

Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Published for those interested in preserving the memory of St. Nicholas Church, N.S.



Heinz History Center Partnership Moves Forward

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Inside This Issue

PCHF Joins With Senator
John Heinz History
Center.....1, 2

Croatian Heritage Day at
Most Holy Name Parish
November 11,.....1, 2 & 4

Preservation Pittsburgh,
Oakland Walking Tour.....3

Javor Events.....3

Advent Festival of Lessons
& Carols.....3

St. Nicholas Day Ban-
quet.....5

Candlelight Prayer Service
Update.....6

Spotlight on Croatian Heri-
tage: the former CFU build-
ing in Oakland.....7

3 Bags of Gold Fund.....7

Moving Memorial Day
Service.....8

PCHF and the Senator John Heinz History Center are pleased to report that we have made significant progress towards our shared goal of identifying and selecting objects and archival material of Croatian interest, specific to St. Nicholas Church, North Side, and the Mala Jaska neighborhood for inclusion in the museum's archives.

In our last PCHF Newsletter published in February 2017, we asked for photos, documents, letters, or family keepsakes that could be permanently donated to the museum. Emily Ruby, the Acquisitions Curator for the HHC, meets regularly with the Collections Committee which discusses, evaluates, and selects items that they feel would fit into the museum's permanent collection and archives.

The collections at the HHC are basically broken down into two cate-



gories. One is the Library and Archive Collection; the other is the Museum Artifact Collection.

Some (not all) of the items, which already have been evaluated and accepted, are included on this preliminary list for the **Library and Archive Collection**.

*Fr. Frankovich's (parishioner) 1st Mass at St. Nick's Church 1966.

*The 2000 DVD of St. Nicholas Church, N.S., showing both the interior & exterior, still photos of parish activities, audio of the church choir singing, and video of the Pastor's testimony.

*Several anniversary books from St. Nicholas, in particular the 70th Anniversary Book from Elsie Yuratovich with signatures from Louis Marohnic, Fr. Marian Soric, Fr. Boniface Soric and Judge John Brosky.

(see page 2)



Croatian Heritage Day, November 11

Saturday, November 11, 2017, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, located in Pittsburgh's Troy Hill, will host a Croatian Heritage Day event from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Croatian Fraternal Union's National President, Ed Pazo, will attend and extend greetings from the CFU. Come and experience a piece of Croatia's culture with two live, Croatian musical performances, a delicious, Croatian style hot dinner with mouth-watering, homemade desserts and attend a 6 p.m. Mass with Croatian hymns sung by the church choir and members of Javor Pittsburgh. Visit the church social hall where the walls will be lined with poster-size photographs of Croatian towns, villages and cathedrals, along with Croatian memorabilia. Authentic Croatian artifacts will be on display with merchandise available for purchase. Participate in several Chinese Raffles that will include many Croatian items. And make sure to bring the kiddies as there will be many Croatian crafts/activities available to entertain and delight them!



A live performance by the very talented and entertaining folklore ensemble, Hrvatski Tanac, will begin at 4:30 p.m. led by world renowned choreographer and artistic director, Zelkjo Jergan.



(see page 2)

Heinz History Center Partnership Moves Forward

cont'd. from page 1)



- *The Zajednicar Croatian Newspaper announcing St. Nick's 100th Anniversary, August 1994.
- *100th Year Photo Directory of parishioner families and several St. Nicholas School Reunion books.
- *The original 1930 Certificate of Citizenship papers of a Croatian parishioner from St. Nicholas and an original Marriage Certificate of two Croatian immigrants who met and married at St. Nicholas Church, N.S. These and other items will reside in the Library and Archive Collection section of the HHC. They will be stored in secure, temperature-controlled areas for safekeeping. Scholars, researchers, and the general public will have access to these forever. In addition, they may be used in programs and publications for many different museum purposes.

Some of the preliminary items accepted for the **Museum Artifact Collection:**

- *Artifacts from St. Nicholas N.S. Church that include: a church chandelier, a Jesus Statue, an embroidered cassock, a wooden Easter cross, candlestick holders, and a cross from the main altar.
- *Some family artifacts include: a Croatian wedding dress, a costume of St. Nicholas, and bingo cards from the social hall.

There are many other items that the HHC is still evaluating. We are attempting to give as much information on each keepsake so that more items will be considered for the collections. The history, relevance, and connection that the artifact has to St. Nicholas, and the Croatian Mala Jaska neighborhood is critical to it being considered for inclusion at the museum.

We are hoping to have a future exhibit at some point where the Pittsburgh Croatian North Side story can be told. To be clear, the HHC cannot guarantee that each and every item that is considered will be taken into the collection or displayed. If you or your Croatian family or friends have anything they feel may be worth donating, please reach out to Emily Ruby at the Heinz History Center at 412 454-6350 or e-mail her at elruby@heinzhistorycenter.org. She can discuss in detail with you any thoughts, concerns, or questions you may have regarding any artifacts that you may wish to present for donation to the HHC.

We will give PCHF supporters an update on this project at our annual St. Nicholas Day Banquet, that will be held on Saturday, December 2 at Javor Hall, North Side. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

By Steve Willing

Croatian Heritage Day, November 11

(cont'd. from page 1) by Susan Petrick & Kathleen Buric

Dinner will be served in the Most Holy Name school hall, 1515 Tinsbury Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 from 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets will be pre-sold and are available at the church rectory. The adult dinner menu will include delicious, Homemade Stuffed Cabbage, Breaded Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Bread, Dessert and a Beverage (\$20 per adult). The dinner menu for children 12 and under will include: choice of Chicken Fingers or Hot Dog, Macaroni & Cheese, Cup Cake & Soft Drink (\$5 per child). For tickets, call the MHN rectory at 412 231-2994, ext 0 or visit the rectory located at 1700 Harpster Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Croatian and American beer, Croatian brandies and liquors will be available for purchase. In addition, homemade strudel, nut roll and other scrumptious desserts will be available for purchase.

The 6 p.m. Mass, held in the church, will be said in English with the parish choir and members of Javor Pittsburgh singing beautiful, Croatian hymns. Following the Mass, there will be a second live performance beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school hall as the voices of the Javor Pittsburgh ensemble fill the hall and entertain guests with Croatian melodies. People of all nationalities are welcome! Come and partake in all the festivities, drink a little Kruškovac, taste the wonders of Croatian food, but most of all, experience the rich culture that is uniquely Croatian.



OAKLAND MODERN: WALKING TOUR ON OCTOBER 7

Join Preservation Pittsburgh and the organization's Modern Committee on **Saturday, October 7** from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. to explore a range of modern and late modern structures and interiors. The Oakland neighborhood is home to a unique, dense collection of banks, apartment buildings, and campus facilities - from libraries to parking garages - completed in the 1960s and 1970s. Enjoy our original walking tour designed and led by **Preservation Pittsburgh** board members.

The tour will end at 5:30 p.m. at neighborhood favorite, Butterjoint, where guests can enjoy drinks and conversation with fellow architecture and design lovers.

This free tour marks the inaugural event of the ModCom: Preservation Pittsburgh. Through its Modern Committee, the organization will highlight Pittsburgh's modern-era design and advocate for its preservation. The walking tour is planned to coincide with Docomomo US Tour Day 2017, the annual national celebration of modern architecture and design featuring public tours and special programs across the United States. For more information and to RSVP: info@preservationpgh.org.



By Melissa McSwigan, Preservation Pittsburgh

Traditional Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols



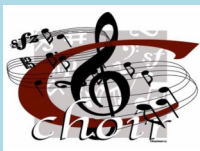
As many of you know, the Festival of Lesson and Carols was a beautiful, long-standing, traditional Advent Service at St. Nicholas Church, North Side. It was a special service where people took time away from the hustle/bustle of the holiday season to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas with beautiful hymns and biblical reading of Christ's birth.

Carrying on this beautiful Advent Service for several years now, are the former choir members of St. Nicholas Church, N.S. and choir director/organist, Carol Spehar who have been part of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish (MHN) located at 1700 Harpster Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212 (Troy Hill).

This year, you are invited to attend the inspirational **Festival of Lessons and Carols** at **Most Holy Name Church** on Sunday, **December 3, 2017**, at **1:30 p.m.** Come and ready your hearts and minds for the coming of Christ during the Christmas season.

Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.



JAVOR Events

Monday, October 16

Sponsored by
Javor Pittsburgh Tamburasi
"Night of Music and Merlot"



Narcisi Winery
Gibsonia, PA
2 Complimentary Wines
Buffet & Performance

\$45

Raffles & Handbags

Tickets can be purchased online
at www.javorpittsburgh.com



Sunday, November 19

CHN Javor Hall

"Sarma Dinner"

Dinner from 12-5PM—\$10
(stuffed cabbage)

Pre Order 412 931-6991 Joyce Simunovic
\$20 - Bakers Dozen



Details to follow on Face book (Javor Pittsburgh) and in the Zajednicar for both events.

CROATIAN HERITAGE DAY

Sat., November 11, 2017

Most Holy Name Parish

1515 Tinsbury Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 (Troy Hill)

Two Live Performances by:



HRVATSKI TANAC - 4:30 PM



JAVOR PITTSBURGH - 7:30 PM

HOT DINNER, DESSERT & BEVERAGE

*(Stuffed Cabbage, Breaded Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Bread, Desert, Coffee, Tea)
(Children 12 & Under Menu - Chicken Fingers or Hot Dog, Mac & Cheese, Cup Cake & Soft Drink)*

(served from 4:00—8:00 PM)

\$20 - Adults

\$5 - Children

ADVANCED TICKET SALES at the PARISH OFFICE— 412 231-2994, Ext. 0

***Sljivovica *Juliška *Kruškovac *Karlovačko *Coors Lite**

**Special Appearance & Greetings from Croatian
Fraternal Union National President, Ed Pazo**

6 PM English Mass with Croatian Hymns



***Large Display of Historic, Croatian Items**

***Basket Raffles with Croatian Items**

***50/50 Raffle**

St. Nicholas Day Banquet

Saturday
December 2, 2017

Javor Hall

805 East St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212



Special Guest Visit By
Saint Nicholas

\$25 per Adult

\$12 per Child

(12 yrs of age and under)

Cash Bar

Happy Hour at 5 PM
Hot Dinner Buffet at 6 PM



Fabulous listening and
dancing pleasure by
MIKEY DEE BAND



Sumptuous Hot Buffet

by

Nova Café Catering

*Stuffed Cabbage, Oven Baked
Chicken, Kolbassi/Sauerkraut, Pirogies, Tossed
Salad, Rolls/butter, Coffee/Tea and a
Wide Variety of Homemade Desserts*



Special Presentation
by
JAVOR PITTSBURGH



Samples of the **Interpretive
Panels** (St. Nicholas Church, Grotto
and Mala Jaska), installed on the
St. Nicholas Church Historic Site,
will be on display.



St. Nicholas Christmas Cards, Note Cards & Ornaments make
great Christmas gifts and will be available to purchase .

The Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation (PCHF) and Javor Hall will again sponsor the
St. Nicholas Day Banquet.

Everyone is invited to join us!!

Join the Christmas
Carol sing-along



All reservations must be paid in advance by November 29, 2017

Please make checks payable to PCHF and mail to:

PCHF

c/o Bernice Goyak

P. O. Box 5812

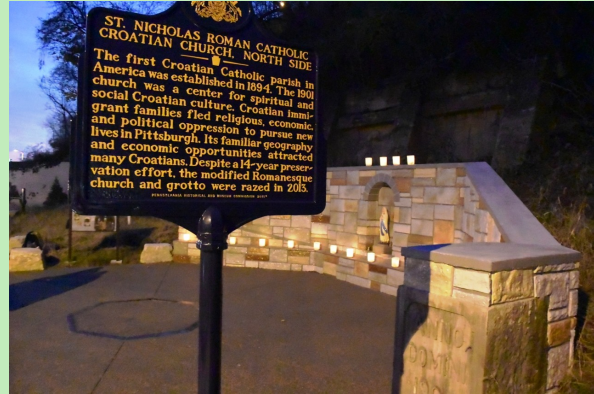
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

For more information, call **412 335-2780**

Receive a gift
From St. Nicholas



Candlelight Prayer Service at St. Nicholas Church Historic Site



On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the feast day of St. Nicholas, Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation will be holding its annual Candlelight Prayer Service at 5:30 P.M. at the St. Nicholas Church Historic Site — weather permitting.

Votive candles will be lit surrounding the seating area where the octagonal, brass ring is located — the exact spot where the St. Nicholas Church, North Side sanctuary once stood.

A few, short, biblical readings will be read, the Joyful Mystery of the Rosary will be recited, and the service will conclude with the singing of

Christmas carols. Saint Nicholas will be represented in costume to participate in the service and to wave to passing motorists traveling on Rt. 28, reminding them that December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day.

This a very beautiful, solemn service and a wonderful photo-op for pictures of St. Nick's historic site by candlelight, as well as the city of Pittsburgh's skyline.

Come and join in prayer and song to pay tribute to our former St. Nicholas Church, North Side's patron saint and to keep this St. Nicholas Church tradition alive.





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. 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 each year. 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, Saint Nicholas.

If enough people donate only \$3.00 per Croatian in their family or as a memorial each year, PCHF can afford to: update the www.stnicholasns.org website, keep you informed of St. Nicholas events with PCHF newsletters, cover liability insurance costs and help maintain the St. Nicholas Church Historic Site church brochures and Our Lady of Lourdes statue.

3 Bags of Gold Fund

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

-

Phone # _____ Email _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____ Date _____

Family members or friend for whom are sending your memorial donation _____

**Mail your donations to: PCHF, P.O. Box 5812, Pittsburgh, PA 15209
2017**



Spotlight on Croatian Heritage: the former Croatian Fraternal Union of America Building in Oakland

In 1928 the new home office was built at 3441 Forbes Avenue, moving the Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU) from the North Side (then Allegheny City) to Oakland. The CFU ran its operations in Oakland from 1928 through 1961 until moving to their current location in Wilkins Township. The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has owned and occupied the former CFU building ever since. While no longer the home of the CFU, this building has architectural and social significance to Croatians and all of Pittsburgh.

The former CFU building was designed by architects Pierre Liesch and G.W. Grange. Pierre Liesch was an associate of Frederick Osterling who was the architect for downtown's Union Trust Building. The Union Trust design clearly influenced the Flemish Gothic architecture of the CFU. There is no other Flemish Gothic architecture in Pittsburgh! The building's exterior features ornate terra cotta tile that is still present though the cornice was removed during the ACHD's ownership.



After a long partnership to save St. Nicholas Church, PCHF is partnering with Preservation Pittsburgh again to call attention to this building. Preservation Pittsburgh is a non-profit advocacy group dedicated to preserving our region's historic, architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage.

By Melissa McSwigan, Preservation Pittsburgh

www.stnicholasns.org

The PCHF website, www.stnicholasns.org continues to offer wonderful memories of the beloved St. Nicholas R.C. Croatian Church, North Side, with over 500 photographs of interest to people of all ages. We urge you to contact us with your photos so we can make duplicate prints of those special people and events to be included in the 15 website photo albums.

The website's home page that was redesigned with a rich color photo of the Church exterior, along with its name in the mosaic plaque, as well as the grbs, is absolutely stunning and worth taking a moment to view. Once you do, you'll want to view more photos to take you down memory lane of Church services, events and the neighborhood that was Mala Jaska and most of all, feel the heartbeat of all the Croatians who lived, worked and worshipped in this tiny portion of America that they all so much loved.

The web site also contains an online store, where Christmas cards and note cards (with photos of the old church interior and exterior from 2000), as well as note cards with 2015 photographs of the new St. Nicholas Church Historic Site are displayed. The Saint Nicholas brass ornaments and 2000, 23-minute video on St. Nicholas Church N.S. with testimony from Fr. Grgo Sikiric, T.O.R., can also be purchased from the web store. All of the web store merchandise makes unique gifts. By Susan Petrick



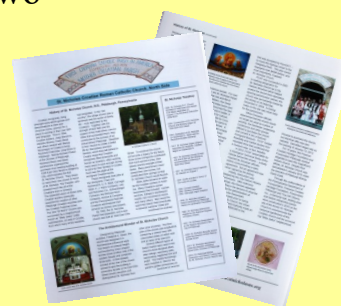
ST. NICHOLAS HISTORIC SITE STILL ATTRACTING VISITORS



Since July of 2015, when the St. Nicholas Church Historic Site was dedicated, bikers, hikers, walkers and visitors have spent time at the historic site. Some take the time to view the beautiful, new statue of Our Lady of Lourdes or to read the three interpretive panels filled with history of St. Nicholas Church, N.S., the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and the Croatian neighborhood of Mala Jaska. Some people are so moved that they bring flowers in vases or place small statues of saints or children praying at the feet of Our Lady. Prayer cards have also been found next to the Mary statue. And maybe some people come just to meditate and pray. Whatever the reason, people continue to visit the St. Nicholas Church Historic Site.

To educate the visitors about the history and architecture of St. Nicholas Church, North Side, Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation Board members compiled an informative brochure with colorful photographs of the Church and make them available for visitors at the site to take free of charge. It is the intention of PCHF that the brochures will help to keep the memory of St. Nicholas Church, N.S. alive. In the last two years, over 190 brochures have been distributed, indicating that people are interested in learning about St. Nicholas Church, N.S. The brochures in the brochure box are replenished periodically.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of the St. Nicholas Church, N.S. brochure, please use the contact information on the back of this newsletter. Include your name and address, and a copy of the brochure will be mailed to you.



By Susan Petrick



Moving Memorial Day Service

By Kathleen Buric

The 29th of May, 2017, arrived bright and clear in Pittsburgh, PA. The sun smiled down on friends and former parishioners of St. Nicholas Church, N.S., making their way to the top of the hill of Hahn Road, the location of the former St. Nicholas Church, N.S. Cemetery. They had come to rekindle old friendships, laugh a little, cry a little and, most of all, participate in the yearly Memorial Day service held there. This beautiful and solemn service honors those brave, deceased soldiers who were members of the St. Nicholas, N.S. parish who gave their very lives so that this country could remain free.

Susan Petrick warmly greeted all who came, while Bernice Goyak pressed a miniature American flag into every willing, outstretched hand. The crowd gathered at the location of the large bell which stately stands at one end of the cemetery. At the conclusion of the singing of several patriotic songs, sung by the crowd, the bell was rung once and the name called for each of the 27 veterans who were killed or missing in action during service to their country.

Once the bell ringing ritual was concluded, Deacon Greg Jelinek, of Most Holy Name Parish, climbed to the level of the bell. There, surrounded by votive candles, in flowing, priestly robes, he inspired the crowd with spiritual readings and imparted his thoughts and reflections regarding this ever so important commemorative gathering. All were moved by his most stirring words.



Then the strains of "The Ballad of the Green Beret" echoed throughout the cemetery as Donna Zivic sang and played the song on her acoustic guitar. Her rendition of the tune was indeed soulful and beautiful!

Zora Spudic stood proud, as her grandson, dressed in full military garb, and veteran Bill Vergot saluted during the concluding ceremony of the playing of Taps, followed by the singing of "God Bless America" by everyone. Coming away from an emotionally moving event such as this one, imparts a feeling of pride to be an American, and true admiration for those who gave everything to keep this country free.





Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation

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Pittsburgh, PA 15209-0812

Address Service Requested

How to Reach Us

E-mail us at pchf@stnicholasns.org

You may call any of the following Executive Committee Members by telephone as shown below:

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Steve Willing	412 527-5764

St. Nicholas Croatian Heritage Foundation
St. Nicholas Church, N.S. Website

www.stnicholasns.org

