

St. John's Institute
ІНСТИТУТ СВ. ІВАНА



Winter/Spring 2014

update

St. John's Institute fosters well-being in our community through programs, services and outreach in the spirit of Ukrainian Orthodoxy.

"You Can Close Down Whyte Avenue????"

Second only to the spectacular three-day display of Alberta's musical, vocal, culinary, and visual arts talent during SJI's turn as Edmonton's only Feature Celebration Site for Alberta Culture Days in September, the closure of Edmonton's Whyte Avenue between 110th and 111th street seemed to be the single most impressive feature of our provincially-sponsored mini-festival of arts and culture!

Aptly named *Our Roots are Showing*, the event began with a Friday evening VIP reception for performers, sponsors, and supporters, and was opened by Alberta Culture Minister Heather

Klimchuk, who touted SJI's standing as a true champion of arts and culture in Alberta. SJI was pleased to welcome Paul Strathdee, President of St. Vladimir Institute (Toronto), who travelled to Edmonton to bring greetings on behalf of both St. Vladimir and St. Petro Mohyla (Saskatoon) Institutes.

The evening's outdoor stage show, co-presented by the iHuman Youth Society, featured live vocal performances, live creation of visual art (painting), and a fashion show featuring wearable art by iHuman youth, under the

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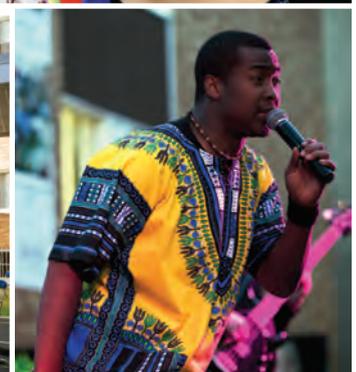
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CULTURE DAYS cont'd from page 1

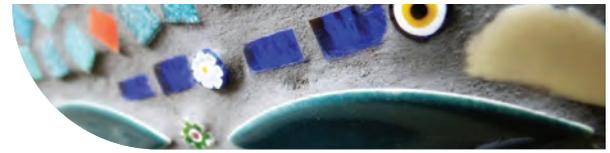
direction of local Ukrainian-Canadian fashion designer, Natasha Lazarovic. Our thanks go out to iHuman's Executive Director, Catherine Broomfield, and Music Director, Enoch Attey, for assembling the talented line-up of artists for the show. During the evening, performers and spectators alike were treated to a free BBQ made possible through the generosity of Brent Komarnicki of Capital Packers, and Vitamin Water, a sponsor of the event through Cristian and Jency Munoz of Edmonton Culture.

Saturday afternoon saw two dueling stages - one on the front lawns of St. John's Institute, the other on the westbound lanes of Whyte Avenue - feature non-stop, live entertainment, from outstanding Alberta roots and blues talent to Bollywood dancing; from the finest in Ukrainian choral music to the pulsing rhythms of Cuban salsa. Co-hosts Peter North of CKUA and Roman Brytan of 101.7 World FM welcomed group after group for the 10-hour show. The crowd was left begging for more of the Booming

Tree Taiko Drummers' explosive adrenaline; the Hong de Lion Chinese dancers regaled everyone with their attempts to teach audience members the tricks of Chinese lion dancing; African songster, Garth Prince, sang such a pure version of The Lion Sleeps Tonight that it brought tears to many eyes, and the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers literally got the crowd on their feet, taking spectators to dance on the street in traditional Ukrainian style! Revelers stayed late into the night, dancing to the music of Edmonton's Trembita and keeping the beer garden's bartenders busy.

On the third and final day of Alberta Culture Days, Edmontonians turned out to witness the city's first-ever Public Pyrohy Pinching Party. Taking their cues from the 17 Edmonton and area personalities who dared to show the public how they could "handle their dough," fans had the opportunity to learn how to pinch the perfect pyrih (perogy). Our appreciation to all of our "novice" instructors for their good-humoured efforts, including the media, sports figures, politicians, and renowned theatre artists who





tried their hand at rolling, cutting, filling, and pinching the tender Ukrainian culinary delicacy.

SJI's kitchen team was kept busy preparing new batches of pyrohy dough for the 17 tables of celebrities and their "pupils," while students from K-6 of St. Martin Ukrainian Bilingual School served as "dough runners," continuously restocking each celebrity's table with freshly rolled and cut circles of the soft dough. After stuffing and pinching as many pyrohy as their fingers would allow, guests brought their creations to the kitchen to be boiled and served back to them, smothered with sour cream, topped with golden fried onions, and sprinkled with real bacon bits...all for free!

Our gratitude goes out to Minister Heather Klimchuk and Alberta Culture for selecting SJI as Edmonton's Feature Celebration site for Alberta

Culture Days; to our residents and volunteers for their work on set-up, strike, food service, and clean-up; our media partners, CKUA and 101.7 World FM; to our Masters of Ceremony, Peter North and Roman Brytan; to our "dough runners" and their parents from St. Martin Ukrainian Bilingual School; to our facility staff, including our incredible kitchen team; to Vitamin Water, Cristian Munoz, and Edmonton Culture; to Bolu's Catering; to Special Event Rentals; to Titanium Defence; to Listen Louder Productions; to iHuman Youth Society; to Larisa Cheladyn for her beautiful artwork display; to Kristy-Lynn Polowich, Aidan Ware, and Ciaran Boyle for their photography contributions; and to all of the performers, concert participants, and guests throughout this amazing weekend. We couldn't have pulled it off without you.



And the Beat Goes on...

On the last weekend of May 2013, the Canadian Society for Traditional Music (CSTM) housed several of its national convention's participants, its keynote speaker, Gage Averill, Dean of Arts, University of British Columbia, and its concluding banquet and concert at SJI. Our Executive Director, Suzanna Brytan, was invited to participate as a panelist in the CSTM's discussion on music, migration, and mobility before an audience of academics, folk music experts, and musicians. Speaking about the need to open lines of communication with different generations of ethno-cultural communities through their artists, Suzanna used the Institute's collaborative event, "Party with the Village People," a co-presentation with the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, as an example.

The concluding concert featured a presentation of sufi music, derived from a devotional musical style, but updated with new musical influences. Karim Gallini, a Pakistani singer, and Sufi Soul, a group of highly-skilled musicians from India, Iran, Pakistan and Canada, entertained both conference delegates and SJI residents alike, to the great enjoyment of both. Our thanks to Jon Kertzer, Director of folkways Alive! at the University of Alberta, and ethno-musicologist, Dr. Marcia Ostashewski, for bringing this wealth of musical treasure to SJI.

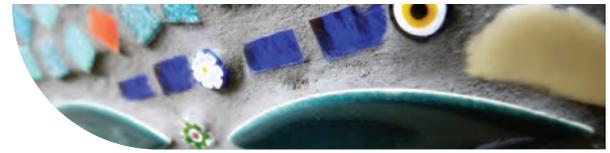
Cubans, Ukrainians & Music, Oh My!

As the gathering point for the band between performances, St. John's Institute also provided the artists and their management daily homemade meals and a place to relax between shows.

As a special conclusion to the 10-day run of Fringe shows, theatre-goers and SJI residents were treated to an after-party and complimentary concert featuring Brisas del Palmar, a seven-piece Cuban folk ensemble. Stopping in Edmonton on their cross-country tour before returning in September as one of SJI's headlining musical guests of "Our Roots are Showing," this finely-tuned group of professional Cuban musicians set the Living Gallery in motion, giving a hint of things to come for the upcoming Culture Days extravaganza.

As the gathering point for the band between performances, St. John's Institute also provided the artists and their management daily homemade meals and a place to relax between shows. Similarly, SJI's kitchen served up daily sustenance to the 16 members of Havana d' Primera, an internationally renowned Cuban band brought to Edmonton by Cristian and Jency Munoz of Edmonton Culture for the Edmonton Folk Festival. Residents and locals appreciated the chance to see and hear world-class performers up close and personal, in the heart of Whyte Avenue's arts district.





...While the Iron is Hot!

Even he had to admit his surprise at how well *Strike!* was received by Edmonton audiences. Playing at the Timms Centre for the Arts, Danny Schur's award-winning social justice drama about the Winnipeg general strike of 1929 was unexpectedly strong. Smooth, well-rehearsed, and solidly played, the show was a credit to the writing and musical talent behind it, and audiences learned a thing or two about an important time in Canadian history.

Dubbed the "Fiddler on the Roof of the Glee Generation," *Strike!* has garnered glowing reviews since its premiere in 2005. "*Mining the historic divide between Ukraine's Jewish and Catholic emigres, 'Strike!' incorporates the real-life story of New York Jewish leader, Moishe Almazoff, and Ukrainian immigrant everyman, Mike Sokolowski. A warts-and-all portrayal of post-WW1 society rife with anti-Semitism and*

Bolshevik angst, the musical's over-arching theme is overcoming one's personal prejudices towards religion, class and ethnicity."

St. John's Institute served as house and home for the production's director, Arne MacPherson, and choreographer, Brenda Gorlick, for the period leading up to, and during, its Edmonton run. The Institute also provided a regular meeting place for the show's crew and artistic team and the venue for its cast party. We were especially excited to support Danny in his bold and courageous staging of *Strike!* in Edmonton, and we welcome him back for any future productions (and cast parties)!



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Blood and Salt

On Friday, February 8th, SJI hosted the launch of Barbara Sapergia's new novel, *Blood and Salt*, a work of fiction grounded in the real-life details of the Castle Mountain Internment Camp near Banff, Alberta, in the Canadian Rockies. Prefacing her reading with a description of the "setting" of the novel, Ms. Sapergia explained:

"The time is World War I. Ukrainian immigrants, once welcomed to Canada, are being sent to internment camps: "Canada's gulag". They've committed the crime of being unemployed in bad times—or simply of having come from lands ruled by the Austrian empire. They have become "enemy aliens."

The book launch featured a reading by the author, a book signing, and a reception with refreshments provided by the Institute. SJI was glad to play a supporting role in this combined effort of the Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta and the Alberta Society for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies, providing not only the facility for the event, but also the accommodation and meals for the author during her stay in Edmonton.

Dennis McNally and CBC Radio's legendary broadcaster, record producer, album collector and serious blues fan for 30 years, Holger Petersen at St. John's Institute for An Evening with Dennis McNally, presented by Alberta Music and CKUA, in spring 2013. Dennis McNally is best known as the Grateful Dead's publicist and biographer. During the event, McNally discussed entrepreneurship and organizational culture in the music business, along with the relationship of the Grateful Dead experiment to the mainstream music industry.





From Fringe, With Love

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Another first during the summer of 2013: the Institute played host to two nightly, back-to-back shows for the 32nd Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival. Featuring a full stage set-up as a BYOV (Bring Your Own Venue), SJI's "Sunken Space"/Living Gallery/Dining Hall, complete with lighting, sound, and backdrop curtaining, featured the premiere of *Collision*, a new dance collaboration by Tatiana Cheladyn and David Clennin. *Collision* was followed by *The Movie Jerks Present: Learning to Love the Movies You Hate*, a stand-up routine by local podcaster, J.P. Fournier, and stand-up comedian, Shawn Gramiak. Both shows earned favourable reviews, and SJI is especially proud of Tatiana's achievements as a dancer and choreographer: as a "resident" artist at the Institute, Tatiana uses SJI's First Floor Gallery as her rehearsal space on a weekly basis. In his Edmonton Journal review, critic Roger Levesque writes:

"Call me an admiring amateur when it comes to the fine points of modern dance technique, but I've seen enough performances over the years to know what I like.

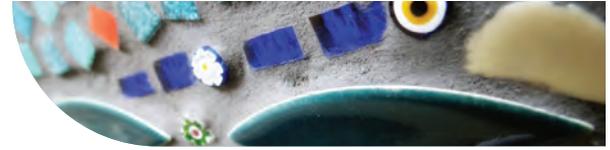
This 50-minute abstract pas-de-deux by local rising professionals Tatiana Cheladyn and David Clennin reminded me again how good contemporary dance can pack such intense emotional expression, even when it takes off from the moves of unconscious gesture. They find a real body language in the fullest sense of that term.... And then there's the build to that "Collision" in the title, a clash without words - in thin air - that hits so hard you can feel them hurting."

Our thanks to Tatiana, David, Shawn and J.P. for taking a chance on this previously unproven, but remarkably functional, hospitable, and intimate performance space. And watch for FTA's 2014 shows to be staged at St. John's Institute, including Lesia Savedchuk's *The Excellent Adventures of Otaman Charka*. This 40-minute bilingual comic production tells the story of a meddling Baba Parasia and her bandura-playing grandson, who arrive at the festival on the wrong day, for his performance of a *duma*...



A Microcosm of Culture

The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (CAAC), otherwise known as the Africa Centre, is a new tenant in SJI's community offices. They offer a variety of programming at the Institute. With Zumba classes on Monday evenings, Family Nights on Wednesdays, and a Teen Night with a cooking class on Friday evenings, programs are available for all age groups, and residents of SJI are invited to participate in all events and classes at no cost! We look forward to working with the Africa Centre, helping our communities to learn and grow from one another's experiences.



Alberta Culture Recognizes SJI's Contribution to Community

In early 2013, St. John's Institute was invited to Ministry of Culture Minister, Hon. Heather Klimchuk's legislative office to receive a cheque for \$50,000 from Alberta Lottery Fund's Community Initiative Program (CIP). This provincial operating grant is SJI's first-ever in support of its operations and, specifically, its work in supporting, and providing access to, the work of arts and culture-makers in Alberta. St. John's Institute is grateful for Alberta's recognition of its contribution to the arts and culture community and excitedly awaits the opportunity to increase its active, supporting role in an industry that makes living in Alberta such a rewarding experience!

Tweeted by Min. Klimchuk: "W/Suzanna Brytan of St. John's Institute. Long-standing org does gr8 work educating & promoting Alberta culture!"

Walking the Talk

Due, in large measure, to the public support voiced by our community, including accolades from our civic, provincial, and national government representatives, St. John's Institute had the good fortune to be invited to take our special brand of service to arts, culture, and community "on the road." Touted as a new model of the combination of affordable housing and access to arts and culture, and an example of the benefits of sharing resources and information, SJI is honoured to have participated in, and presented at, numerous conventions and panel discussions across Canada.

In August, the dynamic duo of Natalia Toroshenko, Vice Chair of SJI's board, and Executive Director, Suzanna Brytan, teamed up to deliver a very well-received keynote address and video on the "transformation of St. John's Institute" at the national convention of the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League (USRL), held in Saskatoon. It was high praise indeed, when, in church the next (Sunday) morning, His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy and Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, referenced SJI's presentation as "uplifting, inspiring, and showing real accomplishments!"

St. John's Institute also participated as a delegate at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – National Triennial Convention (October, Toronto), the USRL's strategic planning session (November, Regina), and an afternoon of discussion with Edmonton's E4C, an organization that moves vulnerable people toward positive, healthy, and lasting change.



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SJI's bylaws underwent significant revisions, making the organization more accessible, relevant, and responsive to our community's needs.

AGM 2013

A new board of directors was elected from among the members of SJI at its AGM on Sunday, December 9th. Board Chair, Dr. Tania Mysak, thanked everyone for contributing their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of the Institute. SJI's bylaws underwent significant revisions, making the organization more accessible, relevant, and responsive to our community's needs.

Challenges for the 2013/14 board include finding a solution to SJI's lack of storage space, funding the modifications necessary to control the level of noise emitted by our air condenser units and kitchen exhaust fan, security at the building during public events, funding for new staff to offer new programming, and the creation of a plan for the Institute's two vacant lots on 83rd Avenue.

Following the brief, but informative, AGM, SJI's former treasurer (and former Executive Director), Amanda Campbell, facilitated a very useful brainstorming session on the future of Camp Bar-V-Nok. The session generated several important principles that will guide the board's development of a plan for rejuvenating the camp property. The volunteer camp maintenance committee of Bo Jereniuk, Rick Fyk, Ron Bayda, Dcn. Anton Lakusta, Jason Sydor, Ostap Toroshenko, and Taras Jereniuk was recognized and thanked for their many, many hours – over many, many years – of devoted sweat equity that has served our treasured camp facility well.

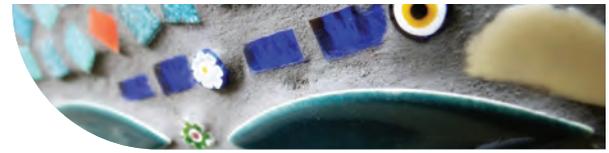
Board members for 2013/14 include Dr. Tania Mysak, Chair; Natalia Toroshenko, Vice-Chair; Bill Skorobohach, Treasurer; Dr. Bohdan Harasymiw, Secretary; and Directors Terry Tanasiuk, Darcy Koshman, Iris Zwozdesky-Ciona, Pauline Mudry, Richard Serna, and Gladys Marie Magega.



Edmonton's Mayoral Candidates Gather at SJI

On October 12th, SJI hosted the Latino Canadian Chamber of Commerce's mayoral forum, bringing together the three front-runners in the race: Karen Leibovici, Don Iveson, and Kerry Diotte, for an afternoon of discussion on topics of relevance to the Latino and other ethno-cultural communities in Edmonton.

SJI thanks the LCCC for choosing to hold its event at SJI; the three mayoral candidates involved in the forum; Jose Marquez Lugo for allowing us to showcase his fabulous artwork; and the media outlets that came out to cover the event. We also thank our new mayor, His Worship Don Iveson, for all of his kind words about the fine example that St. John's Institute is providing to our community's non-profit and ethno-cultural communities!



Boots on the Ground

Net casino proceeds of \$80,872 are the result of the selfless contribution of time by so many individuals who worked SJI's casino on May 11th and 12th. Funds earned are put towards the maintenance, repair, and utilities costs of Camp Bar-V-Nok and SJI. To Nadija Szram, for so diligently filling (and patiently re-filling) our roster of volunteers for this "Mother's Day" weekend casino; and to those volunteers – especially all of the moms – for their sacrifice of time (and sleep!); the residents, clients, and many other beneficiaries of the work of St. John's Institute – thank you, thank you, and thank you again!

Dr. Andrij Hornjatkevyc
 Patricia Yereniuk
 Dr. Elaine Harasymiw
 Dr. Bohdan Harasymiw
 Nick Barnay
 Michael Gilyshyn
 Email Yereniuk
 Steve Ciona
 Alison Bootsman
 Elaine Sekora
 Diane Pysyk
 Terri Andrews

Dr. Tania Mysak
 Orest Fitzowich
 William Lis
 Iris Zwozdesky-Ciona
 Rick Fyk
 Eileen Yewchuk
 Greg Yewchuk
 Orysia Yereniuk
 Victor Pysyk
 Bruce Prytuluk
 Bohdana Lypovyk
 Nadija Szram

Dale Fetterly
 Natalie Ozipko
 Leanne Woon
 Darcy Koshman
 Barbara Koshman
 Lawrence Dary
 Ron Bayda
 Taras Jereniuk
 Sylvia Gray
 Ivan Lypovyk
 Stepan Lypovyk
 Elizabeth Holinaty

SJI's staff regularly go above and beyond the call of duty, graciously giving of themselves and endeavoring to make everyone's experience with SJI warm, welcoming, and rewarding.

SJI Staff 2013/14 A Team Worth Celebrating!

A genuine blessing to the Institute and our community, SJI's staff regularly go above and beyond the call of duty, graciously giving of themselves and endeavoring to make everyone's experience with SJI warm, welcoming, and rewarding. Nadija Szram, Cheryl Cottrell-Smith, Suzanna Spektor, Kassandra Brytan, Serhij Stoianov, Rachele Champagne, Ann Larsen, Orysia Talanchuk, Regina Lazutin, and Don Don Miranda and Suzanna Brytan: for all you do, we truly value you!

A Credit to the Institute

SJI's 2013/14 Residents' Association is a very active, enthusiastic group, leading the planning and delivery of its events and activities, including several with a charitable dimension. Under the direction of its energetic, passionate, and forward-thinking president, Bruce Wilkins, the RA has contributed \$541.04 to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and \$250 to the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton. On January 11th, 2014, the RA will host FIESTA!, a Latin-themed event featuring international flavours, music, and dance. FIESTA! is open to the community at large, with proceeds donated to the Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad (CAMTA). We are very proud of our young leaders' willingness to look outside of themselves to improve the lives of others in our community.





Chicken Soup for the Soul?

Not if you have varenyky and kovbasa at the ready...! It may not be the most original of statements to suggest that a plate of varenyky and kovbasa can fix most of what ails you, but when warm comfort food is exactly what is needed, nothing fits the bill better!

When the call came in, St. John's Institute responded to a request for help in the form of food for the clean-up and rescue crews in High River, Alberta, following the devastating floods that hit the area earlier this year. Coordinated by Calgary's Noella Ostash who also made the varenyky, Mike and Cheryl Herchak Knott of Home Style Catering who provided the holubtsi, and Widynowski's Sausage House and St. John's Institute who supplied the kovbasa, hot meals were served up to hundreds of volunteers helping those whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed by the flooding. Thanks to everyone for their generous support!

St. John's Institute will soon be home to a daycare and after-school care program, under the banner of the SJI Child Development Centre.

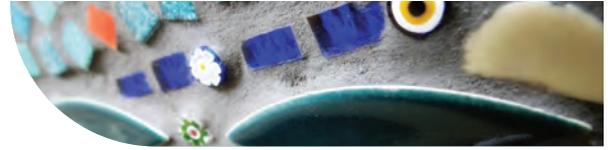
New Child Development Centre Opening in Early 2014

A much-needed and long-awaited addition to the Garneau area, St. John's Institute will soon be home to a daycare and after-school care program, under the banner of the SJI Child Development Centre. With space for nine daycare children and 18 spots available for the after-school care program, the focus of SJI's childcare offering will be on the value of an individual's ethno-cultural identity, and how that makes for a well-rounded, caring person who values the ideals of different cultures. An additional Ukrainian-language stream of the program will be available, while all children in SJI's care will develop an appreciation for the many gifts of their own cultural heritage and traditions.

A Facelift for SJI's Website!

Thanks to the multi-talented Cheryl Cottrell-Smith, social media guru, food writer, food blogger, event organizer, and contributor to Edmonton Woman Magazine and the Edmonton Journal, SJI has a fresh new look and style for its internet persona. Bookings for special events, classes and workshops are flowing in through the online forms, and our social media feeds are always buzzing with news of coming events, stories of community successes, and, of course, what's on for lunch and dinner! Visit us soon, and visit us often at www.stjohnsinstitute.com!





...For It Was Then That I Carried You...

Vickie Brown was told she would never walk again.

A c6-7 incomplete quadriplegic, Vickie had suffered a broken, dislocated neck as a result of a car accident. The compression to her spinal cord was severe and her diagnosis was bleak. She will, however, always remember one other thing her doctor told her: "Miracles do exist." Says Vickie: "I thank him every-day for those words of wisdom, because, at that very moment, I decided that I had to try."

Invited to Edmonton to participate in a 4-month FES Cycling Study at the University of Alberta's Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Center, Vickie was booked to stay at St. John's Institute thanks to a reference from community donor and supporter, Christine Zwozdesky. Located only blocks away from the U of A's SCI Treatment Centre, SJI could provide handicapped parking for Vickie's specialized vehicle and a wheelchair-accessible suite with washroom and kitchen amenities tailored to her mobility requirements. Over a period of 3 months, the Institute would serve as a place of comfort, respite and warmth along Vickie's long journey. When asked to recollect her thoughts and feelings upon her arrival at SJI, Vickie reminisced: *St. John's Institute is residence living at its finest. It is a very quaint place where you feel like a long-lost child who just walked back in*

through the doors of your old home. This place is so much more than I expected - a miracle in itself. Here, I would spend the next 3 months of my journey. I felt a bit scared, a bit sad, and a bit lonely when I arrived here. Now, I feel as if I am in my home away from home. All the staff are so nice and helpful. They greet me with big hellos, warm smiles, hot food, and words of encouragement. I could not be in a better place to heal and transition to living on my own. They are always offering a helping hand.

My first meal just so happened to be my favorite food on the planet and it was mouth-wateringly delicious! There are always platters of fresh vegetables, fruit, and food in the refrigerator at any hour. I had a minor problem with my heating; they had someone there to fix it the very next day. I feel so special here and these people really care. That, in itself, has given me faith in human kind and, yes, "miracles do exist!" I love that they ask about my journey, and are touched by my stories. I am blessed that I get to experience "miracles" in such abundance and the gratitude that fills my heart on a daily basis is proof that, despite all my trials and tribulations, I truly am a very blessed soul.

Thank-you to all of you who have played such a positive role in my healing, have warmed my heart, and have given me more hope and strength than you even know. God Bless you all!



"This place is so much more than I expected - a miracle in itself."

Yellow and Blue, Through and Through...

During the past year, St. John's Institute was honoured to be asked, and fortunate to be able to respond to, requests for support for numerous causes and initiatives important to our Ukrainian Canadian community. Donating dollars to make a difference, SJI contributed \$1000 to each of the Ukrainian Canadian Students Union's National Congress, the Canada Ukraine Foundation's (CUF's) election observer mission to Ukraine, and the 50th Anniversary celebrations of St. Vladimir Institute in Toronto, a sibling Institute showcasing the creativity of contemporary artists and talent exploring Ukrainian-Canadian identity, history, culture and experience. We are proud to support, and congratulate each of these organizations on their work and the positive reflection it carries for Canadians of Ukrainian heritage.





By-Gone Days...

Classically trained Calgary soprano, Stephania Romaniuk, will release her brand new CD, *By-Gone Days*, at St. John's Institute on Sunday, March 2nd. We are delighted to support the development of such remarkable Canadian talent that brings explorations of Ukrainian culture to life!

Taking on an entirely different genre of music, Romaniuk gives the jazz treatment to a collection of songs from the Ukrainian ballroom era encompassing the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. Working primarily with the melodies and lyrics of Ukrainian composer, Bohdan Weselowsky, Romaniuk's vocal interpretations of the era come together in distinctively refreshing arrangements performed by professional musicians from



across Calgary. The album is co-produced by 101.7 World FM's Program Director and Ukrainian program producer, Roman Brytan. A live performance of songs from the album played by the very talent whose work is featured on the compilation will take SJI's Living Gallery from simply living to living out loud...cash bar and reception to follow!



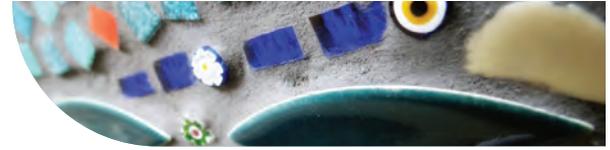
*In the background:
The walls of SJI's Living Gallery feature
an 80-panel exhibit created by the
Ukrainian Students Society at the
U of A, on the Holodomor –
Famine/Genocide of 1932-33*

New Developments in Exchanges between Universities of Canada and Ukraine

On November 21st, St. John's Institute hosted a discussion panel with delegates from three universities in Ukraine. Organized and co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Resource Development Centre at MacEwan University, the event served as a community welcome to the distinguished guests. Delegates included Pavlo Khobzey, Vice Rector, Academic Affairs, Ukrainian Catholic University; Serhij Kvit, Rector,

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; and Igor A. Girka, Dean, School of Physics and Technology, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv University. Delegates went on to meet faculty and members of the media at MacEwan University and Concordia University during their visit.

We thank Dr. Roman Petryshyn, Director of URDC, for inviting us to provide the venue and refreshments for the launch of this speaking tour.



Explore Ukraine: A Ukrainian Festival Artwork Display

From November 18-22, St. John's Institute played host to a Ukrainian Student Artwork exhibit as part of Alberta Education's International Education Week. The exhibit showcased perspectives on Ukraine through the eyes of a child. Students from Edmonton's Ukrainian bilingual programs and Grade 3 Social Studies classes were invited to tour the exhibit and experience a hands-on afternoon of learning about Ukraine and its culture. Tour groups viewed the artwork, listened to stories, and

learned about Ukrainian history, language, traditions and celebrations. They wrote pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs), learned to write their names in Ukrainian, and labelled a map of Ukraine with the areas of their familial ancestors.

Many thanks to Olena Hartsula of Alberta Education for arranging this exhibit to raise student awareness of Ukraine's significance in the world, especially during the week of commemoration of the 1932-33 Holodomor in Ukraine.

Going Underground with Mercury Opera

On Thursday, May 1st, 2014, St. John's Institute will premiere the Ukrainian-language version of a documentary chronicling the deeply rewarding, and, at times, hair-raising journey that was the making of 104 Underground – an operascape, to SJI's Living Gallery. Produced by Jimmy Bustos for OMNI Television, the documentary follows Artistic Director of Mercury Opera, and fearless architect of operatic artistry, Daria (Darcia) Parada on her quest to make her beloved art form of opera more accessible to all. She does this by staging performances in unique and non-traditional venues like riverboats, parks, and back alleys – and now – with 104 Underground set in Edmonton's Bay/Enterprise Square LRT Station.

The Institute's initial role in the project was that of host for two of its stars, Alicia Woynarski and Lauren Woods, who stayed at SJI during the run of this incredibly successful, Edmonton-born production. Now, delighted to provide the venue for the premiere of the film's Ukrainian-language edition, St. John's Institute presents the documentary and a question-and-answer period with the film's producer and director, followed by a special live performance by members of the original cast.

Darcia, your unwavering resolve in bringing these shows to the "stages" of your making, is truly inspiring - you make our whole community proud!





In return for the use of its land, SJI will receive a weekly box of produce between May and September, and will have the opportunity to involve residents, school groups, and youth-focused, human service organizations in the hands-on experience of producing real food from the ground up.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

In early 2014, SJI will support Edmonton's local food movement, taking a socially responsible approach to environmental stewardship and working with Reclaim Urban Farm, a small, locally owned business that grows food for local markets. Using low-impact, organic gardening practices on urban land in Edmonton, Reclaim Urban Farm will establish their newest location on the two vacant lots owned by SJI on 83rd Avenue and 111 Street.

Currently under consideration for a development permit that will allow accessory parking for clients, staff and guests of SJI, the two lots will receive a makeover in the upcoming growing season, incorporating beautifying flowers, ornamental edibles, and fresh veggies. In return for the use of its land, SJI will receive a weekly box of produce between May and September, and will have the opportunity to involve residents, school groups, and youth-focused, human service organizations in the hands-on experience of producing real food from the ground up. We have even been given the opportunity to request the planting of certain herbs and vegetables that are culturally significant for culinary and traditional medicinal purposes...a cultural education of the most natural order!

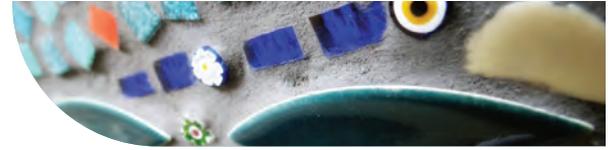
Humanities 101

A privately-funded program under the University of Alberta's Community Services Learning project, Humanities 101 describes the true nature of this free, 10-week university-level course that takes place twice a year at St. John's Institute. Under the guidance of its tirelessly devoted Project Manager, Lisa Prins, individuals from all walks of life and all levels of education take in lectures and participate in critical discussions on topics of contemporary relevance. Students also benefit from "field trips," such as visits to private dress rehearsals of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, among other arts, cultural and scientific excursions. The course allows those who might not otherwise be able to access this level of learning a chance to experience critical thinking and discussion.

Two classes have already completed the program, with both graduation dinners held at, and catered by, SJI. Some students from the class have secured affordable housing at the Institute, while others have gained connections for employment and volunteer opportunities through SJI staff and residents. Congratulations, Lisa, on a job well done!

Building Citizenship in Our Community

In early 2014, St. John's Institute will coordinate and oversee as many as 10 three-month experiential learning opportunities for the 3rd year Ukrainian language students of Alla Nedashkivska's UKR 304 class at the U of A, through the university's Community Services Learning department. The Institute has always tried to find meaningful ways of introducing our youth to the important work being done by our community organizations and now, through our connection with Lisa Prins of CSL's Humanities 101, we've got a great one! Students in the program will be matched with St. John's Institute and other Ukrainian organizations, to provide 20 hours of volunteer work each, on projects that build citizenship, establish mentoring relationships, and effect community-engaged learning.



Why Act Now?

In the spring of 2013, Dr. Sangita Sharma of the University of Alberta's Aboriginal and Global Health Research Group sought SJI's help to host and contribute to a Community Advisory Board Meeting of researchers and community representatives on a project entitled 'Wellness and Health in Youth – Aboriginal Communities in Transition NOW' (WHY ACT NOW). Referred to SJI through our good friend and supporter, Dr. Louise Hayes, Manager of Alberta's Aboriginal Relations, Dr. Sharma's project aims to identify and prioritize issues around the nutrition, health, and wellness of youth living in Edmonton. SJI was asked to participate in the development of the research questionnaire and to be interviewed for the project, as a key community leader working with several different youth populations. The Institute is glad to have its perspectives valued, and looks forward to helping the project build interventions using the information gathered.

You're Invited: A Blessing for the New Year

On Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 pm, you are invited to bring your family – children and grandchildren included – to the 2nd Annual Novorichnyi Moleben' in the Chapel of St. John's Chrysostom. This prayer service and blessing is the traditional Ukrainian Orthodox welcome to a new year filled with faith, hope and prosperity. Following the service, SJI chaplain, Rev. Fr. Cornell Zubritsky, will bless the rooms of SJI residents and the common areas of our shared facility.

A reception of wonderfully warming appetizers and seasonal beverages will round out the evening of celebration in SJI's Living Gallery. The reception will feature a presentation by Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Frances Kolotyluk of Vancouver, BC, recent donors of a gorgeous collection of fine art photography on Ukrainian Canadian themes. Both alumni of St. John's Institute (1959 – 1962), Ken and Frances have visited the Institute several times since its re-opening in 2011. Their desire for the building and its traditions to continue enriching the lives of its residents and surrounding community is remarkable. Together, the Kolotyluks have generously printed, prepared and donated a photographic collection of Ukrainian Canadiana from their travels across the country, to be displayed as a part of St. John's Institute's permanent collection.

This prayer service and blessing is the traditional Ukrainian Orthodox welcome to a new year filled with faith, hope and prosperity.

DENTONS

Pro-bono
legal services for
St. John's Institute
provided by:

Andrew Hladyshevsky, Q.C.

Partner

Dentons Canada LLP

Katharine M Woloszyn

Associate





Miracle on 82nd Avenue

St. John's Institute is fortunate to be surrounded by people who care – and those people include the hard-working men of Edmonton's Fire Hall #3 (Strathcona) who responded to a fire alarm at SJI on Saturday, December 7. When the sprinkler line in SJI's food storage area froze and burst, Fire Hall #3 was on hand in minutes. Despite the fact that there was no fire to battle, all of the firefighters, including Captain Brad Kitiuk, rolled up their proverbial sleeves and set to work disposing of ruined dry goods, sorting through debris, and mopping up substantial amounts of water – something they were

under no obligation to do. The following week, SJI reciprocated with our very own brand of emergency response: varenyky with all the accompaniments, roasted kapusta, barabolya, kovbasa... and some red and white apparel to add a little Christmas spirit! The complimentary catered lunch was warmly received by the firefighters and, shortly after that sampling of Chef Regina's handiwork, SJI received an off-site catering order for Fire Hall #3's family Christmas party on Saturday, December 21st! Many heartfelt thanks to those who helped when help was needed, and Happy New Year to all!



St. John's Institute
ІНСТИТУТ СВ. ІВАНА

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11024-82 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6G 0T2
T: 780.439.2320
TF: 1.800.439.2320
F: 780.439.0989
www.stjohnsinstitute.com
info@stjohnsinstitute.com
www.facebook.com/stjohnsinstituteyeg

Office hours

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

After Hours

780.809.3771 or 780.868.9600



'Twas the Season...

Generating enthusiasm and support for some of Edmonton's most well-known, best-loved, and much-needed charities, SJI contributed \$1500 to The Christmas Bureau of Edmonton (of which \$250 was donated by SJI's Residents Association) and \$500

to the Kinette Club of Edmonton's "Cuts for Christmas" campaign. As part of a vibrant and engaged community, the Institute was proud to stand alongside other corporate and community partners, helping neighbours in need.

For bringing these opportunities to our attention, we thank Andriy Hladyshevsky, co-host of the Christmas Bureau's breakfast (and partner at Dentons, the primary sponsor of the 600-person breakfast event at the Westin), and our new board member and treasurer, Bill Skorobohach, who, together with his family, and Nordic Mechanical Services, was one of the driving forces behind the nearly \$17,000 raised for "Cuts for Christmas."