



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

UKRAINIAN WINTER CELEBRATIONS - STEEPED IN CULTURE AND TRADITION

Pavuk - An Ancient Ukrainian Christmas Decoration

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Upcoming Events

Friday Night Suppers—Dine In and Take Out!

- February 21st
- March 21st
- April 18th
- May 16th
- June 20th

All suppers take place from
4:00-6:30 pm.

Saturday Sales

We continue to have Saturday Sales from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. Available for purchase: perogies (varenky), cabbage rolls (holubsti), borscht, Ukrainian sausage (kovbassa) and honey cakes (medivnyk). 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 21st is the last day of sales before we close for the Holidays. We will reopen again in the New Year on **Saturday, January 4th**.

Malanka 2025

Join us for a very special evening of celebration. We are pleased to host Malanka 2025 on **Saturday, January 11th**. For ticket information, call **604-274-4119** or email us at **info@ivanfranko.ca**.



PAVUK



A pavuk (spider) is a beautiful ancient Ukrainian Christmas decoration made of straw and is considered a symbol of the universe. On Christmas Eve, the pavuk was hung on the central beam of the house. Sometimes a candle was placed under the pavuk which while spinning would project shadows onto the walls. People believed that these were the shadows of the souls of ancestors who had come for the holidays.

A pavuk is not just a decoration, but also an amulet. According to popular belief, spiders have the ability to capture visible and invisible evil, thus protecting the house from negative energy. The pavuk was not thrown away after the winter holidays, but left hanging until the next Christmas. A pavuk was only burned after a new one was made to replace it and to once again bring positive energy to the family.

We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to learn how to make pavuky with the guidance of Society member, Yaryna Shulyak. We are incredibly grateful to Yarna who has shared her expertise with master classes for our membership to enjoy. In partnership with BlueYellow Art, money raised is sent to Ukraine in support of our Ukrainian defenders.

We have decorated our hall with pavuky and welcome you to come by and see them on display.

Current, previous, and new members are reminded that their membership dues for 2025 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 2025 with an e-transfer.**



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.

Malanka Traditions • Маланка • Щедрий Вечір

A week after Christmas Eve, Ukrainians celebrate “Malanka” or New Year’s Eve, a cheerful festival that includes delicious food, entertainment, merrymaking, caroling and fortune telling.

Malanka is the name of a Ukrainian mythological figure dating back to Ukraine’s pre-Christian pagan days. Malanka is celebrated during the winter solstice cycle on a night called Щедрий Вечір “Shchedry Vechir” (Generous Eve). Traditionally, Malanka was represented as a maiden wreathed in blossoms and fruit and accompanied by her consort, Vasily.

A prominent rite of Malanka festivities was called Щедрування, “Shchedruvannia”, (house-to-house caroling) performed separately by troupes of maidens or young men masquerading as maidens, with the chief characters being Malanka and Vasily. Performances included characters such as a gypsy, a fortune-teller, musicians and animals introducing both humour and spontaneity to be enjoyed by all.

JOIN US FOR
MALANKA ...МАЛАНКА
2025
UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025
Ukrainian Community Centre of Ivan Franko
5311 Francis Road, Richmond
Doors Open At ... 6:00 pm

Deluxe Buffet Dinner ... 7:00 pm
Dancing To “Mike Sanyshyn Band”
Champagne and Party Favours
Entertainment ... Door Prizes
Semi-formal Attire

Tickets must be purchased in advance for this popular event
For Tickets Call: 604.274.4119
Cost: \$80.00 per person (non refundable)
<https://ivanfranko.ca>, e-mail: info@ivanfranko.ca



After caroling, male and female groups gathered for a festive supper, dancing and merriment. Young men viewed this as a favourable night for courting, and the maidens, for enchantment and casting of spells.

At our Ivan Franko Society, Malanka will be celebrated on January 11th, 2025 and includes many of the traditions of the Canadian New Year’s Eve celebrations. This event typically occurs a week after Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar on a Friday or Saturday closest to January 13 or 14. The event will begin with a delicious dinner including many Ukrainian dishes, entertainment by singers, musicians and dancers. Our evening will continue with a zabava featuring the Mike Sanyshyn Band playing a wide variety of music including a коломийка “kolomeyka”. At midnight, the New Year will be

brought in with singing, toasting with champagne and wishes of good health and prosperity.

For more information and tickets, please email us at info@ivanfranko.ca or call us at 604 274-4119. We look forward to hosting you at this very special event.

Our First Ever Christmas Market

On Saturday, November 23rd, our Society hosted our first ever Christmas Market. It was a success! The hall was filled with vendors offering delicious home baking, arts and crafts, Ukrainian clothing and Christmas decorations. In addition, we offered Master Classes in our upstairs library and we enjoyed Ukrainian dance performances throughout the afternoon by the Ukraina Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. The hall was a buzz all day and we enjoyed a tremendous turnout of people from the Ukrainian community and the community at large.

We thank Tasha Zukewich for her efforts in organizing our Christmas Market and we thank Fran Zukewich for overseeing our food sales and volunteers who helped fill a table with delicious home baking. Much appreciation to Yaryna Shulyak for organizing two Master Classes that were well attended and enjoyed by all. Also a big thank you to all the other volunteers that contributed in so many ways to support our event and helped throughout the day. We are grateful for the help we received and are hopeful to host a Christmas Market next year.



WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
З Новим роком та Різдвом Христови!



1000 Days Of Russia's War

(Courtesy of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress published on November 18, 2024)

As we celebrate this festive season, we also remember that on November 19th, Ukraine and the world marked 1000 days of Russia's genocidal war of aggression against Ukraine. Thinking back to February 24, 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russian tanks rolled across the Ukrainian border, Russian rockets hit schools and hospitals. Russian airplanes bombed cities and towns. The Russian assault was met with fierce Ukrainian determination to defend Ukraine's freedom, statehood and identity. 1000 days later, the Ukrainian people fight on.

Russia has murdered and tortured many thousands of innocent Ukrainians. Russia has destroyed cities and towns, homes and buildings, dams and roads. Russia has committed countless atrocities and crimes against humanity. But Russia has not destroyed the Ukrainian peoples' resolve to remain free.



As we mark 1000 days of Russia's war, we honour the courage of the Ukrainian people, who united in common purpose, defend their country from Russia's attempt to erase Ukraine from the world map. We remember those who gave their lives for Ukraine's freedom. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Вічна Пам'ять.

We honour the Ukrainian soldier, who fights with courage and ingenuity. We honour the Ukrainian firefighter, who extinguishes the blazes caused by Russian airstrikes. We honour the

Ukrainian engineer, who restores power to cities and towns after Russian missile attacks. We honour the Ukrainian doctor and nurse, who work tirelessly to heal the injured. We honour the Ukrainian faith leaders, who give comfort to those who lost loved ones. We honour the Ukrainian teacher, who continues, under Russian bombardment, to educate Ukraine's youth in bomb shelters and subway stations.

We thank the many friends and allies of Ukraine around the world, who continue to provide support for Ukraine's war effort and for the humanitarian needs of Ukrainians. We recall that Ukrainians fight not only in defence of their own freedom, but that of all of Europe.

Слава Україні!

Героям Слава!

6th LIFE-CHANGING MEDICAL MISSION OF CUSAP

(Courtesy of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress published on November 24, 2024)

The Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program (CUSAP), a joint initiative of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, has finished its sixth surgical mission in Czeladź, Poland since February of 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine forcing surgical missions, previously held in Ukraine since 2014, to relocate to Poland.

This mission differed from the previous five in Poland – as the cranio-facial component of CUSAP transformed into a surgical educational initiative held in Ukraine, this mission in Poland focused solely on patients with traumas to upper and lower extremities. The team of 29 Canadian volunteers conducted 15 consultations, and in 5 OR days, operated on 11 patients with devastating injuries sustained in Russia's war on Ukraine.

The team completed over 30 complex orthopedic and extremity surgical procedures on patients who would otherwise not be able to receive care in Ukraine due to overwhelming demand. These surgeries focused on renewing



functionality and thus improving these patients' quality of life.

The heart and soul of these missions is the multidisciplinary team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensivists, nurses, an occupational therapist, and administrative staff. This is highly-specialized team of incredibly skilled professionals who continuously volunteer their time and expertise to treat those severely injured in Russia's war on Ukraine.

The volunteers' impact goes far beyond providing medical care; their hours of dedication and hard work had a profound effect on the lives of the patients and their families. They also

provided hope to all Ukrainians by showing that people from halfway across the world are willing to lend their time and expertise in a moment of immense need.

The Canada Ukraine Foundation extends their gratitude to donors and supporters. They are incredibly thankful for the many contributions. The generosity of many, has made this humanitarian assistance program possible and forever has impacted the community of Ukrainian veterans and civilians that are being served. There is more work to be done to help ease the tremendous burden on Ukraine's healthcare system.

You can help support the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program by making a donation on the Canada Ukraine Foundation website at: cufoundation.ca

Canada Ukraine Foundation also accepts donations to support the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Program. These donations can also be made on the Canada Ukraine Foundation website at: cufoundation.ca

Golf Tournament 2024

It was another successful golf tournament at Country Meadows Golf course on Sunday, September 15th where 13 teams participated in our 29th annual Ukrainian Society of Ivan Franko Golf Tournament.

Congratulations to the following teams:

1. Sean Daschko, Devon Daschko, John Gilmore and Kenton Boldt who won first place with a score of 5 under. *(Photo below.)*



2. Svyatoslav Lashkevych, Alex Yakovyshenko, Volodymyr Shynke and Nadiia Shynke who came second with a score of 1 under. *(Photo below.)*



3. Vera Adams, Glenn Adams, Vicky Brkich and Neil Wickson who came in third with a score of 1 under in a tiebreaker. *(Photo below.)*



Also congratulations to the following golfers:

- Nadiia Shynke for the Ladies Longest Drive
- Len Miller for the Men's Longest Drive
- Kerri Brkich for the Ladies Closest to the Pin
- Glen Miller for the Men's Closest to the Pin

There were many local businesses that donated prizes to our event, and we are grateful for their support and generosity. We were very fortunate to receive generous prizes from Mylora Executive Golf Course, Mayfair Lakes Golf Course, Country Meadows Golf Course, C&D Logistics and MNP Accounting. Tickets purchased for these prizes raised an

outstanding \$1020 and with additional donations, we were able to donate a total of \$1800 to the Canada Ukraine Foundation to support the purchase of hospital equipment for Ukraine.

A big thank you to Vera Adams and Tasha Zukewich who worked together organizing our tournament. Lots of effort was put into organizing the teams and the prizes.

Also thank you to Frances Zukewich for helping with door prizes and for organizing the delicious dinner and crew of hardworking volunteers. As usual, it was delicious! Thank you to our fabulous cook Inna Smashna for her hard work cooking all day in preparation for our dinner. And we must also extend a big thank you to our wonderful volunteers for their help in the kitchen, serving the food and cleaning up.

We also think of George Brandak who was not able to organize and be part of the tournament on September 15th. We are forever grateful for all the work George has done over the years to make this tournament such a success.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2025!

2024 Youth Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce that **Kiera Cherry** and **Karyna Kravchenko** are the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko Scholarship winners for 2024. Both are very worthy recipients. Kiera is studying Computer Science at BCIT and Karyna has enrolled in Business Management at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. We wish them all the very best as they begin their post-secondary education.

We offer a Post-Secondary and Cultural scholarships on a yearly basis. Applicants are required to complete the scholarship application, attach a transcript of grades, two letters of reference (one from the school, the other from a person within the Ukrainian community) and an essay to describe why they are deserving of the scholarship.

Scholarship applications are available in March of each year on our website www.ivanfranko.ca.



2024 Youth Scholarship Winners (from left to right): Kiera Cherry and Karyna Kravchenko



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!



Ivan Franko



Library

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.



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.

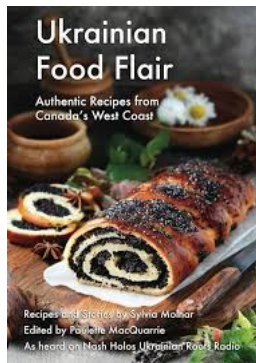
New Library hours are Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm.

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

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

New Acquisition to our Library:

Ukrainian Food Flair—*Authentic Recipes from Canada's West Coast.*



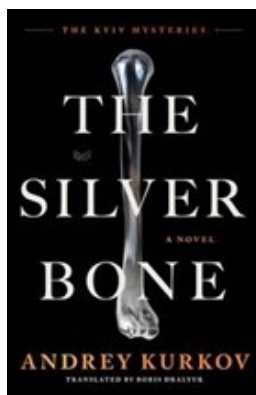
Ukrainian Food Flair is more than just a cookbook. It's a bridge between past and present, celebrating a culinary heritage that is both distinctly Ukrainian and uniquely west coast Canadian. The recipes and stories in this book were presented by Sylvia Molnar on Nash Holos Ukrainian Roots Radio and edited by Paulette MacQuarrie.

It has been a delight perusing the new and comfortably familiar recipes in this book. For this season's entertaining, I will definitely make the Smoked Fish Canapés (pg.19) with the smoked trout and home made dark rye bread that I bought at the Christmas Market hosted by our Ivan Franko Society. For our Svayta Vechera I will make a colourful Beet and Mushroom Salad (pg. 79). Yummy!

Book Club

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

The Silver Bone — *Andrey Kurkov*



Several Ivan Franko Book Club members attended Andrey Kurkov's presentation at the Vancouver Writer's Festival in October. Kurkov spoke about his latest novel *The Silver Bone* and about how the story takes inspiration from the real archives of crime enforcement agencies in Kyiv in 1919; why humour is so important to him in this work; and why he enjoys mastering so many genres, always with probing intellect, insight, and wit.

We have selected *The Silver Bone* to read and then discuss at our next meeting to be held in February, 2025. This novel promises to be "a gift for crime fiction fans" (New York Times Book Review). We will be introduced to rookie detective Samson Kolechko in Kyiv as he tackles his first case, set against real life details of the tumultuous early twentieth century. There will be the usual "Kurkov" twists and turns, quirky humour and intriguing characters.

The Silver Bone is now available at our Ivan Franko Library.



English Language Classes for New Immigrants

English Language classes are offered to the new immigrants on Saturdays from 10:30 a. to 12 noon. This is an opportunity to learn basic English and also to socialize with new friends.

Заняття з англійської мови тривають по суботах з 10:30 до 12:00 . Це можливість вивчити базову англійську мову, а також поспілкуватися з новими друзями.

NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS FEBRUARY 21, 2025 — NO FNS THIS DECEMBER.

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