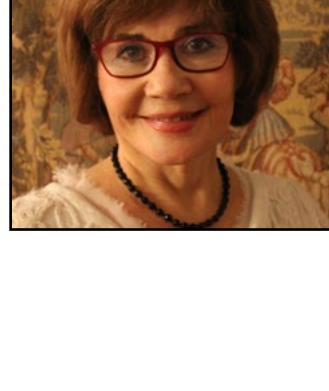




## Welcome



Dear Friends,

As we prepare to gather with family and friends in this season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for you. This calendar year has been one of exciting accomplishments across our chapters and branches. This has come as a result of your hard work and dedication. We also have made great strides in renovating our Cultural Center. This too, would have been impossible without your support. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment to our collective success.

With best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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

## Annual Meeting Recap - Accomplishments in 2017/Goals for 2018

The C-RS Annual National Meeting took place on Sunday, October 29th at the Cultural Center in Munhall. Twenty members attended the meeting in person and fifteen participated via the GoToMeeting webinar.

For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, we had a productive 2017. A few of our accomplishments include:

- **Establishing a realistic, approved budget** - We began the New Year 2017 by approving a C-RS budget for 2017-2018. This has been a large undertaking. Thanks to Tim Felegie, Rich Laychock and Tom Maley, who reconciled the past several year's finances, we finally have a budget.
- **Holding a Strategic Planning Meeting** - A meeting involving Chapter leadership and the C-RS Board of Directors is scheduled for Spring 2018.
- **Renovation of the Cultural Center** - We installed 10 new Pella windows, repaired the roof, and repaired and painted the exterior woodwork of the Center. We are profoundly grateful to you for your generous donations in response to our appeal letter last November. A very special thank you to Dr. Robert Hanich and the GCU for their generous donation.
- **Giving a scholarship to a Penn State student.** Thanks to Dr. Paula Donson, who donated \$5,000 to provide financial assistance to an outstanding student in our C-RS community attending Pennsylvania State University.
- **Providing care-packages for college-bound students.** This project was conceived by Laurel Tombazzi's daughter and we are grateful to her for this brilliant idea. Bettianne Diles and her daughter Veronica are overseeing this project.

Our goals for 2018 include:

- Overhauling our website
- Applying for grants
- Continuing with the renovation of our Cultural Center
- Overhauling the gift shop and establishing an on-line sales department
- Having access to or providing assistance for speakers and performers
- Holding the C-RS Board of Directors election

As you can see, we have been very busy. Like all non-profit organizations, we heavily rely on volunteers; they are simply invaluable to the C-RS. We would appreciate it if you could give us a few hours of your time each year. Please contact us and tell us how you would be willing to help. If you have special skills, we would love to hear what they are!



## C-RS Chapter Highlights

### C-RS Cleveland Commemorates Founding of Czechoslovakia

Members of the Cleveland chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and the Rusyn Garden joined with representatives of the Czech and Slovak cultural gardens on October 28, 2017 to remember the founding of the country of Czechoslovakia 99 years ago following the end of World War I. Wreaths were laid in front of the statues of Masaryk, Duchnovich and Stefanik as members paraded from one garden to another.



### C-RS Eastern PA Holds Annual Meeting

The Eastern PA Chapter of the C-RS held their annual meeting at the Starlite Diner in Allentown, PA, on November 12, 2017. The past year's events were reviewed and evaluated in addition to discussing exciting ideas and programs for 2018...and of course some Rusyn socializing.



## Save the Dates

### Wednesday, November 15, Wilkes-Barre, PA

C-RS Eastern PA hosts "Andy and the Rusyns." Dr. Elaine Rusinko (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), will be a guest presenter at the Warhol Wednesday Lecture Series at 4:30 p.m. at Wilkes College, Karamelas Center, Room 135, 141 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Pennsylvania artist Andy Warhol changed how we view art. Inspired by pop culture, Warhol's imagery defined a new age of fine art and influenced society to, in turn, be a creator of pop culture. The art exhibition examines the artist's inspiration, process and wide influence to both fine and commercial art. For more information, call 570.408.4325.



### Saturday, November 18, Schuylkill Haven, PA

C-RS Eastern PA presents "Tales of Gubi" a lecture by Dr. Nicole Aniel and Dr. Harold Auran from 1-3 pm at Penn State Schuylkill County campus. (Room to be announced) The event is free and open to all. Learn more about the Christmas folklore of the Carpatho-Rusyns! For more information, contact Sharon Jarrow at [shangp@rcn.com](mailto:shangp@rcn.com).



### Sunday, November 19, Warren, OH

C-RS Youngstown/Warren/Sharon will be honoring our American Armed Forces Veterans by presenting "Our Flag Still Waves," a film documentary on the life of Michael Strank at 2 pm at Sts Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 180 Belvedere NE, Warren, OH 44483.

Michael Strank (Nov. 1919 - March 1, 1945) was a United States Marine Corps Sergeant of Carpatho-Rusyn decent born in Jarabina, Slovakia and raised in Johnstown, PA area. He was killed in action during the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. He is best known for being one of the six flag-raisers and organizing the raising of the second U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945 as captured in the iconic photograph by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal. Everyone, especially U.S. Veterans is welcome. Free admission. For more information, contact Jim Basista at 330.544.0107 or Mike Vasilchek at 703.508.4226.

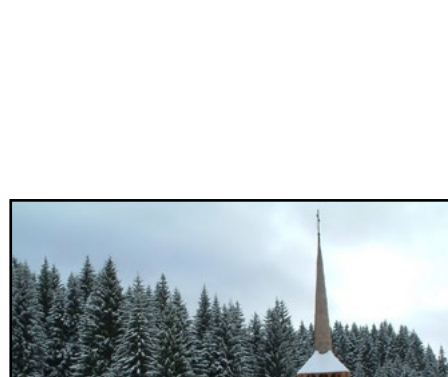


### Sunday, November 19, Bridgeport, CT

C-RS New England Branch presents "Winter in the Carpathian Mountains" at 11 am at the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist (lower level social hall) 364 Mill Hill Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.

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. No reservations necessary - Light refreshments will be served. Contact information: Paul Best: 860.345.7997 or [merida@snet.net](mailto:merida@snet.net).



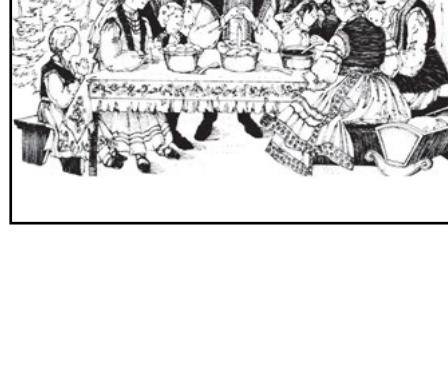
### Sunday, November 26, Bethlehem, PA

C-RS Eastern PA will be participating in "Christmas in South Bethlehem - An Ethnic Experience" by displaying their decorated Rusyn tree at 2pm at the Comfort Inn, 120 W. Third Street, Bethlehem, PA. For more information, contact Sharon Jarrow at 610.759.2628 or [shangp@rcn.com](mailto:shangp@rcn.com).

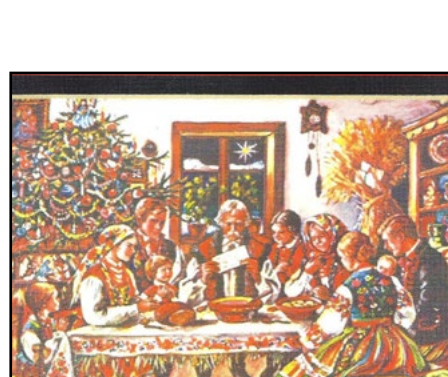


### Saturday, December 2, Woodstock, GA

Join the C-RS Georgia Branch for a "Traditional Rusyn Christmas Season" program covering the period between Nov 15 thru Jan 6, 10:00-12:30, St. Elizabeth Social Hall, 2263 E. Cherokee Dr, Woodstock, GA. Come experience the Christmas season the way our ancestors did. It will provide a different and less stressful approach to the holidays! A special St. Nicholas program for children ages 5-12 will take place at the same time with stories and crafts. Afterwards, Father Dutko will lead us in traditional Rusyn krolady (Christmas carols) and we will conclude the day with a Moleben to St. Nicholas.

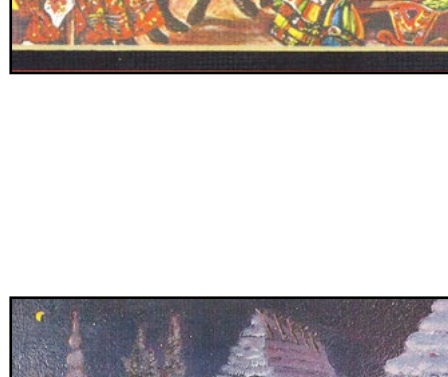


Light refreshments served - Donations gratefully accepted. Reservations are needed for children. Please respond with name and age to one of the following: Barbara Kruse, [bkusing@comcast.net](mailto:bkusing@comcast.net), Shelly Sudia, [sasudia@gmail.com](mailto:sasudia@gmail.com), Bonnie Burke, 440 729.2045.



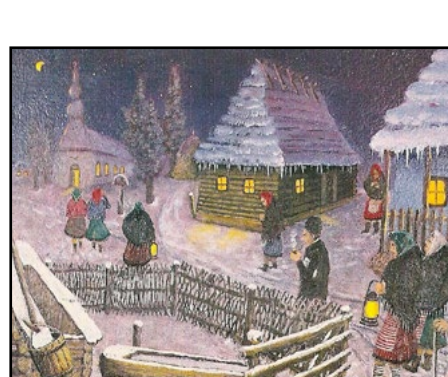
### Saturday, December 9, Charlotte, NC

Find out how pagan customs became Christian customs among the Carpatho-Rusyns! The C-RS Southern Chapters is hosting a program followed by lunch from 11:00-1:00 at the Hickory Tavern Meeting Room, 9010 Harris Corners Pkwy, Charlotte, NC. For more information, contact Bonnie Burke at [bb@c-rs.org](mailto:bb@c-rs.org).



### Wednesday, December 27, Plano, TX

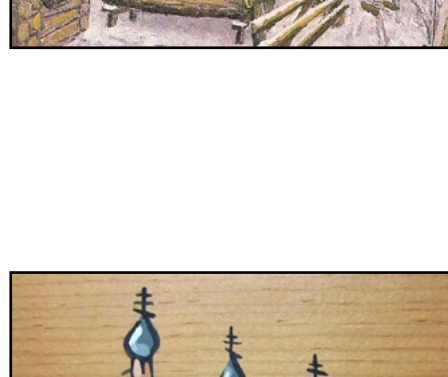
Please join C-RS Dallas Chapter for our 4th Annual "Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas Party & Dinner" from 7 - 9 pm, Taste of Poland European Tavern, 2301 N. Central Expressway, Suite 155, Plano, TX. 75075 [www.tastypl.com](http://www.tastypl.com). Each Christmas season we joyously gather to celebrate our heritage with our families, dear friends and new friends. Don your cheeriest holiday apparel and come out for the evening with us! It's a casual get-together. All ages are welcome, no need to be of Rusyn ancestry.... just bring a good appetite and a smiling face! Purchase any own dinner from the wonderful ethnic menu. BYOB.



We invite you to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament, under \$10, and share in the fun of our "Famous Ornament Exchange"! Please RSVP by December 20th to [CRSDallas@verizon.net](mailto:CRSDallas@verizon.net).

### Saturday, January 13, Burr Ridge, IL

The Rusyn New Year Society Lake Michigan Chapter will host a "Rusyn Christmas Party & Dinner" from 7 - 9 pm, Taste of Poland European Tavern, 2301 N. Central Expressway, Suite 155, Plano, TX. 75075 [www.tastypl.com](http://www.tastypl.com). Each Christmas season we joyously gather to celebrate our heritage with our families, dear friends and new friends. Don your cheeriest holiday apparel and come out for the evening with us! It's a casual get-together. All ages are welcome, no need to be of Rusyn ancestry.... just bring a good appetite and a smiling face! Purchase any own dinner from the wonderful ethnic menu. BYOB.



### Saturday, January 13, Ocala, FL

Join C-RS Florida Southern Branch for "Winter in the Carpathians," a presentation about the cold winters in the Carpathian Mountain region and how our ancestors survived. The program will take place from 12:30 - 2:30 pm at the Freedom Public Library, 5870 SW 95th St, Ocala, FL. For more information contact Bonnie Burke 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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<http://www.c-rs.org>  
 Membership site: <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>  
 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/>