



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

The "Dog Days of Summer" have officially arrived. I hope you and your families have had the opportunity to enjoy all the delights of summer including vacations to the beach, lounging by the pool, taking in our national pastime at the ballpark, enjoying an ice cream cone or simply relaxing in a lawnchair outside.

I would like to extend a few congratulations within our C-RS membership family for their impressive accomplishments. Anna Tombazzi, daughter of Laurel and Frank Tombazzi, was crowned 2019/2020 Miss Czech-Slovak US. The pageant awards a \$10,000 cash scholarship to one young woman each year who loves their heritage and has a passion for promoting the Czech and Slovak culture across the US.

Additionally, Diana Essock of the C-RS Cleveland chapter was recently named Vice President of ASM International, the world's largest association of materials engineers and scientists. Congrats to both of you on these fantastic achievements!

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President

## Welcome Newest C-RS Members!

Welcome newest C-RS members. The following list of names reflects new members who have joined July 13, 2019. Please review the list - you just might find someone you know.

Lisa Dunford, Channelview TX  
Beverly Elko, Clarks Summit PA  
Nicole Gruet, Waxhaw NC  
Mark Jesko, Brownfield PA  
Sharon Joelson, San Diego, CA  
Michelle Kapral Duralia, Pittsburgh PA  
Lorraine (Lori) Kruzcek, Austin TX  
Kenneth Mehalko, Strongsville OH  
Michele Montgomery, Kentfield CA

Andrew Muska, Omaha NE  
Douglas Prexta, Westlake OH  
John Prexta, Novelty OH  
Nicholas Prexta, Lititz PA  
Bob Senich, The Colony TX  
Sandra Sirois, Suffield CT  
Paul Smith, Gulfport FL  
Deacon Paul Varchola, West Pittsburgh PA

Again, we welcome these new members and look forward to a lasting relationship. We hope they become involved by bringing their talents and skills to the C-RS.

## Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship Winner

Nicole Tanana has been awarded the 2019 Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship. Studying at Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, she is pursuing a Juris Doctor, for completion May 2020. She received her BA at Marywood University graduating with a Citation in Honors and summa cum laude with a major in History & Political Science and Applied Philosophy and a minor in Business. She has been a research assistant for Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Bret Asbury, Kline School of Law, from the summer of 2018 until present. Currently Nicole is working on research for a book proposal on prenatal genetic testing and counseling. She has interned with the Honorable Malachy Mannion, Honorable Trish Corbett, Honorable Margaret Bisignani-Moyle, Congressman Matt Cartwright and Munley Law.



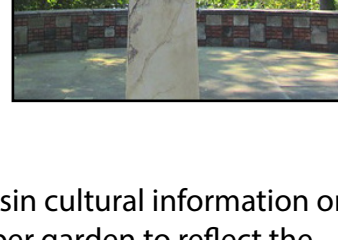
Her current position is as a summer associate at Hinman, Howard & Kattell in Binghamton, NY.

Nicole plans to take the Bar exam next July, then go into private practice specializing in estate planning. She has worked at an Estate Planning Clinic in Philadelphia as a pro-bono intern and hopes to continue to do as much pro bono work as possible.

She credits her Baba and Dzedeo for their inspiration in guiding her on a quest to serve others. While it was her Dzedeo's wish to send her Baba to law school it is she who is fulfilling his wish. She honors them in what she has done with her life, in her academic ability, her desire to help others and to make herself into the finest lawyer she can be.

## Cleveland Chapter Receives Grant for Rusin Garden

The C-RS Cleveland chapter was recently awarded a \$500 grant from *Destination Cleveland* (the convention and visitors bureau for the Greater Cleveland area) for their event "Warhol's Flowers in the Rusin Garden."



The Carpatho-Rusyn Society, through their Cleveland Chapter, has initiated a program to renovate the Rusin garden and incorporate educational material about the Rusin culture and feature Andy Warhol. Landscape designs have been developed for the Garden by the Cuyahoga Community College's Landscape Design Department. The design selected by the Cleveland Chapter reflects Warhol's unique "Flower" series.

Renovations will be done in three phases and will include incorporation of Rusin cultural information on permanent structures, upgrading the hard-scaping, re-landscaping of the upper garden to reflect the colors and themes of the Rusin flag, and re-landscaping the lower garden in the Warhol-inspired 'Flower' design using his vibrant, colorful style.

## Anna Tombazzi Crowned 2019-2020 Miss Czech-Slovak US

Anna Sophia Tombazzi is the daughter of Frank and Laurel Tombazzi (C-RS Cleveland chapter) and competed on behalf of the state of California at the 2019 Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant. Her Carpatho-Rusyn lineage stems from her mother's side, namely her great-grandfather and great-grandmother who immigrated from Europe in the 1900s.



Anna graduated from the University of Akron, Ohio in May 2018, with a major in Chemical Engineering and minors in mathematics, chemistry, and business. She currently works at The Spaceship Company/Virgin Galactic in Mojave, California, as a Spaceship Propulsion Test Engineer.

Anna has been involved with her heritage for as long as she can remember. As a young girl, she donated toys to an orphanage in eastern Slovakia, spoke on a Rusyn Radio station, and acted as a family's little girl in a traditional Christmas Eve Velija play. She also has been able to share the flavor of Slovak and Rusyn music through playing her violin at multiple events through the years.

In the later years, she became the lead female dancer and lead violinist in the Karpato-Rus Ensemble, whom she performed with from the age of 11 until 15. She also was an assistant choreographer for the group and helped decipher traditional moves from Slovak and Rusyn groups in Eastern Europe after visiting there. In 2012, she was chosen to present the Bread and Salt, a traditional Rusyn custom exhibiting hospitality, to the Major of Cleveland at the Cleveland Cultural Garden during One World Day. During college, she performed traditional Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn dances with Living Traditions Folk Ensemble, and volunteered at the annual Simply Slavic Festival (in Youngstown, OH) and other festive events.

Anna is extremely honored to be crowned as the reigning Queen for the Miss Czech-Slovak pageant. As Rusyns are a minority group in Slovakia which have traditionally not had a land to call their own, it is truly an honor to be able to represent and serve as an ambassador for both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Anna plans to take a trip to both countries early in 2020 and besides visiting the major landmarks and cities, also wishes to spend time at The Centre for Folk Art Production (ULUV) in Bratislava. Besides being an engineer, Anna is a music composer, photographer, pysanky (decorated eggs) artist, and acrylic painter. She hopes to learn traditional art forms such as wood working and glass blower and bring the techniques back to the United States to share with others.

Anna will also travel to multiple states during her reign to share the Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn traditions with others. She hopes to use knowledge obtained by science, like the fact that dancing reduces risks of developing Alzheimer's, with solutions from these Eastern European Countries, like polka dancing and waltzing. She also hopes to encourage youth to be the best they can be, which includes full development of both sides of the brain - meaning not only being dangerously curious in the pursuit of knowledge, but also finding oneself in art through the traditional customs of Czechs and Slovaks.

## Save the Date

### Sunday, August 25, Cleveland, OH

The Cleveland chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and volunteers with the Rusin garden will join with over 30 nationality groups in celebrating One World Day from 11 am to 6 pm at Cleveland Cultural Gardens, University Circle, 930 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44108.



There will be a parade of flags, a naturalization ceremony, cultural performances, family activities and ethnic food. The Living Traditions Folk Ensemble will perform at 1 pm in the Rusin garden. To check the schedule and for other information, go to <http://clevelandoneworldday.org/2019/>. We hope to see you there!

### Saturday, September 7, Boardman, OH

The Youngstown-Warren-Sharon chapter will be hosting a Carpatho-Rusyn Vatra as well as a Rusyn and Slovak Picnic from 12-8 at Infant of Prague Church grounds, 7754 South Avenue, Boardman, OH 44512. Join us for food, music, genealogy, sales tables and more!



The kitchen will open at noon and will offer pirohy, stuffed cabbage, cabbage and dumplings, kielbasi and sauerkraut and bacon fry. Liturgy begins at 6 pm. Rain or shine - free admission - all are welcome. Don't miss the best food this side of the Atlantic!

### Saturday, October 12, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Mark your calendars for the Eastern PA Chapter's 7th Annual Rusyn Genealogy and Heritage Conference at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

If you have enjoyed our conferences, come back again and meet and greet fellow Rusyns. If you have never been to a conference, by all means, come and see what the talk is all about. This year is special as it is the 10th anniversary of our chapter. We want to make this not only a day with momentous presentations but one of celebration.



Planning in progress. As details unfold, information will be publicized. Contact person: Sharon Jarro - shangp@rcn.com Phone - 610-759-2628

### Sunday, November 3, New Jersey

Save the date for the New Jersey chapter's annual Heritage Celebration Dinner from 12:30 to 4:30 PM with Honoree Luba Czerhoniak Fedash. Details coming soon.

News contributions are welcome!  
Please submit your content to [am@c-rs.org](mailto:am@c-rs.org).

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Please submit news contributions to [am@c-rs.org](mailto: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/>