



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

As usual, March can't make up its mind whether to self-identify as a lion or a lamb. For those of you in the northeast, this week it has apparently settled on being Godzilla. But at least the snowdrops and crocuses are up.

The C-RS is undertaking several new projects:

- Chapters which have become relatively inactive or which are too small to undertake events by themselves are considering becoming branches. Their funds will be administered by the CFO at National and will remain earmarked for their use only. This will relieve some of their accounting burden while allowing the C-RS to maintain an accurate system for reporting to the IRS.
- CFO Rich Layhock and Tim Felegie have managed to create detailed budgets for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. Among other benefits, this will allow us to apply to foundations for grants.
- We are merging the Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center and Carpatho-Rusyn Society Facebook pages. The C-RS Facebook will now serve as the page for both functions.

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President

[president@c-rs.org](mailto:president@c-rs.org)

## C-RS Membership - Did you know?

On 31 December 2014, the C-RS implemented a new membership management system that currently resides on its own website, <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>. The system provides several self-service features, meaning members can access the system and perform a variety of functions online.

Without going into details at this time, Member features include, but are not limited to:

- Renewing membership online
- Use of a "Members Only" page that allows members to update their profile data and access the online membership directory and chapter directories
- Access to scheduled C-RS events and online registration
- Ability to make donations online
- Inclusion in broadcast messages regarding upcoming C-RS events



Access to the membership site is not just restricted to members only. Non-members (visitors) can access all of the features mentioned except for the "Members Only" and broadcast message features. New members/visitors can also join the C-RS online.

This is the first installment of a series of articles to address each of these features in more detail. Our goal is to provide awareness and "how to" instructions regarding these tools and to encourage members to take full advantage of the features offered. If you have not checked out the site, please take a moment and click on the link provided above. If you have not logged on to see your profile, go to the site and enter your email address and password.

I look forward to sharing this valuable information with the hope of making the membership more aware. Feel free to contact me with questions by contacting me at [membership@c-rs.org](mailto:membership@c-rs.org) or call and leave a message at 412-567-3077. As a side note, the C-RS is working towards integrating the existing C-RS Website and the C-RS Membership Site into one site; we were planning to make this happen back with the initial implementation, but circumstances beyond our control prevented this from happening.

Yours In Rusyn Unity,  
Tom Brenzovich, C-RS Membership Chairman

## New Rusyn Times - Spring Preview



The Spring Issue of the New Rusyn Times is coming soon. Here's a sneak preview of what's to come!

- Gordon McKechnie has written on his experience hiking through Rusyn lands in Eastern Slovakia. His excellent commentary offers details and insights not found in your typical tourist literature.
- John Righetti treats us to a short history of Rusyn Easter customs and their frequent pagan origins.
- Finally, Maryann Sivak has conducted an extensive interview with famous Rusyn poet Petro Trochanowski. In it he discusses his personal history and the motives behind his emergence as a leading voice of the Rusyn Awakening.

## Request for Used Books



The C-RS Sales Department asks all members to consider donating used Rusyn books of any type, i.e. language, history, cultural, religious etc. This would allow us to make Rusyn literature available to our members at a deep discount. Any funds obtained would be used in our Rusyn Homeland Educational Program.

Send your used books to:

Rusyn Cultural Center  
Sales Department  
915 Dickson Street  
Munhall Pa 15120

Write 'Used Books' on the package. Please help support our Rusyn Educational Program. Your donations are appreciated!

## Save the Dates

### 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 Uzhhorod, including Klachenevo, Ivanivtsi, Zhukovo, Lochovo and Mukachevo itself. He also visited the convent in Lombok, which he has supported with food, clothes, supplies and money since 1994. He will share the highlights of his trip.



Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. For further information contact an e-mail to [crsnewjersey@gmail.com](mailto:crsnewjersey@gmail.com) or call Dorothy Bogner 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 do 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: [Carpatho.rus.avl@gmail.com](mailto:Carpatho.rus.avl@gmail.com) or call 828-713-7845.



### Sunday, April 9, Seattle, WA

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society/Pacific Northwest Branch invites you to an illustrated discussion "A Visit to the Presov region of the Carpathian Mountains" presented by speakers Bonnie Burke and Dr. Patricia Krafcik. The event will be held at The Polish Home (in the Patricia Hill neighborhood) 1714 18th Avenue, Seattle WA 98122 from 2-4 pm.



Our speakers will share stories and photos of their experiences at the International Summer School of Rusyn Language and Culture at the University of Presov in Slovakia. Bonnie Burke is the C-RS Southern Branch Coordinator. Dr. Krafcik is on the faculty at The Evergreen State College, Olympia WA (professor of Russian Language and Culture; Slavic Studies; Russian and Slavic Folklore). For more information phone 206-295-4425 or email [vertigo\\_latr@mac.com](mailto:vertigo_latr@mac.com).



### Saturday, April 22, Dallas, TX

"Paska to Pysanky: The Traditional Rusyn Easter Basket" We'll show you all the ingredients Baba proudly included in her basket, and offer plates of homemade Easter foods! Saturday, April 22, 2017 1:30-4:00 pm, Environmental Education Center, 4116 West Plano Parkway 75093. Free admission for presentation, \$5.00 donation for each Easter meal plate (\$3.00 donation children 12 and under). C-RS Dallas invites everyone to keep up with us on our Facebook page: [Carpatho-Rusyns Dallas](https://www.facebook.com/Carpatho-Rusyns-Dallas).



### Friday, May 5, Winter Park, FL

C-RS Florida presents "Slovaks and Rusyns: Differences and Similarities" Friday, May 5, 2017 from 1:30-3:30pm at The Slovak Gardens, 3110 Howell Branch Road #100, Winter Park, FL. Come and learn some interesting facts about the two cultures that lived side by side in Slovakia as friends and neighbors. What do they share and what makes them each a distinct culture? John Righetti, President Emeritus of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society will enlighten us through a newly released video production. After the presentation, Righetti will be available by Skype to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, call Bonnie at 440-729-2045 or email at [bb@c-rs.org](mailto:bb@c-rs.org).



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/>