

Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Fall Issue ~ Vol. 12 No. 2

October 2015

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



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Friends Receives Grant from Czech Republic

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery was pleased to learn that the Foreign Ministry of the Czech Republic has awarded us a grant of \$1250 to help defray costs of our recent FallFest gala. The proceeds from the fundraising event will be used for needed restoration work at Bohemian National Cemetery.

We are grateful for the Czech government's support.



What's New with Friends of BNC

An article in the *Chicago Tribune* about the **Eastland Memorial** at Bohemian National Cemetery featured a colored picture of the striking new memorial with two of the children from **T.G. Masaryk Czech School** sitting by the steering wheel that is part of the memorial. (The steering wheel is from a Great Lakes steamship of the same era as the *Eastland*.) The dedication ceremony took place at the annual BNC picnic on July 12th.

How special the occasion was for our own **Chuck Michalek**, who as founder and chair of the Eastland Disaster Memorial Committee turned

this decades-long dream into a reality. Friends of BNC fully supported the committee's efforts to create this memorial, and we were honored to be recognized by Chuck and the committee for Friends' role in the project. We were also delighted to have Friends members **Chuck Betzold**, **Carol Jean Smetana**, and **Linda Tassin** on the *Eastland* Centennial Commemorative Project Committee. Next time you are at BNC, be sure to visit Section 16 to see the memorial and our large Friends brick with its line drawing of the entrance gate bell tower.

(continued on page 3)

Live from BNC

Our Vice-President Andy Bultas is currently enjoying a trip to the homeland. His column will return with our next issue.

Heritage Happenings

Heritage Happenings is published quarterly by Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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

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Stueckemann

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Juli Nelson

Special Projects: Jerry Gaydusek

Webmaster: carol jean smetana



from the editor's laptop

It's October again (what happened to summer?!) and that means it's time for most of us to renew our membership with Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery. Just clip out the form on the back page of this issue, fill it out, and send it with a check or credit card payment info to our post office box, and you'll be all set for another year (or two years, if you choose the two-year renewal option).

Membership renewals are vital, and so is your participation at our events. We hope you enjoy our winter and summer meetings, for the programs and the fellowship. And who wouldn't enjoy a professionally guided tour of our unique Bohemian National Cemetery? We offer them in spring and fall.

In a little over ten years of existence, Friends of BNC has already made a positive impact on the cemetery. There is more we want to do, but we can't do it without your continued support. We would love to have more volunteers and welcome help in all areas you can imagine, including fundraising, grant-writing, program planning, sales, refreshments at meetings, publicity, newsletter, web presence. If you are interested in becoming more active with Friends, either in an ongoing role or as a one-time offer (for instance, helping out with our upcoming February winter meeting), call Marge at 847-362-9036, or email us at info@friendsofbnc.org.

The success of Friends depends on volunteers like you!

Na shledanou!

carol jean smetana

P.S. My apologies that this issue has arrived in your mailbox a few weeks late. Also, please note that the next issue will not be published until early February, so don't look for it in January!

Děkuji Vám!

for the BNC picnic: **Juli Nelson**—book table

Mary Syrup—bakery booth

for our August 16th meeting: **Pavlina Dropka**—speaker

Chuck Cervenka & Jerry Gaydusek—gatehouse clean-up

Juli Nelson—flyer design

Lilli Nemec—flyer distribution

Mary Syrup—refreshments

for our cemetery tours: **Chuck Betzold**—sign maker

Lilli Nemec—flyer distribution

for assistance with all our BNC events:

Rob Charlemagne

Welcome to Our New Members!

Ed Avis ... Oak Park, IL

Donna Brehovsky ... Palos Hills, IL

Nancy Mathieson ... Chicago, IL

Paul Pirok ... Dallas, TX

Joann Poplar ... Arlington Heights, IL

Linda & Ron Roaks ... Madison, IN

Terry Stirling ... Glenview, IL

What's New with Friends of BNC

(continued from first page)

Bořek Lizec, the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, took part in the ceremony and visited the picnic area with his wife **Katerina**. The picnic weather was hot and sunny, and we all enjoyed the live music, including clarinet-playing by BNCA vice president **Bill Hudecek**, as well as delicious potato pancakes fried up by **Frankie Saballus** from **Klas Restaurant** in Cicero.

Vyšehrad may be a cemetery in Prague, but just like Bohemian National Cemetery, it is so much more than that! Originally a fortress, today Vyšehrad is a place for lovers to meet and for families to walk, with the cemetery part covering just a very small area. Buildings at Vyšehrad include a beautiful church where weddings take place and another building dating from the Middle Ages. We learned much of Czech history, too, when **Pavlina Dropka** spoke at our August 16th meeting. Forty-nine people came out to join us,

including **Anna Pravdova**, her husband **Bertrand Schmitt**, and their friend **Josef Sveda**. Anna, a staff member from the National Gallery in Prague, has a grant at the University of Chicago for study on Czech-American artists. We had a wonderful time telling Anna and her party all about BNC and Czech Chicago, long after all the other attendees had gone home. It is amazing to me that you can get to BNC on public transportation from Hyde Park.

Congratulations to **April Hasson** and her husband **Elon** on the birth of their daughter **Emerald Rachel**. April is our publicity chair but will sort of be on leave as she cares for little Emerald.

We have been working with **Young Park**, a librarian at the Albany Park branch of the Chicago Public Library, to take part in their ongoing series intended to introduce various ethnic groups found in the neighborhood. **Irena Cajkova** and **Tom Gaulkin** presented a

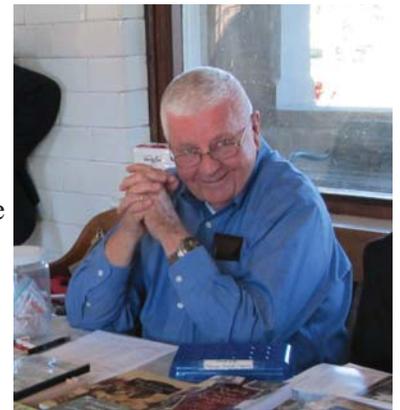
program on "A Glimpse of Czech Chicago" on Saturday, September 19th at the library. This event is part of what we are doing to fulfill the grant we have from the Czech Republic to spread the word about BNC and Czech culture to a wider audience. On October 1st, **Joel Tassin** spoke at the library about using the interactive BNC map he developed for the webpage. If you haven't checked out the map, go to our website at www.friendsofbnc.org and try it out. It is really a wonderful online tool to explore BNC, especially if you aren't able to visit in person!

Work continues on the stairs and terrace replacement project to make the crematorium/columbarium entrance both safe and attractive. We are gathering information about design and materials for installing handrails that will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

***Marge Sladek Stueckemann**
President*

In Memoriam: Art Lorenz

We are sad to hear of the passing of Art Lorenz on September 20, 2015. Art was kind, intelligent, generous, hard-working, and well respected personally and professionally. Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery was fortunate to benefit from Art's unfailing support and all the work he did on our behalf. Members of Friends may know Art as the smiling volunteer at the book-selling table, or recognize him as the proud veteran pictured in the membership brochure with his World War II jeep in front of the World War Memorial. Recently he served as the Friends board liaison with the project manager and contractors to get the master plan underway, and he provided important assistance to his wife Kathryn in all her work fundraising for the restoration of the crematorium/columbarium building. Our condolences go out to Kathryn and their family. Art will be missed by all who knew him.



~ FallFest ~

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery's Biennial Gala

by Gerri Romanelli

Friends of BNC held its biennial fundraising event on Sunday, September 13th at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, Illinois. Fifty guests were in attendance on a lovely afternoon. Our banquet consisted of hors d'oeuvres of crab Rangoon, barbecued shrimp, chicken tenders, and mushrooms stuffed with sausage and cheese. Diners had their choice of sirloin filet of beef, champagne chicken, or a vegetable wellington. Salad, fresh bread, red and white wines, and chocolate mousse rounded out a delicious meal.

After a greeting and thank you from Friends President Marge Stueckemann, guests were treated to a performance by a dance troupe from the Moravian Cultural Society. One of the group described the features of the dancers' various costumes (kroje), representing different regions of the former Czechoslovakia, and explained the dances to be performed.

Following the entertainment, guests were invited to take part in the Silent Auction and bid on lovely paintings, prints, books, crystal, and Czech memorabilia. Jewelry, gift certificates, home décor, and beautiful gift baskets were also available for bids. A

50/50 raffle was held giving the winner half the "pot," while the other half was donated to Friends of BNC.

Thanks to all Friends members who contributed their

time, talent, and donations to make the Gala a success: Helen Gaydusek, Thelma Malecek, Juli Nelson, Gerri Romanelli, Marge Sladek Stueckemann, and Mary Syrup.



*Dancers from the Moravian Cultural Society
photos by Ken Tucek*



Entertainment by the Moravian Cultural Society dancers was underwritten by Charles and Martha Cervenka, the favors by Helen and Jerry Gaydusek, and the flowers by Gethsemane Gardens. Friends of BNC is especially grateful for support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic whose generous donations have helped with important restoration projects.

All photos by Jeff Tucek - Thank you, Jeff!



Chuck Michalek



above: FallFest Coordinator Juli Nelson
left: Friends President Marge Stueckemann



above: BNCA President Dave Pimm & BNC General Manager Beth Raleigh



left: Gerri Romanelli
below: Lilli Nemec

below: putting in bids for the Silent Auction



left: Chuck Cervenka (seated) and Martha Cervenka with Rob Charlemagne



right: Thelma Malacek



right: Members of CSA Lodge #14 enjoyed an afternoon together at Friends' FallFest



Donations (June 16 through September 16, 2015)

Sponsors

(\$100—\$499)

Marilyn Drury-Katillo
Richard Palicka
Paul Pirok
Apostol & Sharon Triffon

Donors

(\$25—\$99)

Lodge Anton J. Cermak #99
Lodge Pilgrim #330 WFL
Wynnell Noelke *in honor of the*
Family of John Kolar
Betty Oppenheimer
Jean Reichel
Donna Reusing *in memory of*
Roberta Zapp
David & Marjorie Stueckemann

FallFest Donations

Sponsors

(\$100—\$499)

American Wilbert Vault
Corporation
Katherine Babcock
Martha & Chuck Cervenka
Edward (Duke) Dellin
Marilyn Drury-Katillo
Evelyn & Donald Fergle
Fred & Ellen Ranck

Donors

(\$25—\$99)

Anonymous
Blanche Babcock
Marilyn John
Lodge Century of Progress

John Maher
Pam Morong
Thalia Puncochar
Peterson Pulaski Business
Industrial Council

Thank You

(\$1—\$24)

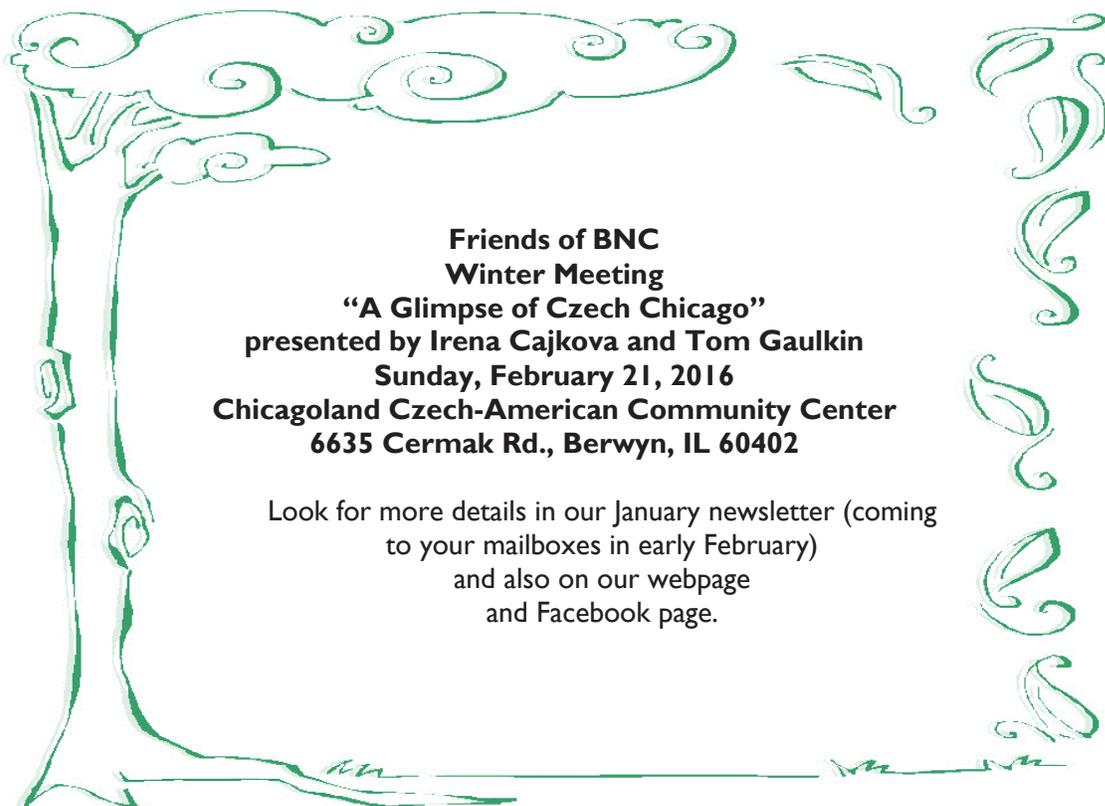
Janet Cundiff
Valentina Husak
Elaine Kovarik
Dorothy Zenisek

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

Upcoming Events at Bohemian National Cemetery

**Friends of BNC
Winter Meeting
“A Glimpse of Czech Chicago”
presented by Irena Cajkova and Tom Gaulkin
Sunday, February 21, 2016
Chicagoland Czech-American Community Center
6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, IL 60402**

Look for more details in our January newsletter (coming to your mailboxes in early February) and also on our webpage and Facebook page.



The New *Eastland* Memorial at Bohemian National Cemetery

by
Chuck Michalek

Almost one hundred individuals observed the dedication of the *Eastland* Memorial at Bohemian National Cemetery on July 12, 2015, held in conjunction with BNC’s Annual Summer Picnic. Participating in the dedication ceremony were representatives from several *Eastland* disaster historical organizations and children from the Tomas G Masaryk Czech School. Klara Moldova played a violin solo from Dvorak’s 8th Symphony. Consul General Bořek Lizec from the Czech Consulate in Chicago placed a dedication wreath at the memorial. Reverend Wayne Matulionis, SSD, offered a blessing of the memorial. Descendants of *Eastland* victims were provided flowers to present at the memorial site.



left: Klara Moldova, teacher at Thomas G Masaryk Czech School, with two of her students dressed in attire from a century ago, standing by the exhibit of Eastland artwork created by children from the school.

below: Consul General Bořek Lizec speaks at the dedication ceremony.

Final landscaping and brick installation are presently underway, and the memorial site continues to accept donor brick contributions. More information is available at www.friendsofbnc.org/eastland.

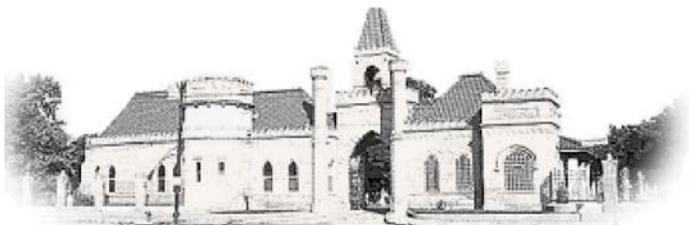


For more details about the dedication, please see the article on page 21 of the September 2015 Journal of CSA Fraternal Life, which can be found online at <http://csalife.com/doc/journal/September.pdf>.

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

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Heritage Happenings

we're on the web
www.friendsofbnc.org



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Your membership in Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery is vital to the preservation of our cemetery. As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter and be entitled to discounts on merchandise and our "Tours of the Tombstones." Above all, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to maintain, improve and beautify Bohemian National Cemetery.

Our membership year is January - December. This means that **all memberships, except those renewed for two years last year, will expire December 31, 2015.** New members joining in the last quarter of a year (Sept.-Dec.) receive those 3 months as a bonus, and their membership year begins the following January.

Please send in your renewal now!

Memberships:

One year: \$25 individual; \$35 family;
\$20 student or senior; \$30 senior family.
Two years: \$45 individual; \$60 family;
\$35 student or senior; \$50 senior family.

Send renewal form with check payable to
Friends of BNC or credit card information
to:

Friends of BNC
P.O. Box 72746
Roselle, IL 60172-0746

Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code (+ 4) _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Membership _____

For credit card payment (Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express), include:

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Security code _____ Signature _____