



Edmonton Latvian Society

IMANTA

Edmontonas latviešu biedrība

June 2011 Newsletter

Recent IMANTA news:

Our May picnic took place on a sunny, warm Sunday and although the turnout was less than expected, everyone enjoyed a visit and some bonus garden plants to take home.

IMANTA is once again a sponsor of the Freewill Shakespeare Festival. You will see our logo displayed if you attend from June 30-July 24 at Hawrelak Park Amphitheatre. The plays this year are Othello and Twelfth Night. There is free admission on Sundays for students with ID. The festival is looking for volunteers and Fawnda Mithrush, the General Manager, always takes good care of our members.

There is a scholarship available for anyone of Latvian heritage studying at NAIT. Search for it by entering "Imanta". The deadline for application is August 30, 2011. (www.nait.ca)

Our self-administered scholarships are open to all residents of Alberta. See details on following pages. If you have any questions, contact Linda at xarsystm@telusplanet.net

The Edmonton Organic Growers always welcome volunteers to work in their gardens and then take home fresh, organic vegetables. For more information and to join as a volunteer, go to www.eogg.org.

If you love mushrooms and searching for them, the Alberta Mycological Society has many summer events planned. (www.wildmushrooms.ws)

The Latvian History project with Athabasca University is ongoing. Michaelle Haughian, our research assistant, will be contacting many of our community members to arrange for interviews. With your cooperation, our rich history will be well-documented and preserved.

In celebration of National Culture Days, IMANTA was chosen to host a Celebration Site during the fourth annual Alberta Arts Days later this year. Please mark October 1 & 2 on your calendar. Further information will be in the next newsletter.

Look for IMANTA on facebook!

***Sit, Jānīti, vara bungas vārtu staba galiņā.
Lai sanāca Jāņa bērni no maliņu maliņām.***

It's hard to believe, but in a few weeks it will be time to celebrate the summer solstice. Jāņi is a traditional midsummer festival that marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. It dates back to pagan times when Latvians believed in deities associated with nature. As significant pagan holidays were Christianized, the summer solstice became the feast of St. John (Jānis) on June 24. Latvians spent a lot of time preparing for Jāņi. There would be brewing of beer, making of cheese, baking of pīrāgi and preparing the bonfire.

Jāņu activities include traditional customs that are believed to bring the aid of good spirits into the home, barn, field and forest. It's a night of much singing, dancing and merriment. Some rituals observed to bring luck and prosperity in the coming year include leaping over the fire and burning last Midsummer's wreaths.

IMANTA invites you to its annual Līgo celebration being held once again west of the city, Saturday, June 25th, anytime after 2pm.

This year's meal will be potluck because it has become increasingly more difficult for IMANTA to provide everything as we did in recent years. We will cook roast pork and some vegetarian options, also serve coffee/tea/water/juice. We ask that you bring something for dinner to share with others: potatoes, salads, breads, sauerkraut, cheese, pickles, desserts, or anything else you like.

There will be wreath-making and a pīrāgi-tasting contest. If nature cooperates, there will be wildflowers for the wreaths but please bring any flowers and oak branches you can.

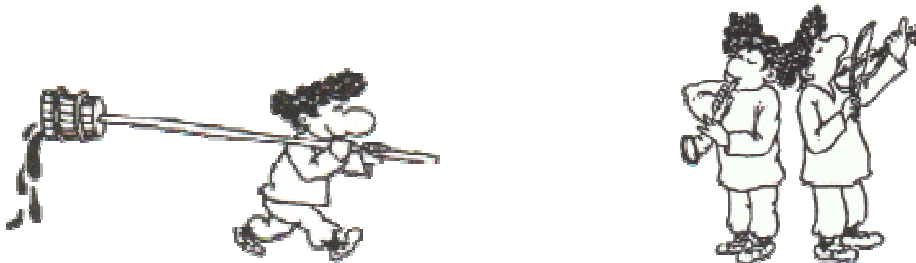
We are also holding a *loterija*, the kind held at many Latvian functions in larger Canadian centres. Bring extra loonies to buy some tickets!. If you have an item to donate to the lottery or for further information, please contact Rasma at imantaedmonton@gmail.com.

Dinner is planned for 5pm. Please arrive in time to have your food included in the buffet!

- There will be a bonfire later, weather permitting.
- Remember to bring your old wreaths to throw on the fire.
- Please bring lawn chairs for your own use.
- Bring musical instruments and song sheets if you like to sing.
- You will be in the countryside: come prepared for typically unpredictable Alberta weather and mosquitoes.

This event is being held on private property. We ask that you act responsibly and respectfully so that all guests can enjoy the celebrations. Please remember to recycle all beverage containers.

To RSVP or for any other information, please contact Ena at imantaedmonton@gmail.com



SCHOLARSHIPS

IMANTA is pleased to announce our self-administered **scholarship program** for 2011/2012, funded by our ongoing casino program and governed by the regulations of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

Available Funding (\$29,000)

The IMANTA 'Lāčplēsis' Scholarship

Full Time Post-Secondary Scholarship up to \$2,500

The IMANTA 'Staburags' Scholarship

Part-Time Post-Secondary Scholarship up to \$1,000

The IMANTA 'Draugi' Scholarship

Part-Time Continuing Education Scholarship up to \$500

Scholarship Eligibility

The following requirements must be met:

- Alberta residents who are Canadian citizens, non-visitors, or foreign students on visa
- Full or part-time students as defined by the accredited post-secondary educational institution

Eligible Institutions

All accredited post-secondary educational institutions in Canada governed by the *University Act* or the *Colleges Act* or the *Technical Institutes Act*.

Scholarship Award Criteria

Awards will be made on the basis of a completed Scholarship Application, academic achievement (overall average), community involvement in the past year and a completed 1000 word essay that relates to the identified subject.

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following:

- Completed Scholarship Application Form
- 1,000 word essay describing how the applicant's Latvian heritage has influenced or contributed to their personal goals
- Course marks and overall average
- Documentation relating to any community involvement (correspondence or a description of activities in the past year). Please identify if there has been no community involvement.

Deadline for applications to be received by the adjudication committee by no later than August 30th, 2011. Funding will be announced by October 15th, 2011.

Payment will be made directly to the individual upon submission of proof of attendance (i.e. tuition receipt) at the recognized educational institution.

Please submit applications by mail to:
The Edmonton Latvian Society "Imanta"
Attn: Adjudication Committee
1209 Wershof Road
Edmonton, Alberta T6M 2M2

Scholarship Application

Applicant: Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Preferred email address: _____

Application: Applicant is applying for one of the following scholarships checked below to support tuition and related costs at the designated educational institution for the designated school year:

- Scholarship:**
- (a) The IMANTA 'Lāčplēsis' Scholarship of up to \$2,500: (___);
(Full Time Post-Secondary Scholarship)
 - (b) The IMANTA 'Staburags' Scholarship of up to \$1,000: (___);
(Part-Time Post-Secondary Scholarship)
 - (c) The IMANTA 'Draugi' Scholarship of up to \$500 (___)
(Part-Time Continuing Education Scholarship)

School Period: 2011-2012

Educational Institution in Canada:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Course of Study: _____

Certification: Applicant certifies that the following information is true and correct:

Applicant is enrolled at the designated institution for the designated school period.

Applicant is an Alberta resident and either:

- a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant: (___) or
- a foreign student holding or having held a valid visa issued by Canada permitting Applicant to pursue in Canada the course of study designated above: (___)

The following items must be submitted:

- A 1,000 word essay describing how the Applicant's Latvian heritage has influenced or contributed to their personal goals
- Course marks and overall average for the most recent school year completed
- Documentation about any community involvement in the past year (please identify if there has been none)

Tuition Receipt: Applicant acknowledges that, as a condition of receiving any scholarship awarded to the Applicant, a tuition receipt from the designated educational institution for the designated period of study will be required before monies are disbursed.

Please tell us how you heard about the scholarship: _____

Applicant's Signature

Date