



# NEWSLETTER

April 2023

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## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at our hall.

### Pysanky Workshop For Kids (ages 6 – 15)

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Email us at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) to register your child.

### Friday Night Suppers

Our next FNS is April 21<sup>st</sup>. Takeout and some tables available to enjoy your dinner. Check our website for future dates and menu. Please bring your own carry bag for your containers of food.

### Saturday Sales – Stock up for Easter!

We continue to have Saturday sales from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Products available are: potato with cheddar and potato with cottage cheese perogies (varenyky), cabbage rolls (options are: rice & bacon, rice & meat and veggie) borscht, and Ukrainian sausage.

Beet horseradish and babka will be available on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your own carry bag to carry the products you buy.

### Golf Tournament

Details to be announced. We are planning our annual tournament for September.



## Celebrating Ukrainian Easter

Ukrainian Easter is a unique blend of new and old traditions, some of which date from before the birth of Christ. Easter in Ukraine is a beautiful mixture of traditional Christian practices, folklore and ancient pagan rituals.

Вербна Неділя (Willow Sunday) marks the beginning of the Easter and celebrates Christ's entry into Jerusalem. In western countries this day is known as Palm Sunday,

but instead of palm leaves, Ukrainians use pussy willow branches to decorate their homes. This change is due to the willow's symbolic meaning in the pre-Christian pagan culture as well as the lack of palm trees in Ukraine.

Preparations for Easter begin the week before Easter often called Holy Week. Families begin preparing food, decorating their home and decorating pysanky.

### Easter Breads

Baking paska and babka is one of the most treasured Easter traditions.

**Paska** is a rich round bread, with elaborate symbolic dough ornaments connected with spring themes such as the awakening of nature, resurrection and rebirth. Dough ornaments include crosses, flowers, braids, bird's nests, birds, eggs and other designs representing aspects of Orthodox and Eastern Catholic faith.

**Babka** is delicious, sweet and festive bread that is rich in butter and eggs and easily recognizable by its tall and cylindrical shape with a rounded top which can be decorated with a white glaze.



### Pysanka - Another beautiful Easter Tradition

The word "pysanka" comes from the Ukrainian word писати (to write).

Ancient pre-Christian peoples decorated eggs believing that great powers were embodied in the egg. During the spring festivals, they used coloured decorated eggs to welcome the sun and to help the sun's rebirth into power and warmth, ensuring fertility to the fields and rivers. These were festivals of rejoicing, marking triumph of life over death, of spring over winter. With the advent of Christianity, Easter eggs came to symbolize the Resurrection and the spiritual rebirth of man. Legend has it that as long as pysanky are decorated, goodness will prevail over evil throughout the world.

### Writing with symbols

Symbols and Their Meanings		
Plant Symbols	Animal Motifs	Geometric Patterns
wheat  bountiful harvest	deer  leadership	rabbits  good farming
grapes  fellowship	ram  wealth	windmill  prosperity
evergreen  health	hen  fertility	triangle  trinity
sunflower  warmth	fish  christianity	ribbons  eternity
rose  beauty	spider  patience	circle  good fortune

There are countless stories written in pysanky which are determined by the historical time period, the regional origins and the combination of symbols and colours. We have chosen a few pysanky examples that tell a story using some of these symbols: Gypsy Roads, Forty Triangles

Continued on page 2...





# Ukrainian Easter Celebrations (continued from page 1)



## Gypsy Roads (Tsyhans'ki Dorohy)

Ancient in origin but popular in present time and in all regions of Ukraine. It is a simple design containing only 2 elements: the eternally meandering line and the power of colour.

In "Gypsy Roads" the meandering line divides the egg into equal fields of red and black. The evil in black is held in check by the good in red and it cannot find its way off the road. On a universal level, this is a story of the eternal struggle between good and evil. On a personal level this is a story of protecting the holder of this Pysanka. This would be a good Pysanka to give a loved one that is setting off on a perilous journey.

## Forty Triangles (Sorok- Klyntsiw)

This pysanka is transitional in nature can be read as a pre-Christian and as a Christian story.

The main design elements are the triangle and the number forty. Colour and additional symbols are not important, nor is the fact the egg is actually divided into 48 triangles.

In pre-Christian times, this Pysanka was intimately related to the total lives of the people. Each triangle encapsulated the specific 40 life tasks such as working the fields, and events such as the birth of children. The triangle represented the heavens (sun, moon, stars) the elements (water, earth, air) and the life cycle (birth, life, death). Great care was taken in writing this Pysanka and a prayer for its recipient was breathed into each of the triangles. This is the perfect gift to bestow on a newly married couple.

In the Christian interpretation, this design signifies the 40 day lenten period, with 40 days of fasting, or the forty martyrs with the 40 birds hovering over the martyrs. The triangle also represents the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).



## Trypillian Pysanky

Named after the city of Trypillia where, in the 1890's, shards of pottery and other artifacts were discovered dating back to 5000 B.C. The white and black designs on red clay were organically flowing and repeated rhythmically. One of the interpretations of these patterns is that they represent Mother Earth and the female form from whom new life comes.

## Easter Basket



The preparation of the Easter Basket is a very old tradition. The basket is filled with traditional Easter foods and blessed on Easter Sunday. Candles are placed in the basket and lit during the blessing which is symbolic of Christ. "The Light of the World" who brought us the glorious good news of new life. These baskets, covered with an embroidered cloth, contain paska and babka, boiled eggs, ham, kobasa, butter, cottage cheese, horseradish, salt and beautiful pysanky decorated by the family.

## Pysanky Workshop For Children

Our member, Svitlana Maksymenko has kindly offered to teach a **Pysanka Workshop for kids between the ages of 6 and 15.**



**When: Saturday, April 8th  
from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Where: Ivan Franko Hall (5311  
Francis Road, Richmond)**

**Cost: \$10 per child to cover  
the cost of supplies**

**To register your child, please email us at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) by  
Wednesday, April 5th.** Include your child's name and age. We will accept a maximum of 15 children.

Because we are working with a lighted candle and hot wax, we ask that one adult accompany children that are 6, 7, or 8 years old.

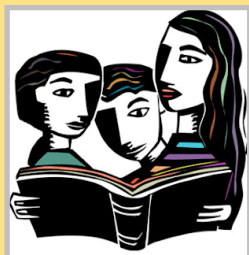


## Ivan Franko Library

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 for book exchange on Saturdays between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. As English Language classes are in session at this time, please phone ahead if you have a particular interest or request.**

### Ivan Franko



### Book Club

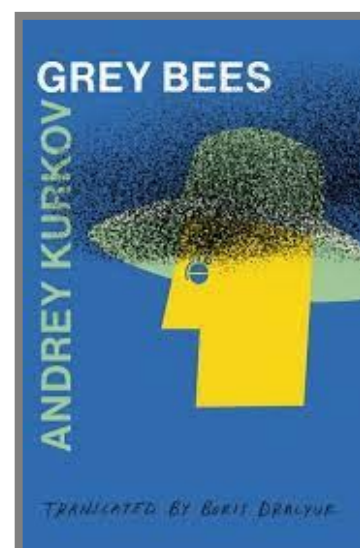
Our next  
meeting is  
Saturday,  
May 30 from  
11:30 am to  
1:30 pm.

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

Our current Book Club selection is **Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov** — a captivating, heartwarming story about a gentle beekeeper caught up in Russia's war on Ukraine.

The story starts in Little Starhorodiv'ka, a village in Ukraine in the "grey area" near the Donbas area. There are only two people living in the village; everyone else has left. Meanwhile the Russian troops and Ukraine forces are conducting an endless sniping

and shelling attack on each other, over the heads of the two villagers. The protagonist, Sergey Sergeyich, doesn't really have a particular loyalty to either side. He just wants to survive and take care of his honey bees. And he finally leaves the village to take his bees somewhere that he thinks they will get forage and avoid the upset of all the bombs and firearms.



**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.**

## English Language Classes



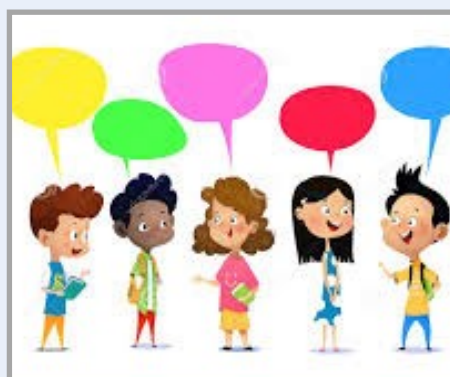
Beginner English Language classes are held in our library from **10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturdays**. These classes are taught by current and retired Richmond School District teachers who volunteer their time, expertise, and teaching/learning materials. In addition to English language acquisition, these classes provide a social setting and opportunities for sharing information needed for newcomers.

## Ukrainian Classes For Children

Svitlana Maksymenko has also offered to teach Ukrainian classes to children between the ages of 4 and 8. Svitlana is a very well qualified teacher. She is a certified Early Childhood Educational Assistant. She is currently working at a daycare in Richmond. Svitlana was a Montessori teacher in Ukraine. **Children attending this class will have an opportunity to develop their Ukrainian language skills through age appropriate and fun activities such as art, cooking, games, poetry, literature, songs, etc.**

This class is open to all levels. If your child is a beginner or a fluent speaker, they will benefit from this opportunity.

**Classes will start mid April 22<sup>nd</sup> for 10 weeks. Classes would be held on Saturday afternoons from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm at our Ivan Franko Hall at 5311 Francis Road.**



There will be a cost for the class. Amount to be determined by the number of students in the class. We are hoping to have a class of 5 to 10 students.

**Please email us at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) by Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, to register your child(ren) for this class and include your child(ren)'s name and age in your email.**





# Youth Scholarships — Applications

## due May 26<sup>th</sup>

The Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko is pleased to offer two types of scholarships. These scholarships are directed towards students between the ages of 16 and 20.



### Type I — Post Secondary Scholarship

For post secondary study at an approved college or university in the maximum amount of \$1,000.00.

### Type II — Cultural Scholarship

For the study of Ukrainian culture and/or language in an approved program to the maximum of \$500.00.

We invite worthy candidates to review the application package that can be found on the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko website at: <http://ivanfranko.ca/about-us/youth-scholarships/>

A letter of reference is required from a school representative which could be a teacher, counsellor or administrator. The application form for Type I or Type II must also be completed by the candidate.

**The deadline for the application is Friday, May 26, 2023 for both types of scholarships.** Questions or concerns can be addressed to Tanya Zukewich at 604 241-2300.



Happy Easter

## Memberships Payments for 2023 – Reminder to Renew!

Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their membership dues for 2023 are now due if your membership has now lapsed. If you are not sure, please email us to ask about the status of your membership with our Society.

Please complete and return the membership form that has been mailed 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 2023 with an e-transfer.

## Annual General Meeting

**When:** Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm

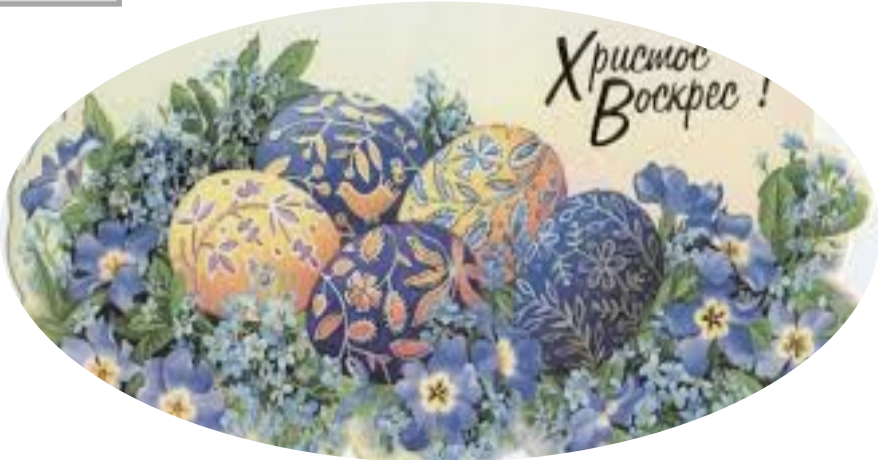
**Where:** Ivan Franko Community Centre  
(5311 Francis Road, Richmond , B.C.)

Please plan to join us for our Society’s Annual General Meeting. Members will be informed of events that occurred during the year and vote for the new Board of Directors and issues that are presented at the meeting.

**Your memberships for 2023 must be in good standing to be eligible to vote.** The Board is looking forward to meeting with our members and listening to any of their comments and questions.

## 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.



**NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

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