

C-RS Connection

April 2020



WELCOME

Dear Friends,

I hope this email finds you all well. Like you, we remain at home, dealing with the reality of COVID-19. The global COVID-19 pandemic is a transnational disaster that is impacting everyone. Four billion people around the globe, many of them living under more challenging conditions than face us, have been told to stay in their homes. Here in the U.S., population centers like New York City and Los Angeles are feeling the full weight of the pandemic.

I am sure that you and your loved ones are experiencing this situation in individual and diverse ways. Many of you know someone who is caring for the sick and vulnerable, keeping hospitals safe and clean, delivering food, and providing the essential services that keep us moving forward. We are all thankful to these heroes for their extraordinary work. By doing our own work, we are contributing our share to overcome this situation as soon as possible.

To emphasize that we should be sharing and celebrating good news, the C-RS Education Media Committee has been working intensely on how to best serve you.

Since Easter is upon us, the committee feels it is only appropriate to showcase our Easter customs. Our Carpatho-Rusyn Easter video on YouTube reached 1,489 views in less than 24 hours. This engaging and informative video takes us through the history and practices of the Rusyn Easter ([Watch here](#).)

We are planning to present a series of Rusyn cultural videos showcasing Rusyn customs, traditions, recipes, music and much, much more.

Make sure you're following our [Facebook page](#) so you'll be the first to know when we post a new video! Also, please visit the [Carpatho-Rusyn Society's website](#) for more information.

We are working with the Heinz History Center on first-hand documentation of how Western Pennsylvanians will be keeping Easter customs during this time. This may be through online services, meals and celebrations in the home, and/or using communication tools to retain a sense of community and congregation. If you or anyone you will be celebrating with happen to take photos or videos or have any online materials distributed locally that you will be using during the Easter season, please consider sharing those with us.

Please send them to Alexis McCormick at am@c-rs.org or to me at pres@c-rs.org. This is an extra-special time that will inspire creativity for those who are celebrating!

We hope that you are all well and staying healthy. It is certainly an adjustment but defeating the pandemic serves as an opportunity to reevaluate and reflect on our personal and organizational goals. Let's strengthen our community bonds during this period of social distancing. Have faith that this, too, will pass. And have a Happy Easter.

Take care,

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



WELCOME NEWEST C-RS MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest C-RS members. The following list of names reflects new members who have joined since March 15, 2020. Please review the list - you just might find someone you know.

- Annalisa Erder - Houston, TX
- Frank Tamburello - Milford, PA
- Michael Hajduk - Vancouver, British Columbia CANADA
- Tyler Bechard, North Syracuse, NY

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.

2020 ANNA DONSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship will be offered once again in 2020 to an outstanding Rusyn student or any student enrolled in a Carpatho-Rusyn School, or who is a member of a Carpatho-Rusyn family, organization, society, or club that advances the Carpatho-Rusyn culture.

The aim of the scholarship is to assist students who themselves are members of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, or who would advance the Carpatho-Rusyn culture, language, or tenets of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. The purpose of this \$1000.00 scholarship is to recognize and provide financial assistance to an outstanding student enrolled in a higher education program (2 or 4-year duration or graduate program) or any accredited institution that offers certified academic, professional, technical, or vocational training.

The scholarship wishes to encourage and highlight the excellent contributions that our Rusyn people are making to their communities and beyond. The scholarship also intends to accelerate the advancement of our young Carpatho Rusyn population, expanding the development of our C-R citizens, within their community and state through higher education, advanced learning, and professional academic or vocational work.

For more information, visit <https://www.c-rs.org/Anna-Donson-Memorial-Scholarship>.



NEW C-RS WEBSITE FEATURE ONLINE PROSPECTIVE MEMBER REFERRALS



Recently the online prospective member referral was implemented on the C-RS website. Members can now submit a prospective member referral using the "Membership Referral Form." To access this feature, go to the "Get Involved" option on the C-RS website and select "Membership Referral Form" from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click the "Submit" button. The form will automatically be sent to membership@c-rs.org email address for appropriate action. A membership invitation packet will be U.S. mailed to the to the prospective member with the hopes that the prospective member will join. This is part of an ongoing effort to address membership outreach and growth.

In the Spirit of Rusyn Unity,

Tom Brenzovich
C-RS Membership Mgt System Administrator/Trustee

NEW C-RS MEDIA SITE

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society Radio Heritage Program archives are now up and available for listening. The Carpatho-Rusyn Society has set up a new media page:

<https://c-rsmedia.org/>

The purpose of this site is to post radio archives, videos, presentations, and other media items from the C-RS. Currently, only the radio program is available, but as we grow we will add more menu items and links.

To access the Carpatho-Rusyn Society Radio Heritage Program site, please go to: <https://c-rsmedia.org/radio-site/>. The radio program is hosted by Dean Poloka every Sunday from 2:30-3:00 pm Eastern Time and can be heard on AM 730 and FM 96.5 - WPIT in the Pittsburgh area. You can also listen online during broadcast time at the station's web page: <https://wpitradi.com/>.

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society Radio Heritage Program will be sponsoring two special Easter broadcasts on Sunday April 12 and Sunday April 19. If you would like to sponsor one of these broadcasts in full or in part, please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 or email dean.poloka@gmail.com.



ONLINE EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION FORM

Just a reminder to all chapter/branch leaders that a new feature is now available on the C-RS website. Upcoming event announcements can now be submitted online using the newly implemented "Event Announcement Submission Form". This form is restricted to chapter/branch leaders and board members only. To access this feature, go to the "Our Events" option on the C-RS website and select "Event Submission Form" from the drop-down menu.

Fill out the form with the event information and click the "Submit" button. The event form will automatically be sent to eventsmgr@c-rs.org email address for review and approval. Once approved appropriate action will be taken to post the event on the C-RS website's event page and Facebook or any other media as necessary.



DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS AND SHARE STORIES OF YOUR FAMILY'S PAST!



[JOIN THE FORUM](#)

Just a reminder for all you genealogy researchers! The C-RS web site now has available a genealogy forum - be one of the first to visit! Get involved with other Rusyns and explore your common ancestral backgrounds, ask questions and answer questions. Relate exciting stories about a trip to the homeland! Maybe even find a cousin at the forum. This has been a much sought after dream of Sharon Jarrow and without Tom Brenzovich and his incredible IT wizardly it wouldn't have happened!!! Get involved and post today!

Instructions for accessing the online Genealogy Forum:

- From the C-RS website. www.c-rs.org home page, scroll down to the "Genealogy" icon (link) and click.
- You will be directed to the "Genealogy" page, please read the term & conditions.
- Scroll down to the "Join Genealogy Discussion Form" button at the bottom of the page and click.
- You will be asked to log in with your email address and password, the discussion form and the recent forum update page will appear.
- You have the option to either reply to an existing topic or create a new topic.
 - For new topics click on the "Topic" button and enter the subject and topic content (body). Note: To prevent spam you will be asked "I'm not a robot", respond accordingly.
 - To reply to an existing post, click on the topic title from the list, and then click on the "Reply" button to enter your response.
- Then click the "Post" button.

Attachments can be included as part of the reply or topic, i.e. pictures and/or documents. To insert an attachment:

- Click on the "Choose files" button at the bottom of the page.
- Select the file(s) to be attached. Up to 20 files can be uploaded. Each file should be less than 20 MB.
- When complete, click on the "Post" button.

WHO ARE THE RUSYNS? DVD

The *Who are the Rusyns?* DVD was released in 2019 for the 25th Anniversary of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

It is professionally presented by John Righetti explaining the complicated history of the Rusyn people. This "hard copy" should be in every Rusyn home simply because it will be referred to often and hopefully shared with others. One realizes how close the Rusyns were to becoming extinct and gives great hope for the future as we are now recognized as an ethnic minority by many countries.

The DVD can be purchased for \$25, which includes postage and handling. Please include the name and address of the recipient and mail your check made payable to Carpatho-Rusyn Society to Bonnie Burke, 1101 Tanner Crossing Lane, Indian Land, SC 29707.

Orders will be processed immediately upon receipt.



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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>.

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