



# THE NEW RUSYN TIMES

A Cultural-Organizational Publication of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society

Культурно-сполоченський часопис Карпато-Русинського общества

Volume 8, Number 1

January/February 2001 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Рочник 8, Число 1



## НОВЫЙ РІК 2001! НОВЕ ТІСЯЧОЛІТЯ!

**Happy New Year 2001! Happy New Millennium!**

### REMEMBERING THE MAKOVICJA NIGHTINGALE

ALEKSANDER PAVLOVIČ (1819-1900)

By Mgr. Havryjil Beskyd (Prešov, Slovakia)

From *Narodnĕ novynkĕ*, April 17, 1996

Translated by John E. Timo (C-RS, Bentleyville, PA)



Dr. Je. Nedzel'skĕj in his book titled, *Narysĕ karpatorus'koj literaturĕ* [Essays on Carpatho-Rusyn Literature] (Užhorod, 1932), characterized Aleksander Pavlovič in this manner: "He is the Makovicja nightingale whose writings revealed the feelings of the people's soul."

Aleksander Pavlovič began his literary course alone. Later he became acquainted with Aleksander Duchnovič, and became his friend and follower. He was born September 19, 1819, in the village of Čarne (Šarišske Čarne, Šaryš County) in the "Makovicja" region. When he was four years old, his father died. He spent his childhood years in L'viv, Galicia, with his grandfather. On his return from L'viv, he lived with his brother Josyf in Komloša, Šaryš County (now Chmel'ova). He attended high school in Bardejov, Miskolc, and in the Hungarian town of Eger.

Bishop Josyf Gaganec' then sent him to continue his studies at the theological seminary in Trnava. There Pavlovič became acquainted with the Polish Count Zamojski, from whom he received many books on various subjects. During his studies in Trnava he began collecting Russian poetry written in the Latin alphabet. Here, far from his native land, his heart began burning with love for his people and he began to write in the Cyrillic alphabet.

On completing his seminary studies, he was ordained a priest in 1848. For half a year he was a tutor for Count Szirmaj in the village of Kurima in the Bardejov region.

In 1849, he was appointed Archivist in the chancery office of the Prešov Eparchy. For 13 years he served as pastor in Biloveža, Šaryš County. He came to Svidnyk in 1864, where he remained the rest of his days.

Aleksander Pavlovič died December 25, 1900. His tombstone is inscribed: "In memory of Aleksander Pavlovič, son of Makovicja, national writer, pastor in Svidnyk." In the Svidnyk church there is also a marble tablet immortalizing the memory of his friend, a teacher in Svidnyk and later a school inspector in Užhorod, Ivan Polyvka.

The literary production of Pavlovič includes poetry. He published it in the journals *Viesnik* [The Messenger], *Halycka Rus'* [Galician Rus'], *Sviet* [The Light], *Listok* [the Letter], *Nauka* [Science], *Nedilja* [Sunday], and not a *kalendar* [almanac] appeared which did not contain some of his poetry. Many verses appeared in the anthology *Solovej* [the Nightingale], which at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was published by Vrabel'. In 1920 Ivan Polyvka collected 119 of Pavlovič's verses and released them under the title *Vienec* [the Wreath].

Pavlovič wrote on various topics—religious, and educational, where he instructs the reader, often with clean humor and sometimes with stinging satire, exposing the imperfections of the intellectuals as well as the common person. This pattern is vividly seen in the poem "Tužba" [Yearning]. He takes a strong position against drunkenness in ("Posluchajte bratja" [Listen, brothers], "Pjanstvo" [Drunkenness], "Kumova večerja" [Supper with friends], "Rodyna pjanyci" [A drunkard's family], "Pyjačka baba" [The drinking woman], "Korčmar'skĕj borh" [The bar tab], "Žyď nygda

(continued on page 2)

ne na pokoju” [The restless Jew]) and other things.

A large portion of his works is patriotic. As a loyal son of Makovicja, he deeply loves his land, the land of the Rusyns. Many verses are dedicated to the natural beauty of the Makovicja. The poet writes:

Už jem skusyl mnoho kraju,  
Vse storon̄y pry Dunaju,  
Vsem prevoznošu stolycu,  
Tu veselu Makovycu.  
*(“Starodavna pisnja Makovyci”)*

I have seen much of this nation,  
All the areas by the Danube,  
But will always commend  
That happy Makovicja land.  
*(“Ancient song of Makovicja”)*

The poems “Davn̄yj Svidnyk i žyteli joho” [Old Svidnyk and its residents], “Svidnyck̄y školjari” [Svidnyk students], and “Svidnycka stara fara” [Svidnyk’s old parsonage] are dedicated to the town of Svidnyk. Many poems have overseas motifs and tell of the people who migrated to America searching for ways to make a living and to free themselves from their social problems. Often Pavlovič takes a strong position on “mylša čuža, jak otcova mova” [“being enamored of a foreign language more than your father’s language”] (from “Hlas Rusynov” [Voice of the Rusyns]), and so he challenges the national leaders, the clergy, to encourage and promote a love for one’s native mother tongue.

Nože-no, do dila, Otc̄y svjaščenyčy!  
Narodn̄y vrači, voždi, načal’nyčy!  
Provad’te rus’kujy družynon’ku mylu  
Na put’ svjatoj pravd̄y,  
Hospod’ dasť vam sylu!  
*(“K voždjam naroda”)*

Let’s get to the matter, reverend Fathers,  
Our guardians, guides and leaders.  
Lead our dear Rusyn society  
In the straight way of sacred truths,  
The Lord will give you the power!  
*(“To the leaders of the people”)*

At that time, Prešov was the cultural center of Rusyns. So to it Pavlovič dedicates his poem “Dobra Rusynov” [For the good of the Rusyns], in which he commends the Rusyn intellectuals who live in Prešov and are extending the scope of their interests and activities.

Pavlovič, having been a witness to the crossings of the Russian Cossacks through the Makovicja region, was inspired to write the lyric-epic ballad “Dumk̄y nad mohylov pod Bardijovom” [Graveside thoughts near Bardejov].

He lived among and with his people. He had a precise knowledge of the customs and the psychology of the Rusyns. That is why he is able to portray the life of the Rusyn in all its details, from birth to death. This is evident in the poems “Dumk̄y nad kol̄yskov” [Reflections at the cradle], “Svad’ba jej” [Her wedding], “Jedna bidna maty” [The impoverished mother], “Syrotka služnica” [The orphan housemaid], and “Bida Makovyci” [Hardship in Makovicja].

He specially dedicated a poem to his teacher and friend Aleksander Duchnovič, titled “Bat’kovy Duchnovičovy” [To Father Duchnovič].

On the event of the death of Bishop Josyf Gaganec’ in 1876 he composed an ode. Nor does he forget those who were compelled to leave Subcarpathian Rus’. He honors the memory of K. Sabov, V. Kymak, and Ju. Ignatn̄yj. In some verses he is admiring the renaissance of the Slovak people. He congratulates a prominent son of the Slovak town Slava nad Hronom, Andrej Sladkovič.

To this day Pavlovič resounds with his ballad “Koly murovaly bilu Makovicju” [When they were building glorious Makovicja], which gradually became a hymn of the Rusyns. Highly esteemed is his historical essay titled “Dumka nad Makovick̄ym hradom” [Thoughts on the Makovicja castle], as are his well-known works “Kumova večerja” [Dinner with friends], “V̄yslužen̄yj kin” [The veteran horse], “Dva perestariľy sluhove” [Two aged servants], “Ljudjam ne mohla uhodyty maty” [The mother could not please the public], and others. Some of his last productions are filled with humor, and some are examples of an improved epic poetry that was being produced at that time.

Our article on Pavlovič does not pretend to cover all subjects. It is an attempt to remind all living today that Aleksander Pavlovič was one of us, and he left us a path to follow with his many depictions of the Rusyn way of life. Truly, he deserves the honorary title of “Makovic’k̄yj solovej” [The nightingale of Makovicja]. Today we should be reading him and absorbing from his works that which is important for our life. He was a good analyzer of the common man. He touched people’s souls. And that feeling is always beautiful.

*The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Rusyn national patriot and cultural leader Aleksander Pavlovič was solemnly and festively observed on November 25, 2000, in Svidnyk, the Rusyn town in northeast Slovakia where for 35 years he labored as priest and poet.*

*(continued on page 3)*

The Memorial Day was organized by the Svidnyk regional branch of Rusyn'ska Obroda, under the direction of Ivan Rusynko. It began with a Divine Liturgy in St. Paraskeva Church, sung in Church Slavonic with a Rusyn sermon, followed by a panachida (memorial service) for Fr. Pavlovič, and a presentation of flowers at his grave (by delegates from Rusyn'ska Obroda, the World Council of Rusyns, and Svidnyk district and city representatives) with songs by the Choir of St. Romanos the Melodist from the Greek Catholic Seminary in Prešov.

The events continued with a scholarly conference on the life and work of Pavlovič, and related themes of the development of the Rusyn language and press, Rusyn musical culture, etc., with papers given by Rusyn academics (including Paul R. Magocsi of the University of Toronto) and Rusyn Greek Catholic priests, and culminated with a cultural program with traditional Rusyn dance by the Svidnyk Rusyn ensemble "Makovicja" and readings of Pavlovič's poetry.

The anniversary was also observed in Užhorod, Subcarpathian Rus', with a literary/musical evening in the National Home of Aleksander Duchnovič, with reading of Pavlovič's poetry by noted Rusyn poet Vasyľ Sočka-Boržavyn and Professors Marija Sjurtyk and Ol'ga Hataljak. The folk ensemble "Užhorod" directed by noted Rusyn musicologist Viktor Šostak, presented a traditional Rusyn music and dance performance.



† **Mary Molenich Scalla** (C-RS, West Palm Beach, FL) died in October 1999. Mary's brother **George Molinich** (C-RS, East Brunswick, NJ) died in January 1999. They were natives of Williamstown, Pa., born to Rusyn immigrants George Molinich/Molenich (from Čertež, Už County) and Anna Suhar (from Ljachovci, Už County). Their relatives in C-RS include sisters **Justine Laychock** and **Ann Ricigliano** (Pottsville, PA) and nephew **Rich Laychock** (Hershey, PA).

† **Andrew Vanecho [Vanecko]** (C-RS, Little Rock, AK) died September 22, 2000. He was the youngest of ten children of John Vanecko (from Osturnja, Spiš County) and Anna Pauline Bruzinak, and was very interested in his Rusyn ancestry and genealogy from the village of Osturnja. Andrew is survived by his wife Alice.

† **Mary Mitchell** (C-RS, Monroeville, PA) died November 27, 2000. Mary was born in the famed "Rus'ka Dolyna" [Rusyn Valley] in the lower Greenfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the daughter of Rusyn immigrants Vasil Sopira (from Krasnŷj Brid, Zemplyn County) and Mary Chilko (from Vŷdran', Zemplyn County). Mary was an eager and energetic participant on the first C-RS Heritage Tour in 1996, and she visited the birthplaces of her parents. She enjoyed working at the C-RS sales tables at many different events. She especially contributed her Rusyn culinary talents (*pyrohŷ*, *haluškŷ*, nut rolls, *holubkŷ* and more!) to her parish, the Byzantine Catholic Church of the Resurrection, in Monroeville, but also to her beloved family and friends. Mary is survived by four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

† **Daniel Marshalick** (C-RS, Shamokin, PA) died January 9, 2001. He was born in Excelsior, Pa. (a mostly Rusyn-inhabited coal mining "patch" village on the outskirts of Shamokin), the son of the John and Julia (Suchanik) Marshalick. He enjoyed genealogy as a hobby and also collected mining memorabilia. Daniel was an active member of Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Shamokin and was a retired coal miner. He is survived by two daughters and two grandchildren.

*Eternal memory - vičnaja jim pamjat'!*

**ВІЇЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ.**

## THE NEW RUSYN TIMES



published bi-monthly by the  
Carpatho-Rusyn Society  
125 Westland Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412-749-9899



and issued free to the members of the Society.

### Board of Directors

**John Righetti**, *President*  
**Jack Poloka**, *Vice President*  
**Cheryl Tomko**, *Secretary*  
**Marie Cosgrove**, *Treasurer*  
**Jack Mihalow**, *Financial Secretary*  
**Richard Laychock**, *Membership Secretary*  
**Ed Pohodich**, *Trustee*  
**Robert Tischbein**, *Trustee*

e-mail: proudrusyn@excite.com (Rich Laychock)  
World Wide Web: <http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org/crs>

editor: **Richard D. Custer**  
layout & production: **Connie M. Downs**

*Letters and submissions of articles  
for publication are welcomed.*

*Advertising rates: \$40/column inch; \$20/c.i. (members)*

*C-RS reserves the right to reject advertising  
inconsistent with its objectives.*

*All translations and original material are  
©2001 Carpatho-Rusyn Society*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Saturday, May 5*

Slavjane Folk Ensemble "Rusyn Spectacular" 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Reunion Concert, 4 p.m., Moon Area High School, Beaver Grade Road, Moon, Pa. Featuring over 100 performers, consisting of 60 Slavjane members and 40+ alumni, 18 of whom are also Duquesne Tamburitzans alums, performing Rusyn music, songs, and dances from the Ugoča, Šaryš, Zemplyn, and Bojko regions, and folklore of other East European peoples as well. Reception to follow at Holy Trinity School Hall in Robinson Twp. Order tickets early to beat the sell-out - call Jack Poloka at (412) 331-3124/331-3355. Adults \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door; Students \$4; under 4 years old, free.

### *Saturday, May 12*

Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (North Side), Pa. Noon - 4 p.m. All-new theme this year—"The Regions of the Rusyns – Lemkovyna, Prešov Rus', Transcarpathia, Pittsburgh" featuring Rusyn food, costumes, dance, arts, from all Rusyn regions & as transplanted & translated to Pittsburgh. Live demonstrations of Rusyn arts by C-RS members, performances by "Harmonia" featuring Beata Begeni Salak, Slavjane Folk Ensemble, a Rusyn prayer service, Warhola family reminiscences, and much more! Adjacent parking available.

### *May 25-27*

Pittsburgh Folk Festival, I.C. Light Amphitheater, Station Square, Pittsburgh (South Side). Rusyn participation sponsored by C-RS and the Slavjane Folk Ensemble. Contact C-RS for discount tickets at (412) 749-9899.

### *May 26-June 20*

Census of Residents, Houses, and Apartments of the Slovak Republic 2001, (*Spysovanja obyvateľiv, domiv i bitiv*) –to count also Nationality (*narodnost'*) and Mother Tongue (*materyn'skŷj jazŷk*). Encourage your relatives to identify both as Rusyn!

### *May 28-June 1*

Academic Conference, "The Lemko Region in the Years 1939-1947: War, Occupation and Expulsion," Polonia Institute of Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. Contact Prof. Paul J. Best, (203) 392-5660, [Best@scsu.ctstateu.edu](mailto:Best@scsu.ctstateu.edu).

### *Saturday, June 2*

Rusyn Genealogy/History Conference, St. Mary's Hall, Hillsborough, NJ, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, New York/New Jersey Chapter. Speakers will include John Righetti and Tom Peters; displays will include history and settlement of Rusyn immigrants to New Jersey with document interpretation/translation workshop. Contact Tom Peters at (908) 253-8147.

### *June 15-29*

Sixth Annual C-RS Heritage Tour visiting the Rusyn homeland in Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine.

### *Saturday, June 23*

"Bursackje Rusalja" [Pentecost at the Bursa] Lemko-Rusyn festival, Ruska Bursa, Gorlice, Poland.

### *June 23-24*

Rusyn Festival of Culture and Sport, Medžilabirci, Slovakia.

### *Thursday, June 28*

Carpatho-Russian Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa.

### *July 14-15*

Festival of Culture of the Rusyn-Ukrainians of Slovakia, Skansen/Amphitheater of the Museum of Ukrainian-Rus' Culture, Svidnyk, Slovakia.

### *July 14-15*

"Od Rusal' do Jana" [From Pentecost to St. John's Day] Lemko-Rusyn folk festival, Museum of Lemko Culture, Zŷndranova, Poland.

### *July 20-22*

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lemko Vatra Festival, ŷdŷnja, Poland.

### *Friday, July 27*

Byzantine Catholic Family Day (formerly Russkij Den'), Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa.

### *August 2-4*

8th Annual Rusyn Food Festival, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church Center, Ambridge, Pa.

### *August 3-4*

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lemko Vatra in Exile Rusyn folk festival, Michałów (Mychaliv), Silesia, Poland.

**OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT IN RUSYN  
HOMELAND IN SOUTHEAST POLAND**

**EuroGas Enters into Exploration Pact  
with Polish Oil and Gas Company to Explore  
1,070,000-Acre Tract**

LONDON—EuroGas, Inc. on November 14, 2000 announced that it has entered into a joint operation agreement with Polish Oil and Gas Company (POGC), the Republic of Poland's national oil and gas company. This agreement calls for POGC to become the operator in a project encompassing the exploration and development of oil and gas in an area of Southeastern Poland. As part of the agreement, POGC will purchase a 30% interest in EuroGas Polska, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EuroGas, Inc.

EuroGas Polska holds the rights to explore and develop hydrocarbons in the area of approximately 4,300 sq. km (1,070,000 acres) under the ten concessions granted to the company by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry and as described in a press release dated July 12, 2000.

The group of Polish oil and gas geologists from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków and independent petroleum experts recently presented their conclusions of a two year study of the oil and gas potential of the 1,070,000 acre area in Southeast Poland that is covered by EuroGas's concessions. The study identified a total of 12 new exploration targets in a large area in the vicinity of the town of Sanok, known as the Rymanów - Lesko area. The largest of these targets, at a depth of around 2,000 meters, may contain oil in place of up to 47 million tones (350 million barrels), or an equivalent in gas, according to the independent group. If confirmed, it would be one of the biggest oil and gas discoveries in Central Europe.

The area, located in the Flysch Carpathians petroleum province, is known as the heartland of Polish oil and gas industry and has produced a vast amount of hydrocarbons starting from the early 1860's. Peak production reached over 2MM tons (ap.14 MM barrels) in 1909. The Carpathian oil deposits are formed from many reservoir layers, located in variable depth range, and accumulated in tight, mostly vertical overthrust and sliced folds.

The Rymanów-Lesko area, representing over 4,300 sq. km of exploration acreage, lies between the prolific

Boryslav oil region of Ukraine and the historic oil production region of Krosno in Poland. There are over 25 oil and gas fields in this important portion of the Carpathian petroleum province.

**ORTHODOX, GREEK CATHOLIC  
CHURCHES SETTLE PROPERTY DISPUTES**

BRATISLAVA – Representatives of the Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches and Slovak Premier Mikuláš Dzurinda on December 21, 2000 signed an agreement putting an end to long-standing property disputes between the two Churches in Slovakia. For Greek Catholics the agreement was signed by Bishop Jan Hirka of Prešov and Apostolic Exarch of Košice, Milan Chavtur.

The Orthodox Church was represented by the Prešov Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia Nykolaj and Bishop Jan of Michalovce.

"I am very happy that we have managed to settle one of the unpleasant legacies from the past. It is an important moment not only for the government and the churches themselves, but above all the members of the churches. We have managed to complete a process which has taken many years, whose solution was sought by a number of governments," Dzurinda said upon signing the agreement.

The settlement was reached by Deputy Premier for Human and Ethnic Rights Pál Csáky and representatives of four bishoprics of the Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Slovakia. The government has set aside 55.9 million crowns for the compensation of the wrongs committed by the communist regime.

The disputes between the two churches started fifty years ago when the Communist government banned the Greek Catholic Church and transferred all of its property to the Orthodox Church. However, in 1990 the Greek Catholic Church was revived and it started to claim its confiscated property.

Ever since, many lawsuits over the property have been filed. Under the agreement, the two churches pledge to withdraw their lawsuits and will not demand that court rulings under which the property was confiscated be implemented. (©2000 CTK - Czech News Agency)

## RUSYN RELIGIOUS FIGHT INFLUENCED BY CENSUS

by Matthew J. Reynolds

from the *Slovak Spectator* (Bratislava, Slovakia), January 15, 2001  
(reprinted with the permission of the *Slovak Spectator*)

František Krajnjak preaches to packed houses, but his work outside the church's stone walls may have a wider impact on his flock. It is also another facet of minority life in Slovakia which stands to be affected by the 2001 census.

Krajnjak is not only a Greek Catholic priest, he is a proud member of Slovakia's Rusyn minority. In his parish in the small north-eastern Slovak city of Medžilabirci – the largest city in Slovakia with a Rusyn majority population – Krajnjak is fighting to preserve churches throughout regions with Rusyn populations from what he describes as "Slovakization." The battle to keep Rusyn culture from being swallowed by Slovak culture is being lost on many fronts, but Krajnjak says this final battlefield is holy ground.

"Rusyns lead very spiritual lives. We haven't complained much about Slovakization in schools and in public administration," says Krajnjak. "But religion is a different story."

According to him, Rusyns get their news and entertainment in Slovak, study in Slovak, and conduct public affairs in Slovak – a situation he admits is natural for a national minority. He even concedes that most Rusyns welcomed the introduction of Slovak schools. But he is adamantly opposed to the penetration of Slovak into church life in Rusyn villages.

As determined as he is, Krajnjak hasn't had much leverage over the past ten years because of underreporting by Rusyns during the 1991 census. Only 17,000 claimed Rusyn nationality, although 50,000 said that it was their mother tongue. Some estimates put the number of Rusyns in Slovakia as high as 100,000.

According to Rusyn leaders, the problem with the 1991 census was largely psychological. After 40 years of liquidation under communist rule, during which Rusyns were labeled Ukrainians and forced to study in Ukrainian schools, many Rusyns were confused about their identity.

"It is schizophrenia when 33,000 people say their mother tongue is Rusyn but their nationality is something else. It doesn't make any sense. It is the result of almost a half century of pressure," says Krajnjak.

Government leaders say that they have supported the efforts of Rusyn leaders to revive their nationality,

but that the census is up to individuals. "Every person makes the choice of what nationality they are," said Pál Csáky, Deputy Prime Minister for Minority Issues. "If a person with Rusyn as their mother tongue decides to declare himself Slovak, it is his right."

With so many Rusyns seemingly content to be known as Slovaks, Krajnjak has had a hard time making his case that Slovakia needs a Rusyn diocese and Bishop, that the Liturgy in Rusyn villages shouldn't be sung in Slovak, that Slovak priests assigned to those villages must learn Rusyn.

There are Rusyn villages, says Krajnjak, in which every member declared Slovak nationality during the last census. The village of Roškivci [former Zemplyn County, near Medžilabirci], for example, has 299 Slovaks and one Rusyn according to official counts. In reality, says Krajnjak, those numbers are reversed.

"You don't hear anyone speaking Slovak in Roškivci," he says. "But because of official records, when church officials [who make decisions affecting the community] look at the map, they see an entire village of Slovaks."

In addition to confusion over nationality among their community in 1991, leaders claim the census form was unfair. They say there was no box marked "Rusyn," only a box marked "Rusyn-Ukrainian," a tag most Rusyns were then beginning to shun. According to them, the 17,000 Rusyns recorded by the 1991 census wrote in their nationality.

The Slovak Statistics Office, however, showed the *Slovak Spectator* a blank 1991 census with "Rusyn" and "Ukrainian" as separate nationalities. Officials there were unable to produce a form that had been filled in because of laws regarding census anonymity.

Marián Horecký, director of the statistics office's department of citizen statistics, was puzzled by the Rusyn claims. "There was a separate category for Rusyns in 1991 as there will be this year. The last time the term 'Rusyn-Ukrainian' was used in a census was in 1981."

Csáky had no comment on the 1991 form, but he said that confusion persisted within the Rusyn community concerning nationality, citing a letter he had received from a group urging the return of the term "Rusyn-Ukrainian" in the 2001 census. "There are some issues concerning identity within the Rusyn community, but it is the task of Rusyn intellectuals and not the government to address them."

But for Krajnjak there is nothing to address. He believes that after 10 years of democracy and freedom, the results of this year's census will demonstrate unity among Rusyns, and bolster their cause with Slovak church officials.

"I believe that the official number will be more than

30,000. And with a higher official number our demands will carry more weight.

“We [Rusyn priests] have been encouraging our communities to voice their nationality. If they do, if they support their culture, their history and who they are, we will fight for them. If they don’t, our community will crumble,” he added.

### SNAKIV REMEMBERS EMIL KUBEK

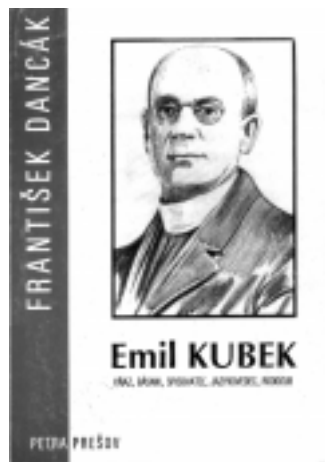
On June 25, 2000, a commemoration of the noted Rusyn cultural leader, Father Emil Kubek, was held in the village of Snakiv (former Šaryš County), Bardejov district, organized by the Bardejov regional branch of Rusyn’ska Obroda, the Fellowship of Rusyn Intelligentsia in Slovakia (ZIRS), and the village and local Greek Catholic parish councils.

Ivan Bandurič, head of the Bardejov branch of Rusyn’ska Obroda, gave the introductory remarks followed by Mgr. František Dancak, who spoke about the priest’s life and work. Rusyn folk songs were performed by a group from Bardejov and the Želiznŷj family from Komloša (Chmel’ova). A highlight was the recital of Kubek’s poetry by regional Rusyn activist, Žaneta Lyšivka.

Father Kubek (1857-1940) was born in Štefurič, Šaryš County, and served as pastor in Jakubjanŷ, Krempach (now Kremna), and L’ubica, Spiš County, and finally for 19 years in Snakiv where he was active writing Rusyn-language literature before emigrating to the United States in 1904.

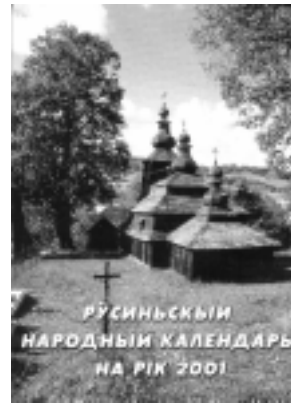
In the USA, he served as pastor of St. Mary’s Holy Protection Rusyn Greek Catholic Church in the north-east Pennsylvania coal-mining town of Mahanoy City, until his death in 1940.

He also compiled a Church Slavonic/Hungarian/Russian/German dictionary of 5,500 words. A book on Kubek’s life and work (*pictured*), by František Dancak, was recently published in Slovakia.



## RUSYN BOOK CORNER РУСИНСЬКА КНИЖНИЦЯ

*Rusyn’skŷj narodnŷj kalendar na rik 2001*  
[Rusyn National Almanac for the Year 2001]  
*Prjašiv, Slovakia: Rusyn’ska obroda, 2000.*  
*Mychajlo Hyrjak, Aleksander Zozuljak, comp.*



Anticipating a year of watershed importance to Rusyns in the Slovak Republic, the Rusyn Renaissance Society undertook the revival of the Rusyn custom of publishing almanacs filled with popular literature, historical/cultural and entertaining articles. The pages are rounded out with jokes, poetry, and proverbs. The “calendar” section presents the church calendar (feasts and saints’ days) of the Orthodox and Greek Catholic Churches (according to Julian “old calendar” and Gregorian “new calendar” dates), as well as a comprehensive chronology of notable dates in Rusyn history.

The articles are presented in the literary Rusyn language of Slovakia (in Cyrillic), but also include some material in the local Rusyn dialects of villages like Kamjunka, Orjabyna, Čirč, and Rus’kŷj.

The kalendar includes two articles in English by Aleksander Zozuljak: “The Development of Rusyn Culture in Slovakia after 1989” and “Rusyn Revival’s endeavour to codify the Rusyn language and to ensure its wider use and further development.”

A special treat is an article by Mychajlo Hyrjak, “Striči z Ameryc’kŷma Rusynamy” [Visits with American Rusyns] which features C-RS members **Keith Koshute** (Pittsburgh, PA) and **Nancy Revak** (Los Angeles, CA) who met with Professor Hyrjak during their recent visits to the Rusyn homeland.

The volume is richly illustrated with excellent-quality photographs, and bound in an attractive durable glossy paper color cover. Truly it is an outstanding product, enough to keep a reader engrossed for many hours.

*Our readers can order their own copy of this magnificent work by sending a personal check (from the USA or Canada) for \$15 (U.S.) to Narodnŷ novynkŷ, Duchnovičovo nám. 1, 081 48 Prešov, Slovak Republic.*

# THE RUSYN MOVEMENT - A TEN

(continued from last issue)

by Paul J. Best (C)



Vatra festival in Ždŷnja.

Lemko Region near the villages of Ždŷnja and Bortne, this several day event features folk dancing, songs, a language contest and discussions. Eventually, by the late 1990s, this event was captured by pro-Ukrainian Lemkos gathered in the Union of Lemkos (Zjednoczenie Łemków [in Polish], Ob'jednannja Lemkiv [in Ukrainian]).



With tens of buses coming in from Ukraine carrying hundreds of Ukrainians, the non-Ukrainian Lemkos felt pushed out and the previously minor Vatra-in-Exile meeting at



Michałów near Legnica in Lower Silesia has come to play a major role in the life of Lemko Rusyns. Thus in regard to Lemkos we have the following organizations:

•The aforementioned pro-Ukrainian **Union of Lemkos** whose headquarters are in Gorlice: runs the July Vatra event now permanently held in Ždŷnja, a town south of the city of Gorlice and adjacent to the Slovak border. It publishes, in standard Ukrainian and Polish, the newspaper/newsletter *Vatra*.



Vatra magazine from Poland.

In Poland, prior to 1989, an annual campfire (Vatra) summer festival had already come into existence. Held in the central



•The pro-Rusyn **Lemko Association** (Stovaryšynja Lemkiv [in Rusyn], Stowarzyszenie Łemków [in Polish]) is located in Lower Silesia at Legnica: This organization publishes the monthly *Besida* written in Rusyn, an annual *Lemkivskij Kalendar* [Lemko Almanac] and runs the Vatra-in-Exile.



Early issues of Besida from Poland.

The codification of a Lemko Rusyn language, originally undertaken at the Department of East Slavic languages at the Jagiellonian University under mentorship of Prof.

Ryszard Luzny (deceased 1998) is said to be somewhat near completion. Lemkovyna, a folk ensemble, has existed for several decades in Poland (and other lesser pro-Rusyn social, political, and cultural organizations also exist).

An Organization of Rusyns in Hungary has been formed, which produces brochures, pamphlets and a newspaper/magazine (*Rusynskij žyvot* [Rusyn Life], 1998-2000 and *Vsederžavnij Rusynskij Visnyk* [National Rusyn Messenger], 2000-present). Several universities in Hungary maintain Slavic departments that deal with Rusyn problems – Pecs, Debrecen, Budapest, see especially, *Studia Ukrainica et Rusinica*. In Europe there are also societies for Rusyn advocacy in



Lemkivskij almanac fr



News magazine of Rusyns in Hungary.

Prague, Germany, and the former Yugoslavia, for example: The Society of Rusyn Language and Literature (Društvo za Ruski Jazyk i Literaturu), Novi Sad, Vojvodina, which publishes the *Ruske Slovo* [Rusyn Word] newspaper in the long-recognized as a literary



# YEAR RETROSPECTIVE 1989-1999

-RS, Higganum, CT)

language, local Rusyn. There is a Rusyn Language and Literature Faculty in Novi Sad. This small Rusyn community is in a precarious position in the unstable economic and political conditions which exist in that area of the world.



In North America there are four organizations of pro-Rusyn orientation: the Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center, Ocala, Florida, an organization wholly managed by Prof. Paul R. Magocsi, not open to external application for membership; the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) which publishes in English and some Rusyn the bi-monthly *New Rusyn Times*; the Rusin Association

(Minneapolis, Minnesota) which publishes the occasional newsletter *Trembita* in English; the Rusyn Association of North America, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, which is made up mostly of Rusyn émigrés from Vojvodina and published the quarterly magazine *Hlasnjik* in Vojvodinian Rusyn with some English. The latter three organizations are open to anyone who would like to join.



*ij kalendar from Poland.*

Perhaps the most important success of the Rusyn movement is the successful holding of world congresses every two years since 1991.

● **Congress I:** Medzilaborce [in Rusyn: Medžilabirci], Slovakia (at that time still Czechoslovakia) hosted by Slovakia's Rusyn Renaissance Society, March 23-24, 1991. Representatives came from Slovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Transcarpathia (Ukraine), the USA and Canada. A World Council of Rusyns was formed with a president, Vasyl' Turok of Slovakia, and an Executive Committee made up of representatives of all Rusyn organizations, and a basic set of by-laws. The bi-monthly *Rusyn* became the official publication.

● **Congress II:** Krynica [in Rusyn: Krenycja], Poland, May 22-23, 1993, hosted by Poland's Lemko Association headed by Andryj Kopča. Representatives also came from Hungary and Romania [a Romanian pro-Rusyn organization had yet to be formed]. Speeches and lectures filled the two-day meeting and the Aleksander Duchnovič Theater from Prešov played the famous didactic Duchnovič play, "Virtue is more im-

portant than Riches" (see the introduction to and translation of this work by Elaine Rusinko, East European Monographs, New York: distributed by Columbia University Press, 1994).

● **Congress III:** May 20-21, 1995, Ruski Kerestur, Vojvodina, Serbia, Yugoslavia during the turmoil of ethnic cleansing then occurring in Bosnia.

● **Congress IV:** May 29-June 1, 1997, Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the Organization of Rusyns in Hungary headed by Gabor Hattinger (Magyarorszagi Ruszinok Szervezete). The meetings were held in the Hungarian Cultural Foundation in the Budvar (old city) section of Budapest. Again the meeting consisted of scholarly presentations, folk and cultural presentations, literary activities, and the chance to meet other Rusyns.



*Anthology of Rusyn poetry, commissioned by the World Congress.*



*Recent issue of Rusyn magazine from Slovakia.*

● **Congress V:** Užhorod, Transcarpathia, Ukraine, June 24-27, 1999. The local Society of Carpatho-Rusyns hosted the gathering. Most active were Prof. Ivan Turjanyca of Užhorod State University and Father Dymytrij Sydor of the Orthodox Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Most Holy Cross. Beyond the usual scholarly, literary, and social events the Congress was capped by a four-hour display of Rusyn folk dancing and singing groups from the Transcarpathian Oblast.

● **Congress VI** is expected to take place in Prague, Czech Republic, in October 2001, and a future Congress is planned for North America. This writer was able to attend Congresses II, IV, and V. In his observation, while Professor Magocsi gave keynote addresses at each of the Congresses, the Executive Committee of the World Council of Rusyns and the local authorities were clearly in charge.

## SUMMATION

What is one to make of all this? Clearly there is a strong movement among Carpathian East Slavs to be

*(continued on page 10)*

“Ukrainian No More” (to use the title of a panel session at the American Association of Slavic Studies annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in November 1999). Where will this movement lead? All the participants in the Rusyn movement that the present writer knows proclaim that they are part of a social, cultural, and even national movement which intends to consolidate Rusyns into a community. There is no desire or plan to have Rusyns form a state entity – i.e., they will remain “stateless.” There is a great deal of hope that as Europe unites in NATO, Poland and Hungary already in, Slovakia a candidate and Ukraine affiliated in the Partnership of Peace program and as Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia (and eventually Ukraine) join the European Union, borders will become meaningless and a “Europe of the Regions” will appear. Thus a Carpathian-Danubian Basin Region would become a de-facto Rusyn region. Whether any of this will happen or whether the Rusyn movement will eventually wither away cannot be predicted. However, it is certain that the Rusyn movement will continue to be viewed by those who wish it ill as a nefarious plot of Moscow, Budapest, Berlin, anti-Ukrainians, secret police, secret societies, diaspora and local elites, anti-Catholics, anti-Orthodox, anti-Christians, Wall Street bankers, opportunists, capitalists and imperialists (take your pick).



Recent issue of *Besida* from Poland.



Recent issue of *Narodny novynky* from Slovakia.

## RUSYN NEWS IN AMERICA ШТО HOBOГО У НАС

### Rusyns at Clifton, NJ Heritage Festival

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society’s New Jersey/New York Chapter set up a four-table display of Rusyn culture, genealogy, and map materials at the Clifton, New Jersey “All-A-Day 2000” community festival on August 26, 2000 at the Clifton City Hall grounds. Local Ukrainian and Polish organizations also had displays. The materials were contributed by C-RS members **Ed Hlipala** and **Tom Peters**. A significant article, “A people recall their Eastern European Roots” appeared the next day in the North Jersey *Herald News* in which C-RS members **Susan Opihory** and **John Mihalasky** were interviewed about C-RS’s regional activities, and the Passaic-area Rusyn community was described.

### Revived “Losjanskij Kermeš” Going Strong!

An enthusiastic crowd of Rusyn Americans and Canadians, descendants of immigrants from the village of Losja, Gorlyci County in Lemkovyna, gathered again on Labor Day weekend, September 2-3, 2000 at Campground 70 in Bentleyville, Pa. owned by American “Losjan” and C-RS member **Joe Perun**. The weekend was filled with food, social time, genealogy sharing, and viewing a special video of a recent visit to Losja (with a recreation of the village oil/grease-vendor’s (the traditional industry of the village) wagon traveling the paths to and from the village), primarily organized by **Audrey Deitz** (C-RS, McKees Rocks, PA).

C-RS President **John Righetti** gave a talk on the history and culture of the Lemkos in the context of the larger Carpatho-Rusyn people of which they are a part. Many C-RS members were in the audience, most having come because of their connection to Losja and the neighboring villages like Ustja Ruske, Klymkivka, Hančova, and Biljanka.

C-RS expresses its gratitude to our member, **Steve Woitovich** (Spring Hill, FL), who donated a beautiful painting of



the village Ustja Ruske (*pictured*) done by his brother

Ted, modeled on a painting done by Nykolaj Cysljak—a reproduction of which their mother received years ago when attending a Lemko celebration in Yonkers, New York. Steve donated the painting to C-RS to be used in our traveling Rusyn culture display for our various events around the country.

### Rusyn Folk Customs Lecture in Monongahela, PA

*submitted by Marie Cosgrove (C-RS Treasurer, Monongahela, PA)*

On October 26, 2000, C-RS President **John Righetti** presented a talk on Rusyn Customs and Superstitions at the Monongahela Historical Society. Approximately 50 people were in attendance; many were members of the Historical Society, but also many C-RS members were there. The talk was followed by many questions, as the audience found the subject fascinating. The evening ended with a lovely social prepared by the Historical Society members.

### C-RS Songfest in Singac, New Jersey

*submitted by Lee Hrehovcik (C-RS, Little Falls, NJ)*

A trip down the road of nostalgia! That's what the 110 people who attended the New York/New Jersey Chapter of the C-RS Rusyn Song Fest experienced on that Sunday of November 5, 2000, at the locally-famous Russian Hall in Singac, New Jersey. **Jerry Jumba** (CRS, McKees Rocks, PA), host of the "Carpatho-Rus' Radio Program" from station WEDO in McKeesport, Pa., did a marvelous job of leading the singing and taking us back to our early years of Rusyn music.

The younger people there were introduced to their rich musical heritage in Rusyn and English. **Joyce Barr** (C-RS, Morristown, NJ) and her committee did a great job, and as usual the food at the Russian Hall was excellent.



*Jerry Jumba (front, 3rd from right) and the C-RS NY/NJ Chapter board members at the Songfest.*

### C-RS's First Carpatho-Rusyn Seminar in Warren, Ohio

*submitted by Jack Poloka (C-RS VP, McKees Rocks, PA)*

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society was invited to conduct a seminar on "Who Are the Rusyns?" on November 5, 2000 sponsored by St. Nicholas Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, in Warren, Ohio, whose pastor is Father Kenneth Bachovsky.

The seminar was organized by C-RS members and sisters, **Marge (Raiti) Adams** (Cortland, OH), a member of St. Nicholas parish, and **Betty (Raiti) Zombar** (Warren, OH). Both sisters have been C-RS members since the entire Raiti family traveled to their Rusyn ancestral homeland in 1995. They presented an elaborate display of photos and cultural treasures they brought back from their unforgettable trip. The display was expertly done and generated much interest.

The seminar was well-attended, and many participants were quite surprised at what they heard and learned during the informative presentation. The seminar was conducted by C-RS President **John Righetti**, who gave his unique, very interesting and informative talk, which was overwhelmingly received with enthusiasm by the participants. C-RS Vice President **Jack Poloka**, who helped with the public relations and greeting the participants, set up and ran the C-RS sales table where sales were brisk. C-RS member **Dean Poloka** (Ambridge, Pa) assisted at the sales table and was indispensable in helping participants locate their ancestral villages on the map of the Rusyn homeland and translating old letters from Europe. Dean was attired in authentic Rusyn dress from Šaryš County, adding colorful authenticity to the program theme.

After the presentation, the participants were led in a medley of Rusyn folk songs by Dr. Jaeger, cantor at St. John's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church in Sharon, PA. Parishioners of St. Nicholas prepared delicious homemade delicacies and refreshments. Perhaps most importantly, six members of a potential planning group came forward and may become instrumental to future C-RS activity in the Warren/Youngstown/Sharon region. This was a very successful event—congratulations to the Warren, Ohio community who took the initiative to make it happen!

## Rusyn Conference in Bridgeport a Tremendous Success

submitted by *Orestes Mihaly* (C-RS, Armonk, NY)

On October 21, 2000 a capacity crowd of over 175 filled the auditorium of St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church on Mill Hill Avenue overlooking the city of Bridgeport. The attendees participated in a day-long educational and genealogical conference on the Carpatho-Rusyns: "The People from Nowhere." They came from all over the eastern half of the United States and as far away as Dallas, Texas. The aroma of coffee and cabbage and potato *pagáč* (a sort of Slavic pizza without tomato sauce made by the talented ladies of the host parish) filled the hall. The Conference was sponsored by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and the New England Deanery of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese of the USA and hosted by St. John the Baptist parish.

Very Reverend Protopresbyter John Duranko, pastor of St. John's Church, welcomed the gathering and led them in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, the hymn to the Holy Spirit, "Carju Nebesnyj" [O King of Heaven], and the traditional Rusyn anthem "Ja Rusyn byl" [I Was, Am, and Will Be a Rusyn]. Lillian Jenci, president of the congregation, welcomed the attendees, and **Orestes J. Mihaly**, conference coordinator, thanked the audience for their interest in this unique event. He introduced the members of the committee who planned and produced the conference under the leadership of **Eleanor Adzima** (C-RS, Stratford, CT).

**John Righetti** (C-RS President, Sewickley, PA) first



*Genealogy research and C-RS Heritage Tour displays, provided by C-RS members Tom Peters and Joyce and John Barr.*

spoke about the origins of "The People from Nowhere" from the time of the ancient "white Croats" through the medieval history of eastern Europe—particularly of

Austria-Hungary where most of the Rusyns lived. Righetti then traced the history of the immigration of hundreds of thousands of these people to the United States. He described their religious life and turmoil in the United States, including the enforcement of celibacy for Greek Catholic priests in the United States, which led to a splintering into differing religious affiliations. He also presented an entertaining discussion of Rusyn customs including those from agrarian and pre-Christian practices through Christmas and Easter holidays.

**Susyn Mihalasky** (C-RS, Blairstown, NJ) spoke about the Lemko people who lived along the northern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains in Poland. Lemkos are a part of the Rusyn people who came to this country, especially Connecticut, in great numbers. She also described the forced and brutal government-mandated resettlement of thousands of Lemkos from their native villages in the Carpathian Mountains to western Poland after World War II.

**Richard Custer** (C-RS, Washington, DC) provided a very detailed and informative overview and slide show of the history of the establishment of Rusyn immigrant communities in Connecticut: Bridgeport, Ansonia/Derby/Seymour, Danbury, New Britain, Terryville, Waterbury, Stamford and Meriden. He also prepared and displayed lists identifying the names and native villages of over one thousand Rusyn immigrants to Con-



*Traditional Rusyn women's folk dress from Litmanova, Spiš County, provided by C-RS member Katarina Mihaly.*



*Rusyn cultural treasures from Toryskŷ, Spiš County, provided by Katherine Macura of Bridgeport, a Toryskŷ native.*

necticut.

Thomas Peters (C-R S, Somerville, NJ) gave an interesting and thorough presentation on searching for Rusyn ancestors through various databases

and records from the Latter-Day Saints Family History Centers and other sources. Representatives of the local LDS Family History Center were also present with their computers to provide those present with hands-on instructions on how to access the online data.



*Traditional Rusyn women's folk dress from Nyžnja Pysana, Šaryš County, provided by Helen Plavcan of Bridgeport.*

service (*panachida*) for all deceased Rusyn ancestors in the magnificent, historic church situated above the auditorium. The Conference was videotaped and copies of the proceedings will be made available.



*Traditional Rusyn women's folk dress from Šambron, Šaryš County, provided by Helen Kopchik of Bridgeport.*



*Images of Lemko Rusyn culture and history, provided by John Madzik of Ansonia.*

The Conference also provided displays of many cultural items such as Rusyn folk costumes, pictures, and spinning and weaving implements. Maps displayed on the auditorium walls showed all the villages of the Carpatho-Rusyn homeland.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Father Duranko led a memorial

*Advertisement*

**LISTEN TO**  
**The Carpatho-Rus' Radio Program**  
with host Jerry Jumba  
Sundays, 12 noon



**WEDO 810 AM**

**Donations can be sent to :**

**WEDO**  
**414 5th Avenue**  
**McKeesport, PA 15132**



### C-RS DIRECTORY STILL AVAILABLE

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society Membership Directory for the year 2000 has proven to be a fantastic success and has generated an incredible amount of positive reaction for the great genealogical contacts it is making possible. It features not only our 1300+ members' addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, but also sections indicating members' ancestral Rusyn surnames/native villages & counties, and a separate listing the villages and with each, the surnames and members having roots in that village!

We still have a limited number of directories available. To order a copy, send \$5 plus \$1.50 postage (per copy) as a check payable to C-RS (write "Directory" on the memo line) to Marie Cosgrove, 114 Tower Street, Monongahela, PA 15063-1142.

Dear Editor,

With great interest I read your material on the Internet, as well as the entire site "The Carpatho-Rusyn Knowledge Base." My name is Nada Bajić, and I have a master's degree in geography. I am from a town called Vinkovci in the Republic of Croatia, and I am a Rusyn. With a goal of proving our identity I started to write a scientific paper, because there is so little knowledge about us in the Republic of Croatia (there are only about 3,500 Rusyns in Croatia). As I was writing it, I realized that song is one of the main distinctive marks of identity. I have postponed my first job for a little while, and since I have always liked to sing, with my friend Ljupka Segedi and authentic performers from the village of Petrovci, I have recorded a CD album with 20 Rusyn songs. We had a little bit of help from sponsors and I had to invest my own money in order to make a CD as I wanted to. We have worked hard and finished the product called "Ja Rusnak bul i budzem." We had enough money for only 100 copies, and my son put 3 songs on the Internet, at the web address [http://www.geocities.com/bigeasy.rm/rusyn\\_songs](http://www.geocities.com/bigeasy.rm/rusyn_songs).



We would appreciate very much if you would like to order a certain number of CDs. All who worked on making this CD worked on it with great love. This is the first CD album of its kind in the Republic of Croatia, and it has been 170 years since our ancestors moved to this area.

On the album I have represented myself with the surnames of my grandfathers ŠARIK and UJFALUŠI. On the front page of the album is a wedding photo of my Ujfaluši grandparents, and on the back is a picture of my mother's (Šarik family) scarf.

Sincerely,  
**Nada Bajić**  
 Vinkovci, Croatia

*We are very happy to report that C-RS has added the Ms. Bajić's CD of Rusyn songs, "Ja Rusnak bul i budzem," to our catalog. Our members can get their own copy for*

*\$17 check (U.S.) to C-RS Sales, 347 West Beil Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064*

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all of you who work so hard in putting out the newsletter. I enjoy it immensely and read it from cover to cover the day I receive it.

The Connecticut conference on Carpatho-Rusyns that was held in Bridgeport was tremendously informative. I met some very interesting people and I hope we can all get together to form a chapter in our area. Thank you for coming out to inspire us.

Is it possible to get a translation of the "Rusyn Word" for those of us who have not learned to read or write in that language? I would not like to miss one word in this great newsletter.

I also want to thank you for including the pictures that my grandmother had in her attic. Hopefully they will spur someone's memory of the event or even the people. Maybe someone else has the same picture.

Keep up the good work! Enclosed is my check for a year's subscription to be donated to Yale in New Haven, CT if it has not been selected. My second choice would be Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT.

Looking forward to the next issue. I hope some day I will be able to contribute to this fine newsletter.

Sincerely,  
**Marjorie Matusko Fitzgerald** (C-RS, Oxford, CT)

*Thank you, Marjorie, for your feedback and kind words! A list of donors of New Rusyn Times subscriptions for research/university/public libraries will appear next issue. - ed.*

● **Michele Parvensky** (C-RS, Nazareth, PA) teaches chemistry at the Pingry School in Short Hills & Martinsville, New Jersey, and has a great interest in teaching others about Rusyn history and culture. She wrote an article, “**A People Without a Country: The Carpatho-Rusyns,**” for the June 2000 edition of *Reflections*, the faculty journal of the Pingry School. The article manages to eloquently cover the complex historical, geographical and political background of the Rusyn homeland, while providing insight into the Rusyn culture and psyche. The article is now available online, at the website of the Rusyn Association of North America: <http://rdsa.tripod.com/peoplewithout.html>.

● **Joseph Bonchonsky** (C-RS, Mount Shasta, CA) was named the **Grand Marshall** of the 2000 Mount Shasta Fourth of July Parade. Joe was honored for his service to his country and the Mount Shasta community. He was especially honored this year because the parade celebrated the new Siskiyou Ice Rink, and Joe has spent 12 years teaching children to ice skate and providing free skating on the skating pond at his home. Joe is a native of Pittston, PA (near Wilkes-Barre) and founded the **American Byzantine Catholic Research Center** which raises funds for the Bishop Theodore Romža Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Užhorod, Subcarpathian Rus’ and has published Joe’s book, *The Other Catholics, Obedient and Faithful*. Congratulations - *gratulujeme!*

● **Father John Yurcisin** (C-RS, Ebensburg, PA), Pastor Emeritus of Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Johnstown, PA, was awarded a “hramota” by Metropolitan Nicholas recognizing his more than 40 years of dedicated service to Christ the Saviour Seminary, the theological school of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. The award took place during the Diocese’s 14th annual retreat for Deacons, Subdeacons and Readers the weekend of December 15-17 at the Cathedral and Seminary in Johnstown. The Metropolitan reflected, “... if there is one name that must be singled out – of all those who labored so hard to make this dream [the Seminary] a reality here in Johnstown – it must be that of one beloved priest of God, the Very Reverend Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne, John Yurcisin. Without your labors, Father John, without your sacrifice, without your exhortations, without your energy, without your faith, hope and love, Christ the Saviour Seminary - as we know and appreciate it today - would still be a dream.”

● **Deacon Gregory Benc** (C-RS, Watchung, NJ) was privileged with the title of Protodeacon in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese at the Christmas Divine Liturgy in Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Johnstown, PA on January 7. Congratulations - *gratulujeme!*

● **Hierodeacon Peter Kushner** (C-RS, Cambridge, NY) was awarded the title Archdeacon by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America. Metropolitan Theodosius conferred the award on Archdeacon Peter, a monk-deacon for 20 years, ordained 35 years and in the monastic life 40 years, on October 4. The service was held in the Holy Wisdom Temple of the Stavropigial Monastery of New Skete. Congratulations - *gratulujeme!*

● **Peter and Eleanor Dietz** (C-RS, Staten Island, NY) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 6, 2001. The anniversary was marked by a special Divine Liturgy at St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Rahway, NJ, which was cantored by their daughter **Patricia Dietz** (also a C-RS member). Their family includes three children and six grandchildren. The Dietzes are also very active in the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. - Patricia is a national Director, Eleanor is secretary of Lodge 151 in New York City, and Peter is assistant athletic director of District Seven. We congratulate and wish the Dietzes many more years - *mnohaja i blahaja lita!*

● The Rusyn Byzantine Catholic parish of **Saint John the Baptist in Lansford, PA** is seeking former parishioners/families to invite them “home” for a year of celebration culminating in the solemn rededication of the church on June 24, 2001. If you have roots at St. John’s, you may contact Mary Ann Holovak, 28 Dennison Rd., Tamaqua, PA 18252 or e-mail Cecelia Keer at [celie@ptd.net](mailto:celie@ptd.net).

● **Leemar Enterprises**, owned and operated by **Michael and Leona Hrehovcik** (C-RS, Little Falls, NJ) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year in business! Leemar is the leading Eastern European heritage products mail order company. Their latest catalog is packed with gifts for those of Rusyn, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Russian, Polish, Slovak, Czech, Lithuanian, Serbian, and Croatian heritage; you can also order through their website at [www.egg-in-wrap.com](http://www.egg-in-wrap.com). Mike and Lee also announce their semi-retirement – from traveling sales booths at ethnic festivals – but also their new Independent Sales Representative program. To get their catalog, or for information about becoming a Leemar sales rep in your area, contact them at PO Box 66, Little Falls, NJ 07424-0066, e-mail [Leemarent@aol.com](mailto:Leemarent@aol.com), or call (973) 256-5474.



The new year gives us a good opportunity to state what has been our unwritten policy with respect to publishing member news. News such as weddings, births, obituaries, anniversaries, awards, etc., is published based on what is received. If we aren’t informed about these things, we can’t very well write about them. Thus, our members are welcome and encouraged to share any kind of news about themselves - it doesn’t have to be “Rusyn activity”; we’re more interested in sharing the milestones and achievements of Rusyn Americans and our members. The only restriction is that it’s news about a member. So send your news (photos welcome, too) - about yourself or other members!



**Carpatho-Rusyn Society**  
125 Westland Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

**PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BUTLER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 50**

Щіро гратулуємо нашій  
братерській організації  
Русинській оброді на  
Словенську на 10-ій річниці  
свого єствованя—*Многая і  
благая літа!*



We sincerely congratulate our sister organization **Rusyn'ska Obroda (Rusyn Renaissance)** on having completed its 10th

year leading the revival of the Rusyn people in Slovakia—*Многая і blahaja літа!*