



JULY

## NEWSLETTER

2025

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**Upcoming Events****Friday Night Suppers**

Our next Friday Night Suppers will be on Friday, Sept. 19th. There will be no Friday Night Supper in July and August. Takeout and dine in available for your enjoyment. Check our website for future dates and menu. Please bring your own carry bag for your takeout orders.

**Saturday Sales**

Sales continue through the summer on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Stock up your freezer with varenyky (perogies), holubusti (cabbage rolls), borscht and kobasa (great on the barbecue). Varenyky fillings include: potato cheddar, potato cottage cheese, sauerkraut and blueberry.

**A Garden of Ukrainian History**

Sunday, August 3rd from 12 noon to 8 pm at London Farms, 6511 Dyke Road, Richmond

**Golf Tournament**

Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for Sept 14th.

**Christmas Market**

The Ivan Franko Society is very excited to be hosting its 2nd Annual Christmas Market on Saturday November 15th from 10am to 4pm. To participate as a vendor for the market, please send an email to [tashazukewich1@gmail.com](mailto:tashazukewich1@gmail.com) for more information about applying to be a vendor. Tables are available for \$75.

**Celebrating Culture & Community**  
**At Ivan Franko**

The Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko continues to be dedicated to preserving and sharing our Ukrainian heritage and culture with our community. We take great pride in our 88 year history and grateful to our Ukrainian settlers in Richmond when they realized their dream in 1937 to build a Prosvita Hall which became a gathering place for many Ukrainian families, Ukrainian immigrants and the Richmond Community.

Over the last three years, we have seen the start of several new cultural programs at our Society. We are grateful to the members who are offering these wonderful cultural opportunities and a special thank you to Tasha Zukewich, our Cultural Director for her efforts to support and help facilitate these recent initiatives at our Society. We celebrate the growth of these programs and we are pleased to the highlight these fantastic cultural opportunities for children and adults.

DANCE

**Ukraina Dance Ensemble**

My name is Yevgeniya Razenkova and I am the founder of the Ukrainian dance ensemble "UKRAINA". The group started in January 2024 with the mission of preserving and promoting Ukrainian culture and its heritage. Initially formed as an adult dance group, the ensemble expanded in September 2024 to include a children's group which now trains at the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko. Yulya Rychkova is our choreographer and instructor.

We believe that collaboration strengthens our community and builds resilience. That was the motivation to partner with the Ivan Franko Society. By offering Ukrainian traditional dance classes at the Society, we aim to deepen children's connection to Ukraine – its music, dance traditions and cultural roots. Performances also play a vital role in inspiring young dancers and building their confidence.

Currently we run one children's group that trains on Friday evenings. After the summer break we are excited to expand and offer two age-specific classes: ages 6-9 years and ages 10-14 years.

The dance program is more than just classes – it's a place where children feel connected to their roots, express themselves creatively and develop a strong sense of identity and community. The smiles and excitement before performances, and the sense of belonging truly show the value of this initiative.

**We warmly invite you to register using the following link:**

<https://forms.gle/UdPSFSMVJTik1Z3B6> or contact us via email at [bbravecenter@gmail.com](mailto:bbravecenter@gmail.com)

**To stay updated and see our UKRAINA dancers in action, follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ukraine.dancers](https://www.facebook.com/ukraine.dancers)**



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.



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 at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca) to ask about the status of your membership with our Society.

Please complete and return the membership form that has been 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 2025 with an e-transfer. Thank you for your continued support.

# THEATRE

## Brainchild Studio

My name is Anna Shylova, creator of the Brainchild studio. I arrived in Canada in 2023. I am a theater director and a musician. In Ukraine I worked in the "REMS" theater. I was also engaged in music, staging various performances and organizing festivals and concerts.

The Brainchild Studio was created to support Ukrainian children in Richmond – to help them adapt to their new country of Canada, to find like-minded people and for children to develop creatively in their Ukrainian community. The Ivan Franko Society was the perfect place to welcome The Brainchild Studio.

At the Brainchild Studio we sing, dance and recite. We participate in play training games and prepare for performances. Our lessons consist of warming up the body and moving plastically. We listen and move to the rhythms of music for body coordination. We practice pronunciation, learn tongue twisters

and practice acting skills. The lessons are adapted accordingly to the children's ability levels. Recently the Brainchild studio performed "Thumbelina". The dialogue in the play was English and the songs were sung in Ukrainian.

We invite children between the ages of 4 – 16 years to participate. Classes are held twice a week on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 4-6:30pm.

- **Middle** (7 to 10 yrs) 4:00 - 5:00 pm
- **Senior** (11 to 14 yrs): 5:00 - 6:00 pm
- **Junior** (4 and 6 yrs): 6:00 - 6:30 pm

**For more information and to register please email [brainchildstudiomt@gmail.com](mailto:brainchildstudiomt@gmail.com)**

"I was inspired to create Brainchild Studio by my three children. I believe that children change our future for the better. In order for this to work, they need support and love".

## Ukrainian Nest



My name is Svitlana Maksymenko and I am the organizer of "Ukrainian Nest", a children's Ukrainian class held at the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko.

In March 2023 I attended a workshop at the Ivan Franko center. At that time there were no Ukrainian children's programs in

Richmond. It was then that I decided to propose teaching a Ukrainian class for children at the center.

The children who attend the class learn Ukrainian language, history, baking, cooking and traditions. The classes are very interactive and communicative. The children have the opportunity to celebrate traditions for

Easter and Christmas. Occasionally the children go to the cinema and watch Ukrainian films.

The goals of the Ukrainian children's class is to give children the opportunity to connect with their history, honor traditions and

ensure they don't forget them. It is also important for them to learn their first language, meet friends in the community and try not to feel so far from Ukraine.

The children's class started with only 6 participants and now the class has grown to 16. Currently the class offers activities for children between the ages of 5-10 years. I am hopeful to provide a program for children over the age of 10 in September 2025.

**To register for the 2025-2026 class please contact via email at**

**[iana19031501@gmail.com](mailto:iana19031501@gmail.com) or by phone at 778-288-2247.** We are always happy to welcome new friends. Let's create a "Ukrainian Nest" for children so far from home.

## Ukrainian Language Classes For Adults

My name is Alla Dudka and I am a Ukrainian language teacher. Before moving to Canada in 2022, I taught Ukrainian language at Kharkiv National Medical University and at Istanbul University in Türkiye. In September 2022, it was a pleasure to partner with the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko to offer conversational Ukrainian Language classes via zoom. We started with one class of 4 students and we have grown to 12 students enrolled in three classes ranging from a beginner's class with no Ukrainian language experience to an advanced intermediate class.

We are currently taking a summer break but we are looking forward to resuming our classes in September. If you are interested in learning Ukrainian or brushing up on your speaking and reading skills, consider enrolling for our next set of lessons in the

fall. Each lesson set is 10 weeks long. We offer the following options:

### **Beginners Level 1:**

Designed for students with no prior experience in Ukrainian or those who only know the alphabet and a few basic words. The weekly lessons will focus on foundational vocabulary and simple phrases. Classes take place on Monday evenings for 1 hour via Zoom.

### **Beginners Level 2:**

For students with some Ukrainian language experience. Participants in this level are familiar with basic vocabulary, can build simple dialogues and texts, and have been introduced to Ukrainian grammatical cases. This class is ideal for those who have completed at least 2-3 lesson sets and have a solid basic understanding of reading and

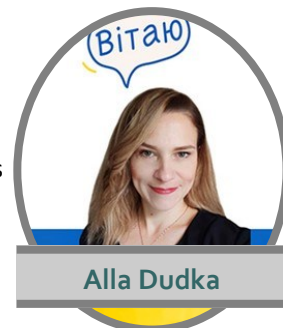
speaking. Classes are held on Monday evenings for 1 hour via Zoom.

### **Intermediate Level:**

This class is for students who have been studying Ukrainian for 2-3 years. Participants are comfortable holding basic conversations and continue to build confidence in grammar and conversational fluency. Emphasis is placed on mastering grammar structures and improving natural speaking skills.

Classes are 1 hour and 15 minutes long and held via Zoom. The exact evening (likely Tuesday or Thursday) will be confirmed soon.

**For more information, email us at [info@ivanfranko.ca](mailto:info@ivanfranko.ca)**



Alla Dudka



## Doors Open Richmond

Once again, our Society participated in Doors Open Richmond on June 7th organized by the Richmond Museum. This event is a celebration of cultural diversity and an opportunity for places of worship, cultural and civic centres, local businesses, museums and heritage sites to open their doors to the community.

Our exhibit for this year's Doors Open showcased the Royal B.C. Museum's "Canada Here We Are" exhibit. In addition, our guests were able to enjoy a tour of our hall with a special visit to our Library.

We also provided an opportunity to learn about the art of pysanka writing, participate in making a traditional Ukrainian craft and sample Ukrainian food.

This year we had the pleasure of hosting a VIP event on Friday, June 6th with dignitaries from all three levels of government. It was a wonderful opportunity



to showcase our Society and highlight the work we do to share our Ukrainian heritage with the community. We were honoured to receive a special gift from the federal government. MP Parm Bains presented us with the Canadian Charter of Rights written in Ukrainian. We are proudly displaying this in our Library.

## The Garden Of Ukrainian History - August 3rd



We invite you to a unique art festival, where you'll discover the life and legacy of the remarkable Franko family.

**"A Garden of Ukrainian History" takes place on Sunday, August 3rd | 12 – 8 pm London Farms, 6511 Dyke Road, Richmond. Admission is \$5. All proceeds to go to Ukraine.**

- Learn why Ivan Franko is often called the father of the Ukrainian nation.

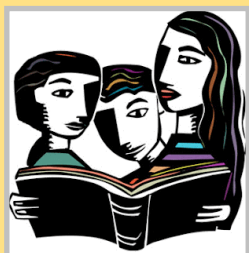
- Explore the story of Plast, the Ukrainian scouting organization founded by his son, Petro Franko.

- Taste authentic Ukrainian dishes recreated from the historic cookbooks of Olha Franko — the first woman to publish a cookbook in Ukrainian in Galicia.
- Visit a craft market featuring handmade goods by local artisans.
- Take part in family games, quests, and themed theatrical mini-performances by Театр Драма та Ляльок Salamandra
- Enjoy a beautiful evening music program under the open sky

This will be a day when history comes alive in the open air — through words, sounds, and flavors in a cozy garden atmosphere.

We warmly welcome everyone — families, friends, and curious minds.

## Ivan Franko

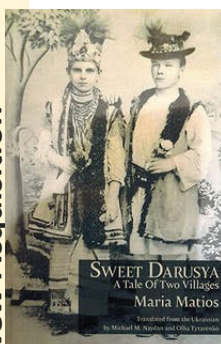


### Library

For information about the Library, Book Club or English Language classes contact Theresa at [books@ivanfranko.ca](mailto: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. **During July and August the library will be closed.**

### New Acquisition

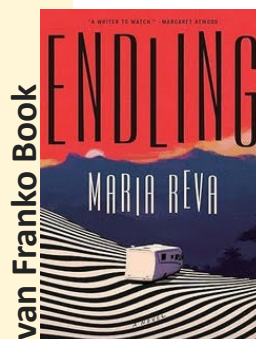


### Sweet Darusya by Maria Matios

*Sweet Darusya* is an emotional history of Ukraine with a very well researched and vivid historical background that gives the reader the opportunity to understand not only the characters and their drama, but the entire drama of the country/ countries in which they lived without leaving their village.

### Activities

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. **Classes will not be held in July and August.**



### Ivan Franko Book

Book Club members meet 4 times a year to discuss excellent books and view films on Ukrainian films and topics. New members are welcome.

The book club selection for our October meeting is **Endling by Maria Reva**.

*Endling* is a novel about a biologist in Ukraine battling to save the country's snail species from the brink of extinction on the eve of the Russian invasion. It is a darkly comic novel exploring survival, love, and the impact of war.

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. **У липні та серпні занять не буде.**



## 2025 Youth Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce that **Louise Keeling, Sofia Konyk, Alexander Warrington, Emelia Lupynis** and **Svyatoslav Chornenkyi** are the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko Scholarship winners for 2025. Louise, Sofia, Alexander, Emelia and Svyatoslav are very worthy recipients with excellent academic records and service to their school and community. We congratulate our scholarship winners on their high school graduation and we wish them the very best as they begin their post-secondary studies this fall.

Our Society offers Post-Secondary and Cultural scholarships yearly. 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 at: [www.ivanfranko.ca](http://www.ivanfranko.ca)



2025 Scholarship Winners (from left to right): Louise Keeling, Sofia Konyk, Alexander Warrington, Emelia Lupynis. (Absent: Svyatoslav Chornenkyi )

## Thanking Our Volunteers and Employees



Our Volunteers and Employees are much appreciated for all they do. We couldn't do it without all their help in our kitchen, hall, library and outdoors. We also recognize the work of our Board of Directors who work very hard to keep the Society running and connected to the Ukrainian community. A **big thank you** to all our volunteers and employees!

## Golf Tournament 2025

For over 25 years our Ukrainian Society of Ivan Franko has been hosting an annual Ukrainian Community Golf Tournament for members and friends. The tournament is for all golfers of all ages and ability. The emphasis is on everyone having a good time. The tournament is a Texas Scramble format, enabling all players of varying skills to play and enjoy the game. After the tournament, we will meet at the Ivan Franko Ukrainian Hall for a Ukrainian dinner and where prizes will be distributed. **We greatly appreciate donated door prizes so that we can continue to offer prizes to all players.**

**Date of tournament:** Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> – first tee off time beginning at 11:00 am

**Where:** Country Meadows Golf Course, 8400 #6 Road, Richmond

**Cost:** \$90 per person (a round of golf, a sandwich, dinner and door prize)

**For more information and to register for the tournament:** Contact Tasha Zukewich at: [tashazukewich1@gmail.com](mailto:tashazukewich1@gmail.com). **Payment must be received by August 31st.** We accept cash, debit/credit or cheque made payable to the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko (UCSIF). Please send your cheque for your foursome to our center located at 5311 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C., V7C 1K2 or bring payment to our Saturday Sales between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

**Cancellation policy:** After August 31st, the golf and sandwich portion of the \$90 is committed and we can only refund \$35. After September 7th, there are no refunds.



Wishing all our Members and Volunteers  
a healthy and safe summer!

NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 — NO FNS JULY & AUGUST.

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