
**[michalekchas@aol.com](mailto:michalekchas@aol.com)**