

Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Published for those interested in preserving St. Nicholas Church, N.S. and our Croatian Heritage

PCHF OFFICERS

Co-chairmen
William Vergot
Steve Willing

Corresponding Secretary
Susan Petrick

Recording Secretary
Jane Sestric

Treasurer
Lynne Corsello

St. Nicholas Church Site Update by Mark Fatla, Exec. Director, NLSC

In October, 2012, the City of Pittsburgh withdrew its appeal of the Court Order allowing demolition of St. Nicholas Church, N.S. Pittsburgh. This act meant that the Commonwealth Court never even heard the legal arguments in favor of preservation, the same arguments that had convinced Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission. This removed the only known legal hurdle preventing the Diocese from demolishing the Church.



With Support from Pittsburgh City Council President Darlene Harris, we continue other efforts to preserve this important piece of Croatian and Pittsburgh heritage. Darlene has initiated conversations with the Diocese and the Mayor's Office in an attempt to save the Church. Please offer her your support and prayers.

St. Nicholas Choir LIVES On

by Susan Petrick

Former members of the St. Nicholas Church, N.S. have rejoined with St. Nicholas choir director and organist, Carol Spehar. Carol is now the Music Director and Choir Director at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish (MHN) located at 1700 Harpster Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 (Troy Hill). Members of the former St. Nicholas, Church, N.S. and St. Kierans' Church, Lawrenceville have joined the Most Holy Name Choir that is now composed of 25 men and women whose voices are amazing. Ethnic hymns are a



part of the selections sung by the MHN choir at the 9 AM Sunday mass, including beautiful, Croatian hymns.

On Sunday, **December 2, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**, Most Holy Name Church will be holding a traditional Advent Service, the **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. You are invited to take some time away from the hustle/bustle of the holiday season and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas with beautiful hymns and biblical readings of the birth of Christ. You'll be glad you did. A small reception will follow the Service in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.

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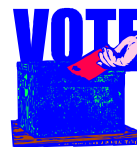
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ST. NICHOLAS DAY BANQUET
December 1, 2012

NEW PCHF OFFICER



PCHF welcomes Steve Willing as a new co-chairman of PCHF. Steve was nominated for this position at the October 2012 PCHF Monthly Meeting. Steve is intelligent, hard working, and an enthusiastic supporter of PCHF's mission to save and preserve St. Nicholas Church, N.S. The vote in favor of electing Steve as a PCHF co-chairman was unanimous, and we are very fortunate and thrilled that Steve accepted this co-chairman position. Congratulations Steve!

St. Nicholas 3 Bags of Gold Fund

by Jack Schmitt

The 3 Bags of Gold Fund was initiated in 2009 for the purpose of helping to offset on-going PCHF expenses (boarding cost of St. Nick's Church, geo-tech study & more, etc.) The three-dollar (\$3.00) donation requested from each person of Croatian ancestry coincides with the feast day, December 6, of our patron saint and the three bags of gold St. Nicholas anonymously gave to a peasant man to help his three daughters gather a dowry and avoid being sold into slavery.

Many donors have contributed to this Fund in memory of their deceased loved ones. Others have

sent in donations to acknowledge living, family members. Whatever your intention, this is a wonderful way to let your family know that you remember them and to pay tribute to the person, St. Nicholas.

We encourage our members to continue supporting the 3 Bags of Gold Fund -- your donation will help defer future expenses in our goal of St. Nicholas Church becoming the home of a new, National Immigrant Museum. Please use the form below when sending in your donation.

Thank you.

3 BAGS of GOLD FUND

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____ Date _____

Comments: _____

Send your suggestions and/or donation to:

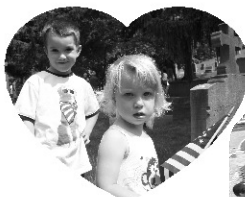
Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation, P. O. Box 5812, Pittsburgh, PA 15209

2012

PCHF is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit, tax exempt organization



2012 Memorial Day Service



Under sunny beautiful skies, friends and family gathered for the annual St. Nicholas Croatian North Side Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 28, 2012, at St. Nicholas Croatian North Side Cemetery on Hahn Road in Shaler Township.

Overhead, a C-130 Army transport plane passed and tipped its wings in a salute to the Croatian faithful gathering below. The ceremony honored all 27 parishioners of the North Side parish who were killed or are listed missing in action during their service to our country.

The service traditionally was held at St. Nicholas on East Ohio Street until the Church was abruptly closed in 2004. Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation continued this important tradition by holding the services at the cemetery.

Mary Robb Jackson, a reporter for KDKA-TV, and photographer husband, Michael Challik, were there to document the event for the evening news. The sights and

sounds were brilliantly captured in the news report. Susan Petrick said, "We have so much to be grateful for, this freedom is not to be taken lightly."

The cemetery bell was run 27 times, as David Sladack read the names of each member of St. Nicholas Church who died serving our country. Flags were flown and candles burned brightly remembering those who paid for our freedom.

The Belobrajdic brothers, Joe and Anthony, played "Taps" to the crowd of over 50 people, who later joined in unison in an emotional rendition of "God Bless America."

PCHF thanks all those who help to make this annual event possible. It is through your generous support and volunteerism that we are able to continue this most important tradition.

To watch the KDKA-TV video, please go to this internetlink,
<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2012/05/28/veterans-remembered-at-st-nicholas-cemetery>

By Steve Willing

Website



The PCHF website, www.stnicholasns.org, provides up-to-date information on St. Nicholas Church, N.S., as well as, amazing historical photos of the Church, the Mala Jaska neighborhood, detailed history of the Church's architecture, its historical significance and feasibility studies. You even have the option to donate on-line through our new PayPal option which is easy to use and secure. PCHF Board members can be easily reached by e-mail through the website.

Our website continues to be maintained pro-bono by software developer, Matthew Joseph; and PCHF is most grateful for Matthew's time and talent to help save and preserve St. Nicholas through this news medium.

Be sure to bookmark the St. Nicholas site on your computer and encourage your friends and family to browse this site and to share the information through email and Facebook.





Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation
P. O. Box 5812
Pittsburgh, PA 15209-0812

Address Service Requested

How To Reach Us

If you have any questions or would like more information on P.C.H.F., please email us at pchf@stnicholasns.org or feel free to contact any of the following Executive Committee Members by telephone as shown below.

Tony Benvin	412 321-1251
Bernice Goyak	412 821-1106
Bill Kurtek	724 625-9145
Susan Petrick	412 821-3725
Pat Polaritz	412 231-4324
Francis Schmitt	412 322-8223
Jane Sestric	412 231-8134
Bill Vergot	724 941-8134
Steve Willing	412 527-5764

UPCOMING PCHF EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

JAVOR HALL, 805 EAST STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA

Visit our Website at...www.stnicholasns.org



St. Nicholas Day Banquet

Saturday,
December 1, 2012

Javor Hall

805 East St., Pittsburgh PA 15212

\$20.00 per person
Cash Bar

Doors open at 5 p.m.
Buffet at 6 p.m



Special guest visit by
Saint Nicholas

Delicious hot buffet dinner
prepared by
Nova Cafe Catering

Featuring **story boards with photos of**
St. Nicholas Church, N.S.
parishioners' families

Fabulous listening and dancing pleasure
by:
The Mikey Dee Band

The Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation (PCHF) and Javor Hall will again jointly sponsor the Saint Nicholas Day Banquet. **Everyone is invited to join us!!**

All tickets must be paid in advance by November 26, 2012

Please make checks payable to PCHF and mail to:

PCHF

c/o Bernice Goyak

254 Arlington Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15209

For more information, call 412 821-1106

If no answer, please leave a message

