



MAY

NEWSLETTER

2024

Celebrating New Members & Their Outstanding Contributions

We are pleased to celebrate some of our new members that have been contributing to our Society in a very meaningful way. Most of these new members have arrived to Canada on the CUAET special visa. We would like to share with you their stories, their backgrounds and how they are contributing to our Society.

We hope you enjoy reading about **Yaryna Shulyak, Alla Dudka, Svitlana Maksymenko, Inna Smachna, and Anna Shylova!**

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Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 26 at 2 pm at our hall located at 5311 Francis Road in Richmond.

Friday Night Suppers

Our next two Friday Night Suppers are on **May 17 and June 21**.

Takeout and dine in available for your enjoyment. Check our website for future dates and menu. Please bring your own carry bag for your take out orders

Saturday Sales

We continue to have Saturday sales from 10 am – 2 pm. Products available are: potato with cheddar, sauerkraut, and cottage cheese, potato with dill perogies (varenyky), cabbage rolls (options are: rice & bacon, rice & ground beef, and vegetarian) borscht, Ukrainian sausage, beet relish (horseradish & beets), and honey cake (medivnyk).

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.

**Yaryna Shulyak**

Yaryna Shulyak came from a little city named Khodoriv in Western Ukraine. After finishing University, Yaryna and her husband decided to emigrate to Canada looking for new opportunities. Richmond became the place where they started a new life. It was challenging to live in a country and learning a new language. However, they were most fortunate to meet amazing Canadians that offered to help.

Yaryna soon began working in restaurants and shortly afterwards attained a chef position at River Rock Casino. After her daughter was born, Yaryna searched for employment that would offer her more flexibility and more time to raise her daughter. Currently Yaryna works at Spulukwuk's Elementary School as an Educational Assistant. She absolutely loves her job!

On February 24th, 2022, when Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine, Yaryna, like many Ukrainian Canadians, was dedicated to do what she could to help. She started volunteering to collect and ship humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

She made crafts to sell to raise money to support the armed forces of Ukraine. Yaryna connected with Theresa Herchak, volunteer Librarian at the Ivan Franko Centre, and helped organize English classes for newly arrived Ukrainians who escaped the war. This has been a successful program providing an opportunity for newcomers to learn English and connect with other newcomers in a safe and welcoming environment.

In April 2022 Yaryna joined a group of volunteers called Ukrainian BlueYellow Art. The group of volunteers are talented artists that make handcrafted arts and crafts to sell and raise money for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Ukrainian BlueYellow Art attend events throughout the Lower Mainland to educate people about Ukrainian culture, the war, and fundraise for the war by selling their crafts. The Ivan Franko Centre has partnered with Ukrainian BlueYellow Art to host a variety of master classes and special events.

More recently, our Society collaborated with Yaryna to organize the following two events:

- Vechornysti On St. Andrew's Day Fundraiser (December 3rd, 2023) featuring workshops, entertainment and a delicious Ukrainian dinner for everyone in attendance to enjoy.
- Ukrainian Spring Market (April 27th, 2024) featuring handicrafts, master classes and much more.

We are very appreciative of Yaryna for her contributions. We are very fortunate to work with Yaryna and BlueYellow Art – she is an outstanding volunteer and an inspiration for all.

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Annual General Meeting on May 26th

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.

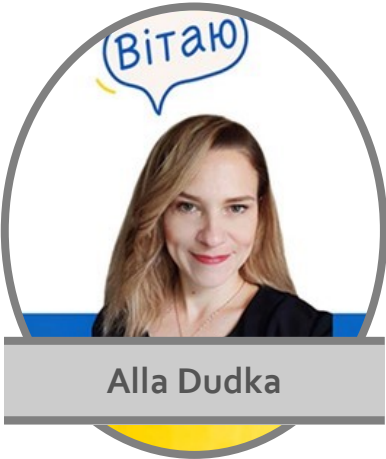
Your memberships for 2024 must be in good standing to be eligible to vote. The Board is looking forward to meeting with our members and listening to any of their comments and questions.

When: Sunday, May 26th at 2:00 pm
Where: Ivan Franko Community Centre (5311 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C.)





Celebrating our New Members (continued from page 1)



To escape the war in Ukraine, Alla Dudka and her husband moved to Canada to explore new opportunities and see what directions she could take her teaching career. "The war has impacted me a lot. Almost my whole family is still there," says Alla. "I was in Türkiye when the war started, but I was very worried for everyone who was there, and I can't even imagine what they felt."

From Kharkiv, Ukraine, Alla completed all her post-secondary education at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Philology, Ukrainian language and literature and a PhD in Ukrainian Philology. Alla also brings lots of valuable work experience to the table. From 2014 to 2018, she taught Ukrainian to native speakers and

international students at Kharkiv National Medical University. Eventually, she moved to Türkiye to teach the Ukrainian language and literature courses at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at one of the oldest universities in the country, Istanbul University.

Alla emphasizes how important it is to know the language of your nationality, regardless of where you were born or live now. "If people know and learn the language of their nation, it means that the national genetic code is preserved and passed on to future generations," explains Alla. "This can partly explain the growing interest in learning Ukrainian around the world, including Canada."

In September 2022, the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko was very fortunate to partner with Alla Dudka to offer conversational Ukrainian Language classes via zoom. We started with one class of 4 adult students and currently we have 12 students enrolled in three classes ranging from a beginners class with no Ukrainian language experience to an advanced beginners class.

Alla's teaching style is based on the desire to create an atmosphere of learning where everybody feels comfortable at their level and students can support one another.

When teaching the Ukrainian language, Alla will often adjust her instructional methods. She understands that everyone learns differently and caters her classes to the various learning styles. She also adds a cultural context because "without understanding the culture, language is impossible to teach".

From Ukraine to Türkiye and now in Canada, teaching gives Alla happiness and satisfaction with her life. She is doing exactly what she is supposed to do, for herself and for her country. "Figure what you want to do in life and why," says Alla. "When you are inspired by your own work, you will find success and inspire others along the way."

Alla is very hopeful that a desire for people to learn Ukrainian would continue to spread. We feel very fortunate to have Alla Dudka as part of our Society and that she shares her expertise and passion for the Ukrainian language.

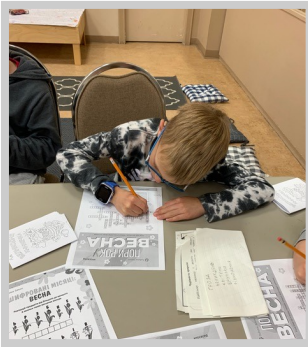


Svitlana Maksymenko arrived in Vancouver with her family in May of 2022. She is from Kyiv. As a certified Early Childhood Educational Assistant Svitlana worked in Ukraine as a Montessori teacher educating children from toddlers to 6 years of age. Currently Svitlana is working at a daycare in Richmond.

Svitlana has been teaching Ukrainian classes to children of various ages at the Ivan Franko Centre on Saturdays. . She has 16 children that attend her classes on a weekly basis. Activities during the classes focus primarily on language, history and the rich Ukrainian culture. The children have

many opportunities to practice reading and writing in Ukrainian. In addition they play fun games, bake and celebrate birthdays and Ukrainian holidays.

Our Society is very fortunate to have Svitlana teaching Ukrainian classes for children to enjoy. She is a very experienced and talented educator. Her students absolutely love her classes and are very proud to be Ukrainian.



Ukrainian Christmas in Canada

In addition to her Saturday Ukrainian language classes for kids, Svitlana has also organized two very special events in recent months that we as a Society have been pleased to have been a part of. On December 23rd, our Society with Svitlana's leadership organized two Christmas parties for children and their parents. We had approximately 100 participants at each party and the

festivities were thoroughly enjoyed by all which included a Vertep, a performance of a Ukrainian puppet theatre, entertainment by the Mriya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, bandura performances, gingerbread cookie decorating and the opportunity to make traditional Ukrainian Christmas decorations. For many of the children in attendance, this was their first Christmas in Canada. Svitlana

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Celebrating our New Members (continued from page 2)

had the dream to make this first Christmas away from home an extra special one. It was a joy for all of us to see the smiles on children’s faces as they enjoyed a traditional and festive Ukrainian Christmas event with their families.



Ukrainian Easter in Canada

On March 16th, Svitlana partnered with our Society to organize an Easter event for children and their families to enjoy. The children who attended, had the opportunity to experience the traditional art of pysanky making, Easter basket decorating, and the art of candle making. This was an afternoon of busy hands, many smiles, and much laughter. Once again, another successful event.

Our Society is very fortunate and grateful for Svitlana’s vision, passion and expertise for providing meaningful cultural experiences for children. It has been one year since Svitlana’s first Saturday Ukrainian class for children and we celebrate with her all she has brought to our Society and we are grateful for all that she does.



Inna Smachna

Inna’s surname Smachna, “Смачна”, translated from Ukrainian means “tasty or delicious”. Indeed, this a fitting name for our new Society cook!

Inna was born, raised and educated in the Kyiv region in Ukraine. It was through her Grandmother, who completed Culinary College, that Inna grew to love cooking. She spent many hours in her Babusya’s kitchen learning how to turn a simple meal into a feast. Inna’s profession as an accountant was her livelihood, but cooking was her passion which throughout her life endeared her to many. She was often asked to organize and prepare dinners for large

groups at weddings, birthdays, special holidays and other community celebrations.

During Russia’s war on Ukraine Inna’s family home was destroyed and left the family with few options of moving elsewhere in Ukraine. In October, 2022, Inna, her daughter, son in law and school age grand daughter joined Inna’s younger daughter who immigrated to Canada six years previously. Almost immediately Inna began looking for employment. As luck would have it, she became acquainted with a recent Ukrainian immigrant who spoke very highly of our Ivan Franko Society as we had helped her and her 3 children when they arrived in Richmond. She told Inna that the Society was looking for a cook and that it would be a good place to work. Inna attended an interview with Society members on January 14, 2023 and on January 16, she started work!

Although Inna spoke no English, she was able very quickly to understand what was expected of her as she was certainly no stranger in a kitchen. She now is making steady progress in her English language skills. She is taking classes offered by SUCCESS and attends our Saturday English

Language class along side her grand daughter.

Working with the members of our society is a joy for Inna. With each day she is getting more comfortable and confident in the Canadian setting. Inna considers being the cook at Ivan Franko Centre as her new, permanent profession.

As for Inna’s cooking - just ask anyone who comes to Saturday Sales, Friday Night Suppers or any of the recent functions at our centre! Particular favourites are her cottage cheese with fresh dill varenyky and sauerkraut perizhky. We will have to wait for the local plum season for Inna’s warm, juicy, fresh plum varenyky - served with sour cream and a sprinkling of sugar. Yummy. Delicious. Very “смачні!”.



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Youth Scholarship: Apply by May 24th

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 \$750.

Type II — Cultural Scholarship

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

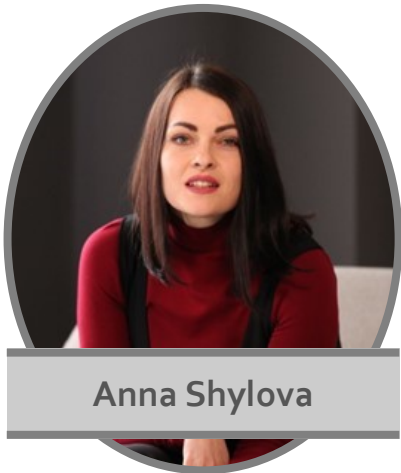
The application package is available on the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko website.

We invite worthy candidates to review the application package on our website (www.ivanfranko.ca). A letter of reference is required from a school representative who 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 24, 2024** for both types of scholarships. **For questions and more information, please email us at info@ivanfranko.ca**



Celebrating our New Members (continued from page 3)



Anna Shylova

Anna Shylova arrived from Ukraine ten months ago with her husband and three children and has made Richmond her home. Anna approached our Society in December about her hope and dream to begin a Musical Theatre program for Ukrainian children living in Richmond. In the new year, Anna launched Brainchild Studio and began offering formal classes in February of 2024 at our Ivan Franko Centre.

The studio was created to support Ukrainian children in the city of Richmond, to help them adapt to the new country of Canada, to find like-minded people and for children to develop creatively in the Ukrainian community. The focus of the classes is to provide children with an opportunity to practice singing, dancing and speaking. In

the lessons, children warm up the body, move plastically, listen to the rhythm and move to the music for body coordination, sing, practice pronunciation, learn tongue twisters and practice acting skills. Anna’s future plans include preparations for a small musical show based on the fairy tale of Thumbelina. The dialogues in the play are in English, and the songs will be sung in Ukrainian. Anna also hopes to prepare children to perform for future special events and holiday celebrations.

Anna’s plan is to eventually expand her program to include more children. Currently the classes are offered on Mondays and Thursdays. Anna offers classes for 4 to 6 year olds, 6 to 10 year olds and 11 to 13 year olds.

Anna comes to us with an extensive background and training. Her post secondary education includes a College Diploma in Conducting, a Bachelor degree in vocal singing and teaching from Kiev



National University of Culture and Art. Anna then continued her studies to complete a Masters degree in Theatre Directing. While attending university, Anna also performed with the REMS Theatre.

After graduation, Anna started her professional career at the university in the Artistic and Creative Department. She has extensive experience in choreography and film. Anna has worked in the field of cinema, assisted actors and directors and worked as a casting director. Over the years, she had lots of experience staging various performances, festivals and concerts. Anna and her

husband continue to be involved in a small video content production studio.

We are pleased to have Anna’s Brainchild Musical Theatre Studio as part of our Society of Ivan Franko. Also, we feel so fortunate and grateful that Anna is available to share her theatre expertise with Ukrainian children in our community. We very much look forward to future performances that the children will perform.

Ivan Franko Library

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.

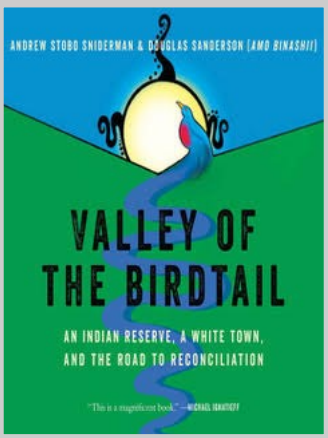
**New Library hours are
Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm.**

Наша бібліотека – це тепле та затишне місце, де можна провести час переглядаючи чудові історичні, культурологічні та літературні книги та архівні матеріали. Члени нашого товариства пропонується виписати книги на один місяць.

**Бібліотека працює в
суботу з 10:00 до 14:00.**

For information about our Library and Book Club, contact Theresa at books@ivanfranko.com or call our Society at 604-274-4119

Ivan Franko Book Club



Our next meeting will be on **September 17th**, when we will discuss **Valley of the Birdtail** by **Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson**. New members are welcome.

In Rossburn, once settled by Ukrainian immigrants who fled poverty and persecution in their homeland, family income is near the national average and more than a third of adults have graduated from university. In Waywayseecappo, the average family lives below the national poverty line and less than a third of adults have graduated from high school, with many haunted by their time in residential schools. Valley of the Birdtail is about how these two communities in Manitoba became separate and unequal—and what it means for the rest of us.

English Language Classes

English Language classes are offered to the new immigrants on **Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm**. This is an opportunity to learn basic English and also to socialize with new friends.

Заняття з англійської мови тривають по **суботах з 11:00 до 13:00**. Це можливість вивчити базову англійську мову, а також поспілкуватися з новими друзями.



Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their membership dues for 2024 are now due if your membership has 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 to update and renew your membership for 2024 with an e-transfer.**