

UKRAINIAN HISTORY AND EDUCATION CENTER

PTASHKA
MOTANKA
WORKSHOP

CRAFTS FOR KIDS @ UHEC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023



Ukrainian History & Education Center
135 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873
education@ukrhec.org
732-356-0132
www.ukrhec.org



UHEC folk art programming is made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Ptashka Motanka Workshop

Among some of the most ancient Ukrainian holiday traditions, carols are sung from Christmas through the New Year. One of the most popular is “Shchedryk” which means “generous evening”. In the lyrics to the song “Shchedryk”, a swallow flies into the house to tell the family about the bountiful year ahead of them. In Ukrainian folklore, birds can be symbols of freedom, fertility, announcers of spring, and fulfillers of wishes. The bird reminds the family, though it’s been a tough year, there are beautiful things ahead for them. Now, more than ever, Ukrainians must remember the beauty of our culture and keep hope in the wonderful things ahead for us.

In 1914, Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych was commissioned by the Ukrainian Republic Choir to arrange and create the lyrics to “Shchedryk” for a Christmas concert. Maestro Oleksandr Koshetz formed the Ukrainian National Chorus, putting together a tour of 115 cities across the United States as a means of spreading awareness of Ukraine's political struggles. Their first US performance took place October 5, 1922, at New York’s Carnegie Hall. This year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of this concert. The folk song was adapted in the 1930’s to an English alternative called “The Carol of the Bells.” It has become one of the most popular Christmas songs of all time.

A motanka, or lialka motanka, is an ancient Ukrainian “wrapped/reeled doll” (lialka=doll / motaty=to wrap or reel). A motanka is made by wrapping together fabric or natural materials and was never sewn or pierced. It is believed your intentions while wrapping the fabric could be used to give the motanka different properties. Different colors reflect different purposes. Yellow is the personification of the life-giving power of the Sun. Blue represents the continuous movement of the healing water. White stands for divine heaven, purity and harmony.

In this workshop, young artists will make a motanka bird for the New Year, while learning about Ukrainian New Year traditions and about the process of making a motanka toy.

About Maria (Mia) Naumenko

Maria (Mia) Naumenko is an Assistant Education Coordinator for the Ukrainian History & Education Center and also a niece of Rev. Taras Naumenko (a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in Philadelphia, PA). Mia has always been interested in Ukrainian art and culture, but since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, she has dedicated herself to the practice and preservation of everything Ukrainian. She looks forward to sharing her talent and enthusiasm with the community of the UkrHEC.

Crafts for Kids with the UHEC

Sunday afternoon workshops will provide a hands-on opportunity for kids to learn about Ukrainian art, culture and history based on objects found in the UHEC Museum Collection. Participants will go home with a craft at the end of the workshop. Suitable for grade school aged children.

Supply List for Workshop

Supplies

- Blue yarn
- Yellow yarn
- White yarn
- 1 inch by 1 inch square of yellow or orange construction paper / cardstock
- Plain sheet of paper
- Scissors
- Glue

