



**The Persistence of
the Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas
Drama: The Guba
OR
The Guba: So what's he to ya?**

When Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants arrived in the Anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, they brought their Christmas traditions with them. These included both formal Christmas rituals from their Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches, and folk customs done outside, or in opposition to, church orthodoxy. Among these is the processional drama of the Shepherd Carolers, sometimes called the Gubi.

In this presentation, Drs. Andel and Aurand of Penn State Schuylkill will describe how they encountered the tradition among Carpatho-Rusyns today and the particular problems of studying why it survives given cultures hostile to voluntary associations in general. Drs. Andel and Aurand believe that the Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas processional drama provides a key moment of cultural identification and cohesiveness for Greek Catholic Carpatho-Rusyns that celebrate Christmas as a time of creation and birth and a rejection of destruction and death.

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Zoom