



# NEWSLETTER

November 2015

## Upcoming Events

### Friday Night Suppers

The next Friday Night Supper is **Friday, November 20th from 5- 7:30 p.m.** PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE **NO FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IN DECEMBER.** Suppers will continue in the new year on **Friday, January 22** and **Friday, February 19th**—both from **5:00-7:30pm.**

### Saturday Sales

We continue to have **Saturday sales from 10:00 – 2:00 pm.** You can get perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, and Ukrainian sausage. Stock up for the holiday season and for your Christmas Eve dinner.

### Malanka 2016:

Hope to see you on **Saturday, January 9, 2016** at Ivan Franko Centre. Phone 604-274-4119 for tickets.

## Malanka 2016

Imagine walking into a hall transformed by shimmering lights and festive decor; being welcomed by the Prairie Band playing Ukrainian melodies on ancient and traditional instruments; sampling delicacies at the hors d'oeuvres table; feasting on a traditional Ukrainian and festive grand buffet; being entertained by Tropak Dance Ensemble and special guest performers, and then dancing the night away to the famous and ever popular S-Bahn while winning fabulous door prizes. But wait - at midnight the party favours come out with complimentary sparkling wine and after the singing and

dancing - a late night snack for the road home.

This is Malanka at the Ivan Franko Centre - **Saturday, January 9, 2016** - a night to enjoy and to remember!

Tickets will go on sale November 1 at last year's prices. \$65 per person ( for seniors 65+ only \$55)

**Reserve your tickets by phoning the office at 604-274-4119. Tickets sell out very quickly.**



## Membership Payments for 2016

Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their membership dues for 2016 should be paid no later than **January 31, 2016.** For those who have not paid their 2015 dues, payment is waived for 2015, and their membership continues with their 2016 payment.

**Please complete and return the membership form that has been mailed to you with this newsletter OR emailed to you with this newsletter and include your membership dues as outlined in the application form.** You are also welcome to email our office manager at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) to update and renew your membership for 2016.

### Special points of interest:

- *Malanka 2016*
- *Membership Payments for 2016*
- *2015 Scholarship Winners*
- *Golf Tournament Recap*
- *Saturday Movies, Book Club and Library Updates*
- *New owners for Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko*
- *Ukrainian Genealogy Seminar*
- *Holodomor Film Event*
- *Tropak Dance*
- *Ukrainian Wooden Churches*

## Ukrainian Society of Ivan Franko 2015 Scholarship Winners

For many years, the Ukrainian Society of Ivan Franko, offers scholarships to our young, aspiring graduates. Scholarship applications are available in March of each year. Application forms are mailed to all Senior Secondary Schools in Richmond, posted on our website [www.ivanfranko.ca](http://www.ivanfranko.ca) and can be picked up at the Ukrainian Hall.

We offer a Post-Secondary and Cultural scholarship. We require each applicant to complete the scholarship application, attach a transcript of grades, two letters of reference (one from the school, the other from a person within the Ukrainian community) and an essay to describe why one deserves the scholarship.

This year, the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko, is proud to support four scholarship winners. They are as follows: **Megan Lochbaum, Jacob Latrace, Marissa Kaminski. Alex Bernardini.**

We look forward to another successful year.

Tanya Zukewich—Scholarship Committee



Scholarship winners from L to R: Megan Lochbaum, Jacob Latrace, Marissa Kaminski. Alex Bernardini



## Our golf tournament was another swinging success

On a windswept Country Meadows Golf Course ten foursomes courageously battled the elements on **Sunday, September 20th**. Although it rained heavily throughout the Lower Mainland, we were spared the rain except for the drizzly moments. Two teams played below par and were tied for the lowest score--Theresa Herchak, Bill Humenny, Sid Axelrod and George and Sean Daschko, Kenton, and Ingus. According to the rules, the lowest score on the last hole breaks the tie and the Herchak group was declared the winners. The ball closest to the pin was that of Peter Mueller, the longest drive (women) was by Lesyia Dawydiak and the longest drive (men) was by Neil Wickson.



*Lowest Score winners from left to right: Bill Humenny, Sid Axelrod and Theresa Herchak*

After the tournament, the golfers went to our Centre for a banquet. Rose Wideski and her helpers are to be congratulated for preparing such a delicious meal. Tanya Zukewich worked the bar to assist the golfers in quenching their thirsts as well as looking after registration as the beginning of the tournament. George Brandak told corny golf jokes and announced the prize order as the golfers went to the tables to pick up their prizes. The donors, the Society, and individual golfers were so generous that all golfers received prizes. Thank you to George and Sean Daschko for

providing many fine prizes from the donors they contacted (Taylormade golf bag- United Rentals, Canuck hockey tickets- C&D Logistics, Gift basket and cash card- Vancity, and other

prizes from Ecco, Camfil-HVAC, Hansentek, Shaw Cook Travel (Myrna Ayrechuk) and Envirotech Air. I also wish to thank Jennifer Wyatt, (member, BC Golf Hall of Fame), Savage Creek Driving Range, Amron Meats, and the Racebook at the Casino for their many donations throughout the years. In order to assure that everyone receives a prize, the Society gives me a budget to find appropriate prizes for our tournament. I am most appreciative of the support our Society gives to the tournament every year. May I suggest a membership in the Society from all those who enjoy the wonderful game of golf.

I also wish to thank the Country Meadows Golf Course for the courteous and efficient manner in which they handled our tournament. We look forward to many more tournaments at their facility in the future. It was fun and the Society welcomes all golfers, regardless of the skill level, to play next year.

George Brandak  
Golf Tournament Organizer

## Saturday Lunch Time Movies

Members and friends are invited to take a break during Saturday activities to watch films that are entertaining and informative. Movies are shown in the mezzanine on the last Saturday of month and start at 11:15 am.

To date, we have enjoyed the following

movies: *The Royal Cousins at War, Paris 1919, Before Winter Comes, Taras Bulba* and *The White Countess*.

On Saturday, October 31, we watched *The English Surgeon* (2007). This highly acclaimed, award winning documentary offers a glimpse into the life of an

English neurosurgeon (Henry Marsh) situated in Ukraine. We are exposed to the overwhelming dilemmas he has to face and the burden he has to carry throughout his profession.

Suggestions for future movies are welcome.

## Ivan Franko Book Club Update

We continue the tradition of selecting excellent books on Ukrainian themes and topics to read and discuss at our quarterly meetings. Our selections include a variety of genres: historical, adventure, science fiction and mystery novels; memoirs, poetry and plays. We have enjoyed classical Ukrainian literature translated into English and books by contemporary Ukrainian authors living in North America and Europe. A list of our previous Book Club selections can be found on our website.

In November we will be changing the pace and relaxing to the movie - *Before Winter Comes* which takes place in the immediate aftermath of World War II. British Major Giles Burnside (David Niven) is assigned to an Austrian refugee camp; his mission is to send the groups of displaced civilians to either the Russian or the American zone.

This plot loosely ties in with our September book selection - *The Altar Girl* by Orest Stelmach in which Nadia

Tesla, the "Ukrainian Nancy Drew" must try to solve the mystery surrounding her godfather's death—and his life. The answers to her questions are buried with the secrets of her youth and in post-World War II refugee camps.

Our members found *The Altar Girl* especially interesting as it was our first novel in which the topic of the 220,000 Ukrainians who lived in Displaced Persons' Camps was explored.





## Ivan Franko Library

This is the Lower Mainland's best kept secret. Home to a large collection of books in Ukrainian and English languages - our library is a warm and inviting place to spend time perusing the many historical, cultural and literature books

and archival material - and perhaps practice Ukrainian language skills. Members are invited to sign books out for a one month period.

The library is open most Saturdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Phone ahead if

you have a particular interest or request.

For information about the Library, Book Club and Lunch Time Saturday Movies, contact Theresa at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca)

## Genealogy Seminar February, 2016

Are you interested in taking part in finding your Ukrainian roots? In response to several requests to organize a Genealogy seminar, plans are being

made for a one day seminar in February 2016. These will include sessions led by Eunice Robinson, genealogy research expert, lunch, displays and sharing of

information. If you are interested in attending, sharing resources, or helping with the seminar, please contact George or Theresa at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca)

## Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko - New Owners from September 1, 2015

On September, 1, 2015 the Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko at 8720 Railway Avenue, consisting of 44 one bedroom apartment units dedicated to accommodate seniors of low income, was transferred from ownership by the BC Government's Housing Corporation to new owners Affordable Housing Societies of New Westminster. For 32 years before this, the building and grounds were leased by the Ukrainian Housing Society of Ivan Franko, which managed and operated this complex for government subsidized tenants.

Before this day, however, there is an interesting historical prelude. Many long term and dedicated members of the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko recognized that the "Prosvita Hall" also known as the "Ukrainian Hall" located at 5311 Francis Road since 1938, needed replacement.

Accordingly, members of the Ukrainian Community Society funded the purchase in 1979 of two lots consolidated for one parcel of 3169 square meters (0.78 acres) in a location next to the Ukrainian Catholic Church on Railway Avenue to build the new Ukrainian Hall. In their minds, this would create a "complex" of buildings



for cultural and religious activity for the Richmond Ukrainian community. However, funds for constructing the new building were limited, and the two houses on the property were rented out.

In 1982, the Government of B.C. approached the Ukrainian Community Society with an offer to purchase this land from the Society with the objective of constructing and leasing out a low and subsidized rental housing project for senior citizens. The Society decided to accept this offer, as it provided funds for helping in the construction of the new Ukrainian Community Centre at 5311 Francis Road. In addition the Ukrainian Community Centre members wished to lease and manage the new seniors centre for the benefit of elderly citizens, especially those of Ukrainian heritage and pioneers of Richmond.

Thus, in May, 1982, the Ukrainian Housing Society of Ivan Franko was incorporated as a charitable institution with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to lease and operate the Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko.

Although the first tenants moved in during April, 1985, the official grand opening of

the Ukrainian Village was held on June 23, 1985. It included representatives from the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, as well as many members of the Richmond and Greater Vancouver Ukrainian community. At that time, the Honourable Tom Siddon, the member of parliament for Richmond-South Delta, and the federal Minister of Science and Technology stated "the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is pleased to have cooperated with the Government of British Columbia and the Ukrainian Housing Society of Ivan Franko to make this much needed accommodation possible."

A portion of the capital cost of the project of approximately \$1.4 million was met with a 35 year loan from Morguard Trust Company. The Provincial government contributed





## Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko continued...

\$257,500 to the capital cost, as well as signing a 60 year land lease with the Housing Society, bringing its total contribution to \$457, 500.

During the 30 years that the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Housing Society operated this complex, they dedicated very much volunteer time, and with the first contracted Administrator, Zenon Andrijasyn for ten years, and the second and last contracted Administrator, Peter Chyrski for 20 years to make it a highly regarded financial and social asset of B.C. Housing. There were five resident caretaker-managers of the Ukrainian Village employed during this time, with Larry and Phyllis Herchak employed for 20 years before their retirement to Kelowna.

During this time, the Ukra Club has been functioning as a social organization for the benefit of the tenants with various events, including annual barbeques, bake sales, outings, and speaker. The executive of the Ukra Club has constantly been very dedicated to the social benefits of the Society.

In the past few years, fewer and fewer Board Members were available with their volunteer time to serve on the Board, and fewer and fewer applications from Ukrainian heritage seniors applied. Thus,



with only 3 Board Members remaining in the spring of 2015, it was decided to accept the B.C. Government's Asset Transfer Program. This Program authorized BC Housing to transfer the ownership of select properties from its operations to eligible and willing non-profit housing societies in good standing.

Accordingly, September 1, 2015 marked the end of an era which contributed to a very good reputation for the Ukrainian community in Richmond. Lest the efforts of the Ukrainian Housing Society not be forgotten, the new owners have agreed that the name "The Ukrainian Village" will always be displayed at 8720 Railway Avenue in Richmond, and that applicants of Ukrainian heritage who qualify as potential tenants will continue to be processed as before. For existing tenants, all their tenancy arrangements remain as they were under the operations of the Ukrainian Housing Society.

**The Ukrainian Community Society especially thanks the many volunteers who have served as Housing Society Board Members over the past 30 years.**

**This eventful day for the Ukrainian community in**

**Richmond became possible because of the vision from as early as 1978, of many long term and dedicated members of the to construct and manage a low-rental housing project for elderly citizens.**

## Tropak Update

The 2015-16 season is in full swing and with change comes growth! We have split our rehearsals this year, moving Thursday evenings to the Cameron Dance Academy facilities in Langley. This has generated additional interest with those living out in the

Fraser Valley and reinvigorated the team to up their advertising game. As we grow, welcoming to the fold a new male dancer to work along with our current soloist, we continue to seek more opportunities to recruit. If you or someone you know is interested in

dusting off their red boots or taking their training to the next level, please reach out to us at [contact@tropak.ca](mailto:contact@tropak.ca)!





## Holodomor Film at Ivan Franko

On October 1 our society hosted a screening of Ariadna Ochrymovych's award winning documentary film - **Holodomor: Voices of Survivors**. The audience sat in hushed stillness as 25 survivors recounted the horrors of living through the little known Ukrainian famine/genocide which was engineered by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1932 - 1933.

Cinematographer Markian Radomsky masterfully and seamlessly combined rare archival footage and photos with Iouri Rybalka's drawings based on eye witness accounts of the atrocities.



*Holodomor survivors from left to right: Nadia Shulha and Luba Mulyk*

The hauntingly beautiful music of Myroslav Skoryk completed the theme.

We were truly honoured to have among us two survivors of the Holodomor, Nadia Shulha and Luba Mulyk who shared their horrific Holodomor experiences with us. It was hard to grasp that 82 years ago these two women were the little children that we had just seen in the film.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants were invited for refreshments and informal conversations.

To purchase **Holodomor: Voices of Survivors** in DVD format - contact: Blackseamedia3@gmail .com

## Ukrainian Wooden Churches

On August 6, Vasyl Slobodian Ph.D presented an interesting, informative and entertaining program on Ukrainian Wooden Churches. English translation was provided by Sofiya Pylypenko.

The slide program began with schematics of architecture and other features that make Ukrainian churches what they are. Dr. Slobodian proceeded to describe a project he worked on with others, where an application was made to have 16 Ukrainian wooden churches recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites. He walked us through the steps of the process and presented photographs of the subject churches. All of the churches are from Western Ukraine and what is now Poland. He described the features of each church that merited its candidacy for inclusion in the UNESCO list. The

churches dated from 1502 to 1838. Audience members reacted when churches of their childhood or memory was shown on the screen. The photos were remarkably clear and colorful.

The application was approved at a meeting in Cambodia in May 2013 making all 16 churches UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The evening welcomed questions and comments from the audience. One slide presented floor plans common to Ukrainian churches. A comment was made on the number of altars shown on the schematic. Thankfully, Father Andrii Chornenkyi, from Exultation of the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic church in Surrey explained that historically, only one Divine Liturgy per altar per day could be celebrated...thus the need for multiple

altars. The practice has changed for today's churches.

The program continued with slides of renovations to churches including vinyl siding and aluminum sheeting, changing the character of the structures. Several slides showed churches burned to the ground....a risk with old wood construction.

The last part of the program showed Ukrainian wooden churches in Brazil, the USA and Canada. The Canadian churches are in Sirko MB (1908), Hadashville MB (1906), Dauphin MB (1921), Toutes Aides MB (1937), Niagara Falls ON (1987), Brampton ON (1994), and Saskatoon SK (1986).

What a wonderful evening. We await a return visit.

**NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS NOVEMBER 20TH**  
**NO SUPPER IN DECEMBER**