

Elk Grove Village Library To Feature Bulgarian ' - Elk Grove Journal (IL) - July 11, 2019

July 11, 2019 | Elk Grove Journal (IL) | Denise Fleischer

A 30-minute ceremony will dedicate a three-week exhibit at the Elk Grove Public Library this Friday. The "Surva" exhibition kindles a cultural exchange with Bulgaria as part of a sister city agreement made with the village in 2018.

Bulgaria is in southeast Europe, near Greece and Turkey. The ceremony will be held in the library's lobby at 6 p.m. July 12.

According to Ivan Anchev, Ph.D, consul general of Bulgaria in Chicago, "Elk Grove is one of the biggest communities in Illinois for people from Bulgaria. I approached the library about displaying photos of 'Serva' a month ago and the staff was very cooperative, along with village trustee Pat Feichter, who was the driving force."

Mayor Craig Johnson, village trustees, Police Chief Chuck Walsh and Fire Chief Richard Mikel were invited to attend the opening of this three-week display. Anchev will present a short speech and Bulgarian appetizers.

Simply stated, "Surva" is considered the people's feast for those that reside in the Pernik region. Every year on Jan. 13 and 14 its celebrated throughout the day. Locals mark Vassilyovden or "Surova" an old-style folk New Year's Eve. Popular beliefs have everyone wishing for a rich harvest, health and fertility and to cast away evil. The goal is to create a magical atmosphere for this century-old tradition.

The Surva International Festival of Masquerade Games features traditional folk games and customs. The festival presents a masquerade theme which includes all the ethnographic regions of the country and of guests from Europe, Asia and Africa. It celebrates Bulgarian folklore as well as winter dishes and beverages.