

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY
SOCIETY of IVAN FRANKOУКРАЇНСЬКЕ ТОВАРИСТВО
ІМ. ІВАНА ФРАНКА

5311 Francis Road Richmond, British Columbia V7C 1K2 Phone 604-274-4119 Fax 604-272-0020 www.ivanfranko.ca

Holodomor Awareness Week

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor - the 1932-33 famine - in Ukraine. Holodomor is described by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) on its website as a "deliberate political strategy masterminded by Stalin and his totalitarian Communist regime. By sheer magnitude, losses during the Holodomor surpassed those of the Ukrainian nation during the Second World War.

The week of November 16-28 marks International Holodomor Awareness Week, and the first national awareness week launched by the UCC. According to their website, the goal is to "unite the Ukrainian community and all Canadians in remembering the victims and raising awareness of this tragedy" on an annual basis.

In Canada, there have been successes in creating remembrances for Holodomor victims. These include a tour by the International Remembrance Flame through 17 Canadian cities in spring 2008. And in May this year Canada was one of the first western nations to recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide.

Bringing Holodomor into education are Alberta's Ministry of Education, which has included the Holodomor in its high school curriculum. The Toronto School Board will include the Holodomor in its upcoming curriculum, and the fourth Friday of every November will be marked in local schools as Holodomor Memorial Day.

The UCC recommends a few things for those wishing to honour the memory of Holodomor victims:

* Saturday 22 November, in solidarity with Ukraine, honour the memory of the victims with a moment of silence at 9am, and light a candle of remembrance in your home; and

* Sunday 23 November, participate in memorial services which will take place in your local churches.

See www.ucc.ca/holodomor/index.htm for more information



Holodomor memorial statue, Kyiv
photo by Anna Roik

SVITANOK CHORUS will perform Sunday, November 23 at 3:00pm at the Ukrainian Catholic Center, 3150 Ash Street in Vancouver.

An Ecumenical Commemoration Panakhyda will be held for the 75th Anniversary of Ukraine's Famine and Genocide. A multimedia presentation will conclude this event. Sponsors: Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

For info: 604.291.1191



MALANKA CELEBRATION

Date and Time: January 10, 2009; Pre-dinner entertainment and snacks 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Place: Ukrainian Community Centre, 5311 Francis Road

Entertainment: Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre, and dancing 'til midnight. Champagne served at midnight.

Cost: Adults - \$50; Seniors over 65 - \$40

Yet Again, a Swinging Success

Beneath the sunny skies of the Country Meadows Golf Course on 17 September, 48 golfers enjoyed themselves in spite of a few hooks, slices and lost balls. Some beavers had been busy cutting trees, making it easier to find errant balls!

In a Texas Scramble format, the foursome of Kevin Berry, Bill Campbell, Chris Lewis and Ray Hanksley shot a 53 (-5) to win the tournament. George, Devon, and Sean Daschko shot a 54 (-4). In spite of Marcene Bolieac having the longest drive and closest to the pin for women, the foursome of Ray Hunt, and Marcene, Walter and Trevor Bolieac were the most honest golfers with a 67 (+9).

Thanks to our generous sponsors, and friends and members of our Society, we were able to provide prizes to all the golfers. A deluxe golf bag donated by Riverside Golf Centre on Marine Drive in Vancouver was the first prize selected. Another person selected a carwash kit so his wife could wash the car while he was golfing!

Other company donors were: Allanco International Environment Products, BC Air Filter, Richmond Country

UKRAINIAN WORLD GOLF CHALLENGE

The Ukrainian World Golf Challenge was held in the Vancouver area during summer of 2008. One of the Society's and the only person from the Vancouver area to participate, George Daschko, won his class (-16 to -18 handicappers).

During the honouring of Steve Petelecky at our hall, golfers from Australia, US and other parts of Canada attended. It was a pleasure to meet with them and discuss a variety of topics.

Meadows Golf Course. ECCO, Engineered Air, Flexmaster, Golf Town, Lower Mainland Sheet Metal, Odessa Manufacturing, Perfect Lies in Ironwood, and Savage Creek Driving Range.

Friends and members of our Society who donated prizes were: Myrna Arychuk (Soloway Travel), Anne Brandak, Peter Chyrski, George Daschko, Larry Herchak, Kiichi Kumagai, Ken Johnston, Marcia Moroz, Peter Mulyk, Les Schweitzer and George Yarmoluk, as well as our Society.

Due to a wedding celebration booked at our hall on the same day, the tournament banquet was held under a tent at the Country Meadows Golf Course. Under the direction of Deb, all was done in a professional and courteous manner. The variety of burgers, salads and desserts was enjoyed by all.

Let us hope that the great weather returns again for our tournament in 2009.

by George Brandak, co-organizer of the tournament with George Daschko

Svitanok Chorus Holiday Concerts

Sunday 7 December, 3:30pm

Ukrainian Carol Concert and Sing-Along
Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Church
5180 Cantrell Ave (at Railway Ave), Richmond
For info: 604.271.5551, 604.929.2581

Sunday 14 December, 6pm

Ukrainian Carols at Van Dusen Botanical Garden's Annual "Festival of Lights"
5251 Oak St, Vancouver

Sunday 21 December, 2:30pm

Annual Ukrainian Christmas Carol Festival and Sing-Along
Guests: Mike Sanyshyn (violin/guitar), and Ruta Yawny (voice/bandura)
Ukrainian Catholic Center, 3150 Ash St, Vancouver
For info: 604.929.258, 604.985.7972

7 January 2009

Solovei magazine's annual Ukrainian Christmas Day Dinner in support of "Aid to Ukraine" with Carols by Svitanok Chorus
Info.604.430.6789 Location and time TBA

svitanokchorus@gmail.com

www.vancouversvitanokchorus.com



The Society would like to extend its best wishes to those currently struggling with illness or injuries. Everyone hopes that your recovery is imminent!

Just a reminder that there are a few copies of the books *Fateful Crossroads* and *Decorum's Veil* on sale for \$14.95 from the Society.

Contact the office, or Theresa at 604.295.0693



The Reading Room

About the Club

Now that November is nudging us indoors to curl up in front of cosy fireplaces, this is a perfect time for you to join our very own Ivan Franko Book Club!

The purpose of the Book Club is very simple: to read Ukrainian books in English translation, and books in English on Ukrainian themes and topics. Then, in our comfortable Mezzanine Library, the club has fun discussing the characters, plots, settings, historical backgrounds and our own connections with these books.

Reading four books with four meetings a year has worked very well so far. At present book club members consist of an enthusiastic group of 14 women and men of varying ages, and professional and occupational backgrounds who travel to our meetings from as far as North Vancouver and White Rock, and as near as Richmond.



The ties that bring the book club together are our Ukrainian heritage, a love of reading, and the enjoyment of sharing our ideas. We do not always agree with each other's interpretations but we always enjoy the discussions and the camaraderie.

Current Read

At our December 2 meeting (7pm) we are concluding the book club's second year with Alexander Motyl's *Whiskey Priest*. Alexander Motyl is a professor of

political science, and a specialist in Ukrainian, Russian and Soviet affairs at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ, USA.

In *Whiskey Priest*, themes of identity, faith and redemption combine as a disillusioned KGB assassin and an insecure, female US diplomat track down an Ivy League professor running a prostitution ring in Ukraine.

The main characters are Anatoly Filatov as the "whiskey priest", a despairing Communist true believer whose world comes crashing down with the collapse of the USSR; and Jane Sweet, the foreign service officer who discovers her Ukrainian identity.

The *Whiskey Priest* promises to have enough murder and mayhem to get our hearts beating and warm up the coldest November day!

by Theresa Herchak

For information on the Book Club or Ivan Franko Library, phone Theresa at 604.295.0693



Tropak Dance Studio

Register your kids now

All ages welcome!

For more information

Email: contact@tropak.ca

Phone Christina: 604-738-0380

Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre is looking for guys and girls over 16 to join our performing group. No previous Ukrainian dance experience required.

For more information: contact@tropak.ca



A Ukrainian Christmas

Within some basic precepts, there are as many ways of having a “Ukrainian Christmas” as there are Ukrainian families, each influenced by regional and personal histories. For me, two of the most powerful symbolic components are the sheaf of wheat, or *didukh*, and the ritual dish *kutia*.

The word *didukh* is made up of two parts: "did", meaning grandfather (pronounced "deed" with the first d softened), and "duk" which conveys the sense of breath, spirit, soul, ghost.

The name *didukh* is given to the sheaf of wheat collected at that year's harvest. In pre-Christian times this wheat was believed to contain the souls of those who have gone before. At the new year, the *didukh* was burned to release the souls of these ancestors and to infuse the earth with fertility to sustain yet another generation.

With the advent of Christianity, the *didukh* took on the symbolism of the gathering of the clan and unity with our ancestors. In our home on Christmas Eve, after the first star was sighted by our young children (which always coincided with dinner being ready) my husband and son would ceremoniously bring in a small sheaf of wheat, our *didukh*. It was placed on a side table next to a place setting for the family members who could not be with us that evening. At our house, we do not burn the *didukh*; it stays in a special place all year. Our ancestors are always with us.

The word *kutia* resonates with the Ukrainian word for corners, such as those found defining fields and houses. In much the same way *kutia* defines each family and each experience of a Christmas shared. It is either the first or last dish served in a twelve course meatless dinner on the Holy Eve of Christmas.

The origin of the dish dates back at least 5000 years, and with the cultivation of wheat by our ancestors. The main component of *kutia* is boiled whole wheat, which is dressed variously with honey, poppy seeds, chopped nuts or raisins. In some homes it is prepared into a soup-like texture. In our home, I make it thick, like porridge.

It is now a grandchild that throws a spoonful of *kutia* at the ceiling in the hope that most of it sticks and brings us good fortune in the new year. So far we have been truly blessed.

by *Theresa Herchak*

