



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2019 please welcome our newly-elected Board of Directors:

- Maryann Sivak – President;
- Bettianne Dilles – Vice-President;
- Tim Felegie – Chief Financial Officer;
- Rich Laychock – Chief Financial Administrator;
- Alexis McCormick – Chief Information Officer;
- Cathie McAdams – Recording Secretary;
- Trustees- James Batcha, Tom Brenzovich, Sharon Jarrow, Nancy Kelly, George Pawlush and Karen Varian

Also, please welcome Iva Fedorka who has become the third editor of the *New Rusyn Times*. A resident of Crafton, PA, she is a marketing specialist for Thermo Fisher Scientific, a position for which she writes and edits agricultural seasons and marketing materials. She holds both an MBA and a MHA from the University of Pittsburgh. Her paternal grandfather and grandmother came from two Rusyn villages both located in the Ukraine. Having travelled extensively, Iva has also completed courses in Eastern European genealogy and advanced genealogy from the Genealogy Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP). It was through these studies that she learned of her Carpatho-Rusyn heritage. Moving forward, please email your articles for the NRT directly to Iva at [ibfedorka@yahoo.com](mailto:ibfedorka@yahoo.com).

We have a lot in store for 2019! The new Board's immediate task is to prepare for our 25th anniversary celebration that will be held May 17, 18, 19 at the Cultural Center. Please mark your calendars. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Take care,

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

## New Years Folk Customs Excerpt from an article written by Mykola Musinka

Until the twentieth century, the official calendar was virtually of no great significance in the everyday life of Carpatho-Rusyns. The common folk marked years rather in terms of memorable historical events (wars, natural disasters, epidemics), and months and days according to the departure or arrival of migratory birds, the beginning of agricultural seasons (koly jarci sijaly; koly zita zalyl when they sowed the barley; when they harvested the rye), or according to Christian holidays (na Matku Bizu; na Velykden' at the Feast of the Assumption; at Easter). Until quite recently, it was common to find among the elderly that they were not aware of the exact date of their birth. As a consequence, the celebration of New Year is not connected with any particularly rich complex of customs.

The most important New Year custom was the New Year's Day well-wishing. From early in the morning, groups of about 3 to 5 boys visited their neighbors and relatives, proceeding from the low-lying localities to those at the top of the village (zeby gazdivstvo dohory islo / so that their homestead would move up in the world), and they recited their well-wishing verse:

*Vincuju, vincuju na tot Novyj rik,  
Zeby vam vyrosla psenyca l bib,  
Snop pry snopi, kopa pry kopi  
A vy, pan gazda, mezy snopkamy,  
Jak jasnyj, Misjac mezy zirkamy.*

I wish for you this new year  
A good crop of wheat and beans,  
Sheaf after sheaf, stack after stack,  
And that you, dear husbandman, stand among the stacks  
Like a bright moon among the stars.

However, most of the wishes were more jocular:

*Vincuju, vincuju,  
Stoska pid kominom cuju:  
Dajte mi z n'oho pokostovaty,  
Budu vam lipse vincovaty.*

I wish you all the best,  
And if you let me taste  
What I smell hiding under your chimney [the smoked meat there],  
My wishes for you will be even better

It is relevant to note in this connection that New Year's Day was generally regarded as a holiday of servants, for it was on this day that their contracts were either concluded or canceled. The servants came from the poorest parts of society and were mainly orphans. Therefore, the orphan motif appears frequently in New Year songs:

*Siroty, siroty tjazko bidujete,  
Jak pride Novyj rik de sja podijete?  
Chtora ma rodinu, ta pide dodomu,  
A ja, nebozatko, nemam raz ku komu.*

Oh, you orphans, you live in great misery,  
And where are you to go when the New Year comes?  
Those with relatives will go home,  
But I, a poor orphan, have nowhere to go

In the distant past, the beginning of a new year was identified with the central event of the winter solstice, the Yuletide (Rirdvo, Hody). It was a feast directed at the safeguarding of the new crop. Its original magical function, connected with agriculture, is still prominent in many customs today.

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## Chapter Event Highlights Contributed by Marcia Benko

### Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas Traditions, and Koljad

On December 16, 2018 Cleveland chapter members and family and friends gathered to learn Rusyn Christmas carols under the direction of retired cantor Ed Bobulsky. We also sampled foods eaten on Christmas eve such as mushroom soup, bobalki, and pirohi. Everyone enjoyed keeping up the traditions as well as enjoying Rusyn companionship. Bishop Milan Lach and Father Michal Bucko and his family were present at this event.



## Save the Dates

### Saturday, January 26, Ambridge, PA

Known for reviving and preserving those cherished recipes of the old world, Ambridge resident John Righetti will hold a series of classes to teach how to make some of our region's ethnic favorites. Then you can make them for parties, family dinners and gatherings with friends. You will learn how easy these time-honored recipes are to make and the regional variations on each so you can use the same basic recipe with very different tastes.



Classes are on Saturdays from 10 am-12 p.m. at the Visitor's Center, Ambridge, PA. Each class is \$35 and includes all your food supplies. Take home what you make!

Class 3 on Sat. Jan. 26 will feature stuffed cabbage and halushky. These two classic east European dishes—learn them both! Whether you call them holubky, sarma, golabki or toltott kapusta, stuffed cabbage are easier to make than you think – and each nationality has its own recipes. Learn the basics and how to regionalize it so that your stuffed cabbage are classically Polish... or Hungarian ...or...



Halushky – it just means pasta in East European languages, so cabbage doesn't have to be a part of it. Learn to make the Carpathian Mountain version—potato dumplings, then 4 dressings that can be used with them to make this the ultimate side dish – or dessert!

To register, contact John Righetti at 412 518 7149 or [rusynone@gmail.com](mailto:rusynone@gmail.com).

### Friday May 17-Sunday May 19th, Munhall, PA

Save the Dates for our 25th anniversary weekend! We are planning a wonderful program including a dinner dance.



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

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