



# NEWSLETTER

December 2021

## In this issue:

- *Malanka cancelled*
- *Ivan Franko Library Updates*
- *Ukrainian Christmas Fun Fact*
- *Golf Tournament*
- *Membership renewals for 2022*
- *Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Language School*



## Malanka 2022 — cancelled

After much consideration, the Board has decided to cancel Malanka for this coming January. Due to limited capacity and with covid restrictions still in place that would not allow guests to dance, the Board feels that we could not provide the usual Malanka experience we so enjoy. We are moving forward to plan for January 2023.

It is our hope to host a Spring Zabava in May 2022 in lieu of Malanka, depending on Covid protocols moving forward. We will keep our members posted as we begin planning over the next few months.

## Upcoming Events

### Friday Night Suppers— Take Out Only!

- December 17
- January 21
- February 18
- March 18

All suppers take place from **4:00-6:30pm**. Please note—**only Take Out is available** until further notice.

### Saturday Sales:

We continue to have Saturday sales from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. You can buy perogies, cabbage rolls, borscht, and Ukrainian sausage. We will also have beets and horseradish relish available in December. Stock up for the holiday season and for your Christmas Eve dinner.

**We are offering an extra opening on Thursday, December 23rd from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm** to provide another opportunity for our customers to purchase items for your holiday meals.

**Saturday Sales will be closed on:** December 25, January 1, and January 8.

**We will reopen again in the New Year on Saturday, January 15th.**

## Thank you to our volunteers

We are always very grateful to all our Volunteers at Ivan Franko. We couldn't do it without all their help in our kitchen, hall, library and outdoors.

On Saturday, November 27th, we hosted a Volunteer Lunch to extend our appreciation to our Volunteers. It was wonderful way to come together and for our Society to show our gratitude.

A big thank you to all our volunteers and for everything they do to help us!



# Ivan Franko Library Updates

## Our library has re-opened!



Our library is a warm and inviting place to spend some time perusing excellent historical, cultural and literature books and archival material.

Members are invited to sign out books for a one month period. Please phone ahead if you have a particular interest or request.

The Library is open on Saturdays from 11:00am to 2:00pm - except for the last Saturday of the month when we host lunch time movies.

## Book Club News

At our September meeting we enjoyed revisiting the amazing illustrations and captivating story of Springtime in Chernobyl by Emmanuel Lepage.



**Our current read is Good Citizens Need Not Fear by Maria Reva.** A brilliant and biting funny collection of stories united around a single crumbling apartment building in Soviet - era Ukraine.



A bureaucratic glitch omits an entire building, along with its residents, from municipal records. Officially, 1933 Ivansk Street does not exist - and neither do its inhabitants. But as the apartment building's occupants weather the official neglect of the state, they devise ingenious ways to survive. This forms the intertwined narratives - nine stories that span the chaotic years leading up to and immediately following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989.

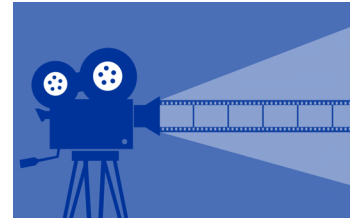
This book has won several awards including a "Globe and Mail Best Book of the Year". Among the rave reviews : "Bang-on brilliant." --Miriam Toews; "Luminous" Yann Martel; "Outstanding." --Anthony Doerr; "Bright, funny, satirical and relevant. . . A new talent to watch!" -- Margaret Atwood.

The author Maria Reva was born in Ukraine and grew up in Vancouver, B.C.

## Saturday Movies:

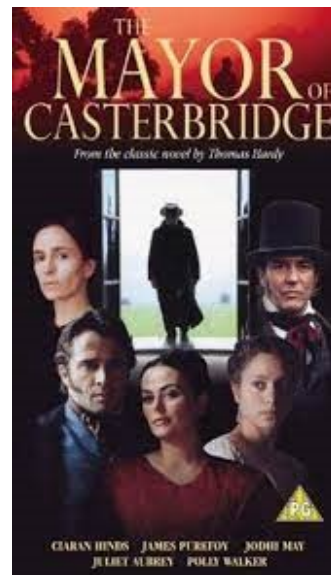
On the last Saturday of the month, Ivan Franko members and friends enjoy watching selected movies in our comfortable mezzanine. We find the time of our gathering (11:15am to approx. 1:30pm) perfect for breaking up a busy Saturday with a relaxing and entertaining interlude.

By popular demand, we are continuing our "Classics" theme. In September and October we watched part one and two of The Mayor of Casterbridge, based on the novel written by Thomas Hardy. Our next movie is Persuasion - a



1995 period drama film based on Jane Austen's 1817 novel of the same name.

**For information about our Library, Book and Movie Clubs, contact Theresa at [books@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:books@ivanfranko.ca) or call our Society at 604-274-4119 to leave a message.**





# Ukrainian Christmas Fun Fact

## What is the Story Behind Carol of the Bells?

Carol of the Bells is a melody that we are all very familiar with and we've heard it many times. Did you know that Carol of the bells originated in Ukraine and was composed by a Ukrainian composer? The folk song was originally intended to be a winter melody of good wishes but today we hear it throughout the Christmas season. You may recognize it from the movie Home Alone or from Harry Potter 3.

We would like to share with you the following article by Espie Estrella found on liveabout.com outlining the history of this classic Christmas melody:

### “History of Carol of the Bells”

Singing Christmas carols is a great way to spread the holiday spirit. Whether it's singing in your living room with your family or enjoying a quality performance from a professional choir. It is a fun activity for kids and adults alike.

While all the tunes may sound familiar, not many know the history and origins of the Christmas carols we know and love today. Let's delve into the history of the popular Christmas carol, Carol of the Bells, which has its roots in the melody of an old Ukrainian folk song called, Shchedryk.

Shchedryk was composed by Ukrainian composer and music teacher, Mykola Dmytrovych Leontobych, (1877 – 1921) in 1916. The title of the song means “the little swallow” in English. This song is about a sparrow that flies into a home and sings to the family about the bountiful year that awaits them.



Not originally a Christmas tune, Shchedryk is actually a song to celebrate New Years. Thus, it was first performed in Ukraine on the night of January 13, 1916. Although the date is 12 days after New Years Day on the Gregorian calendar, Shchedryk's premiere was not actually a belated New Years celebration. While the Gregorian calendar is the most used calendar internationally, Orthodox Churches in Ukraine continue to use the Julian calendar. According to the Julian calendar, January 13 was considered New Year's Eve in the year 1916.

In the United States, Shchedryk was first performed on October 5, 1921, at Carnegie Hall by the Alexander Koshetz's Ukrainian National Chorus. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902 – 1978) was a popular American composer and choral conductor at the time who was of Ukrainian ethnic origins. When he heard Shchedryk, he decided to write new lyrics in English to accompany the song's melody in 1936.

Wilhousky copyrighted the new lyrics and the song is what we now know as Carol of the Bells. As the title implies, this hauntingly beautiful song is about the sound of bells come Christmas time. The popular carol has since been performed countless times, with renditions by Richard Carpenter, Wynton

Marsalis, and the Pentatonix.

### Excerpt of Lyrics

Hark how the bells,  
sweet silver bells,  
all seem to say,  
throw cares away

Christmas is here,  
bringing good cheer,  
to young and old,  
meek and the bold.

# Annual Golf Tournament – Another Swinging Success

September was the third rainiest month on record for the Lower Mainland, but September 12th was clear and 50 golfers had a good time on the Country Meadows Course. The scores ranged from -4 to +10. The George and Sean Daschko foursome and Bill Humeny, Sue North and Roman Herchak tied at -4, but the latter was declared first because of a better 18th hole. Susan Lazaruk and Phil Guiris were closest to the pin and Briana Adams and Bill Humeny drove their ball the longest distance.



The banquet was held at our hall and a substantial meal was provided by our staff. There were prizes for all 50 golfers thanks to the generosity of our Society, individual golfers, and donations collected by Sean Daschko from Envirotech, BC Logistics, Van City, Hansentek, and McEwan Electric. I would like to thank the Country Meadows staff for the professional way in which they handled our tournament. I am looking forward to seeing all our golfers next year.

*Submitted by George Brandak—Tournament organizer*

## Taras Schevchenko Ukrainian Language

Ukrainian language classes for beginners, intermediate, and advanced speakers who would like to attend classes to learn and improve their language skills. **Classes take place Mondays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.**

Because of COVID restrictions, the classes will be offered via Zoom, accessible online or by phone.

Check out the following website:  
[www.ukrainianclasses.com](http://www.ukrainianclasses.com). Call Susan at 604-733-3756 or email at [info@ukrainianclasses.com](mailto:info@ukrainianclasses.com) for more details or to register for classes taking place in the new year.

## Staying connected



A reminder to our members to check our website [www.ivanfranko.ca](http://www.ivanfranko.ca) for upcoming events at our Society and in the Ukrainian Community. We update our website on a regular basis and information on our homepage is current. **You may also want**

**to checkout the [www.ukrainianvancouver.com](http://www.ukrainianvancouver.com) website for other events taking place in Metro Vancouver.**

## Memberships Payments for 2022



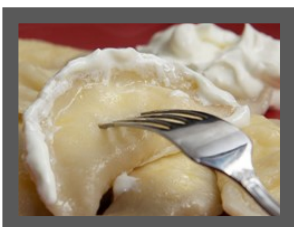
Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their membership dues for 2022 should be paid no later than January 31, 2022. For those who have not paid their 2021 dues, payment is waived.

We encourage you to continue as an active member of our Society. We inform our members through email of upcoming events at Ivan Franko and in the Ukrainian community. Our members also receive Newsletters three times per year. Most importantly, we really appreciate your support and staying active in our Society.



**Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season!**

***Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!***



**Next Friday Night Supper is December 17th from 4—6:30pm.  
Take out only!**

This newsletter is produced by the Ukrainian Community Centre of Ivan Franko, 5311 Francis Road Richmond, B.C. V7C 1K2

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