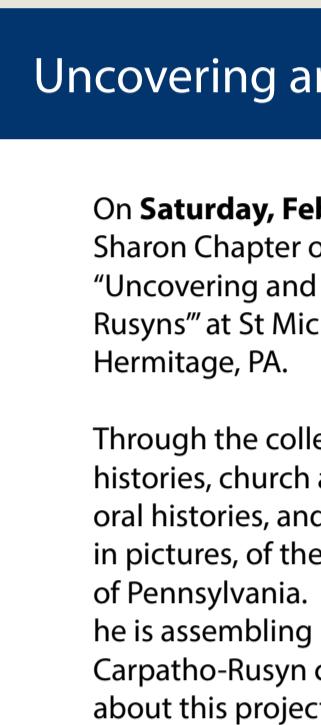


Welcome



Dear Friends,

A fresh new year is upon us once again. It's an opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. At the same time, 2017 will offer the chance to start anew, to start strong, and to catch up on everything we hope to do this year.

This year our short term plan is to:

- Create a budget, essential for obtaining grants
- Overhaul our website
- Create a Conference (Community) room with two interactive TV screens for meetings, lectures, presentation and Rusyn craft demonstrations. This room will also be available for use by C-RS members and for members of collaborating ethnic organizations.
- Be more efficient in processing membership renewals
- Continue to promote membership and actively develop new members
- Involve our youth
- Gift package for college students
- Provide \$1,000 grant for a C-RS member attending Penn State University
- Continue organizing and documenting the artifacts at the Cultural Center

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

Uncovering and Publishing the History of PA's Carpatho-Rusyns

On Saturday, February 25 at 1:30 pm, the Youngstown/Warren/Sharon Chapter of C-RS will sponsor a lecture by Richard Custer entitled "Uncovering and Publishing the History of Pennsylvania's Carpatho-Rusyns" at St Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 2230 Highland Ave., Hermitage, PA.



Through the collection and research of chain migration data, parish histories, church and civil records, immigrant newspapers, photographs, oral histories, and memoirs, the author is writing history, in words and in pictures, of the Carpatho-Rusyn immigrant communities of the state of Pennsylvania. He has amassed a collection of source material that he is assembling into the most comprehensive look at the history of Carpatho-Rusyn communities anywhere in the world. He will speak about this project and also about the unique situation of Rusyns in northwestern PA, where farming became the primary occupation of Rusyns. He has amassed a collection of source material that he is assembling.

Rich was a founder of the Capartho-Rusyn Society in 1994, and Editor of its New Rusyn Times newsletter until 2016. He is the author of scholarly and popular articles of Rusyn history and the blog "The Carpatho-Rusyns of PA" (rusynsofpa.blogspot.com). He co-authored the book Prikra (Presov, Slovakia, 2006), a history of his Rusyn maternal grandmother's village in eastern Slovakia. He holds master's degrees in Business and Eastern Europe studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

The Youngstown chapter is honored that Rich will be coming to speak, and they invite all to attend and bring a friend.

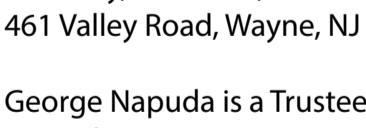
New C-RS Vice President - Bettianne Diles

Please welcome Bettianne Diles to her new role as Vice President of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society! Bettianne has been a member of the C-RS Youngstown/Warren/Sharon chapter, and will surely be a great addition to the Executive Board. The upcoming issue of the New Rusyn Times will provide more information about Bettianne and goals for her position. Stay tuned!



Bettianne Diles

GCU Turns 125!



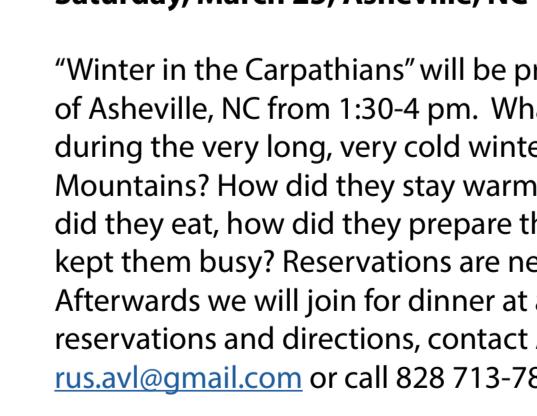
On February 14th, the Greek Catholic Union celebrated their 125th anniversary as well as a new beginning.

Subcarpathian Rusins from the Austro-Hungarian Empire immigrated to the US to start a better life. They spoke a different language, practiced a different religion, and followed a different set of customs. These differences led immigrants to band together and collectively establish brotherhoods to care for each other. Since most immigrants had dangerous jobs, the brotherhoods established funds for widows and children. The need for a comprehensive protection plan led to the establishment of the GCU on February 14, 1892.

Today, the GCU offers members competitive insurance and annuity products that funds social activities, community involvement opportunities, and other benefits. The GCU maintains more than 44,000 members nationally.

In the coming months, the GCU will be updating the look of their communications and will be launching a new website!

Miss World Rusin 2017



The Miss World Rusin 2017 competition will take place at the Rusinsky Festival in Svidnik, Slovakia on Thursday, May 27th.

The organizer of Miss World Rusin will provide accommodations, meals and transportation for ONE finalist from each of the following countries: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, USA, Canada, Serbia, Romania and Croatia.

It's not too late to enter! To register, complete the form found at the link below.

[Complete form here.](#)

Save the Dates

Sunday, March 5, Cleveland, OH

The C-RS Cleveland Chapter presents "Symbolism and History of Wooden Church Interior Architecture", Father Emil Hutnyan, St. Andrew Church hall, 15029 Maple Park Drive, Maple Hts., OH 2-4 pm. Free and open to all. For more information call 440-331-3856.



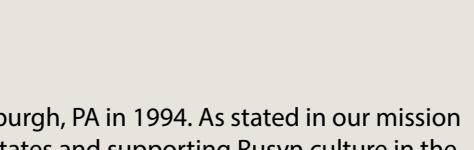
Saturday, March 5, Pittsburgh, PA

Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs at the University of Pittsburgh will have its 2nd Annual Festival of the Egg. C-RS will participate.



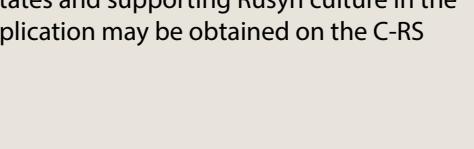
Saturday, March 11, Burr Ridge, IL

The C-RS Lake Michigan chapter presents "Pyansky Workshop." Presentation, demonstration & time to create your very own! Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 1 - 4 pm, Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 6080 South County Line Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois. RSVP by March 4 to kencuprisin@gmail.com /708.895.3074/a-gardiner@sbcglobal.net.



Saturday, March 11, Bluffton, SC

The C-RS Southern Coastal is reaching out to members living along the coast from Charleston to Florida. A "Meet and Greet" and lunch will be held at a member's home at 8 Sedgewick Ave. in Bluffton, SC from 11:30-3:30. After lunch, there will be a presentation on Rusyn historical sites in Slovakia and Poland by Bonnie Kobec Burke. Guests are welcome and the event is free. Please contact bb@c-rs.org for reservations or for more information.



Saturday, March 18, Fort Mill, SC

The C-RS Eastern NC branch will present separate classes on "Pysanky for Children" and "Pysanky for Adults" from 1:30-3:30 pm at St. Philip Neri Church in the Ministry Center, 292 Munn Road East, Fort Mill, SC (30 minutes from Charlotte, NC). Everyone is welcome including those who are familiar with the technique. Please bring your pysanky to share. The adult class is \$10 for supplies and the children's class is free. Number is limited, so please call 440 729-2045 for reservations.



Saturday, March 25, Wayne, NJ

"A Trip to the Homeland," presented by George Napuda. Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 1:30 pm at Wayne Public Library, 461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470.

George Napuda is a Trustee of the Eastern PA Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. In the spring of 2016, George visited his ancestral villages around Mukachevo and Uzhorod, including Klachenevo, Ivaniutsi, Zhukovo, Lochovo and Mukachevo itself. He also visited the convent in Dombok. Since 1994, he has supported with food, clothes, supplies and money.

Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. For further information about the program, please send an e-mail to csrcnj@gmail.com or call Dorothy Bognar at (201) 891-4151.

Saturday, March 25, Asheville, NC

"Winter in the Carpathians" will be presented in the mountains of Asheville, NC from 1:30-4 pm. What did our ancestors do during the very long, very cold winter months in the Carpathian Mountains? How did they stay warm, what did they wear, what did they eat, how did they prepare the foods and what activities kept them busy? Reservations are needed due to limited space. Afterwards we will join for dinner at a nearby restaurant. For reservations and directions, contact Andrea Robel at: Carpathero.rus.avl@gmail.com or call 828 713-7845.

News contributions are welcome!

Please submit your content to am@c-rs.org.