

# Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **UECC 2007 Annual Christmas Bazaar**

*Jenkintown, PA – December 9, 2007.* For Ukrainian-Americans, December in Philadelphia means a trip to the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center's annual Christmas Bazaar. It's become a yearly tradition for many and a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, do some shopping and eat some traditional Ukrainian "soul food". So, that's where the community headed on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

When the UECC opened its doors to the Main Hall for the bazaar it was ready to greet, feed and entertain the community. Natalka Firko, V.P. of the UECC Program Sector and her army of volunteers, staff, and members of the Board of Directors planned, decorated and worked all week to ensure the bazaar's success.

Throughout the day, performers welcomed guests to the holiday bazaar. The children's choir of the Ukrainian Heritage School, a program of the UECC, under the musical direction of Halyna Bodnar, sang traditional Ukrainian Christmas Kolyadas (carols). Various other classes of the school also performed short Christmas greetings and sang Kolyadas. The Grace Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church Choir from Hatboro, PA entertained the public with their a cappella performance. The Children's Choir of the Ukrainian Music Institute, under the supervision of Lesia Penkalskyj with piano accompaniment by Helen Sagaty Porytko, sang and greeted those presented with traditional Ukrainian Vinshuvannya (Christmas wishes). The children of Svitlychka – Ukrainian Cooperative Nursery, also a program of the UECC, brought smiles to all with their adorable performance and "stage presence". Plast and SUM, youth organizations housed in the UECC, also performed in the afternoon. To the delight of the Ukrainian boys and girls on stage and children of all ages gathered, St. Nicholas made a surprise visit. He spoke briefly reminding all of the beauty and meaning of Christmas.

Starting from breakfast, the UECC Club Room was buzzing with activity all day. Hungry shoppers gathered and tasted traditional Ukrainian "soul food" including varenyky, holubtsi, borsch, kovbasa with kapusta, and the popular potato pancakes. In between performances, visitors of the bazaar had time to stroll the aisles and visit the many vendors selling music, books, paintings, ceramics, Pysanky, Ukrainian themed clothing, honey, Christmas decorations, jewelry, and more. Throughout the day, the UECC sold kolachi, strudels, breads, pastries, rings of kovbasa, dried fruit and mushrooms, and the ingredients for kutia (poppy seeds and wheat) in the Gallery upstairs.

"The UECC Christmas Bazaar proved to be a success, once again, due to the collaboration of many dedicated individuals - volunteers. I personally thank everyone that devoted their time for this great event for the community and sensational fundraiser for the Center", stated Mrs. Firko. UECC President Borys Pawluk added, "We welcome such a great turn out at our Annual Christmas Bazaar and thank our community of the Greater Philadelphia area for their continuous and generous support. With this occasion, the Board of Directors wishes all a Very Joyous Christmas and the Best of Health in the New Year."

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-1166 or e-mail at [contact@ueccphila.org](mailto:contact@ueccphila.org). Visit us on the web at [www.ueccphila.org](http://www.ueccphila.org).

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