



JULY

NEWSLETTER

2026

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Upcoming Events

Friday Night Suppers

Our next Friday Night Supper will be on Friday, September 18th. There will be no Friday Night Supper in July and August. Takeout and dine in available for your enjoyment. Enjoy a traditional Ukrainian dinner featuring varenyky (perogies), holubsti (cabbage rolls), kobasa, chef special and borscht. Check our website for future dates of our Friday dinners.

Saturday Sales

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

Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for September 20th.

Christmas Market

The Ivan Franko Society is very excited to be hosting its 3rd Annual Christmas Market on Saturday November 28th from 10am to 4pm.

To participate as a vendor for the market, please send an email to tashazukewich1@gmail.com for more information about applying to participate as a vendor. Tables are available for \$75.

Children's Christmas Party

We once again look forward to hosting a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Party for children on Dec. 20th. More information will be provided in the fall.

Honorary Life Membership Awards

In recognition of their long-standing dedication and exceptional contributions, the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko was pleased to award Roman Herchak and Theresa Herchak Honorary Life Memberships. They have been exemplary in their commitment to the Ivan Franko Society over many decades of volunteer service.

Roman Herchak has been a valued member of our Society for close to 50 years. He has generously dedicated many years of service as an active member and volunteer. His passion and commitment have been outstanding. Roman has a strong commitment to our Ukrainian heritage and culture and continues to take an active interest in our Society events.

Roman was a member of our Board of Directors for many years and President for over 10 years. He took on a leadership role with two very significant projects. In the early to mid-1980s, he initiated the replacement of the old Prosvita hall that was built in 1937. He committed and followed through with the completion of this massive project as a member of the Hall Replacement Building Committee. The new hall was completed in 1987.

Roman also had the vision to build the Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko Senior's complex which became a reality in 1985 under his expertise and leadership.

Two long time members have shared their memories of working with Roman on the Replacement Hall Building Committee and the Ukrainian Village of Ivan Franko Senior's Complex committee. Due to his extensive contributions, his leadership and dedication, they strongly endorsed Roman Herchak for our Honorary Life Membership Award.

Roman Herchak is a worthy recipient of becoming an Honorary Life Member of the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko for his tremendous contributions to our Society and the Ukrainian community.



Roman Herchak (left) and Theresa Herchak (right) receiving their award on June 14, 2026.

Theresa Herchak has been the volunteer Librarian with the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko (UCSIF) for well over 20 years. Over the years, she has expanded her role into many facets. In addition to managing the lending library, she formed the Ivan Franko Book Club which meets four times/year to share the beauty and power of our Ukrainian classic and contemporary reading collection. She also organizes Ukrainian movies on a regular basis and submits Library and Book Club reports and articles on cultural themes for our newsletter and website.

Theresa was active in setting up and managing the cash free Boutique which provided clothing, footwear, toys, appliances, and furniture for new Ukrainian immigrants. This boutique was tucked in the corner of the library for over 2 years, offering help to Ukrainian immigrants displaced by the war, many arriving with little more than a suitcase. She also assists new immigrants with information to help with housing, letters of reference for employment, Permanent Residence applications, and supports the Saturday morning English language classes which are held in the library for new immigrants.

The library is often used by the UCSIF to host meetings with visiting dignitaries and community leaders. Theresa always welcomes cultural activities such as Pysanka Workshop and Master Classes for creating Motanka dolls, Didukhs, Pavuks, and Jute Goats for Malanka. She is always willing to share her expertise with the UCSIF Board of Directors upon request, particularly in support of Ukrainian immigrants to help facilitate their adjustment to Canadian life.

Theresa is currently in the process of gathering, organizing, photographing, and establishing replacement values of our cultural artifacts which include beautiful embroideries, ceramics, woodwork, and pysanky which are displayed throughout the library nestled among the books. She has been instrumental in generating the Library Cataloguing Project which is well on its way to completion. This project involves

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cataloguing over 4000 books and periodicals into one system. We can be proud of the excellent books and rare archival resources we have in our library and this new system will greatly improve access for our society members.

culture, she has always been, and continues to be, a gracious and welcoming host and a passionate caretaker of the books, periodicals, and beautiful artifacts which have been donated to our Society over the decades. Because of her tremendous efforts, our library is a treasure, and she is deserving of an Honorary Life Membership Award from the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko.

We are pleased to announce that **Elaine Lewis, Andriy Hryniw, Ulyana Okhotna, Matvii Ivanov, Solomiya Nyshpor, Maksyn Poda, and Stefania Barabakh** are the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko Scholarship winners for 2026. Elaine, Andriy, Ulyana, Matvii, Solomiya, Maksyn and Stefania are very worthy recipients with excellent academic records and service to their school and community. We congratulate our scholarship winners and we wish them the very best with 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.

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. Thank you to all our volunteers and employees.



For information about the Library, Book Club or English Language classes 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.

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.

Since its founding in 1937, the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko (UCSIF) has promoted education and cultural preservation through its community library. What began as a small collection has grown to more than 4,000 titles covering history, culture, arts, politics, and fiction. Since the opening of the new hall in 1986, the Ivan Franko Library has operated from a dedicated mezzanine space in the Society's Cultural Centre.

In response to growing community interest—particularly following recent Ukrainian immigration—the Society launched a major modernization project to fully catalogue its collection, create an online searchable database through Librarika, and implement a barcode-based lending system.

Supported by grants from the BC Ukrainian Studies Foundation and the Shevchenko Foundation the project has already achieved a significant milestone: more than 1,500 titles have been catalogued and made searchable online. On May 17, 2026, the first book was successfully located and checked out using the new system.

The project is expected to be completed by July 31, 2026. The new library system was introduced to members at the Society's AGM in June, with a public launch planned for September.

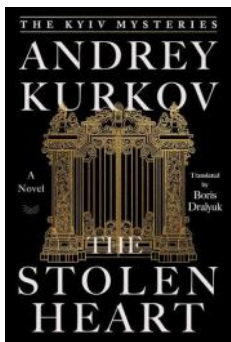
UCSIF gratefully acknowledges the support of the BC Ukrainian Studies Foundation and the Shevchenko Foundation whose funding helped make this important initiative possible.

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Book Club

Ivan Franko 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 selected for our September 2026 meeting is **Andrey Kurkov's Stolen Heart**. It promises to be an exciting ride into Kiev's 1920s historical and political setting, quirky subplots and lives of eccentric characters that we have enjoyed in Kurkov's books.

Learning English

Adult English Language Classes

Offered to the new immigrants on Saturdays from 10:30 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.

Learning Ukrainian

Adult Ukrainian Language Classes

This past year, we once again offered three levels of Adult Ukrainian Language classes—basic beginners, mid beginners and advanced beginners. The focus of all levels is on conversation. All classes are offered online in the evenings via Zoom.

We are so grateful to Alla Dudka for her continued dedication to offering the classes. Those enrolled in the classes have all benefited from her expertise and encouragement. Students report that they have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to grow their Ukrainian language skills in both reading and conversation.

We will have more information by the end of August regarding our fall classes.



Musical Theatre Program: Brainchild Studio

The Brainchild Studio was created to support Ukrainian children in Richmond – to help them adapt to their new country of

Canada, and for children to develop creatively in their Ukrainian community. The Ivan Franko Society was the perfect place to welcome Anna Shylova and The Brainchild Studio.

At the Brainchild Studio, the children sing, dance and recite. They participate in play training games and prepare for performances. The lessons consist of warming up the body and moving plastically. Children listen and move to the rhythms of music for body coordination. They practice pronunciation, learn tongue twisters and practice acting skills. The lessons are adapted accordingly to the children's ability levels. Last year, the Brainchild studio performed "Thumbelina". The dialogue in the play was performed in English and the songs were sung in Ukrainian. They also performed at a our April 2026 and June 2026 Friday Night Suppers to showcase their musical talents. Thank you to Anna Shylova and the children for their wonderful talents and performances.



The amazing Brainchild performers and set design at "Thumbelina"

We invite children between the ages of 4-16 years to participate. Classes are held on Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:30pm.

- Middle (ages 7-10): 4:00-5:00 pm
- Senior (ages 11-15): 5:00-6:00 pm
- Junior (ages 4-6): 6:00-6:30 pm
- **AND** Sundays at 1:00 pm: All age groups practice together.



For more information and to register, please email brainchildstudiomt@gmail.com.

Golf Tournament 2026

Our 31st Annual Society Golf Tournament takes place on Sunday September 20th at Country Meadows Golf Course. All golfers of all ages and ability are welcome. 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 prizes. We greatly appreciate donated door prizes so that we can continue to offer prizes to all players.



When: Sunday, September 20th. 1st tee off time begins at 11:00 am.

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

Don't miss out - register now!

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

Payment must be received by August 31st.

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 for cancellations.



For more information and to register for the tournament, contact Tasha Zukewich at tashazukewich1@gmail.com.

Ivan Franko Christmas Market / Різдвяний Ярмарок Івана Франка



Mark your calendar for our upcoming Christmas Market which will take place on Saturday, November 28th from 10am to 4pm at our Ukrainian Hall.

It will feature delicious home baking, savoury meats, Christmas decorations, jewelry, Ukrainian crafts and much, much more!

Coffee and refreshments will be available. Parking and admission is free!



Table Availability: Tables are available to book—the cost is \$75. **for more information and to book a table, please contact Tasha Zukewich at tashazukewich1@gmail.com**

A Year-In-Review | Підсумки Року

Our Year-in-Review captures the vibrant range of cultural programs, community gatherings, and fundraising efforts that shaped our past year. From festivals, exhibits, and master classes to language programs, children’s events, and major community celebrations, our Society continued to bring people together through Ukrainian heritage, learning, and shared traditions. These highlights showcase

the dedication of our volunteers, the creativity of our members, and the many ways our community continues to grow and thrive, and change our future for the better.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these programs over the past year. We look forward to see you at our upcoming activities!

Doors Open Richmond | Saturday June 7th, 2025



Above: MP Parm Bains (2nd from left) our Board members.
Below: Our volunteers dressed to display and inform.



The 18th annual Doors Open Richmond was presented by the Richmond Museum and supported by the City of Richmond, the BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia. Over 50 different sites in Richmond participated over two days when the residents of Richmond had a great opportunity to learn more about our city's public and private organizations and their services.

On Friday, June 6th, 2025, our Society was chosen to host a VIP event which included dignitaries from all levels of government. MP Parm Bains presented us with a framed Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom written in Ukrainian. We proudly display this in our Library.

On Saturday, June 7th, 2025, we opened our doors to the community and our members. This special event featured the Canada, Here We Come Exhibit from the Royal BC Museum. The beautiful exhibit honours the contributions of Ukrainian Canadians to Canada. The exhibit is a celebration of more than 1.3 million Canadians who can trace their ancestry to Ukraine.

In addition, our guests had the opportunity to participate in a craft, learn about the art of pysanky writing and visit our Library. Doors Open Richmond was a wonderful opportunity to welcome the greater community to our Society.

Project Liubov-Love Fundraiser | Friday, June 20th, 2025

Our Society continues to focus on initiatives that support Ukraine during this very difficult time as the war is in its fifth year. Funds raised, are donated to the Canada Ukraine Foundation in support Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal, the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program initiatives and Project Liubov-Love. **This past year, we were able to raise over \$16,000 in support of Ukraine.**

We are very proud of our June 20, 2025 Friday Night Supper which was designated as a fundraiser to support Canada Ukraine Foundation's Project Liubov-Love initiative, a Canadian humanitarian project, based out of Winnipeg. Funds raised by this project, assists impoverished children and youth in Ukraine, especially those in orphanages, street homes, hospitals and medical centres, schools and refugee

centres. PLL provides clothing and footwear medical supplies, school and hobby supplies and sports equipment. Presently in its 23rd year, PLL is partnering with twenty-four NGOs and institutions in Ukraine.

At our Friday Night Supper / Fundraiser on June 20th, we were able to raise \$5000. A big thank you to Fran Zukewich for organizing this special Fundraiser with our monthly dinner. Much appreciation to the kitchen staff and volunteers for their hard work to prepare another delicious Ukrainian dinner for all the enjoy.

Please visit the Canada Ukraine Foundation website at cufoundation.ca for more information about their many fundraising projects to support Ukraine.



The Garden Of History @ Ivan Franko Festival | August 3rd, 2025



Many of our Ivan Franko artifacts and information on display.

On August 3rd, our Society participated at the first ever festival honouring the Ivan Franko family. This unique and wonderful celebration organized by the Ukrainian Cultural Society, took place at the historic London Farm in Richmond. The event was an amazing display of history, art and music and enjoyed by many throughout the day.

It was an opportunity to learn more about the Ivan Franko family, family traditions, and dive into an era when Ivan Franko lived. On August 3rd, the memory of Ivan Franko came alive.

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Summer 2025

The Garden of History ...continued from page 2



The celebration of the Ivan Franko family was a very special significance for our Society. Our story began almost 90 years ago, with the first Ukrainian immigrants who had settled in

Richmond in the 1920's arriving from the prairies. The early settlers had a dream to build a hall that would serve as a gathering place for Ukrainian families and the greater community where they could maintain their beloved Ukrainian heritage. In 1937, the settlers completed the building of the first hall "Prosvita" and shortly after our Society was incorporated as the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko in honour of Ivan Franko who was a renowned writer, scholar and patriot in Ukraine. Here we are 88 years later as we continue to be dedicated to preserving and sharing our Ukrainian heritage and culture with the community.

Our Society had the honour of being part of this amazing event where we displayed the story of our Society, our beginnings, our history and the wonderful cultural opportunities we currently offer.

Much appreciation to the Ukrainian Cultural Society for organizing this unique event. A special recognition of Iryna Mitnovych and Oksana Kendzerska for their vision and leadership.



Top: Ivan Franko bust, books and info on display.
Bottom: Receiving participation certificates for this inaugural festival.

Fall 2025

30th Annual Society Golf Tournament | September 14th, 2025

On Sunday September 14th, we hosted our 30th annual golf tournament. We started the day at Country Meadows Golf Course where we welcomed 64 golfers on a very rainy Sunday. Yes, we all got very wet but did enjoy the competition and playing golf with family and friends. After golfing, we headed to our Society hall to enjoy a delicious Ukrainian meal prepared by our kitchen staff and volunteers.

A big thank you to our Volunteer Director, Fran Zukewich. Also, thank you to our Cook, Inna Smachna and our Volunteers for preparing a delicious Ukrainian dinner for our golfers and guests. Much appreciation to Tanya Zukewich for running our bar for the evening.

Thank you to Tasha Zukewich for her fantastic leadership and to our committee members, Fran Zukewich and Vera Adams for their contributions. Also, we are grateful for the support of George Daschko and Sean Dashcko of Enviro Tech Air. Everyone worked very hard to organize the tournament and to secure a door prize for every golfer.

We also raffled our larger prizes, and we are very pleased to announce that we successfully raised \$1000 to support the Canada Ukraine Foundation's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal Project. A big thank you to our many donors who supported us with great prizes for our participants and for our fundraising raffle.



We are pleased to congratulate the following winners of our golf tournament:



1st Place (score = minus 9)
Shawn McGrouarty, Jeremy Douglas, Paul Johnson & Ian Read



Ladies' KP (closest to pin)
Vicky Brkich



Ladies' Longest Drive (tied)
Naida Shynke Mitzi & Mamakawa



2nd Place (score = minus 8)
Bill Humenny, Denise Mukai, Rob Mukai & Mitsi Hamakawa



Men's KP (closest to pin)
Jon Gilmore



Men's Longest Drive
Jon Gilmore



Mark your calendars! The 31st Annual Society Golf Tournament takes place on Sunday, September 20th, 2026 at Richmond Country Golf Club. More details on page 3 and on our website at www.ivanfranko.ca

Winter 2025

Christmas Market / Різдвяний Ярмарок | November 15th, 2025

We are very pleased to share that we hosted a very successful Christmas Market on Saturday, November 15th!

Thank you to our 22 vendors for supporting our market and showcasing their beautiful arts and crafts, ceramics, jewellery, clothing, wooden art creations, speciality food items and much more.

Also thank you to our dancers and singers for so beautifully entertaining us throughout the afternoon. Much appreciation to the Motanka Voice Choir from Victoria, the Malvy Choir and to the Ukraina Dance Ensemble.

*Photo: Participants enjoying our Ivan Franko Christmas Market / Різдвяний Ярмарок Івана Франка.
Story: Continued on page 4...*



Christmas Market / Різдвяний Ярмарок ...continued from page 5

We would like to extend a big thank you to Tasha Zukewich and Fran Zukewich for their hard work and their leadership in organizing our Christmas Market. In addition, thank you to Shelagh Nakoneshny and Lois Robertson for their help to bring this event together. There are many more that generously donated their time.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers and many of them also contributed in so many ways. We thank them for all that they did to support our Christmas Market which included advertising, baking, making jams, crafting, packaging, selling products at our Society table, setup and cleanup and so much more!

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Christmas Market on Saturday November 28th from 10am to 4pm at our Ukrainian Hall.

It will feature delicious home baking, savoury meats, Christmas decorations, jewelry, Ukrainian crafts and much much more! Coffee and refreshments will be available. Parking and admission is free!

Tables are available to book—cost is \$75. Please contact Tasha Zukewich at tashazukewich1@gmail.com for more information and to book a table.

3rd Annual Children's Christmas Party / Третя Щорічна Дитяча Різдвяна Вечірка | December 21, 2025

On December 21, 2025, the Ukrainian Society of Ivan Franko hosted its Third Annual Children's Christmas Party, which has already become a wonderful tradition for our community.

The hall was filled with laughter and excitement as children and their families enjoyed Christmas crafts, games, music, dancing, a traditional Ukrainian Vertep performance, and festive treats. This year, the event welcomed 90 children and their families.

The party was made possible thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, performers, community partners, and everyone who helped organize this special day. Their time, creativity, and enthusiasm created unforgettable memories for our young guests. Special thank you to Svitlana Maksymenko for her leadership in organizing this annual event. Also, thank



Singing filled our hall and brought joy to guests at our well-attended and popular annual event!

you to Tasha Zukewich and Vera Adams for all they did to assist and prepare food for all to enjoy.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and bringing families together to celebrate the joy of Ukrainian Christmas for many years to come. **We hope you can join us on December 20th, 2026 for our next Children's Christmas Party!**

Malanka 2026 / Маланка 2026 | January 10, 2026

Shortly after Christmas, 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.

This event typically occurs a week after Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar on a Friday or Saturday closest to January 13th or 14th. **At our Ivan Franko Society, Malanka 2026 was celebrated on January 10th, which included many of the**

traditions of the Canadian New Year’s Eve celebrations as well.

The event began with a delicious dinner including many Ukrainian dishes, entertainment by singers, musicians and dancers. Our evening continued with a zabava featuring the Mike Sanyshyn Band playing a wide variety music including a коломийка / “kolomeyka”. At midnight, the New Year was brought in with singing, toasting with champagne and wishes of good health and prosperity.

Thank you to the many people that contributed to this wonderful evening of celebration:

- * Our Malanka Committee worked very hard to organize this annual event. It takes a team of volunteers to pull it all together and make it happen.
- * Our Kitchen Staff for preparing an amazing meal for our enjoyment.
- * Our Musical Theatre / Brainchild Studio performers under the direction of Anna Shylova. The children entertained us with their beautiful



The Mriya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

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Winter 2025

Spring 2026

Malanka / Маланка 2026 ...continued from page 6

voices, singing three traditional Ukrainian songs for our enjoyment.

- * Mriya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble under the direction of Marta Kasha for entertaining us with a variety of dances from different regions of Ukraine plus a Kolomeyka.



Our Musical Theatre / Brainchild Studio performers at Malanka, under the direction of Anna Shylova.

- * The Mike Sanyshyn Band for their musical talents. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed dancing the night away to a wide variety of music.

We are grateful to our guests for donating \$2765 to support the current Canada Ukraine Foundation's Humanitarian Appeal initiative. Money raised provided financial assistance to the Winter Medical Crisis in Ukraine. Russian missile strikes destroyed three major pharmaceutical warehouses in Kharkiv and Dnipro, wiping out critical medical supplies leaving 257 hospitals without essential medications. The Canada Ukraine Foundation ran a campaign to raise funds that brought much needed medications to Ukrainian hospitals as they struggled through difficult times.



We look forward to hosting Malanka on Saturday, January 16, 2027. Please mark your calendars and check our website for more information coming this fall. We hope you can join us!

Pysanka Festival - Фестиваль Писинка | April 19, 2026

The Pysanka Festival on Sunday, April 19th celebrated the rich tradition of Ukrainian Easter egg writing—a beautiful cultural practice that has flourished and evolved into a stunning form of art.

The event brought the community together to showcase an exquisite exhibition of authentic pysanky alongside vibrant cultural performances and interactive workshops. Attendees enjoyed a diverse lineup of participants, including high-energy performances by the Mriya and Ukraina dance groups, soulful music from the bandura ensemble, and showcases by artists Svitlana Prysyazhna, Mariana Muha, Victoria Karalash and Christina Karalash, and Malvy Choir

Guests immersed themselves in Ukrainian culture through hands-on activities, including:

- Pysanka writing demonstrations with master artisan Lin Guenther
- Traditional headscarf (khustka) wrapping with Olga Lui
- Festive baking sessions with Yulila Ovchynnikova
- With a dedicated photo zone to capture memories, beautiful imagery by VanPress photography, and delicious refreshments.

The festival was a joyful, immersive celebration of heritage and community spirit.



Top: Our beautifully dressed volunteers and guests! Middle: Guests enjoyed learning the art of pysanka writing. Bottom (from left): Some of the many pysanky and traditional breads on display; Traditional headscarf (khustka) wrapping; Photo zone.

Vyshyvanka Exhibit - День Вишиванки | May 15, 2026



Top: Some of the beautiful Vyshyvanka worn at this event.
Right: An outstanding display of Vyshyvanka along with detailed descriptions about each item.



On May 15, our weekly Friday Night Supper became a special celebration of Vyshyvanka Day, which marked its 20th anniversary.

The highlight of the evening was an exhibition of traditional Ukrainian clothing from the private vintage collection of Olha Lui (Oleanda Arts). Guests had the chance to learn about the history of Ukrainian traditional clothing, different regional styles, and the traditions of making and wearing these beautiful garments. The exhibition showed the beauty and diversity of Ukrainian culture and gave everyone a chance to discover more about our heritage.

Holding the exhibition together with our Friday Night Supper created a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Ukrainian culture, share our traditions, and

enjoy a warm evening with the community.

A sincere thank you to everyone who joined us, to our volunteers, and to Olha Lui (Oleanda Arts) for making this special event possible.

Crafting Community: Franko Society Master Classes!

Our series of four cultural master classes / Майстер-класи - brought Franko Society members together for a fantastic time of learning, laughter, and socialization. Together, we explored our heritage and crafted beautiful, traditional pieces to take home enjoying the following workshops:

- Jute Goat & Jute Horse: Mastering the rustic art of shaping natural jute into symbolic figures of prosperity and strength.
- Embroidered Christmas Ornaments: A cozy, needle-and-thread workshop filled with shared holiday stories and stunning handmade decorations.
- The Didukh: Honouring ancestral roots by carefully binding the traditional wheat sheaf, a beautiful symbol of family and harvest.

Beyond the skills learned, these workshops were a wonderful reminder of the joy of just getting



Our happy crafting community showing their creations!

together. Thank you to everyone who joined in, shared a laugh, and kept these beautiful traditions alive.



A reminder that membership dues for 2026 are now due if your membership has lapsed. Please email us at info@ivanfranko to ask about the status of your membership with our Society.

Please complete and return the membership form (emailed to you with this newsletter) and include your membership dues as outlined in the application form OR email our office manager at info@ivanfranko.ca to update and renew your 2026 membership with an e-transfer. Thank you for your continued support.

Слава Україні!
Glory to Ukraine!

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

NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
NO FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPERS IN JULY & AUGUST.