

Important Dates to Remember

February

Skate to Save History Mount Prospect Historical Society
<http://bit.ly/2iAyvKA>
February 20th
12:00-5:00

The Defender: How the Legendary Black newspaper Changed America Glessner House Museum, Chicago
<http://bit.ly/2j2iPRG>
February 23rd
6:00-8:00

March

Russian Tea Elgin History Museum
<http://bit.ly/2jDBvrA>
March 5th 12:00-2:00

Irish Genealogy Webinar Fountaindale Public Library Bolingbrook
<http://bit.ly/2ivCkFG>
March 15-16th
9:30-4:30

Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of the NI-HL newsletter? Submit your events, news and photos to newsletter@ni-hl.org

Save the Shrine of Christ the King

In January of 2016, the Archdiocese of Chicago sought a demolition permit for the 1920s Shrine of Christ the King, a Chicago Historic Landmark church. The Shrine, located near the University of Chicago in the Woodlawn neighborhood, suffered a fire in October 2015 which destroyed its roof. A Renaissance Revival masterpiece of the Chicago architect Henry Schlicks, who began his career with Adler & Sullivan, the Shrine is one of only two Catholic churches in the city of Chicago to be individually recognized as a Landmark.



The Northern Illinois Historic League joined the effort to #SaveTheShrine, issuing a public letter in support of preserving the historic church and sharing an online petition and news updates on its Facebook page, bringing the Shrine's story to an audience interested in history and preservation across northern Illinois. The League was the regional partner for the Coalition to Save the Shrine, which also received endorsements from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Landmarks Illinois, Preservation Chicago, the Hyde Park Historical Society and four Woodlawn neighborhood organizations.

Bringing together Shrine faithful, the local community, and preservationists towards a common goal; the campaign to Save the Shrine galvanized support for preserving the historic building, running print and digital ads, launching an online Petition signed by 2,250 people, producing an online video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=jizGhExJ98g), which reached over 70,000 people in the Chicagoland area, receiving coverage in over 60 news stories in as many days, and inspiring \$650,000 in pledges made to Preservation Chicago for the Shrine.

Despite having obtained the demolition permit from the City, in late February the Archdiocese responded to the outpouring of support for the Shrine by deeding the entire property to an independent Catholic entity, the Institute of Christ the King. The Institute, an international religious order, has been staffing the Shrine since 2004. By offering the traditional Catholic liturgy (the Latin Mass) the Institute draws a diverse congregation from around the Chicago area. Since the fire, the Shrine community has been worshipping in the former gymnasium of First Presbyterian Church, which generously offered its space for as long as the Shrine needs to rebuild.

The Institute and the Coalition to Save the Shrine (now a non-profit) are partnering in the restoration efforts, raising a combined total of \$1.79 million to date. The first phase of restoration, to complete the new roof and protect the Shrine from the elements, is estimated at \$3 million. Construction work began in May of 2016 and has been progressing steadily since then; the steel trusses for the new roof will be installed as soon as the Chicago winter thaws. In October, over 1,100 people visited the Shrine during the architecture festival Open House Chicago, making it one of the most visited sites outside the downtown area and the only hard-hat site.



Save the Shrine continues to receive press from Chicago and national media. The story was featured in Preservation Magazine and the Sacred Architecture Journal, three Chicago publications featured the Shrine on their lists of "Must-See Sites" for Open House Chicago, the South Side Weekly named the Shrine 2016's "Best Resurrection" and Curbed Chicago's readers voted Woodlawn "Neighborhood of the Year" with a special focus on the Shrine.

See the Shrine's new video at: <https://reginamag.com/ads/#savetheshrine>. To learn more, please visit: www.savetheshrine.org and www.shrinelandmark.org or contact us at support@savetheshrine.org.

50th Anniversary of the Oak Lawn Tornado— April 21, 1967

Since the early 1960s, the Oak Lawn Public Library has worked to promote community history through collection preservation, oral and written interviews, public programming and exhibit development. By engaging both the young and old we aim to foster an environment where patrons can freely explore Oak Lawn's past, hopefully gaining perspective on how the Village developed and its place in the larger world. In more recent years digitization has taken priority, and after much hard work we now offer access to more than 12,000 photos, documents and artifacts through our searchable online database (<http://olpl.pastperfectonline.com/>). We also utilize a number of valuable online tools including Facebook, Flickr, Historypin and Google Maps to digitally widen our program's reach.

Broadly speaking, our goal is to produce one large exhibit per year along with several other corresponding programs and displays. Our



2017 exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Tornado. This devastating storm, which struck Oak Lawn and many other communities, took the lives of thirty-three individuals and caused hundreds of injuries and millions of dollars in damage. Arguably *the* definitive event in the Village's history, not a week goes by where a patron doesn't stop to share their memories of the disaster.

Opening on April 21st in the second-floor Local History Room, "Voices in the Wind: Remembering the 1967 Tornado", will feature more than one hundred images, personal recollections, film footage of the aftermath and newspaper accounts. In addition, we have a smaller gallery display, "A Blanket of White: The Blizzard of 1967", opening January 26th. This year we invite you to stop by the Oak Lawn Public Library to share your story, view the exhibits and participate in the remembering these seminal events.

Kevin Korst- Local History Manager, Oak Lawn Public Library

Congratulations to these recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places!
2016:<http://bit.ly/2la1gQ3>
2017:<http://bit.ly/2lae3SN>



St. Adalbert Preservation Society

The St. Adalbert Preservation Society was formed in February 2016 by parishioners after the Archdiocese of Chicago



declared that month the parish and church of St. Adalbert would be closed at some future undetermined time. In April 2016, the Society was incorporated as a non-profit in

the State of Illinois and in September 2016 we became a 501(c)(3). We take initiative raising funds for maintaining the structural integrity of the church and possibly buying the property from the Archdiocese, in the years to come. We endeavor to foster the legacy of the Polish community who built the church and maintain the current traditions of the Mexican-American faithful.

Built by Henry Schlacks, a famous ecclesiastical architect, it has been touted as a structure worth preserving by **Preservation Chicago** which placed it on their list of 7 most endangered buildings of 2016 (www.preservationchicago.org). **Landmarks Illinois** also added St. Adalbert on its list of most endangered historic places of 2016 (www.landmarks.org). They deemed it "not only a fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture, but also a chronicle of the Polish history of Chicago." The ornamental towers, which can be seen for miles, are the gateway to Pilsen. The interior space is inspired by the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. In November, Cardinal Cupich confirmed the sale of the church property to the Chicago Academy of Music without a need to deconsecrate the church. The Music school has not owned sacred property of this size and we fear it will be an overwhelming challenge for this group.

The St. Adalbert Preservation Society is working toward a partnership with the Resurrection Project (www.resurrectionproject.org) to keep this sacred site a vital asset within the neighborhood. TRP has been a leader in the community for 25 years; ensuring affordable housing, offering educational enhancement programs, and protecting the immigrant experience. Alderman Danny Solis supports our efforts along with various other community groups and local museums. One partner throughout has been the NIHL who has provided great regional coverage. We continue circulating our petitions and bringing this story to new audiences. To learn more or to donate, please visit: www.savestadalbertchurch.org

<https://www.facebook.com/StAdalbertPreservationSociety>

or contact us: savestadalbert@savestadalbertchurch.org