



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

The month of November is unique in that in addition to festivities, it is a time to be thankful, a time to remember and to embrace those who enrich our lives. It gives us time to reflect upon what lessons we learned and how we can spread happiness, to look back at all the great memories and good people who came into our lives.

At this time of Thanksgiving, our thoughts turn gratefully to our hands-on members with warm appreciation. Our 25th anniversary celebration was a huge success as well as the 10th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Eastern Chapter of C-RS. We saw many exciting accomplishments across our chapters and branches. These have come as a result of your hard work and dedication. Great strides, too, have been made in renovating our Cultural Center. This also would have been impossible without your generous support. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment to our mutual success. Our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President  
[president@c-rs.org](mailto:president@c-rs.org)

## Welcome Newest C-RS Members!

Welcome newest C-RS members. The following list of names reflects new members who have joined since September 15, 2019. Please review the list - you just might find someone you know.

Zachary Crawford - Coal City, IL  
Nancy Ellis - Hammond, IN  
Dina Garbulinski - Mars, PA  
Ivana Goliasova - Scottsdale, AZ  
Tom Jones - Sacramento, CA

Brian McHugh - Collingswood, NJ  
William Perlow - Westmont, IL  
Ellen Perry - Hummelstown, PA  
Julie Plante - Chagrin Falls, OH  
Ron Shimko - Coral Gables, FL

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.

## C-RS Chapter Event Highlights

### Cleveland Chapter

#### *Rusin Garden Winterization*

As winter approaches here in Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Chapter of C-RS has been preparing our Rusin Garden in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens for its long rest. On Saturday 9 November, volunteers from the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity of Case Western Reserve University helped us cut back our perennials, rake our leaves and clean up both our upper and lower Garden. Diana Essock and her husband, Tom Kolakowski, worked with these volunteers, and were most impressed with these polite and helpful young men. They did a such wonderful job that we even received nice compliments from visitors who were passing by when we were packing up our tools at the end of the day. They said our Rusin Garden was the tidiest one they had seen. A true inspiration to all of us, who wished we were physically there.



#### *One World Day*

Cleveland chapter members designed, transported and displayed posters and other items about Rusyn culture and history in their booth at the 74th One World Day festival held at the Cleveland Cultural gardens on August 25, 2019. The garden's highlights were the inspirational posters from Andy Warhol's "Flowers" series and the children's art table. Due to the perfect weather, over 30,00 visitors attended this event and hopefully learned something new about our Rusyn culture.



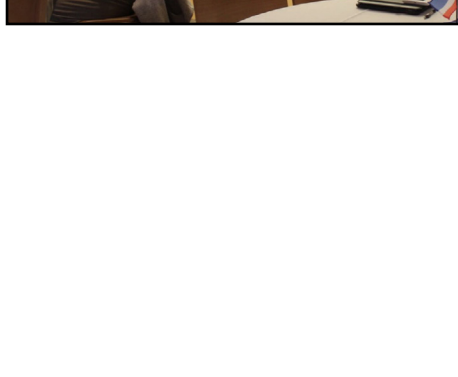
### Eastern PA Chapter

John Righetti and Maria Silvestri screened and discussed their documentary film, *The Resurrection of a People*, on Friday October 11 at King's College. The audience of more than 50 people was captivated by the filming. Many questions followed and were thoughtfully answered by John and Maria.



The following day, the 7th Rusyn Heritage and Genealogy Conference was once again held at Kings College in the Sheehy - Farmer College Center. Along with the many excellent presentations by exceptional speakers, the chapter proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary. Sharon Jarrow, Chapter President, was extremely surprised by chapter trustee, Dr. Peter Yasenachak's presentation of an engraved plaque from the chapter in recognition of her service.

The program began with singing of the Rusyn National Anthem followed by a welcome speech by Maryann Sivak, National President. Later, Sivak recognized the chapter with a personalized engraved award for their 10 years of service and presented Sharon with a beautiful engraved C-RS Christmas ornament.



Outstanding presenters of the day were John Righetti, Bill Tarkulich, Tom and Kathryn the Peters with a wide variety of subjects to interest all those present. Displays along the sidelines emphasized genealogy (Tom Peters), the Studium (Bethany Sromosky and her aunt MaryAnn O'Brien), and DNA and Social Media by (Bruce Romanichuk). The ethnic food at lunch was happily welcomed and included halupki, pierogies, halusky, kielbosi and sauerkraut and a bit of healthy salad for good measure. The European Market had a little bit of everything from popular Rusyn books to T-shirts and hats. A few lucky people took home a thoughtfully created basket abounding with beautiful items. Overall, it was a heartwarming day and people left with a deep warm feeling of pride in their Rusyn heritage.

### Florida Branch

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, C-RS members and friends gathered together to view the DVD "The Extraordinary Journey" that told a visual story of immigration to America. Member, Beth Nicholson opened her home in The Villages, FL to 17 attendees. After the presentation, members socialized and shared refreshments that were brought by those attending. There are plans to meet again in this area in January to view Part II of this presentation.



## Save the Dates

### Saturday, November 16, Asheville, NC

The C-RS Western NC Branch will honor veterans with a presentation of *Our Flag Still Waves* from 1:30-3:30 pm at Montreat College School of Adult and Graduate Studies, 29 Turtle Creek Drive, Asheville, NC.



The film features Michael Strank, a Carpatho-Rusyn born in Jarabina, Slovakia who lived in Johnstown, PA. Michael was a US Marine who was one of the six men who placed the American flag on Iwo Jima at that memorable event on February 23, 1945.

The event is free and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are necessary as seating is limited. For more information, contact Bonnie at: [bb@c-rs.org](mailto:bb@c-rs.org) or call 440 729-2045.

### Sunday, November 17, Seattle, Washington

John Righetti and Maria Silvestri will screen and discuss their documentary film, *The Resurrection of a Nation*, on Sunday, November 17, 2:00 - 4:30, at the Columbia City Public Library in Seattle, Washington. Further information and RSVP: [ak@c-rs.org](mailto:ak@c-rs.org).

### Saturday, November 23, Jermyn, PA

The C-RS Eastern PA Chapter presents "Winter in the Carpathian Mountains" at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Orthodox Church-Church Hall, 305 Walnut St, Jermyn, PA 18433.



How did our Rusyn ancestors survive during the very long, very cold winter months in the Carpathian Mountains? How did they stay warm and what did they wear? What did they eat and how were the foods prepared? What activities kept them busy and what social activities took place?

Bonnie Burke, C-RS Southeastern Branch Coordinator, will cover the period between the Feast of the Nativity and the Feast of the Resurrection through photos and discussion. Breakfast buffet will be served at 9:30 AM. RSVP Contact information: \*\*Jim Zeleniak 570-862-4914 [jim\\_zeleniak@yahoo.com](mailto:jim_zeleniak@yahoo.com) | Sharon Jarrow 610-759-2628 [shangp@rcn.com](mailto:shangp@rcn.com).

### Saturday, December 7, Plano, TX

Join the C-RS Dallas chapter to meet St. Nicholas of Myra, beloved saint of the Carpatho-Rusyn people at "St. Nicholas Is Coming to Town" from 2 - 4 pm at the Environmental Education Center of Plano, 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093. Tickets: [meetstnicholas.eventbrite.com](https://meetstnicholas.eventbrite.com)



Adults and children alike will enjoy learning about Nicholas while preparing a small gift to take home and give to others, as St. Nicholas did. St. Nicholas themed snacks and crafts will be included at the event, with the highlight of the day being a visit from St. Nicholas himself. Please bring your cameras to capture your individual time with St. Nicholas, and also bring a shoe for him to fill with goodies!

For tickets, visit <https://meetstnicholas.eventbrite.com>

### Sunday, December 15, Brecksville, OH

Join the C-RS Cleveland chapter for their Christmas Program from 1-4 pm at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church Hall - 8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH. Cost: \$10.00 - Children under ten are free. Bring a Velija dish (or something yummy) to share.



Limited Seating - Please RSVP by December 8th to Marcia at 440-331-3856 or online at [www.c-rs.org](http://www.c-rs.org) - go to Events - scroll down to the December event and Register.

We did this last year and had a really good time. It was reminiscent of days of yore when our ancestors got together to share food and song to celebrate the Christmas season. Don't know the Koljady (Carols)? No problem. We will go line by line until everyone is ready. This is a perfect opportunity for those of you who did not grow up with the Christmas Eve (Velija) foods and customs to learn how to create a new-old tradition. This is a perfect opportunity to bring children or grandchildren to introduce them to their culture.

We are hoping to have Living Traditions Folk Ensemble join us to present "The Jaslickari". A re-enactment of the shepherds who would go door to door singing carols and telling the story of the first Christmas,

We have rented St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church hall to give us more flexibility with time we don't have at the library. Hence, the \$10.00 entry fee to offset hall rental.

Bringing something hot? We will have plenty of plugs for crock pots.

We hope you will join us for any and/or all our programs. Make it fun and bring a friend!