



NEWSLETTER

December 2022

UKRAINIAN WINTER CELEBRATIONS - STEEPED IN CULTURE AND TRADITION

Christmas Eve Supper • Sviata Vechera • Свята Вечера

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Upcoming Events

Friday Night Suppers— Take Out Only!:

- January 20
- February 17
- March 17

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

Saturday Sales:

We continue to have Saturday sales from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. You can get 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.

Saturday, December 17th is the last day of sales before we close for the Holidays. We will reopen again in the New Year on Saturday, January 7th.



For Ukrainians, the most beloved and joyful festivity is Christmas. Some Ukrainian Christmas customs have historical roots going as far back as the Neolithic era. These customs are connected to the agricultural way of life of our ancestors. Many of these folk customs and rites have been adapted to the spirit of the Christian religion.

The most important and colourful part of the Christmas traditions and festivities is Christmas Eve (Sviata Vechera). Twelve different and special dishes are traditional for this meal which begins only after the first star of the evening appears. The twelve dishes are to remind us of the twelve Apostles. After a day of fasting, in remembrance of the hardships that Mary endured as she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, preparations of a spiritual and physical nature set the mood for the Holy Night.

Food for the Holy Supper is prepared with no meat or dairy products. Hay is put under the table and under the tablecloth as a reminder of the humble place of Christ's birth. On top of a white or embroidered tablecloth is placed a Kolach. The word "kolach" derives from "kolo" meaning round or circular and it is a symbol of the sun. In the middle of the Kolach, a candle is placed which is left burning all night. A lit candle is also placed in the window, to welcome any homeless people. There is always an extra table setting for the souls of the deceased. As dusk approaches, the head of the house brings in a Didukh, a

sheaf of grain, and places it near the Icons. As the star appears, the father carries a bowl of Kutya around the home three times, reciting prayers. When all the family is at the table, prayers are recited and the Nativity Tropar is sung, "Boh Predvichny".

The first dish of the twelve is always Kutya. The eldest of the family throws a spoonful of the Kutya to the ceiling. The more kernels that stick to the ceiling, the greater the good luck in the following year.

After the completion of the twelve dishes, nuts and candies are scattered in the hay under the table for the children to find. Throughout the rest of the evening, Christmas carols are sung by the family.

When it is almost midnight, all the members of the family go the Nativity Mass, a celebration of Christ's birth. The traditional greeting is "Khrystos Razdayetsia" (Christ is Born) to which one replies, "Slavite Yoho" (Let us glorify him).

The following day and up to Yordan (Jordan), carolers visit families and friends, starting with the home of the priest, proclaiming the birth of Christ, our Saviour.

In modern times, Ukrainian tradition has been enriched by the acceptance of the Western-European Christmas tree called in Ukraine "yalynka". Richly decorated with hand-made colourful artifacts, "yalynka" is a symbol of peace and friendship.

The Holy days of the Christmas season end on January 20th, "The Feast of St. John the Baptist".

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Traditional Dishes for the Ukrainian Christmas Eve

1. **Kutya** (ritual first dish)
2. **Kolach** (braided ring-shaped bread)
3. **Borsch** (meatless beet soup)
4. **Stuffed Salmon or Fried Fillets**
5. **Pickled Herring**
6. **Holubtsi** (meatless cabbage rolls)
7. **Varenyky** (potato, sauerkraut or prune pyrohy)
8. **Kapusta** (sauerkraut and peas)
9. **Kolasheny Fasoli** (mashed beans)
10. **Pidpenky** (mushrooms with gravy)
11. **Yzbap** (compote)
12. **Pampushky, Makiwnyk** (doughnuts, poppy seed roll)

Resources For CUAET Visa Holders



The devastating war against Ukraine continues and is approaching 10 months of bombing, massive destruction and deteriorating living conditions. This humanitarian crisis is forcing more people to look for a safe temporary home outside Ukraine.

We welcome Displaced Ukrainians to British Columbia and refer individuals and families to the following Government of BC websites:

Welcoming Ukraine - Province of British Columbia:
<https://www.gov.bc.ca/welcomingukraine>

The BC Government announced on Nov. 29th that the BC hardship assistance for eligible CUAET visa holders has been extended from 6 months to 12 months to help struggling individuals and families to navigate through these very challenging times.

Temporary hardship assistance for people from Ukraine:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/content/tourism-immigration>

English Language Classes

Our society is very happy to support two Saturday English Language classes for Ukrainian adults displaced by Russia's war on Ukraine. The Beginner class is taught by Richmond teachers Susan Shackles and Yaryna Shulyak from 10 am to 12 noon. From 12 noon until 2 pm, the newly formed Intermediate class is taught by a group of retired Richmond teachers organized by Karen Holden. There is much enthusiastic participation and positive energy in these classes. It is gratifying to see growth in confidence, language acquisition and forming of friendships.

In addition, the participants of the classes are invited to

choose from excellent quality and excellent condition household

linens, women's and children's clothing and footwear and toys that have been donated by generous friends of our society. (Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger and other designers have found their way to our "Boutique".)



Staying Connected



A reminder to our members to check our website 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.

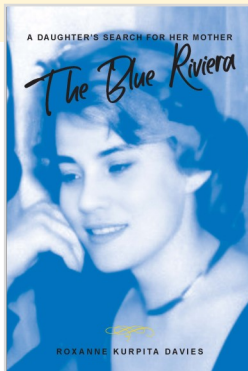


Ivan Franko Library

Ivan Franko Library is a welcoming place for enjoying excellent books on Ukrainian themes and topics, special activities for Ukrainians displaced by Russia's invasion and war on Ukraine, exciting Ukrainian themed workshops and, in general, a perfect venue for members to meet and socialize. **Our Library is open every Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm.**

Recent acquisitions for your reading enjoyment

For information about our Library and Book Club contact Theresa at books@ivanfranko.ca or call our Society at 604-274-4119 to leave a message.



The Blue Riviera—Roxanne Kurpita Davis

The author Roxanne Kurpita Davis writes: "Sally Tomiuk, my beautiful Ukrainian mother, died in her car in the wee hours of the morning on a lonely rail crossing, struck by an oncoming train. She was thirty-two. I was eight. Was it suicide? Was it murder? To this day her untimely death is shrouded in mystery.

This is my journey of discovering my mother. The heroes and the villains in her life, the love and loss, the sex and immorality, the adultery and betrayal.

Beyond being a personal family memoir, *The Blue Riviera* is a thoughtful and courageous investigation and exposé of the rationale for behaviours encompassing the historical, societal, psychological and spiritual realities that shaped them. For the reader, this is a page turner that reads to the last page with a sense of urgency.



Ukraine Spring - Standing Strong in 2022— Julie Emerson

A sketchbook of 44 gentle hand painted watercolours by Vancouver artist and writer Julie Emerson. Each painting is accompanied by a handwritten paragraph about events in Ukraine from March to May 2022 with related historical and cultural information. This is a unique documentation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the courageous, inspirational response of the Ukrainian people.

All proceeds from book sales will be donated to humanitarian non-military efforts in Ukraine.

Ivan Franko



Book Club

The Ivan Franko Book Club meets 4 times a year to discuss excellent books and view films on Ukrainian themes and topics. New members are welcome.

Our next meeting will be held on February 28, 2023 to discuss Roxanne Davis' new book, *The Blue Riviera, A Daughter's Investigation*.

We are honoured to have Roxanne as a long time member of our club and are

always grateful for her special writer's experience and insights during our meetings. Two of the three books she has co-authored; *Orchards, Crossroads and Dreams* and *Olga: The O.K.*

Way to a Healthy, Happy Life provided stimulating content and elicited spirited discussions at our meetings.

Roxanne is passionate about helping people write their significant stories and leave a written legacy. She led a

memoir writing workshop, "Helping to preserve your cherished memories" for club members and guests that has inspired several of us to begin writing our stories.

We are very proud of Roxanne and happy that she has completed and published her first memoir, *The Blue Riviera, A Daughter's Investigation* and look forward to reading and discussing it at our meeting in February.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Our Volunteers are much appreciated for all they do. We couldn't do it without all their help in our kitchen, hall, library and outdoors. **A big thank you** to all our volunteers.



Golf Tournament 2022

It was a perfect day at Country Meadows Golf Course on September 11th where 48 golfers gathered to play in the annual Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko Golf Tournament. The Lloyd Field team won the tournament with a score of -13. The longest drives were won by Jen Wilkenson (women) and Bill Humenny (men). KPs were won by Natalia Lupynis (women) and Charles Ukrainetz (men). Congratulations to all. We were very fortunate to receive many wonderful door prizes and appreciate the generosity of all our donors. Thank you to C & D Logistics, McEwan Electric

Ltd, G. C. – Bash Sheet Metal Inc., Golf Town, Sean Daschko, Jennifer Wyatt from Savage Creek, Country Meadows Golf Course, Guildford Golf and Country Club, Mayfair Lakes Golf Course, Green Acres Golf Course to name a few. We appreciate the efforts of Tasha Zukewich, Fran Zukewich and Vera Adams for their hard work collecting door prizes. In addition, a big thank you to C & D Logistics for their generous donation of two Canuck tickets valued at \$500. These were raffled off at our golf tournament. Lucky winner was Fran Zukewich. Money raised went towards

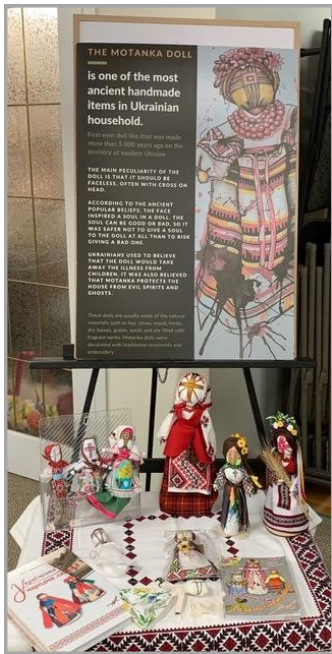
our donation fund that is used to assist Displaced Ukrainians. We are very grateful to have raised \$1230.

Also, we thank our kitchen staff for preparing another delicious Ukrainian meal for our enjoyment.

George Brandak has been the driving force behind our tournament for over 25 years. We so appreciate all his efforts over the years to organize such a great event for members and guests.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2023.

Unique Cultural Activities



This fall members of the Blue and Yellow Art Group conducted three exciting workshops that combined ancient folk lore, traditional handcrafting methods and a little bit of magic to create lovely treasures. Participants of the two Motanka workshops used fragrant herbs, bits of cloth, yarn, coloured strings, pieces of Ukrainian embroidery, beads and such to create very personal Motanka dolls. Each workshop had a different theme and each doll served a different talismanic purpose.



During the third workshop participants created a needle felted brooch on the theme of "Ukrainian Landscape". Various felting tools and a variety of wool was used to create a whimsical landscape which could take on a more somber meaning when worn on Remembrance Day.

Information about future workshops will be found on our Ivan Franko website, emailed to our members and volunteers and in various social media sites.

The Blue and Yellow Art Group has been creating and selling Ukrainian themed art at festivals, markets and other places where people gather. All money raised supports the Ukrainian military through the "Come Back Alive Foundation". This foundation was formed in 2014 when Russia invaded and annexed Crimea.

Memberships Payments for 2023

Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their **membership dues for 2023 should be paid by January 31, 2023** or one year since the member's last payment.

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 the support of our members and staying active in our Society.

Please complete and return a membership form that is attached to your mail out or email for processing by our Office Manager. Thank you for your continued support.

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!



NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS JANUARY 20TH, 2023 — NO FNS THIS DECEMBER.

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