



### NEWS RELEASE

March 11, 2010

#### It's Egging Time at the Santa Maria Public Library

The Library welcomes artist Beth Ostapiuk again this year on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Shepard Hall for a Pysanky Egg Painting demonstration.

Ms. Ostapiuk learned the art of making the beautiful batik-type Ukrainian eggs as a young adult and continued the tradition after moving to Santa Maria in 1986 by participating in the Gallery 912½ "Eggstravaganza" Egg Show each spring. She is a past winner of a Santa Maria Arts Council Grant (2001) and continues to share her skills with children by teaching children's art classes through the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. She has served as President and Vice-President of the Town Center Gallery and actively participates in numerous gallery exhibitions throughout the Central Coast.

Pysanky (Peh-san-kah) - Ukrainian Easter Eggs - are a traditional craft in the Ukraine with a history of thousands of years. The method is similar to batik – patterns are drawn on the egg with wax, which then protects the covered areas from the dye that is applied. By repeating this process with different colors of dye, a multi-colored pattern is built up. Finally, the wax is removed to reveal the colors that were covered up at each stage. The symbols and colors used are rich in meaning; many pre-date the arrival of Christianity and have had Christian interpretations layered on afterward.

This demonstration is free to the public and all ages are invited!

The Library's hours are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. The Library is closed on Sundays.

Questions may be directed to Cultural Events Coordinator Deborah Hildinger at the Santa Maria Public Library, 925-0951 ext 117.

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