

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International 16th Genealogical/Cultural Conference

October 17–21, 2017



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WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE FEE?

The full three-day CGSI member or non-member fee entitles registrants to attend the Wednesday evening WW II Slovak Film Festival; Thursday evening Regional Networking Sessions; any 16 of the 17 sessions on Thursday, any of Friday's 16 sessions; any 16 of the 17 sessions on Saturday; the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday lunches; and Friday evening's Parade of Kroje (fashion show of folk dress). The Thursday and Saturday "Reading Kurrent Workshops" are each limited to the first 10 registrants, with a separate registration fee for these workshops. Registrants will receive the Conference syllabus with speaker handouts and a welcome bag.

Registrants may reserve a 75-minute research time slot at no cost to use the CGSI Traveling Library. The hours run concurrently with our breakout sessions. Access in the vendor room is available to everyone, including the public.

ACCOMMODATIONS/RESERVATIONS

The host hotel is the **Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel**, 1111 Airport Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15231. The Hyatt has 336 stylish and soundproof guestrooms. A block of rooms has been reserved for Conference guests from Sunday, October 15, through Sunday, October 22. The CGSI group room rate is \$129 per night for a standard room (2 doubles or a king) with single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. The rate is \$154 per room for triple occupancy. Reservations must be made by October 1, 2017 to ensure this rate.

You can make reservations by calling **724-899-1234** or **1-888-421-1442** and identifying yourself as being with the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society. Or you may register via the Internet by accessing the Hyatt Pittsburgh Hotel reservation page on the CGSI Conference Page, found at cgsi.events.com.

Please provide the hotel with your airline arrival time if you are flying to Pittsburgh.

Perks for our group include free standard wireless Internet, 10 percent discount on food and beverage purchased in the bellfarm Kitchen/Bar, bellfarm Express (coffee shop), and room service; free hydration station upon arrival in the lobby on Wednesday afternoon; free shuttle to local businesses and restaurants within a seven-mile radius, and free parking in the adjoining airport lots with in/out privileges. Attendees who use their free parking pass may visit the CGSI's registration desk to obtain another.

The hotel food consists of locally produced hormone-free meats, and organic produce.

Each room contains a generous workspace with enhanced lighting, 46 inch flat screen TV, and Hyatt Grand Bed. The hotel is pet friendly and provides free local transportation via the hotel's shuttle. A moving sidewalk connects with the airport baggage claim terminal. Other amenities include a heated indoor pool and hot tub, 24-hour StayFit™ gym, steam room and sauna, and YogaAway.

Reserve early as room types are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Plan your travel schedule to include time for our Tuesday and Wednesday tours, and for independent sightseeing and research in Pittsburgh, at the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society in the Carnegie Library or the Heinz History Center's Detre Library and Archives.

TRAVELING TO THE CONFERENCE

By Car

From downtown Pittsburgh, take Parkway West (I-279S), then follow I-376W to Fort Pitt Bridge and Tunnel for about 14 miles, then take Exit 53 to Airport Blvd. Upon entering the airport bear to the left following the gold Commercial Curbs sign. The hotel will be on the left. Enter the second driveway for easy pick-up and drop-off access. For those coming from other directions, access Google Maps or MapQuest.

By Air

Major carriers to Pittsburgh are Delta, American, United and Southwest. Smaller carriers are jetBlue, Southern, Air Canada, and Frontier. Once you arrive at the airport, there is no need for further transportation, you simply get your luggage at the carousel, take the escalator up to the moving sidewalks, and travel to the hotel lobby. This is a big time and cost-savings. The baggage claim area includes a Starbucks coffee, a restaurant, a convenience store, ATM machine, and Visitor Center.

REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

Conference check-in will be available from 3–6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18. Persons attending the Wednesday tours may register upon return. Check-in will also be available all-day Thursday and Friday and Saturday mornings. Day-of-conference registration for walk-ins will be available; however, lunches and speaker handout material may not be available depending on the number of walk-ins.

People taking tours will receive temporary stick-on name tags, and will receive their conference badges, meal tickets, syllabus, and free handout bags after their Wednesday tour has returned.

VENDOR ROOM

Check out a wide selection of genealogical books, supplies, t-shirts, ethnic products, folk art, ethnic music CDs, collectibles, and travel and professional research information. The CGSI will have a full complement of items, including *History of Slovaks in America*, *History of Czechs in America*, genealogy how-to books, auto atlases, tourist fold out maps, folk costume maps, etc. Some of our speakers, sponsors, and other profit and non-profit businesses will also be selling. The vendor area is open to the public.

CGSI TRAVELING LIBRARY/INTERNET RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

A selection of our most used library reference books will be available for on-site research. Staff will assist beginners in using Internet sources for your genealogy, including Czech regional archive records; FamilySearch.org; Ancestry.com; and CGSI Member Only databases, including Leo Baca's nine published volumes of the Czech Immigration Passenger List and the unpublished 1900-1903 Baltimore records, and surnames and locations submitted by Members. Popular books include the 1651 Religious Census, 1653 Berni Rula census (both cover only Bohemia), gazetteers, and auto atlases.

Reservation tickets for individual library sessions will be available at the CGSI registration table. Session times will coincide with the presentations given on Thursday through Saturday. The library **will** be closed during the lunch period. Volunteers will be available to assist in explaining reference material. The library will not have an onsite copier available for making copies so it will be necessary to bring a digital camera or portable scanner to copy any library reference materials. Translators will be available upon advance request to review digitized library materials or those brought from home.

TRANSLATION SERVICE

Persons fluent in Slovak, Rusyn, and Czech will be available to help translate brief documents or summarize longer documents, time permitting. The translators will charge a fee for their services. If you need help check in at our registration table and we will refer you to someone who can help. If you know that you will need assistance, make a notation on your registration form. If you want to volunteer your language skills, please let us know. Translators will work in the Networking/Hospitality Room, or if they are a vendor they may work at their vendor table.

NETWORKING ROOM

The Networking room will be used for translation assistance, sharing information with fellow researchers, small group discussions, posting messages regarding surnames and villages, or locating fellow registrants who may share a common surname or village.

SILENT AUCTION

We are looking for items to include in our silent auction, so if you have a product or a service to offer we will graciously accept it. Products can be new or gently used, including genealogy or history books, folk art or crafts, glassware or jewelry from the home countries. Services can include genealogy research in a US location or in the Czech or Slovak Republics, translations, a folk-art project, etc.

Information about Silent Auction procedures will be provided at our Silent Auction check-in table. This has always been a great social activity with competitive bidding, and a diversion from listening to lectures.

TOUR INFORMATION—OCTOBER 17, 18



**Tour No. 1—Tuesday, October 17
Pittsburgh's Industry of Our Immigrants**

Departure: Hyatt Regency—8 a.m.
Return: Hyatt Regency—5 p.m.

Price: \$75 per person, includes deluxe motor coach, guide fees, lunch, driver tip, and admissions.

The three-hour "Babuskas and Hardhats" Tour offered through the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area includes a presentation at the Bost

Building, a brief tour at the Pump House, and a guided tour of the Carrie Furnaces at the former U.S. Steel Homestead Works, plus a guide doing narration between those three stops.

Gary Rogers, a historian with the Oakmont Historical Society, will provide coal mining history in Western Pennsylvania on the bus ride to Penn Brewery, where the group will enjoy a selection of luncheon appetizers, with coffee, ice-tea, water, and lemonade. Attendees can also purchase beer.

After lunch the tour continues at the Tour-Ed coal mine in Tarentum, PA. The underground portion of the tour lasts about 30 minutes, and visitors will ride in coal cars inside the mine. A group of up to 25 can explore the mine, while the remainder visits the museum and listens to mining stories from guides and miners. Then the two groups rotate. Temperature in the mine is 52-55 degrees,



so a light jacket is recommended.

**Tour No. 2—Wednesday, October 18
Slovak Historic Bus Tour of Pittsburgh**

Departure: Hyatt Regency—8 a.m.
Return: Hyatt Regency 5 p.m.

Price, \$60 per person, includes deluxe motor coach, guide fees, lunch, driver tip and admissions.

Join guide Joe Bielecki on a tour of Pittsburgh with a Slovak touch. This tour includes stops at Mt. Washington for a panoramic view of the city and round trip on the Duquesne Incline, a drive by of St. Matthew's, a former Slovak church, a stop for coffee at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, a drive by of the Andy Warhol Museum and the Pittsburgh Agreement Memorial downtown.

Next is a tour of the Heinz History Center, emphasizing the Slovaks and Pittsburgh area industry, including Henry Heinz artifacts and an immigrant house. An executive boxed lunch will be served in a private room at the Heinz along with members of the Carpatho-Rusyn tour group.

Other afternoon stops include Nationality Classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, a drive-by of the Edgar Thompson Steel Works and former St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church building in

Braddock (think *Out of This Furnace* by James Bell). Final stop is the National Slovak Society's Heritage Museum in McMurray.

**Tour No. 3—Wednesday, October 18
Rusyn Historic Bus Tour of Pittsburgh**

Departure: Hyatt Regency—8:30 a.m.



Return: Hyatt Regency—4:30 p.m.

Price, \$60 per person, includes deluxe motor coach, guide fees, lunch, driver tip and admissions.

Much of the Carpatho-Rusyn international history was played out in Pittsburgh in the last 100-plus years. Tour stops include the childhood home of Rusyn-American artist Andy Warhol.

The section of Pittsburgh, called "Ruska Dolyna" or "Rusyn Valley," includes the spectacular St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, where Warhol was baptized. Other stops include the first Rusyn Cathedral in America and the first bishop's residence, in Munhall and Homestead, where Rusyn Americans decided for their homeland to become a part of a new Czechoslovakia at the end of World War I.

This tour also visits St. Michael Orthodox Church in Rankin, a Rusyn-founded church in its original turn-of-the-century state and one-time parish of Fr. Stephan Varzaly, the controversial editor of the largest US Rusyn newspaper during the great 1930s church split. Visit both Carpatho-Rusyn displays in the Heinz History Center and enjoy an executive boxed lunch in a private room at the Center.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18

7–9 P.M.

World War II Slovak Film Festival

Two Slovak produced films, *The Final Mission*, (Unknown Heroes), a film about American airmen shot down over Slovakia during WWII and how villagers took 85 of them into hiding; and *The Oath*, a film about US Marine and Iwo Jima hero Michael Strank, who is of Rusyn ancestry, born in Slovakia.

Loretta Ekoniak, from the American-Slovak Cultural Association of the Greater Mahoning Valley of Youngstown, Ohio, will introduce the films.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

8 A.M.—4:45 P.M.

On-Site Registration and Check-In

8:30–8:45 A.M.

Conference Orientation8 A.M.—5 P.M. **VENDOR ROOM**

9 A.M.—4:45 P.M.

CGSI Traveling Library

Library use coincides with breakout session times. Advance reservations required (passes available at CGSI Registration table).

9–10:15 A.M.

TH1 Pennsylvania Vital Records**Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS**

An introduction to the practice of records research in Pennsylvania, beginning with an overview of Pennsylvania record-keeping, focusing on sources for vital records, and moving on to substitute sources such as church and cemetery records, newspapers, and city directories. Repositories such as courthouses, state archives, and libraries will also be reviewed.

TH2 Beyond Kolaches: Cuisine as a Reflection of Historical Changes in the Czech Nation**Gabriela Jiskrova and Albert Ksinan**

National and regional cuisines have always been considered a part of peoples' cultural heritage. This presentation will describe characteristics of Czech and Slovak cuisine in the context of various historical periods (and cookbooks) and discuss cultural changes that

shaped gastronomy in the Czech lands. Probably the first widely known Czech cookbook was published in the Austrian empire in the early 19th century (Rettigová, 1826). We will also present copies of recipes from these cookbooks and discuss specifics of food preparation and the most favorite ingredients used in each historic period.

TH3 Coal Mine Culture— a World of Its Own**John Righetti**

Among the first industrial era immigrants to the United States were citizens of Austria-Hungary who were recruited to work the coal fields of Pennsylvania and select other states. An absolute necessity for both industry and homes, coal was king. John Righetti describes coal communities during early immigration and how they became an economic system distinct from the rest of America. He explains how coal communities developed as a culture unto themselves. For anyone with family roots in coal mining, this presentation is a must.

TH4 WW I on Slovak Lands**Ronald Matviyak**

WW I penetrated into the territory of Slovakia causing untold damage and suffering for the local population, primarily Rusyns living in the mountains and hills of NE Slovakia. As with their Lemko cousins on the northern slopes of the Carpathians, the Rusyns were treated as suspect and spies due to the close relationship of their language and faith to that of the enemy Russians. The Austro-Hungarian army could not supply its own army in the severe conditions of the Carpathian winter, and civilian stores of food, animals, and draft horses were commandeered, leaving civilians to take care of themselves. This presentation brings to light some of the hard-to-find details as they affected the people of Old Hungary.

MORNING BREAK 10:15–10:45 A.M.**10:45 A.M.—NOON****TH5 Courthouse Research****in Pennsylvania:****In the Realm of the Prothonotary**
Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS

An introduction to resources for family history research in Pennsylvania courthouses, beginning with an overview of Pennsylvania record-keeping and focusing on sources for vital records, wills and estate records, civil and criminal court records, and deeds.

TH6 Beyond Žatkovich and the Pittsburgh Agreement: American Ethnoreligious Influences on Czechoslovakia (1890–1939)**Dr. Joel Brady**

This paper explores the origins of Russian Orthodox conversion movements among migrants from Austria-Hungary in the late 19th century and traces their transatlantic history through transitions wrought by world war and the formation of Czechoslovakia. It is based on archival research, including parish records, migrant correspondence, immigration records, and newspapers and periodicals published in East Central Europe and the Americas.

TH7 Collections of the Heinz History Center**Sierra Green**

Explore collections available at the Detre Library & Archives of Pittsburgh's Heinz History Center. These sources will lead to individual voices that can be discovered in the employment, family, local government, funeral home, and immigrant community newspaper records. This session will also provide guidance about how to harness the Czechoslovak collections to re-create your ancestor's historical setting in Western Pennsylvania. The presentation will also cover artifacts from the History Museum, including items and archives that document the lives of Western Pennsylvanians over the past 250 years.

TH8 The Cycle of Life in Czech and Slovak Villages**Helene Baine Cincebeaux**

Our ancestors' lives revolved around the seasons with rituals and celebrations that brightened their work-a-day lives. Celebrations often involved traditional verses, food, music, and song. A slide program will take you through the seasons of the year beginning with New Year's customs, Fasank (the night before Lent), spinning bees and courting parties, spring planting rituals, christenings, Easter, weddings, harvest festivals, village hody (feasts) and wakes, All Soul's Day, death customs, Advent, and the Christmas season. The church was at the heart of village life. Questions to answer include: Who was Morena? What's a Name Day? Other topics.

NOON–1:30 P.M.

LUNCH (INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE FEE)

1:30–2:45 P.M.

**TH9 Genealogical Resources
in Western Pennsylvania**
Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS

An introduction to research and repositories for family history in Western Pennsylvania, beginning with an overview of Pennsylvania records and focusing on sources for vital records, church and cemetery records, newspapers, and city directories. Major libraries and depositories will be highlighted along with specialized collections in local historical societies, colleges, and universities. Repositories such as the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh will be discussed.

**TH10 Genealogy—
Getting and Staying Organized**
Rebecca Kichta-Miller

So you've been "doing genealogy" for a few months, years, or decades, have piles of papers, books, magazines, and supplies that just keep getting moved from place to place, and the piles never seem to get any smaller. How do you get a grip on the "mess" you've created? This workshop will walk you through getting organized from the first piece of paper you pick up to the last, then provide you valuable hints and tricks to keep you organized and ready to tackle the next branch of our tree.

**TH11 Overcoming Brick Walls in
Eastern Europe Research**
Lisa A. Alzo

Research in Eastern Europe can be a challenging process. Sorting out surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are just a few of the obstacles often encountered along the way. Through sample case studies, this session will demonstrate lesser utilized research tactics, and discuss repositories and key resources used to locate information about your elusive Eastern European ancestors, and how to overcome the most common research problems.

TH12 Slovakia—Land of Miners
Michal Razus

Topics to be covered include: Slovakia—heart of the mining industry; metals—source of medieval fortune; mining towns of central Slovakia and their metals; Slovak Ore Mountains—source

of mining; processing and use of ore: smelters, founders, iron workers; technologies, maps and machines, mining academy; unique mines in Slovakia—harvesting of opals and salt; mining from water; life of a miner—his daily routine and working conditions; insurance companies and professional organizations; Slovak invention used by Ford; American-Slovak connections—US Steel in Košice; and mining in art—movies, songs, religion.

AFTERNOON BREAK 2:45–3:15 P.M.

3–5 P.M.

TH13 Reading Kurrent Workshop
(\$15 fee required. Limited to first 10 registrants. See registration form, page 15)
Blanka Lednická

Kurrent writing is the most complicated part of Czech genealogical research. It is usually a brick wall where efforts of many researchers end because they cannot read old handwriting. Kurrent originates in German neo-gothic handwriting and was used for Czech records from the 16th to the 19th century, and for German records until the 20th century. When combined with Czech language it could be the end point of the research. This workshop is focused on understanding Kurrent. It is recommended that participants already understand basics of genealogical research and have some experience with searching in Czech parish books.

3:15–4:30 P.M.

**TH14 The Aliens Are Coming:
USCIS Record Sets**
Rich Venezia

A-Files? AR-2 Forms? C-Files? Oh my! Wade through the alphabet soup of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' record sets to find immigrant ancestors. Besides handling current immigration into the US, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) holds indispensable genealogical records for anyone with post-1906 immigrant ancestors. This lecture explores how USCIS came to be and, more importantly, the valuable records it holds. Participants will learn who is likely to show up in which USCIS file set and how the index searching and ordering process works.

TH15 Creating a Family Archive
Rebecca Kichta-Miller

Learn how archiving your family history is different from scrapbooking the major life events of your family. Archiving and preserving your family's original photos and mementos takes special

skills. Learn skills that can take your prized possessions out of those old albums, storage boxes, and trunks and into the next century. You can learn what to keep and what not to keep, techniques for scanning, preserving, storing, and sharing photos and documents, and for book preservation, organizing digital files, archival supplies and where to use them, and restoration—what NOT to do.

**TH16 Sites of the Czech Republic
and Their Stories**
Miroslav Koudelka

The Czech Republic has all kinds of tourist sites except for the sea. This presentation will introduce you to some of them, including both the world-famous—such as Prague, Karlovy Vary, Olomouc—and those not listed in every guidebook—such as Praskolesy, Komárov or Hynčice. Besides historic sites from castles and cathedrals to picturesque folk houses, it will also cover natural phenomena (mountains, caves, historic trees) and places referring to famous personalities (Charles IV, St. John of Nepomuk, Johann Gregor Mendel, Oskar Schindler). These sites will be shown through photos.

**TH17 A Crash Course in Slovak:
Useful Slovak Words and Phrases
for Travel and Genealogy**
Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., PhD

Slovak is a very rich language, flowing beautifully like a song or poem. It is also one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn, with a very complicated set of grammar rules. This presentation will introduce attendees to Slovak pronunciation and cover the most basic words and phrases needed to get by in traveling in Slovakia, and some key Slovak words in researching genealogy. It will also offer some useful advice if one intends to travel in Slovakia, including driving or using trains in Slovakia.

NO THURSDAY GROUP DINNER OFFERED

7–8:30 P.M.

REGIONAL NETWORKING SESSIONS

Attendees will break out into groups based on the region of the Czech or Slovak Republics where their immigrant ancestors lived. Groups of 4 to 10 will gather for small group discussions led by a moderator at each table who is knowledgeable about the ancestral area. If more than one regional area applies, you can move from group to group. We will request details to arrange this in our confirmation letter. Have your village names and the district or nearest large city ready when we contact you.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20**7:15–9:15 A.M.****Registration and Check-in****8–9 A.M.****OPENING SESSION WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Singing of Czech, Moravian, Slovak and Carpatho-Rusyn National Anthems, and the Star Spangled Banner
Jozef Ivaska, Sr. and son Jozef “Dodo” Jr.

Keynote Speaker—Lisa Alzo***They Built This City:******Celebrating Pittsburgh’s Industries and Immigrants***

General Announcements
(conference chair)

9:15–10:30 A.M.

F1 How to Research Czech Birth/Marriage/Death Registers on the Internet: A Practical Lesson
Miroslav Koudelka

How to determine the archive your village’s records should be available. A revolution has occurred at the archives in recent years, turning from a coal shovel to the worldwide web. How many of the registers from particular archives are available online? The speaker will discuss advantages and disadvantages of working with original source records versus digital copies on the Internet. The various types of handwriting and languages encountered will be addressed. The audience will join the speaker to successfully research a family.

F2 What was it like in 1969, 1989, and 1993?

Helene Baine Cincebeaux

Tumultuous times for Czechoslovakia in the 24 years from the Russian invasion, to unexpected freedom, to the Velvet Divorce, told from the people’s points of view from eyewitnesses to history. Helene and her mother Helen Zemek Baine visited some 3,000 villages, towns, and cities beginning in 1969, then 1972, 1975 and every year thereafter to the present, talking with people in all walks of life. She will compare how life was like based on all her trips to the Czech and Slovak Republics. The talk will include many adventures, such as police interrogation, being spied on, our photo exhibit in Prague, being hosted by an Archbishop, etc.

F3 Emigration from Slovakia***Michal Razus***

The presentation will cover the following topics: Periods of emigration—years, peaks, and waves; first Slovaks in the US (numbers and statistics of immigration); Isaacus Ferdinand Sharoshi, Mayor Jan Polorecky, Maurice Benyovszky and the Lincoln Riflemen of Slavonic Origin; reasons and motivation that caused emigration (push-pull factor): economic and political; regions with the highest percentage of emigrants (Šariš, Zemplín, Spiš, Abov); target destinations (Pittsburgh and Johnstown, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Streator and Chicago, New York, New Jersey, Colorado). Other topics include modes of travel and Hungarian restrictions.

F4 Rusyn, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian —the Quest for Identity

among Carpatho-Rusyns***John Righetti***

Carpatho-Rusyns both in Europe and especially America have been identified by others—and sometimes themselves—as one of these four nationalities. John Righetti explains how and why this happened. Those conducting genealogy research on Carpatho-Rusyns and Slovaks will learn the secrets for determining if the people they are researching are indeed Carpatho-Rusyns.

MORNING BREAK 10:30–11 A.M.**11 A.M.–12:15 P.M.****F5 “After the Roof” —****Surname Changes in the Czech Past*****Blanka Lednická***

Surnames as we know them originated in the Middle Ages. First surnames were based on the occupation, father’s name or characteristics of every person. But surnames were not stable until the end of 18th century. In Southern Bohemia surnames “after the roof” are used even today, and this lecture focuses on examples of surname changes—why they happened, how to decide when and why the change occurred, and how these changes were marked in parish books and seigniorial records.

F6 How to Locate**Those Elusive Military Records for Ancestors Who Served in the Austro-Hungarian Army*****Carl Kotlarchik***

Military records are many times overlooked by genealogists. But they often contain valuable information about an ancestor that cannot be found elsewhere. They can also provide insight into what individuals may have experienced during their lifetimes and give a perspective of the history of that time. Consequently, knowledge of military service can add real depth and interest to a family history. The presentation will attempt to demystify the process and provide the necessary tools and methodology to locate AH military records.

F7 The American Slovaks and the Start of the Great War

Gregory C. Ference

The start of World War I just over a century ago in the summer of 1914 caught almost the whole world by surprise, and Slovaks in the United States were no different. The approximately 650,000 immigrants in America had just begun to put together a political plan for an autonomous future of their compatriots within the Kingdom of Hungary when war erupted. This event caused them to reassess their options, which by the end of the year began to focus on a Czecho-Slovak option. Slovak men were warned not to return to the homeland since they were certain to be drafted to fight Imperial Russia. Consequently, American Slovaks turned their backs on Hungary.

F8 Parish Histories: A Prospective Window

on Carpatho-Rusyn Genealogy***John Schweich***

This presentation draws on a collection of 1800 parish commemorative books to provide economic and social context for the ancestors’ community settlement choices, information on home villages, details on the church splits and schisms that punctuated and enlivened their lives, the complex and bewildering jurisdictional terminology employed, e.g., Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic, advertisements documenting the transition of certain members of the community from mines and mills to business self-ownership, social groups, parallels with ethnic histories, founders, and humor.

LUNCH 12:15–1:45 P.M.
(included in Conference fee)

1:45–3 P.M.

**F9 Homes of Our Czech Ancestors
in the Old Fatherland**
Miroslav Koudelka

This presentation will focus on the social aspects, cities and towns, and homes in the countryside. Under social aspects we will discuss property owners and roomers, and the multigenerational way of living. For cities and towns we will discuss ground plans of medieval cities, the neighborhood of the feudal lord's residence (area covered, city walls, size and shape of the square, streets, reflections of feudal privileges), and the layout and shapes of medieval city houses in different architectural periods. For country we will discuss the origin of villages, houses, living section, equipment, sheds and barns, garden and orchards, etc.

**F10 Czecho-Slovak Legion:
Historic Significance**
Kevin J. McNamara

The exploits of the Czecho-Slovak Legion in revolutionary Russia at the close of the First World War have received only modest attention; historians have yet to take account of the historic significance of this *ad hoc* army. The speaker will discuss various reasons why this may be. The Czecho-Slovak Legion helped to fatally undermine the ancient Habsburg dynasty and enable the legion's leader, Tomas G. Masaryk, to shatter the Austro-Hungarian empire, creating the republic of Czechoslovakia and the many other small nations that continue today to alter the politics and destiny of Europe.

F11 Beginning Slovak Genealogy
Lisa A. Alzo

Nearly 620,000 Slovaks came to the US during the period of "mass migration" (1880-1914). This workshop will provide an overview of how to begin the research process using both traditional and online sources. Learn how to identify your ancestral village, locate and interpret vital records, trace ancestors through census and immigration records, use the Family History Library, and find and hire professional researchers. Get tips for contacting possible relatives and writing to Slovak archives. The basics of organizing your research and strategies for overcoming the most common pitfalls and problems specific to researching Slovak ancestors will also be discussed.

F12 Changed by Thalerhof
John Righetti

Few know about Austria's Thalerhof. It was the grand experiment in a European state corralling its own citizens, viewing them as a threat. It had never been done before. This is the story of the creation of the *first* European concentration camp. There were no rules. People—hungry, sick and dying—arrested and interned with no charges because of who they were—a generation before Auschwitz. The victims? Carpatho-Rusyns. *Changed by Thalerhof* is an hour-long documentary produced in 2014 on the camp's 100th anniversary. Film will be shown, followed by discussion with producer John Righetti.

AFTERNOON BREAK 3–3:30 P.M.

3:30–4:45 P.M.

**F13 Stable Cadastral Maps
of the Czech Republic**
Helmuth Schneider

This presentation provides background information about the Stable Cadastral Maps and discusses why they are available on the Internet. The online website will be provided. You will be shown, step-by-step, how to open the website and locate the Stable Cadastral Map for any village in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The maps were originally drafted in the 1820s–1830s and show the houses and/or barns built on city lots and the many small farms, ownership, etc. The maps were colored using watercolors. Every feature on the map has a color. No notes required as presentation will be shared.

**F14 Slovaks and Rusyns Seen
through the Eyes of Travelers
1795–1915**
Ron Matviyak

The direct quotations taken from various travelers may occasionally touch a sensitive nerve, as their observations are not always complimentary and can be painful to read. Thus this presentation is rated PG. At the same time, the harshness of some of the quotations may reveal new insights into why our ancestors wanted to leave the Old Country. Western Europeans long regarded Hungary as the "Wild East," where civilization and costume and custom were still a blend of western and orient. This is a presentation of the observations made by intrepid travelers from England and Germany who traveled through the remoteness of Old Hungary or lived there for several years and returned to the west to report their observations in books.

**F15 Traditional Slovak Customs
during the Year**
Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., PhD

Slovaks have always loved to celebrate, and this presentation will survey some of the main folk traditions that they practiced during each calendar year. Many customs were rooted in ancient pagan traditions and then modified after Christianity came to Slovakia. The modernization of Slovakia has led to some of these traditions disappearing, while others have persisted to the present day. Traditions also varied somewhat in different regions and villages, depending on geography and local resources. Holidays covered will include Christmas and New Year, Shrovetide, Lent, Easter, Spring customs (such as the Maypole), etc.

**F16 From the Carpathians
to the Alleghenies:
Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrants
in the Greater Johnstown,
Pennsylvania Area**
Rich Custer

Carpatho-Rusyns first settled the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, area in 1887 and began to establish their own churches and other institutions. Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants made up a substantial part of the workforce of the local steel mills and bituminous coal mines. Descendants of these immigrants are still found in this region in large numbers. The presentation will cover their early settlement in the greater Johnstown area, their places of origin in the European homeland, and the development of their churches and fraternal and cultural institutions. The presentation emphasizes the visual, with more than 180 slides that tell their story.

6–7 P.M. DINNER
(optional, see registration form)

**Roasted Pork and Sauerkraut
Mashed Potatoes and Carrots
Field Green Salad
Sponge Cake with Fresh Berries**

7:15–8:45 P.M. PARADE OF KROJE

Join us for a fashion show of conference participants and local guests showcasing stunning folk dress from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Helene Baine Cincebeaux of Rochester, NY will serve as emcee with music accompaniment by Slovak-born musicians Jozef Ivaska, Sr. and his son Jozef "Dodo" Jr. All who own or can borrow a kroj (folk dress) are encouraged to participate. It can be old or new; inherited or purchased, even recently made. To register, send a description of your kroj and photo if possible to helenezx@aol.com. Tell anything special about it and how you acquired it.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**7:15–8 A.M.****REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN****7:30–9:30 A.M.****S1 Reading Kurrent Workshop
(repeat of TH13)****(\$15 fee required. Limited to first 10 registrants. See registration form, page 15)****Blanka Lednická**

Kurrent writing is the most complicated part of Czech genealogical research. It is usually a brick wall where efforts of many researchers end because they cannot read old handwriting. Kurrent originates in German neo-gothic handwriting and was used for Czech records from the 16th to the 19th century, and for German records until the 20th century. When combined with Czech language it could be the end point of the research. This workshop is focused on understanding Kurrent. It is recommended that participants already understand basics of genealogical research and have some experience with searching in Czech parish books.

8–9:15 A.M.**S2 Czech Family Name Sources—
A Lesson for Foreign Genealogists**
Miroslav Koudelka

This presentation will cover the history of surnames in the Middle Ages: from given names thru personal attributes to the 1780 family names codification; sources of Czech family names and their semantic content (Christian first names, geographical names, professions, personal characteristics, etc.); language aspects of family names appearing in genealogical documents, language used for record-keeping (Latin, German, Czech, dialects), spelling variations, female forms; and a survey of most frequent Czech family names.

**S3 Identification of Alias Names
in Slovak Records—Two Case Studies**
Margaret Nasta

Tracking your ancestors who were born in the former empire of Austria-Hungary can be challenging if your family used more than one surname. Both names were often recorded in church archives, but which one came to America with the immigrant? In Central Europe people could be called both by a family name and an alias name. The alias might be a property name: the house where they lived or the land they farmed. Sometimes it was just a

village nickname. The speaker will cover two case studies from her family, showing how she determined these people with different names were one and the same.

**S4 Roma in Central Europe:
Past and Present**
Stepanka Korytova, PhD

This presentation will examine the history and evolution of Roma (Gypsy) settlements in Central Europe, focusing on ethnic structures, on employment, and culture in its broadest sense: language, customs and traditions (e.g., weddings and funerals). It will also address Gypsy status as a minority group within the multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire and the changes the Roma experienced within the rather ethnically homogeneous Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1993, including the Roma experience in the Holocaust. The presentation concludes with personal experiences working with Roma.

S5 Andy and the Rusyns
Elaine Rusinko

Andy Warhol is the most famous American of Carpatho-Rusyn ancestry, and the icons of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Church were his first exposure to art. Topics to be covered include Czech, Slovak, and Ukrainian attempts to claim Warhol; Warhol's (mis)understanding of his ethnicity; reception of Warhol by Rusyns in Slovakia; Warhol's ancestral village of Mikova in the world's spotlight; Andy's religious consciousness; his art; sexuality, and his greatest influence, his mother Julia; Andy as a Rusyn icon.

MORNING BREAK 1 9:15–9:45 A.M.**9:45–11 A.M.****S6 The Czechs of Bohemian Hill**
Carol Hochman

The first Czech to arrive in Allegheny City, now a part of the city of Pittsburgh, came from Mlynec, near Klatovy. Local records indicate he became a resident of Allegheny City in 1849. During the next 50 years, immigrants continued to come from the regions of today's Czech Republic known as Moravia and Bohemia and settled in a section of Allegheny City known as "Český vrsek" or Bohemian Hill. The men found jobs as blacksmiths, tailors and tanners, or opened their own businesses, while many of the women worked at the nearby Heinz factory. They established churches, social halls and benevolent societies as a social safety net.

**S7 Slovakia—Wealth Center
of Old Hungary**
Ron Matviyak

Too often, the perception of Slovakia as a land of poverty and deprivation is passed on through families and has taken a life in popular perception and mythology. This is quite understandable, as our ancestors often struggled to earn a living, left an overpopulated area, or had a sibling inherit the family holdings and had to strike out on their own. We do not hear of the Slovak land being the center of Old Hungarian wealth, of the great mines of copper, silver and gold. We have only to look at maps showing the proud medieval towns of old Hungary to see that most were developed on Slovak lands. We will look at other signs of wealth.

**S8 The Making of a State:
The American Creation
of Czecho-Slovakia
with the Cleveland Agreement
and the Pittsburgh Pact**
Gregory C. Ference

Czechs and Slovaks living in the United States were in an almost unique situation in world history. With the outbreak of the unpopular First World War in July 1914, they began looking for alternatives to remaining in the Austro-Hungarian Empire after the war ended. Despite being immigrants and largely cut off from co-nationals in Europe because of the war, they were positioned to influence great power politics in their quest for an independent state carved out of the Habsburg empire. The Cleveland Agreement (October 1915), and the Pittsburgh Pact (May 1918) are two of the more important documents for the creation of a shared country of Czechs and Slovaks that came to fruition in late October 1918.

S9 Rusyns—The Story of Survival
Michal Razus

This presentation will cover the origins of the Carpatho-Rusyn nation (Rusyns of NE Slovakia); demographics, culture and religion; the role of Greek Catholic and Orthodox religion in the process of nation formation; sacral structures (Carpathian wooden churches); pilgrimage places; important national awakeners (Duchnovič, Gojdič, and Žatkovich); educational and cultural institutions and organizations (Institute of Rusyn language, annual summer school, Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov); the destruction of the Greek Catholic Church; and forced Ukrainization.

LUNCH 11 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
(included in Conference fee)

12:30–1:45 P.M.

S10 Life in Bohemia and Moravia in the 18th Century

Blanka Lednická

How did our ancestors live? What was the life cycle of serfs living in rural areas of Bohemia? How were their lives affected by the church, domain owners, local authorities? Were they free to decide about their marriage, children's names, their occupation, and the place where they lived? This presentation focuses on the everyday life of Czech dependent people (serfs) during the 18th century and will provide basic information about life cycle from birth to death, including the most common customs connected with birth and baptism, marriage, death, and burial—both church and folk traditions. Inheritance and careers will also be discussed.

S11 Identifying Pittsburgh's Slovak Cluster Communities and Their Role in Preserving Slovak Heritage

Lisa A. Alzo

Historically, no other city in the United States has attracted more Slovaks than Pittsburgh. Slovak immigrants came to the Pittsburgh region in the 1890s, and it is estimated that close to 100,000 came to the area looking for work and a chance for a better life. Living in neighborhoods close to their work, Slovaks formed numerous cluster communities throughout Western Pennsylvania—in such towns as Braddock, Duquesne, Homestead, Munhall, the North Side, Rankin, and Swissvale. Once settled, Slovak immigrants founded their own churches, schools, fraternal benefit societies, and social clubs.

S12 Unlocking the Secrets of the Czech Archives: You Can Find Your Ancestors

Jim Hudec

Ready to dive into the Birth/Marriage/Death records in the Czech Parish Archives, or have you tried without success? The speaker will present tips to help you successfully find your ancestors in the archives, which are rich with data, including dates of birth/baptism, marriage, or death/burial; the names of parents and grandparents, their associated villages, and house numbers, etc. With a little practice you can locate your ancestors by understanding a few key words, the structure of the archive entries and how they changed over time, the difference in names based on language, spelling, and deciphering varieties of handwriting.

S13 A Village-Based Reframing of the Historical Narrative of Carpatho-Rusyns in the United States

Rich Custer

This presentation will discuss how US Carpatho-Rusyn communities went from describing themselves in vague geographic/ethnic terms to at least a partial rediscovery of the relevance of specificity in terms of their European villages of origin. Topics will include: How do we know where they came from? What evidence did immigrants leave about their village of origin? What connections did they maintain with their villages? The speaker will also discuss the disappearance of and later the reappearance decades later of geographic identifiers.

AFTERNOON BREAK 1:45–2:15 P.M.

2:15–3:30 P.M.

S14 How to locate House(s) on a Current (Katastr) map of the Czech Republic

Helmuth Schneider

This presentation will provide background information about village maps, which show conditions in the village(s) in 2016 and can be found on the Internet. The online website will be provided, and you will learn how to open the Czech Geodetic and Cadastral Office website and find the “Consultation of the Cadastre.” You will then select “Finding Construction.” You will be taught how to locate the name of the village where the town hall for your village is located. You will input that village name, and your village name and the house number as we walk through this process step by step.

S15 Slovak Land records and maps

Michal Razus

What are the urbar and the oldest land books and records? Why were they introduced? This presentation will examine Maria Theresa's Urbar from 1767 and how it affected relationships within the empire—between nobility and serfs; its impact on the country and its progress; and modification of the serf's duties. The presentation will also examine who is paying more—a comparison of the past and present taxes, a review of tax types and their optimization (money, work, hunt, wood). Other topics include division of land in the village; maps, types, orientation and match to land records; where to search land records; how to match land records to a map; and land books and their content.

S16 Tying the Knot! Betrothal and Wedding Rituals and Customs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia with Clues for Genealogists

Helene Baine Cincebeaux

This presentation will examine images of actual weddings and customs in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia along with demonstrations and artifacts. Courtship and weddings in villages were the most important life events and comprised many rituals and customs. This talk will share 45 years of research in many villages. One of the best questions to get a reminiscing session started is “What did you do for your wedding?” It is guaranteed to start memories flowing. Topics include courtship, weddings, typical wedding rituals, weddings leading to babies, and other items.

S17 Who are the Rusyns?

John Righetti

Carpatho-Rusyns, Carpatho-Russians, Ruthenians, Lemkos, Uhro-Rusyns—no East European group has more names than the Carpatho-Rusyns, who populated the eastern most regions of Czechoslovakia and Southern Poland. But then no other group in Eastern Europe had as colored and checkered a political and cultural history than the Carpatho-Rusyns. This presentation gives a brief overview of Carpatho-Rusyns' history and explains how they were used as pawns in international agendas by superpowers both in Europe and the United States.

4–5 P.M.

CGSI Annual Membership Meeting

5:45–6:45 P.M. DINNER
(optional—see registration form)

**Stuffed Cabbage Rolls and Pierogies with Sauteed Onions
Field Green Salad
Kolache (family style)**

7–8:45 P.M. ENTERTAINMENT
(included with paid meal or event only—see registration form)

**Slavjane (Rusyn) Folk Ensemble,
Directed by Dean Poloka
followed by Pittsburgh Area
Slovakians (PAS) Folk Ensemble
Directed by Angela Lipchick**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Lisa A. Alzo, MFA, grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania. She is the author of nine books and hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa has served on the Board of Directors for CGSI and is a regular contributor to the CGSI publication *Naše rodina*. She teaches online genealogy courses for Family Tree University and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and is an internationally recognized lecturer.

She began lecturing at the CGSI's 2001 Pittsburgh Conference. Lisa can be reached through her website, lisaalzo.com.

Dr. Joel Brady since 2009 has taught in the University of Pittsburgh's Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Religious Studies, and History. He received his PhD in religious studies in 2012 from the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests and publications focus on the history of transnational migration and ethnoreligious identification, especially Greek Catholic migrant converts to Orthodox Christianity in East Central Europe and the Americas.

Helene Cincebeaux cofounded the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International and has served as director of the society and editor of the *Slovakia* quarterly. She has served on the CGSI Board of Directors twice and has been a frequent presenter at CGSI conferences. Helene has led 86 tours to Eastern Europe in the past 28 years, and has produced 24 exhibits of the

Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak & Czech Folk Dress. Helene has written four books and 42 magazine articles.



Richard Custer was a founder of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society in 1994 and served as editor of its *New Rusyn Times* newsletter 1994-2015. He has written scholarly and popular articles on Rusyn history and culture and the blog *The Carpatho-Rusyns of Pennsylvania*. He co-authored *Prikra* (Prešov, Slovakia, 2006), a history of his Rusyn maternal grandmother's village in eastern Slovakia. He has master's degrees in international business and Eastern Europe studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

Loretta Hanuschak Ekoniak, Canfield, Ohio, is the granddaughter of Slovak immigrants from eastern Slovakia who settled in Campbell, Ohio, to work in the steel mills along the Mahoning River. Loretta is president of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley and co-author of *Slovaks of the Greater Mahoning Valley* (Arcadia Publishing, 2011). She serves on the board of the Youngstown-Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities organization.

Gregory C. Ference is a professor of History at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland, where he has taught since 1988. He holds a BA in history with a certificate in Russian and East European studies from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MA in history and an MLS, and PhD in East European history concentrating on Czechoslovakia from Indiana University, Bloomington. While at Indiana, he held the position of assistant Slavic librarian. He has also presented talks at international and national conferences including CGSI.



Sierra Green, a native of Adamsville, Pennsylvania, completed her masters degree in library and information science with a specialization in archives, preservation, and records management from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. As an archivist at the Detre Library & Archives of the Senator John Heinz History Center, Sierra is engaged in archival processing and reference services in addition to her work in public and educational programming. She posts blogs on many topics, including "A Trip to Pittsburgh's Suburbs."

Carol Hochman serves as honorary consul of the Czech Republic for Western Pennsylvania and Ohio. She chairs the board of the Friends of Via, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that supports a wide variety of Czech nonprofits including the Via Foundation in Prague. She is a former professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS, is library services manager of the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and currently serves as president and program chair of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Raised in Baldwin Borough, her undergraduate and graduate degrees are from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms.

Holt has worked with genealogical patrons for 32 years and has presented numerous programs on local and family history topics since 1988.



Conference Speakers

Jim Hudec was born in Cleveland, Ohio, into a family including Bohemian grandparents, and grew up involved in the Sokol and the Czechoslovak Society of America (now CSA Fraternal Life). Always interested in his Czech heritage, Jim has built a forest of family trees for his extended family, including thousands of ancestors found in the Czech Parish Archives. Now retired and living in Plano, Texas, Jim applies his professional background in software, quality, and process improvement to genealogy research.



Gabriela Jiskrova was born and raised in Brno, South Moravia. She received her MA degree in psychology at Masaryk University in Brno, and is a doctoral student of family sciences at the University of Kentucky. Besides academic interests, she likes traveling and learning about new cultures, gastronomy, and mushroom hunting. She wants



to visit all 50 US states and currently she is halfway there.

Rebecca Kichta Miller was born and raised in Pittsburgh, mostly on the South Side. She has been “doing genealogy” since 1970 when her mother gave her copies of two family trees. As a “Not Certified Genealogist” her business, Shake the Tree . . . Discover Your Roots, provides one-on-one and class instruction on all phases of family history research. She serves as the chairperson for the Genealogy Pavilion at both the Pittsburgh Irish Festival and the Ligonier Highland games, and as editor of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society newsletter.



Michael Kopanic, Jr., a native of Youngstown, Ohio, is an adjunct professor of history and course chair of European history and western civilization courses at the University of Maryland University College. Specializing in the history of East Central Europe, Slovakia, and Slovak immigration history in the US, he has spoken widely on Slovak history and writes a regular column for the largest circulating Slovak-American newspaper, *Jednota*. Dr. Kopanic has also written for *Naše rodina* and serves on the Board of CGSI.



Stepanka Korytova (Magstadt) is an associate instructor at Ivy Tech Community College and at Indiana University, affiliated with the Center for Study of the Global Change and with the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University at Bloomington. She also facilitates the Many Faces of Human Trafficking study group at IUB. Her research and teaching focuses



on global migration, European migration to the US, gender and ethnicity, human trafficking, poverty, and labor exploitation. She is a native of the Czech Republic.

Carl Kotlarchik has been an avid genealogist for more than 40 years. An organic chemist by training, he directed research and development for photographic materials at Eastman Kodak before retiring in 2004. Carl's recent research emphasis has been on the military records and history of his Slovak families. After publishing a book in 2011 about his family, he began a blog on how to locate Austro-Hungarian military records to help others find their ancestral documents.



Miroslav “Mirek” Koudelka studied teaching Czech and history, and English at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic and at Komenský University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He has worked as a professional genealogist, guide and interpreter since 1993. Mirek translated the History of Czechs in America by Dr. Jan Habenicht into English and has presented at past CGSI Conferences and various other genealogy and history events in the US, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



Albert Ksinan spent most of his life in Ostravice, a small village in the Beskydy Mountains in the Silesian part of the Czech Republic. He earned his MA in psychology at Masaryk University in Brno, where he met Gabriela. He is currently a doctoral student of Family Sciences at the University of Kentucky. He likes traveling, reading, cooking and watching movies.



He is interested in learning about American history and culture and is sometimes fascinated by cross-cultural differences.

Blanka Lednická was born in Prague and lived in the Vysočina region. Her ancestors and her husband's ancestors come from throughout the Czech Republic. She has been researching her family history for more than 20 years and holds a degree in history from Masaryk University in Brno and works as a professional researcher. She has written the book *Sestavte si rodokmen* (Create your family tree) about Czech genealogical research and lectures on Czech genealogy and old Czech handwriting.



Ronald Matviyak, PE, Ret. grew up with a fascination for Slovakia and his family there from his earliest childhood. He first overcame economics and the Cold War to visit in 1970, 1982, and numerous times since 1987. Over the decades he has accumulated what is likely the largest Slovak and Rusyn library in the State of Alaska. His interest spans life in Slovakia through the ages rather than pure genealogy, and this is reflected in the papers presented at this conference.



Kevin J. McNamara is the author of a narrative work of non-fiction, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation: The Mutinous Army that Threatened a Revolution, Destroyed an Empire, and Remade the Map of Modern Europe.*



He earned a BA in journalism and an MA in international politics from Temple University, where he was a student of the noted American military historian Russell F. Weigley. Kevin currently

serves as a consultant on a film currently in production in the Czech Republic, *The Legionaries: Siberian Anabasis.*

Margaret Nasta worked for 30 years as a chemist and materials scientist at the Carnegie Mellon Research Institute in Pittsburgh PA. She is now retired and focuses her energies on documenting family history and the Eastern European immigrant experience. Her ancestors emigrated in the early 1900's from small villages in eastern Slovakia and Trans-Carpathia. They settled southeast of Pittsburgh in McKeesport, Duquesne, Glassport and Clairton.



Michal Razus is a genealogist and ancestral tourguide, working and living in Prešov, Slovakia. He is a regional representative of CGSI for Slovakia and he has been a speaker at CGSI Conferences since 2011. He contributes articles for *Naše rodina* and participates in webinars and online lectures organized by CGSI. He is fascinated by the old stories and is happy to share them with you while exploring Slovakia, its history, culture and heritage.



John Righetti is a founder of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and served as its national president for its first 19 years. He has a certificate in Russian and East European studies from the University of Pittsburgh with emphasis on Austro-Hungarian History. He has been interviewed by Rusyn language media in Slovakia, Poland and the former Yugoslavia, and has received the Golden Valaska



Award for contributions to Rusyn culture. He has lectured extensively on Carpatho-Rusyn topics throughout the nation.

Elaine Rusinko is an associate professor of Russian in the Department of Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She holds a PhD in Russian literature from Brown University. Her interest in Andy Warhol stems from their common Carpatho-Rusyn ethnic background, and she published a monograph on the reception of Warhol by Carpatho-Rusyns entitled "We Are All Warhol's Children": Andy and the Rusyns.



Helmuth Schneider, Jr., a retired geologist, has been a member of CGSI since 2005. He earned his BS degree in geology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, in 1960 and retired 12 years ago following a 45-year career in business and petroleum exploration. He got an early start on learning about maps when he took courses in geology and surveying. He used maps in his jobs, first city maps, and then county maps.



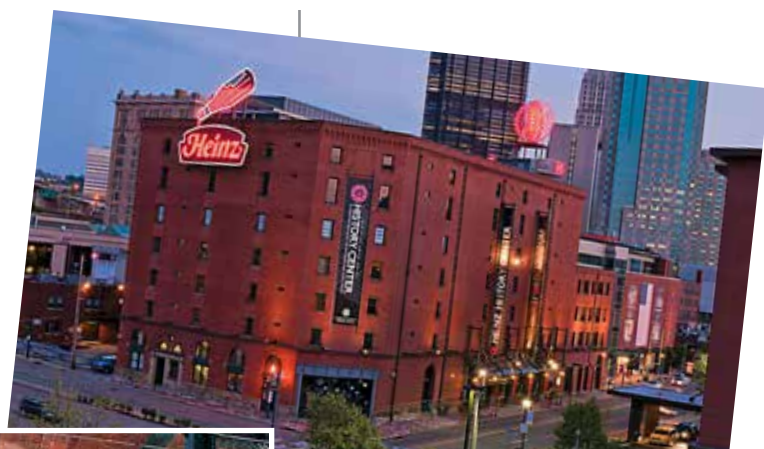
John Schweich is a trustee of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, studied international politics at Penn State University and is a retired lieutenant colonel in the US Army. A former adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh, he spoke at the 2013 CGSI Conference, and wrote the article, "Brookside AL: An Early and Improbable Slavic Community in the Deep South," for *Naše rodina* in December 2014. John owns the largest collection of US Carpatho-Rusyn parish histories.



Rich Venezia, a New Jersey native, now calls Pittsburgh home, although he has roots in Italy, Ireland, England, Wales and Prussia. He started Rich Roots Genealogy after researching his own family for a decade, and credits his maternal grandmother for his passion for family history. He has been on the research team of Genealogy Roadshow (PBS) and consulted on Follow Your Past (Travel Channel). He specializes in immigrant ancestry.



The Things You'll See



**Three-Day Registration Fee (includes Thur–Sat lunches)
Each attendee must use a separate form**

	Member*	Non-Member
Postmarked by September 12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180
Postmarked after September 12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$195

Single-Day Registration Fee (includes Thur–Sat lunches)

Postmarked by September 12

Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$70
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$80

Postmarked after September 12

Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$80
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$90

* Household membership limited to two persons using the member rate.
Total Registration Fees \$_____

**Reading Kurrent Workshop (T13 and S1—limited to first 10,
one session per person)**

T13—3–5 P.M.	\$15	\$_____
S1—7:30–9:30 A.M.	\$15	\$_____

We will notify applicants if any of these sessions is full.

Tours

Tue—Pittsburgh’s Industry of Our Immigrants	\$75	\$_____
Wed—Pittsburgh with a Slovak Touch Tour	\$60	\$_____
Wed—Rusyn Historic Bus Tour of Pittsburgh	\$60	\$_____
Total Tour Fee		\$_____

Membership Form (for new members only)

Join the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International now to take advantage of the lower member conference rates.

<input type="checkbox"/> One-year Individual membership	\$35	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> One-year Household membership	\$40	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> One-year Sponsor membership	\$55	\$_____
Total Membership Fee		\$_____

Registration Fees \$_____

Meals and Entertainment \$_____

Reading Kurrent \$_____

Tour Fees \$_____

Membership Fees \$_____

Total Payment \$_____

Method of Payment:

Check Credit Card VISA Mastercard Discover

Card #

Expiration Date /

Buyer’s name (printed) on card _____

Buyer’s signature _____

Meals and Entertainment

Session registration is not required to purchase tickets for meals or entertainment. If a guest is attending, please submit a registration form for each guest.

Friday October 20

Pork Dinner (see page 8):
(Parade of Kroje, Fashion Show included) \$32 \$_____

Parade of Kroje only with music by the Ivaskas
(for guests not attending sessions or dinner) \$15 \$_____

Saturday October 21

Stuffed Cabbage Dinner/Entertainment (see page 10) \$32 \$_____

Entertainment only (see page 10) \$15 \$_____

Total Meals and Entertainment \$_____

Please notify us of a vegetarian or vegan diet or any special food allergies on a separate sheet or e-mail to PaulMCzech@comcast.net.

Please Help Plan Space

Circle one number in each row to indicate the sessions you plan to attend. This does not reserve a space or obligate you to attend it, but assists us in assigning rooms. Use a separate form for each attendee.

Thursday Sessions	TH1	TH2	TH3	TH4	
	TH5	TH6	TH7	TH8	
	TH9	TH10	TH11	TH12	
	TH13	TH14	TH15	TH16	TH17
Friday Sessions	F1	F2	F3	F4	
	F5	F6	F7	F8	
	F9	F10	F11	F12	
	F13	F14	F15	F16	
Saturday Sessions	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
	S6	S7	S8	S9	
	S10	S11	S12	S13	
	S14	S15	S16	S17	

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You will receive an electronic confirmation with any updates within about 10 days after your registration is received. If you do not have e-mail, materials will be mailed. Do not forget your hotel reservations. Copy this page for your records.

