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СВОБОДА UKRAINIANSKYI SHODENNIK The Ukrainian Weekly Section SVOBODA UKRAINIAN DAILY

A PAST TO REMEMBER - A FUTURE TO MOLD! BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CENTENNIAL OF UKRAINIAN SETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.

PIK LXXXII SECTION TWO No. 241 SVOBODA, THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1975 LIETIB 20 CENTS Ч. 241 VOL. LXXXII

Khrystos Rozhdaietsia — Christ is Born!

SET JANUARY 12TH AS SOLIDARITY DAY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The executive board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America approved a resolution of the Conference of Central Ukrainian Youth and Student Organizations which appealed to its member groups to stage solidarity actions with Ukrainian political prisoners on Monday, January 12, 1976.

friends. Therefore, the Conference calls on all youths in the free world to set aside January 12, 1976, as 'Solidarity Day' with the victims of the Soviet regime in Ukraine, said the resolution in part. Chornovil, who is incarcerated in one of the Mordovian prison camps, said that he will stage one-day hunger strikes until his case is reviewed by the authorities.

REP. DODD CALLS FOR 'UNIFIED EFFORT' ON BEHALF OF PLIUSHCH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), the only U.S. legislator to speak with Tatiana Zhytnykova, the wife of Leonid Pliushch, in Kiev last spring, called for "a unified effort" in defense of the incarcerated Ukrainian cyberneticist, while speaking on the floor of the U.S. Congress Thursday, December 18, 1975.

"Today he is reported to be in a state of complete physical and mental collapse, and it falls upon all of us, free men and women, to do what we can to secure his immediate release. Since his commitment on grounds of insanity, Mr. Pliushch has been the subject of widespread protests in the West against his confinement.

For a Ukrainian Family, Christmas Is a Gift of Life

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Christmas, with its gifts of life and new friends, came early this year for the Nahirny family. Setting out for a foreign land with nothing more than a heart full of hope that this Christmas will not end in tragedy, Mrs. Jaroslava Nahirny arrived in the United States with her nine-month-old daughter, Cecilia, in search of expert medical aid for her severely ill child.



Bishop Joseph Schmondiuk pays a visit to Mrs. Nahirny and Cecilia at the home of Dr. Myroslaw Dragan. Seated, left to right, are Bishop Schmondiuk, Mrs. Nahirny, holding Cecilia, Rev. Peter Chaws, and in the foreground are Dr. Dragan's children, Myroslawa, Laryssa and Tania.

Thirteenth Case Medical statistics record only 12 known cases of the

ailment, and Cecilia is the thirteenth. Michael and Jaroslava Nahirny come from Orleans,

SUSTA OFFICERS VISIT UNA, SVOBODA OFFICES

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Increasing the awareness of Ukrainian students in the United States, apprising them of the tasks and responsibilities of a national Ukrainian student movement and its role as an integral part of the community at large, enlarging the network of clubs and hromadas, and the need to maintain closer cohesion

among them are some of the objectives that the newly-elected executive board of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations in America (SUSTA) has set for itself in the upcoming months of the two-year term.

More Hromadas

Headed by newly-elected president George Sierant, the delegation also included Halyna Tarnawsky, Eastern vice-president, Olya Piskor, secretary, and Zorianna Pysariwsky, public relations chairman.

France, some 120 kilometers from Paris. Based on extensive tests, French doctors told

Soviet Embassy in Ottawa Irked by Ukrainian Demonstrators

OTTAWA, Ont. — Apparently angered by a continuous demonstration in defense of Ukrainian political prisoners, staged this month by Ukrainian women's organizations in Canada in cooperation with the Toronto based Committee for the Defense of Valentyn Moroz, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr N. Yakovlev charged the Canadian government with failure to provide proper security for the embassy building.

tional convention signed in Vienna. The Canadian officials, said The N.Y. Times, responded firmly, in low key, to the Soviet complaints.

'Ukrainian Separatists'

He also complained that the government was allowing the Canadian radio to broadcast "anti-Soviet material" to Eastern Europe, according to The New York Times of Monday, December 12.

Even During Christmastime 'Pysanky' Capture the Spotlight

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Traditionally, "pysanky" are associated with spring and Easter, but the beauty and uniqueness of this form of Ukrainian art steals the spotlight even at Christmastime.

Sybil Harp, editor of "Creative Crafts" magazine, wrote in The Times that "the art of eggcrafting, also known as eggery, offer hobbyists an inexpensive way to solve Christmas gift-giving problems."



"LET ALL BE FILLED WITH JOY"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, METROPOLITAN AMBROSE SENYSHYN, O.S.B.M., ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF GOD.

"All things for us today are filled with joy, for Christ is born of a Virgin." (Christmas Matins)

The Holy Church joyfully greets the Nativity of Christ. The birth of Christ was enveloped in joy and sorrow. Joy — for with the advent of the Messiah in our world came the dawn of our salvation.

that world of Rama. From that land across the sea we hear the cries and wailings of our brothers and sisters. They have no comfort except in this that they daily are privileged to increase the ranks of the martyrs and confessors of the faith.

At Rama is our world. And the cries we so often hear are the universal groans of mankind. Today's Ukraine is part of

Although at times the pain strikes ferociously at the bond between the human soul and God, it in no way is able to break through that link for those who, in a deep and unshakeable faith trust in Christ, for those who in a loving, tender, close union with Him, pray incessantly to the Heavenly Father.

New Jersey UCCA to Mark Independence Anniversary

PASSAIC, N.J. — The New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will observe the 58th anniversary of Ukraine's independence proclamation with a banquet Saturday, January 17, 1976, at the Robin Hood Inn in Clifton, N.J.

Clifton, Mayor Gerald Goldman of Passaic, State Senator Joseph Hirkala, and Assemblyman Albert Burstein. Mayors Kenneth Gibson of Newark and Dr. Paul Jordan of Jersey City may also attend, depending on their schedules.

UKRAINIAN



Photo from "Better Homes" turies in decorating eggs, ranging from the elaborate jeweled eggs with hinged

doors made by Carl Fabrege, court jeweler to the tsar of Russia during the early 19th century, eggs with hand-painted nature scenes, to scratch-carved eggs of England and Eastern Europe, and the "pysanka".

TO ALL OUR READERS WHO OBSERVED CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 25, WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS AND MERRY CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH

СВОБОДА SVOBODA

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EDITORIALS

Glory in the Highest

Certainly humanity could not have experienced a greater joy than the Almighty's prediction come true—His only Son assuming the image of man in the modest manger of Bethlehem, marked for the meek and for the mighty to see by the blazing star in the firmament.

And each time there is joy, stemming from the belief in God's precepts and Christ's teachings, from the awareness that in the darkest of times, in the most grievous of hours, the star of hope will have appeared in the skies.

Yet how relevant the message then and now—peace on earth to men of good will. For then as now that peace was shared only by men of good will, for then as now evil Herod was plotting to upset that peace.

Again and again we celebrate the Savior's birth in the knowledge that, despite our failure to keep the Almighty's trust, by his birth we have been granted salvation and eternal life. Let us, therefore, rejoice that once again—KHYSTOS ROZHDAIETSA!

"Koliada" for the Needy

The age-long tradition of house-to-house caroling is being perpetuated at this time by Ukrainians in this and other countries of the free world as part of the joyous celebrations of the Savior's birth.

The door-to-door caroling, of course, has come to serve a dual purpose—to bring to a given household the message that God's prediction has come true, His only son came down to earth in the little hut in Bethlehem, and, in the spirit of charity and good will that prevails at this time, to ask for a donation to a worthy cause.

Unequestionably, each and every member of our community, each family, has a set of priorities of its own, choosing as they wish to contribute to the causes that are dear to their hearts. That is as it should be in a society where freedom of conscience is a reality not a mere slogan.

We feel, however, that high on the list of priorities at this time for every Ukrainian family—their support of others notwithstanding—should be the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee and the Ukrainian National Fund, the latter now reaching the end of the annual drive and requiring our support.

In terms of pure charity in the spirit of Christmas, our Relief Committee wholly merits our "koliada". It needs it to dispense urgent help to the less fortunate of our kin in such places as South America and Western Europe. Let us remember them amid our plenty, as well as the organization that is best suited to bring them the much needed assistance.

IDEAL UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS

By ORYSIA PASZCZAK-TRACZ

Nostalgia makes Christmas long passed, especially those of childhood, the best ones ever. And if we aren't yet old enough to have felt the pangs of nostalgia, we imagine the Christmases of our grandparents must have been ideal, picturesque and full of tradition.

My ideal Canadian Christmas has a large family gathered at the dinner table Christmas Day in a warm, comfortable, snow-blanketed farmhouse of 50 or so years ago.

My ideal Ukrainian Christmas, based on the reminiscences of parents and on stories, has almost the same setting. But it's a house of more than a century ago, thousands of miles from here in a snow-covered village in Ukraine, with a many-domed wooden church at its center—and it's Christmas Eve or Holy Eve (Sviatyi Vechir), the most important single celebration of the Ukrainian Christmas season.

OUR CHRISTMAS: SOLEMNITY SHROUDED IN AGE-OLD CUSTOMS

Surely "It is the season to be jolly," as one of the Christmas carols has been proclaiming ever since we managed to dispose of what was left of the turkey.

And certainly we are made aware of "Santa's coming to town" by a variety of the carol's arrangements blaring through loudspeakers, invariably and suggestively, in lavishly decorated department stores more as a reminder of the few shopping days left than of the real joy that is giving and charity at Christmas.

And, of course, we are inclined to climb the roofs of our homes to "deck the halls with boughs of holly" in a rush to outdo the Joneses in often artificial greenery and glittering lights, the latter painfully showing on the January gas and electric bills.

It's all fine and dandy, providing that the outer glow is translated at least in part into the spiritual sheen both inside our homes and inside our hearts, of what this truly great holy day is all about.

The beauty of other people's customs notwithstanding, the age-old, richly symbolic and profoundly meaningful traditions of the Ukrainian people convey as no others both the unfathomable mystery of God's workings and their significance for mankind.

Even though some of our customs date back to pre-Christian times, they have assumed an unmistakable aura of religiosity since the introduction of Christianity in Ukraine in 988 A.D.

Take the doubly covered table as the family prepares for the Holy Supper after the appearance of the first star on the firmament: one for the living and one for the dead. And who can say that the carry-over of respect for the spirits of the dead has not been integrated into our religion?

Or the "didukh", the sheaf of wheat or of mixed grain, which is placed in the corner under the icons in deference to the spirits of the ancestors. Again, a custom from the pre-Christian times and symbolic of the agrarian culture, it has found its place in the modern, Christian era. And lest we forget that the Savior was born in a manger, some hay is spread under the tablecloth.

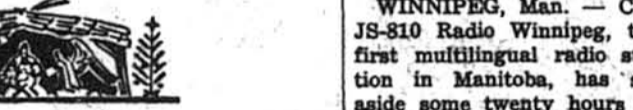
The 12-course meatless supper, while tasty and filling, has significance that transcends mere culinary aspects: the 12 courses are dedicated to the 12 apostles. But even before a Ukrainian family sits down for the supper, the head of the household shares a small piece of "prospora", bread blessed in church and dipped in honey, with each member of the family before leading them in prayer which concludes with the reverential

announcement that "Khyrstos Rozhdaetia" — Christ is Born. "Slavite Yoho" — Glorify Him is the family's reaffirming response. Though the table is laden with traditional Ukrainian foods — from "kutia" and "uzvar" to "varenyky" and "holubtai" — it is the "kolach" which constitutes the center-piece on the table, less for its taste than for its symbolism: the circularly braided bread, topped by three rings and a candle, symbolizes Eternity and the Holy Trinity which has now been consummated with the birth of Christ-Child. The candle, the symbol of life, must remain lit until it snuffs out by itself, as does life on this earth.

Even the Ukrainian carols, joyful and majestic as they are, in lyrics and in melodies impart awe-like vastness of the event that has taken place in Bethlehem. Listen to them carefully, rather than liping them mechanically, and you'll see the difference between the "new joy" (nova radist') and the prosaic "jolliness."

But one tradition that we have abandoned somehow over the years is the "vertep", the humorous Christmas skit staged by young people as they visit the households. It would certainly add color, as it did in the days past, to the totality of our Christmas lore.

Traditions are not to be compiled in books as explanatory footnotes of a people's psyche. They are to be practiced in the fullness of their genuine beauty. Then even the tinsel has meaning.



Evening Psalm

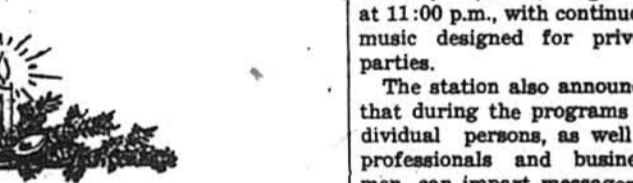
By ANDREW CHIROVSKY

Let me feel the wind by whispering on its passing, Have it bring a burning secret through the cold; I will listen to the breeze's fine dispatches For to glean a vesper image of my soul.

You can harmonize in plain-song with the evening, And the choruses of simple silent sounds: In the melody You render me believing, While the verity reechoes in a round.

Have the limbs of naked willows in the darkness Etch a message on the pallor of the moon; I will know who left the words that mimic starshine, And decode the memorandum left in Rune.

Yes, the twilight is a courier of meaning, And the dark can prompt the cynical to heed— I can recognize Your Presence in the evening For its You that wrote the night I love to read.



The Way 'The Weekly' Saw It

"... Hold fast, then, to your Ukrainian Christmas customs and traditions. They will make Christmas more meaningful and uplifting to you, strengthening the bonds among you as Americans of Ukrainian descent, and likewise with your suffering kinsmen in their native but foreign occupied Ukraine, and finally they will prove to be a valuable contribution to American life and culture..."

January 3, 1950

remembers the C. V. Cafe (which used to be where the Richardson Building now stands) in which almost all the serving and kitchen staff was Ukrainian.

After their marriage, the young Kuzenkos lived in a house on Grove Street in north Point Douglas. Mrs. Kuzenko recalls that the house was almost never empty. Besides her son and daughter, there were always friends and neighbors, and many activities of the Shashkevych association took place there.

As for Christmas, "one Christmas Eve, there were 30 of us for Holy Supper," she remembers. Mostly they were single men who, like her husband, worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

After Holy Supper there was the Christmas liturgy at the church. Christmas Day, the Feast of the Mother of God and the Feast of St. Stephen (the three days of Christmas) were spent attending church services, visiting and, of course, caroling from door to door. In north Point Douglas, this was convenient, for almost every home was Ukrainian.

Asked what she thinks of Ukrainian Christmas today, Mrs. Kuzenko said she thinks that, despite many changes, people still feel something special about it. "Do you see what happens in our church (St. Andrew's on Euclid Avenue) at midnight Liturgy, dear? Do you see how packed it is? They're not all our parishioners oh, that we would have so many!"

Even though some Ukrainian Canadians have ceased observing Christmas by the Julian calendar and now celebrate Christmas December 25 instead of January 7, "something pulls them back home on Ukrainian Christmas Eve," she said.

"Nobody makes them visit us, I guess they just feel they must be together with the rest of us — and with those in Ukraine who can't celebrate as freely. We have our tradition that holds us together, dear — it's a very deep, strong, holy tradition!"

Centennial of Our Settlement Down Memory Lane

Once early Ukrainians accepted Christianity many of their pagan rituals and feasts were incorporated into Christian observances. Among those rituals which draw on pre-Christian days is the "koliada."

In pagan days "koliada" was the feast of the sun and was observed at the time when the winter days were beginning to get longer. Being tillers of the land, early Ukrainians depended on the sun for a fruitful harvest, so during the "koliada" homage was paid to the sun god "Dazhbogh".

When Christianity was introduced into the land the celebration of the "koliada" merged with the Christmas holidays. Eventually Christmas superseded the "koliada" but, nonetheless, many of the latter's rituals were adhered to, especially the singing of carols.

In later centuries youths would stroll about a village and sing "koliady" on Christmas Eve. They would also carry a "vertep" which in essence was a doll house-

Jersey College Pursues Ethnic Studies Program

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Courses in Italian, Ukrainian and Polish will be offered through the Ethnic Studies Program at Jersey City State College during the spring term, starting January 19, 1976.

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, coordinator of Ethnic Studies, said eight courses will be offered, all aimed at the history, problems, life styles and attitudes of various ethnic groups from southern and eastern Europe.

Open to college students as well as non-students, the courses are designed to help the participants understand and appreciate the factor of ethnic diversity in American life.

According to Dr. Gromada,

Prof. Horak Reads Paper At Convention of Slavists

CHARLESTON, Ill. — Dr. Stephan Horak, professor of history at Eastern Illinois University, delivered a paper at the seventh convention of the American Association of Slav Studies, which was held last October, in Atlanta, Ga., according to the school's "History Newsletter."

The circular, which is devoted to brief news accounts of the university's department of history, also notes that Prof. Horak's article, entitled "non-Russian Nationalities in Tsarist Russia and the US-

Publish Dmytro Chyzevsky's "History of Ukrainian Literature"

LITTLETON, Colo. — "A Lucky of the University of Toronto, who also penned the foreword to the work. The 696-page book was updated by Dr. Chyzevsky, who added a chapter on "Realism in Ukrainian Literature" to the Ukrainian language version.

A selective, up-to-date bibliography and extensive index complete this outstanding work, which can be obtained at a price of \$25.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) from: Ukrainian Academic Press, P.O. Box 263, Littleton, Colo. 80120.

SVOBODA Said . . .

"... By approving the recent tax-cut bill everybody won: the Congress and the White House saved their faces, and the taxpayers saved their money—a timely Christmas gift from the government..."

Tuesday, December 23, 1975

"... Moscow's intervention in the civil war in Angola not only shows the Soviet Union's further attempts to colonize Africa, but also poses a serious threat to the United States and other countries of the free world. America should employ every possible means to prevent Angola's becoming a 'post-Vietnam domino,' because ultimately America may be faced with the same situation..."

Saturday, December 20, 1975

