Plast’s Spartanky sorority hosts St. Andrew’s Eve gathering

by Vera Chuma-Bitcon WHIPPANY, N.J. –

The New Jersey chapter of the Spartanky sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization on December 10, 2008, organized a very special evening for Ukrainian youth: “Andriyivskyi Vechir.” As part of a longstanding tradition in Ukraine, on the eve of St. Andrew’s feast day, young people get together for fortune-telling activities. Spartanky Vera Gorloff and Ariadna Holynsky organized the event, and over 40 boys and girls participated, catching a glimpse into their future. Setting the atmosphere with dim lights and candles, the Spartanky dressed in gypsy attire and served as fortunetellers. They read tea leaves and palms, and told fortunes using poured wax and tarot cards. Numerology, and a crystal ball also provided some fun. Everyone especially enjoyed the traditional games, including trying to bite the hanging “kalyta.” As the player jumped to take a bite out of the big bagel, another person pulled the kalyta out of reach with a ribbon. The participants also got to bake their own “bublyky” in the kitchen. Then Stella, the hungry little dog, arrived in the room. According to superstition, the person whose bublyk the dog eats first, will be the first to marry. Spartanky thoroughly enjoyed planning and running this special event for Ukrainian youths. They believe that it is very important to keep Ukrainian customs and traditions alive, and share them with the next generation. Andriyivskyi Vechir allowed the youths to get together for some fun and, at the same time, enrich their knowledge of Ukrainian traditions.

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