



Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association

Newsletter No. 51, April 1, 2012

Next Event – International Children’s Festival in Hampton:

TUCA will be participating for the second year in the International Children’s Festival (ICF). The festival will be at Mill Point Park on Saturday, 21 April 2012, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

The ICF provides an opportunity for children and their families to experience the sights, sounds, and cuisine of distant places, with over 30 countries and cultures represented. These countries showcase their culture and heritages through entertainment, food, and educational exhibits based on Virginia's Standards of Learning.

Some scenes from last year



This is a great opportunity to present Ukrainian culture and traditions to a broad spectrum of people. The Ukraine exhibit was one of the best presentations last year.

We would appreciate any help you can offer to make this a successful event for TUCA: providing help at the display tables at some time, loaning Ukrainian items for display, etc. For further information about the ICF visit <http://www.hampton.gov/parks/icf/>, or contact the TUCA coordinators, Myron Bilyj or Elaine Hampton.

Planned Events:

At the recent Board Meeting it was determined to continue the alternation of location for events between the Southside and the peninsula. This is intended to maximize the opportunity of our membership to attend and to open up new areas that people just have not seen before (like Fort Monroe as a past picnic location).

TUCA Picnic - Will be in the Hampton area in the August timeframe.

TUCA Christmas Party - Will be Southside in late January 2013.

Last Event – Christmas Party 2011:

Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association (TUCA) celebrated the Ukrainian Christmas season on December 18 in the Williamsburg area at Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church. It was a wonderful celebration and party.



Olena Boyko

Prepared all the dishes shown and then explained the history and significance of these traditional Ukrainian dishes served during Christmas.

This is in support of our efforts to present Ukrainian culture and traditions to people here in the Tidewater area. This year there were several non-Ukrainian people who attended as guests.

The TUCA Board would like to thank all the people who brought prepared dishes to share with the group. Additionally we thank Orysia Stefaniw for the varenyky. The best compliment on the food was that “no leftovers” was the result. Another thank you for the people who contributed to our “For The Children Fund” collection box.

We were entertained at the party by Ukrainian Christmas carol sing-along. Please go to the web site (<http://tuca.us/>) to see pictures of the singers and several other pictures.



Jacques Hnizdovsky Christmas Card
Ukrainian Easter (Velykden):

Next year's Christmas party will be held in the Southside. The date will be sometime in January. The location is not determined at this time. The board welcomes any recommendations or ideas from the membership.

Ukrainians were the first who began to spread Christianity throughout Eastern Europe in the tenth century. Before 988 AD, when Christianity came to Ukraine, our early ancestors heartily celebrated Spring as a time of joy, creativity, and renewal of hope and life after a cold, dreary winter.

Their pre-Christian culture is the root of many of our Christian traditions today. Belief in Christ's Resurrection also reflects a renewal of hope, life, and a time of joy. Preparing for the "Great Day", Ukrainians have the custom of cleaning and repairing one's home and every article of clothing. Sometimes a new piece of clothing was given to each person in the family.

Spiritual cleaning of the soul and mind is also a custom where one prepares by reconciling with neighbors and relatives where there are any misunderstandings or problems.

This "cleansing" is also encouraged when one is preparing to create "pysanky." Our beautiful batik-style eggs derive their history from more than 1000 years ago. The symbols used in pre-Christian times are still used today, but represent Christian theology. For example, the symbol of the sun, a sign of Spring, warming of the earth, new growth, new life, is now interpreted as a symbol for the Son of God, giving new life to all. The butterfly now symbolizes Christ's metamorphosis from death to new life.

Another tradition of the Eastern Church is to distribute pussy willow branches on Palm or more appropriately Willow Sunday. Since palms were scarce in Ukraine, our resourceful ancestors used the abundant pussy willow branches, signs of early spring growth. The tradition of tapping one another gently, an imitation of the scourging of Christ, was meant to wish happiness, good health and wealth, with the saying: "Be as big as the willow, healthy as water, rich as the earth."

Христос Воскрес! Во Істину Воскрес!

Khrystos Voskres! Vo Istynu Voskres!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

We wish a Happy Easter to all TUCA Members, Friends and Supporters.

