

Ukrainian wedding traditions is theme of UNWLA Day

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

WHIPPANY, N.J. – “Ukrainian Wedding Traditions” was the theme of the community gathering sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA) New Jersey Regional Council here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on Sunday, November 16, 2008.

The program consisted of a display of items related to wedding traditions in Ukraine, such as icons, embroidered ritual cloths, traditional wedding breads (singular: “korovai”; plural: “korovayi”), decorative bridal headdresses, embroidered wedding gowns, embroidered men’s shirts and other items. The wedding table was beautifully displayed with traditional wedding dishes.

The auditorium was filled to capacity and a buffet was offered. A musical background was provided by Olha Stashchysyn on bandura and Suzanna Hywel on the flute.

The New Jersey State Council comprises eight branches of the UNWLA and 200 members. The purpose of such annual events is to inform the community about the work of the UNWLA and to encourage and recruit new members.

Several distinguished guests were present at this event: Marianna Zajac, national president of the UNWLA; Irena Steckiw, member of the executive board; and Maria Cade, president of the UNWLA’s Central New York Regional Council.

The program was opened by Olha Lukiw, president of the New Jersey Regional Council. She greeted all present, introduced the main dignitaries and explained the theme and purpose of the event. She explained that the goals of the UNWLA are to cultivate



The presentation of Ukrainian-style wedding apparel at UNWLA Day in Whippany, N.J.

and fertility. The number of the birds on the korovai symbolizes the number of children in the family. The korovai is decorated with flowers, ribbons, birds sculpted out of baked dough and branches of decorative plants. Korovai is a very old custom in Ukraine.

