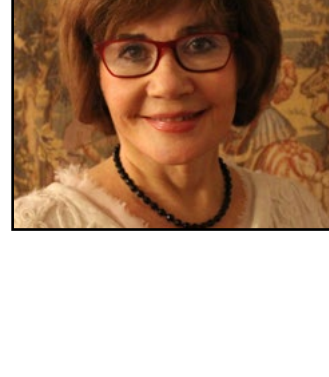




Welcome



Dear Friends,

This year was very busy and successful for the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. We are grateful to have played a small role in enriching our culture. Thank you for putting your trust in us and we look forward to working together in the coming year.

Rusyns still see Christmas as a time for family to be together. The C-RS Board joins me in wishing each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and most joyous Holiday Season. May your family prosper and your hearts be filled with love. We are deeply grateful for your support, generosity, and your commitment to the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

Christos Raždajetsja a Štastlivyj Novyj Rok!

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President
president@c-rs.org

C-RS Membership Management System - A New Membership Feature

Have you checked out your C-RS membership profile record recently? If you have, you've noticed a change that has been made. If you haven't, then you need to go to the C-RS Membership site, <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>, and log on with your email address and password and review your profile record.

With a new release of the Wild Apricot application software recently, the C-RS was able to implement a new membership feature. As of November 24th, members are now able to print a membership card – that's right, a genuine membership card that is now part of a member's profile record.

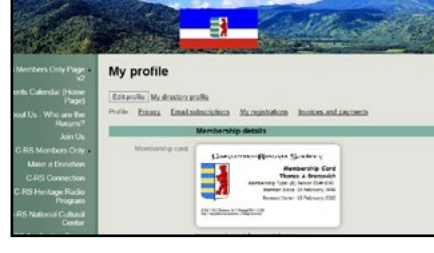
The membership card is in a PDF format and can be printed on your home printer using whatever card stock you choose. Membership cards are only available online. There are two card formats to choose from; a card with straight corners, or a card with rounded corners.

The membership card contains the following membership information; name(s), membership type, membership ID number, member since date and membership renewal date. The membership card is automatically updated if any of these data elements change.

Now that the C-RS has membership cards feature, members can now say "I am a card carrying Carpatho-Rusyn".

Yours in Rusyn Unity,

Tom Brenzovich
 C-RS Membership Management Systems Administrator



Remembering John Schweich

We are sad to report that our friend and C-RS Trustee John Schweich passed away on November 27, 2017. His personal contributions to C-RS will be sorely missed.

John was born in Frackville, Schuylkill County in Northeastern Pennsylvania's anthracite region. His interest in our people came from growing up in this largely Rusyn neighborhood.

After earning his B.A. from Penn State in 1967, John served for a year in Vietnam as an intelligence officer, earning a Bronze Star and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Following his discharge, John remained in the Army Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1996.

John worked for 31 years with the CIA in various capacities. More recently he taught as an adjunct professor of political science at Pitt.

A dedicated C-RS member, John served as president of the D.C. Chapter (2005-2008), member of the Education and Museum Committees, and, from 2016 until his death, as a Trustee.

Over the years he amassed more than 1,800 volumes of parish histories. This immense and unique collection contains photographic and historical details often available nowhere else. It formed the basis of his frequent lectures to our chapters and articles in The New Rusyn Times and Naše Rodina. Before his passing, John donated this treasure to the C-RS.



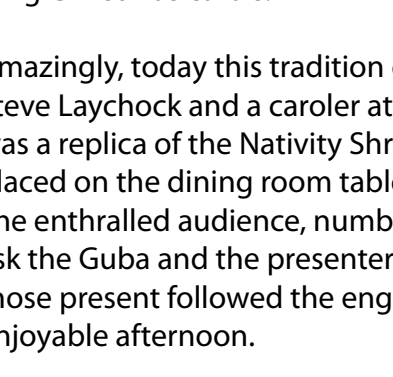
C-RS Chapter Highlights

C-RS Eastern PA hosts "Tales of the Guba"

On November 18, the Eastern PA chapter hosted at Penn State Schuylkill campus an engrossing and informative presentation, "Tales of the Guba" by Dr. Nicole Anandel and Dr. Harold Aurand. Dr. Anandel and Dr. Aurand presented their extensive research on this holiday custom which was well received by all present. The research done by the presenters focused on the connection between Krampus and St. Nicholas in Western Slovakian house performances and medieval religious drama.

Those in attendance were fascinated to hear of the Rusyn tradition, dating back centuries of the Bethlehem carolers accompanied by the unruly shepherd, Guba making home visits on Christmas Eve. The Guba being the oldest shepherd and wearing a scary mask, is the main character and comedian. In days of old, these local carolers dressed as angels and shepherds, carried a Nativity Shrine and went door to door. After being invited into homes, they enacted the Christmas play and sang Christmas carols.

Amazingly, today this tradition continues in St. Claire with the Guba, Steve Laychock and a caroler at our presentation. Brought for all to see was a replica of the Nativity Shrine which is carried door to door and placed on the dining room table while the carolers and Guba perform. The enthralled audience, numbering over 40, had many questions to ask the Guba and the presenters. Coffee and donuts and mingling of those present followed the engaging presentation and made for a truly enjoyable afternoon.



C-RS Youngstown Participates in Annual Christmas Parade

The Youngstown Chapter as part of the Simply Slavic group marched in downtown Youngstown for the annual Christmas parade Friday, December 1st. It is part of the chapter's efforts for community outreach. The Youngstown Chapter wishes all our brother chapters and their members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



C-RS Cleveland Celebrates Carpatho-Rusyn Day

The Cleveland chapter celebrated Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America on October 26, 2017 by hanging the Rusyn flag over Cleveland City Hall. Several local government officials read Rusyn proclamations. In 2010, the Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America designated the October 26th date to commemorate the gathering in 1918 in Philadelphia, where Carpatho-Rusyns were recognized for the first time as a distinct nationality by members of the Mid-European Union and the United States.

Today, chapter members and guests from many other nationalities listened to guest speaker Michale Skindell recount stories of his immigrant great grandparents, some of whom were Rusyn. Member Tom Katrenich entertained the guests before and after the presentations with his toe-tapping accordion music. The program was arranged by chapter member Laurel Tombazzi. Guests representing other nationalities such as Poland and Lithuania joined in the celebration.



Green Split Pea Soup (Horochova Polivka) Recipe



Ingredients:
 1 pound dry green split peas
 1 onion, diced
 1 celery stalk, diced
 Salt/pepper

Soak peas in cold water overnight. Drain and add 6 to 7 cups water, onion and celery. Bring to a boil, skim the starch that comes to top from time to time.

Lower heat and simmer for 2-3 hours. Stir to prevent sticking. Add more water for desired thickness. Season to suit with salt and pepper.

Zaprashka (soup thickener)

4 tablespoons oil
 4 tablespoon flour

In a medium skillet heat oil, add flour gradually and stir constantly until browned. Add to soup mixture and stir well.

Note: 1 pound baby lima beans (dry) may be substituted for the peas.

Save the Dates

Wednesday, December 27, Plano, TX

Please join C-RS Dallas Chapter for our 4th Annual "Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas Party & Dinner" from 7 - 9 pm, Taste of Poland European Tavern, 2301 N. Central Expressway, Suite 155, Plano, TX. 75075 www.tastypl.com. Each Christmas season we joyously gather to celebrate our heritage with our families, dear friends and new friends. Don your cheeriest holiday apparel and come out for the evening with us! It's a casual get-together. All ages are welcome, no need to be of Rusyn ancestry..... just bring a good appetite and a smiling face! Purchase your own dinner from the wonderful ethnic menu. BYOB.



We invite you to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament, under \$10, and share in the fun of our "Famous Ornament Exchange"! Please RSVP by December 20th to CRSDallas@verizon.net.

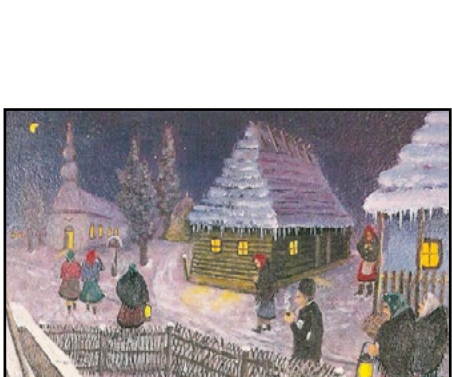
Saturday, January 13, Burr Ridge, IL

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society Lake Michigan Chapter will host a "Rusyn New Year Potluck Lunch at St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church, 6980 So. County Line Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. Doors open at noon and lunch starts at 1pm. Bring your favorite traditional Rusyn dishes – entrees, vegetables or desserts and wear your Rusyn Kroj. Please RSVP by January 10 to Ken Cuprisin kencuprisin@gmail.com/708.895.3074 or Arlene Gardiner a-gardiner@sbcglobal.net.



Saturday, January 13, Ocala, FL

Join C-RS Florida Southern Branch for "Winter in the Carpathians," a presentation about the cold winter in the Carpathian Mountain region and how our ancestors survived. The program will take place from 12:30 - 2:30 pm at the Freedom Public Library, 5870 SW 95th St, Ocala, FL. For more information contact Bonnie Burke at bb@c-rs.org.



News contributions are welcome!
 Please submit your content to am@c-rs.org.

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Membership site: <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>
 Please submit news contributions to am@c-rs.org.

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS) is a national 501(C)(3) organization founded in Pittsburgh, PA in 1994. As stated in our mission statement, the C-RS is dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the United States and supporting Rusyn culture in the homeland in east central Europe. Information about joining C-RS and a membership application may be obtained on the C-RS membership website at <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>