



What it
means to be
an American
in Canada
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Paraplegic faces double discrimination in housing market

by NATALIE MUNDY

Three decades later, Italian-Canadian Luisa Bucci still can't come to terms with the car accident that left her a paraplegic at the age of 19. With her manual wheelchair, Bucci needs an accessible apartment with a no-step entry, wider doorways and an altered bathroom and kitchen. Her current housing situation is not fully accessible, leaving her with constant safety concerns.

Pat Harris of Spinal Cord Injury BC (SCI BC) says the housing market doesn't address these needs, and housing requests are the most frequent inquiry to the SCI BC Infoline.

"Many private housing providers simply don't understand the details of universal design, or don't have the forethought to build a housing unit that is accessible," says Harris.

In reaction to this demand, SCI BC launched Accessible Housing BC, an online classified service connecting accessible housing seekers with accessible housing providers who wish to rent or sell properties.

Bucci's current housing provider is a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing. When she first moved in, Bucci says the management offered to install an automatic door in the car park so she could bring in her groceries more easily. She says they never followed

See "Housing Discrimination" page 2 ►



▲ Luisa Bucci plays with her sister's dog, Jasper, in a park in 2011.

Photo courtesy of Luisa Bucci

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My Turn

The American electoral machine is in perpetual motion

In a previous column, I wrote that Obama sorely needed the votes of young Americans if he were to win the election. With sixty per cent of their votes favoring him, it happened. In fact, and we know this now, Obama got the highest score with pretty well everybody, except with men, whites and the elderly.

The good news for the Democrats didn't stop at the presidency – they managed to keep control of the Senate. They even gained a few seats. However, partying never lasts very long in Uncle Sam's country. Nope, American politicians never stop campaigning. Sparring never ceases, and this perpetual political circus interferes with the country's governance. No decision is taken before it is weighed against voting factors.

The proof is in that various camps are already set up for the next election – the midterms, set for November 2014. American voters will be participating, then, in choosing a third of the Senate seats as well as the entire House of Representatives. These elections will show whether the



Barack Obama triumphs again.

Republicans have learned their lesson after their latest presidential defeat.

For many Democrat senators, the fact that their party is occupying the White House can bring its own set of headaches. They are eyeing many of the Senate seats in states where Mitt Romney has rallied a number of members of the Electoral College.

The President's performance until 2014 will greatly influence the results of the next elections.

It remains to be seen which president will be operating over the next two years: Obama the spendthrift, presiding over the nation's growth, or Obama the fiscal conservative who will be looking after the country's finances and putting order back to the American budget, a budget nearing catastrophe.

The answer to this question will bear significantly on the degree of motivation of the Republican Party's base. It's true that before the campaign officially begins there will be elections, a bit like our own nomination contests. These have been particularly painful for the Republicans since their party has fallen under the heavy influence of the Tea Party. This movement's apostles aren't afraid of imposing their favourites in order to boost their political agenda.

This dynamic hasn't always served the Republican Party well, as shown by the results of the last election. Two favourite Tea Party flag-bearers bit the dust as a result of their fierce stance on abortion. In both cases, the fact that voters in Missouri and Indiana rejected the ideology put forth by those candidates should provoke some deep soul-searching among the Republicans. However, I would be surprised if the Tea Party members softened their stance.

Yet, on the Republican horizon, there is still hope to be found in the profile of voters' demographics – some vote during the midterm elections, others during Presidential elections. According

to a profile of these voters, young Americans, mainly favouring Obama, have represented about eleven per cent of midterm voters since 1990. Nineteen per cent of them voted on November 6th. This eight per cent difference could benefit the Republicans.

To boot, Democrat senators in six states will be on shaky ground in 2014, following Mitt Romney's

gains in those states during the last presidential election. All of this to say, President Obama will have to decide to either leave behind a personal legacy or that of his party.

His agenda during the upcoming 24 months will reveal his state of mind.

Translation Monique Kroeger

► "Housing Discrimination" from page 1

up on the offer, or responded to her calls and letters requesting alterations to her kitchen. Bucci now feels she doesn't have a voice and faces double discrimination based on both her disability and income.

"I want to be in a place where people are listened to," says Bucci.

Esther Ignagni, assistant professor in the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University in Toronto, says when management ignores a tenant, or doesn't follow up on their requests, it's a form of passive discrimination that has an incredible impact on a person's life.

Ignagni is conducting some of Canada's first systematic research into disability discrimination complaints in the housing market. Her initial work has revealed long waiting lists for social housing ranging anywhere from one to 12 years.

Bucci waited five years to find her last home. Once she found her current apartment, she felt under pressure to accept it right away. She even paid one month's rent for both apartments after the new property's representative said they would give it to someone else if she didn't move in immediately.

Robin Loxton has spent over 20 years with the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and says



▲ Bucci would love to own a dog of her own one day.

it usually comes down to being first in line. He says it's very competitive with young students, low income earners and the elderly all seeking affordable housing.

Even if they do get to the front of the line, Loxton says they can be rejected because of their disability. He says landlords generally know what is considered discrimination and have learned how to hide it with reasons such as not accepting a person's references. This makes offenders hard to pin down.

Robyn Durling from the BC Human Rights Coalition agrees these cases are hard to prove. He points out that landlords in these situations can also be guilty of income discrimination. Many

people with a disability don't have the same capacity to earn as other housing applicants, so they're rejected on that basis.

Bucci is on disability benefits and says her options would be greater if she could pay market price for an apartment. She gets email notifications from Accessible Housing BC, but nothing affordable has presented itself.

"Most housing providers and co-operative housing are looking for people with a disability who can pay market rent," she says.

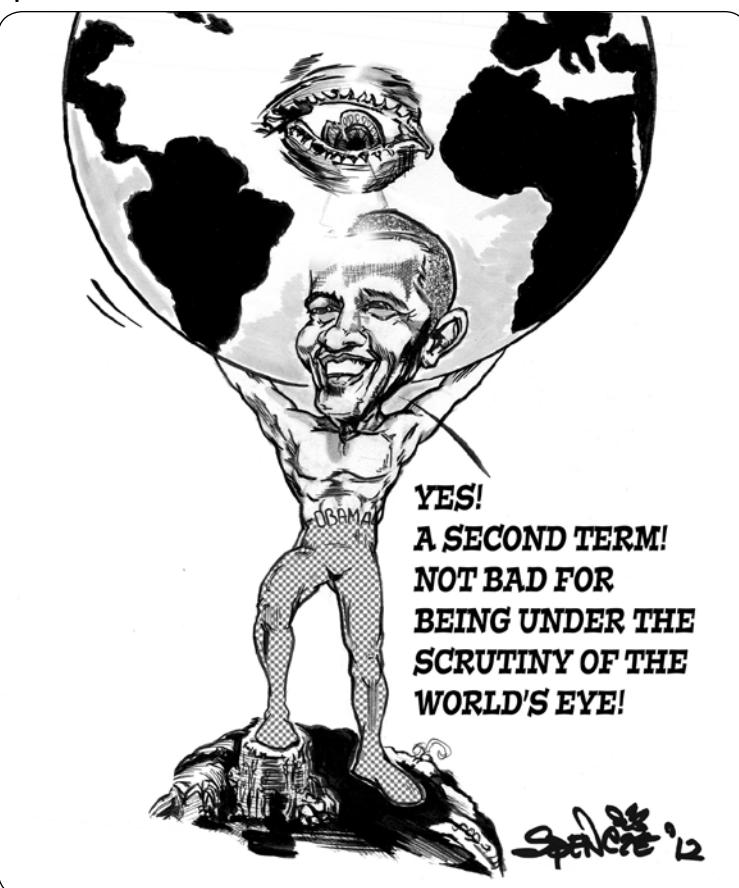
Ignagni says housing that is both accessible and affordable is rare, forcing those like Bucci to look at rent far above what their assistance allows, and we need to recognise that low income is a reality for many disabled people.

"People can't just buy their way in to accessible housing," says Ignagni.

Frustrated and unhappy as she continues to wait for housing, Bucci is pessimistic about her chances of finding a new apartment and says we aren't making any progress in this area.

"Accessibility and housing are serious and real issues for people with physical disability, and I feel they are not being dealt [with] by the government and/or any organisation," she says.

Spencie's View



of French and their sometimes conquering spirit who, on the basis of language similitude, do not adapt to the province's ways, but instead bring with them their own habits and beliefs. Here, the French language doesn't hold much weight, and therefore still confers a bit of an exotic character upon France, as do other countries embodied in Vancouver. The French become visitors among other visitors, albeit more unusual than those of Asian countries.

Contrary to Montreal, and despite the fact that French is the country's second language, bilingualism is different in Vancouver. The English language accompanies an Asian one. The little French person that I am melts into the crowd; its diversity will triumph over my nationality.

This ethnic diversity more concretely resurfaced crossing the Alberta border, but it is here, in Vancouver, that one realizes the specificity of this land of immigration. If Montreal is a magnet to the French, the prairies' capitals are mostly scorned by non-Canadians. Here borders melt and we have Asia, Africa and Australia together at the dinner table.

A short stay will never enable anyone to define the provinces, a lifetime neither, most likely. However, one thing's for sure: Vancouver is not like the rest of Canada. It is a Canada unlike anything else outside its own borders.

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Americans haven't lost political identity in Canada

by PHOEBE YU

Mary Murphy, 64, is an American-born blogger who writes about the experiences of Americans in Canada. She has lived in British Columbia for 41 years, but has yet to obtain her

ican. The u.s. shaped my development as a human being in ways I can't alter, even if I wished to," says Murphy.

In a 2006 census, Statistics Canada estimated that five per cent of Canadian citizens born outside of Canada are from the

citizenship, and some members have ties to local political parties, such as the New Democratic Party or the city council.

"People who are politically motivated tend to be motivated on both sides of the border, with both sets of issues," says Harwood.

“I will always, in some fundamental way, continue to be American.”

Mary Murphy, American-born blogger

Canadian citizenship. Despite her lengthy residency in Canada, she does not fully distinguish herself as either Canadian or American. However, for Murphy, like a lot of Americans living north of the 49th parallel, American issues and politics remain an important part of their lives.

"I will always, in some fundamental way, continue to be Amer-

ican. Similarly, b.c. Stats also reports that six and a half per cent of b.c. immigrants came from North or Central America.

Although there is no data available on how many Americans in Canada voted in the recent presidential elections, Maureen Harwood, Chair of the Vancouver Chapter of Democrats Abroad, estimated a turnout of around 300 people at an election night party they hosted in early November. She says there were also other gatherings at the University of British Columbia (ubc), city hall, downtown and at the u.s. consul-general's.

Harwood indicates the relative ease of absentee balloting, especially for mainland voters now being faced with stringent voter ID laws restricting access to voting. Compared to 20 years ago, she notes that opportunities for political participation and information on overseas voting in their home country are now readily available online.

She points out that many of the Democrats Abroad members, including herself, have dual

This includes Murphy. She follows Canadian politics closely, even though she can't vote. She feels that for a distinct group of immigrants who can't be identified by neighbourhood or last name, there has been no effort to appeal to Americans in Canada as ethnic voters, unlike the Indo- or Chinese-Canadians, for example.

Although she has recently come to realize her preference for the Canadian approach to dealing with issues, Murphy maintains that a person's sense of identity will always be an essential part of who they are. So when it comes time for Murphy to cast her ballot in the u.s. she does so through absentee voting, which she says was easier for her than for those who had to line up at the polls for the presidential election earlier this month.

Paul Quirk, a dual American-Canadian citizen and Director of the u.s. Studies Program at ubc, explains that participation in u.s. politics might vary because voters participate through their registered county and absentee voting differs from state to state.



▲ Mary Murphy, American-born blogger who has lived in Canada for 41 years.

He says that he follows u.s. politics by being able to access the same resources and information here as he had when he was living in the u.s.

In Quirk's opinion, it is reasonable for some groups of people, such as visible minority groups, to reflect on what category they belong to and the state of their status in society. Personally, however, he doesn't spend a lot of time contemplating what it means to be an American in Canada and believes that there's not much difference between Americans and Canadians.

Quirk says that Americans place a higher value on individu-

alism and freedom of expression than Canadians, but he maintains that those values are not markers for American identity.

"I don't think of that as me having an identity that values those things. It's just that I value those things," he says.

Nevertheless, Murphy indicates that there are a number of American-born political activists in Canada.

"As Americans who live in Canada, we have a unique perspective on two different types of government, and for many that translates into political awareness and possibly action," says Murphy. ☒

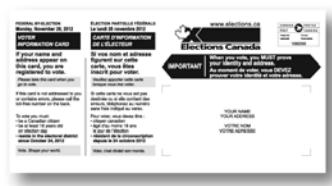


▲ Paul Quirk, director of the u.s. Studies program at ubc.



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DERRICK O'KEEFE

Left Bank ↘



Justice is indivisible, and injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Martin Luther King Jr.

Photo by Tai King, Flickr

▲ Palestinians face off against the Israeli Army in Qaddum, West Bank.

The massacres in Gaza remind us we must confront Harper's foreign policy

This week, people from all walks of life have come together in Vancouver to publicly express outrage about the latest round of Israeli atrocities against the people of Gaza. Hundreds have joined emergency protest gatherings at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

This is the least we can do in the face of such grotesque injustice. Thus far, at least 70 Palestinians and three Israelis have been killed. This ratio gives us an idea about the real nature of this 'conflict' between the Israeli state and the Palestinians.

This is not, in fact, a conflict between two equal sides. This is a settler-colonial project that has dispossessed, oppressed and tortured the Palestinian people for decades. Today, this is one of the world's most powerful militaries unleashing sadistic levels of violence – bomb strikes from the sky, artillery shelling from the sea – on an impoverished and imprisoned population in Gaza.

What Israel is doing, and has been doing for years with its blockade of Gaza, is medieval in its cruelty. But don't take my word for it.

"The goal of the operation is to send Gaza back to the Middle Ages," says Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai.

This is the voice of barbarism. And the toll it's taking in innocent blood is rising daily.

Why write – again – about Gaza, when there are so many pressing social justice issues here in British Columbia and in Canada?

For several reasons: because, as King stressed, justice truly is indivisible. The inequality that has grown in recent years here in Canada is part of an unequal global system. And because the Canadian government led by Stephen Harper is the world's most unabashed, over-the-top supporter of Israel's oppression of Palestinians.

After the first day of this latest massacre on Gaza, Harper's government released a statement supporting Israel, which made no reference whatsoever to the Palestinians who had been killed. This is par for the course with Harper. Back in 2006, after a prolonged Israeli bombardment of Lebanon had claimed more than 1,000 lives, including many civilians, the prime minister called it "a measured response." Harper has said he will stand with Israel "whatever the cost."

Given this over-the-top support for Israeli war crimes by the Harper government, it is our responsibility to speak out, to denounce and to work towards the day when we can have a government that works for peace and justice in the world.

Unfortunately, very few elected opposition politicians in Canada have been willing to speak out against Harper's pro-Israel policy. Many know the truth but fear reprisals from right-wing media outlets and from a well organized lobby that supports Israeli policies. A number of progressive elected officials have told me this explicitly.

Against this fear of speaking out, we need more political courage. We need politicians who speak up for basic principles "whatever the cost." Politicians love to talk about opposing bullying, but too often allow themselves to be bullied into silence.

Even outside the parliamentary arena, there are many activists in the social justice and environmental movements who avoid the issue of the Middle East, and of foreign policy in general. I've heard many iterations of the same rationale for this silence: Canadians don't care about global issues, and they don't vote on foreign policy.

This approach is both cynical and short-sighted. Even if we could "stop Harper" and change the government without dealing with its foreign policy, it would be a pyrrhic victory. Harper, in his six years of governing, has already substantially changed Canada's posture towards the world, and he is working consistently to change Canadians' self-perception. In short, he is working to make Canada more aggressive and militaristic – this is central to his overall political project.

So we have to take Harper on directly, and we need to develop our own political project, one which imagines a truly just foreign policy for Canada. To that end, and with the lack of political courage amongst many of our 'progressive' elected representatives, it's essential to organize civil society and grassroots coalitions to work for peace and justice.

As long as the Canadian government gives its unconditional support to a government bombing a people "back to the Middle Ages", we must continue to protest and to speak out. ↗

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Jon Washburn founded the Vancouver Chamber Choir in 1971. Under his guidance, the ensemble has become an amazing success story, ranking with the handful of North America's best professional choruses. In addition to touring and a busy season of concerts, broadcasts and recording, the Choir presents five award-winning educational programs.

Aboriginals infuse traditional healing into western health

by SOPHIA HYEYOEN KIM

Old Hands, a traditional aboriginal medicine practitioner, is a descendant of the Shoshone Tribe in California. He has been working for years to integrate aboriginal medicine with western medicine in Vancouver. He joins an evolving trend towards integrating these practices through programs, movements and facilities.

"I work with lots of non-aboriginal people that come for traditional medicine because it works for them, and they believe in it," he says.

Old Hands first began learning the practices of aboriginal healing by following and watching his grandfather. When his grandfather passed away, he took over the same task and has now been practicing healing for 50 years.

Old Hands has noticed that younger generations are starting to learn the side effects of conventional medicine and are looking for other ways to maintain their health. One of his greatest concerns about western medicine is that it is easily misused and often very addictive.

"In traditional medicine, there are no side-effects, and it is customized for each individual rather than each illness," says Old Hands.

He explains that western medicine simply works on the symptoms, while native medicine works on the cause.

He receives patients with illnesses ranging from schizophrenia, cancer and diabetes to HIV.

According to Old Hands, there is some reluctance to incorporate these practices into western medicine, which he attributes to a difference in attitude between the older and younger generation of medical practitioners. He says that younger doctors are more open to traditional medicine, and it's the old-school doctors who are still stuck in what he says is the science of doctoring.

"They simply teach the exact thing they have learned and passes it onto the next person," says Old Hands.

non-aboriginal approaches to health," she says.

The B.C. government has taken part in this progressive movement to bring about the integration of aboriginal healing into the conventional medical system.

The Tripartite First Nations Health Plan was signed in 2007, bringing about the establishment of Canada's first provincial First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), a momentous transition to meeting the health needs of B.C. aborigines. The FNHA's mandate is to plan, manage, fund and deliver First Nations Health Programs, collaborating with the B.C. Ministry of Health and B.C. Health Authorities.

“There are really good examples that incorporate lots of first nations elements into common, non-aboriginal approaches to health.

Heather Forbes, lodge director, Skwachàys Healing Lodge

In addition to practicing the medicine, there are dedicated places to offer the traditional healing.

Heather Forbes is the lodge director at Vancouver Native Housing Society's Skwachàys Healing Lodge & Residence, which she says provides a safe and clean environment for aboriginal patrons to practice their own traditional

It will help bring about the integration of native and conventional health programs and services in order to deliver a comprehensive health care system to both aboriginal and non-aboriginal citizens.

"The FNHA is committed to supporting the necessary work to fulfill our obligations under the Tripartite Framework Agreement, including ensuring that the part-



▲ People attend a healing circle at Skwachàys Healing Lodge & Residence.

"If you get a common cold and you go to the doctor, he gives you something to suppress the cold until it blows over. In traditional medicine, we find the cause of the cold so that you never get it again," says Old Hands.

He believes that traditional medicine looks more at the holistic healing of the mind, body and spirit using natural methods. According to him, the sweat lodge detoxifies the body, opens up the pores to allow the body to breath, expands the arteries and veins and gets the body back in balance. He also explains that some practices remove the negative energy from the patient, and places him or her in a sacred state of mind.

healing methods. Forbes believes that having healing rooted in one's culture, identity and history is essential to the healing process.

"The sweat lodge is a personal journey to discovering what is poisoning your life, which involves lots of self-reflection," says Forbes.

As she describes, the Healing Lodge also hosts many meeting circles for people with addictions and educates aborigines and non-aboriginals alike about health and resources that are available to people in need.

"There are really good examples that incorporate lots of first nations elements into common,

partnerships are enduring to collaborate towards better First Nations health," says Lydia Hwitsum, Chair of the FNHA Board via their website.

At the local level, Old Hands has been holding seminars with doctors twice a year, at the University of British Columbia, to educate them about the benefits of traditional medicine. He believes that the integration has only just started, and the potential in the best of both worlds has not yet been attained.

"Western and traditional medicine both could work very well hand in hand, but the stigma about aboriginal healing is still going to take a while to dissolve," says Old Hands. □



Photo by Georgiana Marin

▲ Volunteering is one way of gaining valuable work skills.

Filipina-Canadian says volunteering helps get jobs

by GEORGINA MARIN

Lorie Corcuera is a Canadian-born Filipino, who first began volunteering her time with the Filipino Student Association at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in her undergraduate years. Since then she feels that she gained significant skills from various volunteer jobs that have transferred towards her career as a human resources specialist.

To this day she remains a big fan of volunteering and admires people who get involved in their communities. When choosing candidates for employment she says she places high value on their volunteer experience.

"To me, it shows that people are well rounded, cultured, open to learning new things and ambitious," says Corcuera.

According to the most recent compilation by Statistics Canada, based on the 2010 Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP) survey, approximately two-thirds of volunteers felt that they benefitted from improved interpersonal skills via their volunteering experience. Other benefits included improved organization, office skills and aspects of general knowledge such as politics.

While the survey displays many variables that lead to different levels of involvement in volunteering – such as age, income and marital status – it also reports that those who volunteer do so because they would like to directly contribute to their community.

During her own volunteer time, Corcuera learned that tasks as simple as serving soup to the needy became a chance to learn the basics of operations, coordination, communication, delegating tasks and problem solving. In addition, as a member of the Filipino Student Association, Corcuera gained leadership skills as she managed and coordinated team projects.

“The fact that they would exchange some of their leisure time for volunteer work demonstrates that they are high achievers and motivated individuals.

Lorie Corcuera, human resources specialist

Kathleen Adams is an HR consultant at B.C. Housing and agrees with the importance of volunteer experience in future employment. She says volunteering is important in getting to know a job candidate at the personal level. With over 30 years of versatile HR experience, she feels that it is not a dealbreaker when making the hiring decision, but is something the HR members appreciate.

"In interviews, I usually ask questions about someone's involvement with a particular volunteer organization to find out what motivates them, and that tells me a lot about the person," says Adams.

Corcuera feels that for many of the human resources managers, volunteer experience will make a difference in the hiring process, as it shows that the person is in line with the company's values.

With files from Shalini Nayar

and interests. She says that funding is currently being allocated towards programs with a community focus by many organizations in an effort to give back locally.

At the HR office where Adams works, there is a lot of support for volunteerism.

"We like our staff at all levels to be involved in volunteerism, and many do it through our organization," says Adams.

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Journalists Needed

The Source editorial team is looking for writers/journalists for the English section.

Send your resume to Samuel Ramos, Managing Editor, at sam@thelasource.com



Photo Mosaic by Jan Hilario

Brazil

Photographer Jan Hilario is somewhere in South East Asia. Before heading over the Pacific ocean, Hilario wrapped up her time in the Americas by hitting the beaches and streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

These pictures are meant to highlight polar opposite aspects of Brazil that make up one of the most diverse countries in the world.

Hilario says she ended up staying for two nights in Copacabana because she was feeling somewhat disoriented after a long bus ride. Although she recommends the beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema, she challenged herself, and now others, to get off the beaten track.

"If you want to experience all sides of Rio, stay in Santa Teresa," says Hilario. "You can actually walk down the street and hear Portuguese instead of people ordering *caipirinhas* in English on every street corner."

This led Hilario to the streets of Brazil to try and capture the true essence of a country that is quickly becoming a thriving economic engine, while at the same time continues to deal with immense poverty.

The picture of the two Brazilian children was taken at *favela* Rocinha. *Favela* is a common Brazilian term meaning "shanty town". Hilario says that this was her favourite day in Rio, Brazil. She says that *favela* Rocinha is the biggest *favela* with an estimated 70,000 people, the size of a small town.

"In the midst of the clustered houses, there's a main street which runs to the centre and is actually commercialized. There's even a McDonalds on it!" says Hilario.

Diversity at every step.



▲ The camera is turned around on photographer Jan Hilario as she plays the charango, an Andean string instrument.



▲ Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



▲ Soccer on Copacabana beach.



▲ These children represent just a fraction of the 70,000 people in favela Rocinha.



▲ Jan Hilario is "Dead set on livin'."

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▲ Community rooftop garden at a building in Olympic Village.

Tenants learn to operate eco-friendly energy systems

by ANNE-LAURENCE GODEFROY

A year ago, Aileen Ellis, 82, moved into one of two cutting-edge, city-owned buildings reserved for low-income earners in Vancouver's Olympic Village (The Village). Since then, using her complicated, high-tech condo energy system has been a challenge, and she's not alone.

The Village is home to residents of diverse backgrounds, cultures and levels of education. Sixty per cent of the units are non-market, and forty per cent are costly market rentals. Many tenants didn't understand how their building's energy system worked or how to operate it effectively, and education was not initially targeted to these individual groups.

In 2009, sustainability was at the heart of the Village's concept. Architects built technologically

advanced buildings where energy is interdependent, and low emissions targets can only be attained if the energy circulates between units as well as between adjacent buildings.

But after a year of occupancy, the two city-owned buildings were not reaching their low emissions targets. Residents, blaming a complicated energy system, were not curbing their energy usage as anticipated. In 2011, bills were so much higher than expected that the City of Vancouver offered to pay them for the entire year.

The problem was serious enough that, with the city's support, CHF BC's executive director, Thom Armstrong, decided to run an educational program called "Building a Sustainable Tenants Community" to teach residents how to use their energy system and ease their concerns.

Paula Temrick, conflict coordinator at the meetings, says the program is in line with the Village's principles of community and sustainability, and the occupants are invited to contribute to the vision.

Together they also created an onsite community roof garden, initiated get-together meetings with a social sustainability theme and founded a tenant advisory committee to help manage difficult relationships between residents.

"I didn't know where to go for help."

According to Temrick, this program not only helped smooth tensions, but also brought residents together to make their building

“I’m glad we are doing this program because I don’t understand how this building works.”

Aileen Ellis, resident, the Olympic Village

Workshops and in-suite tours ran from April to Nov. 2012 with guidance from architect and sustainability coordinator Sharon Halfnight. Residents learned how to save energy by adjusting their apartment's thermostats, or monitoring their energy consumption level in real time on a screen located in their unit.

Ellis, who attended program meetings, admitted that she initially had difficulty in operating the heating system in her condo. Other tenants had similar complaints and were also frustrated by their heating and cooling systems, adding to some of the tension aired at meetings.

"I’m glad we are doing this program because I don’t understand

work, and this is exactly what architects had in mind when they designed this area. The Village will continue to try to educate residents in adapting to new types of technology.

"This is a project that lies close to my heart, because it encompasses green re-orientation in our society as well as in our buildings," says Halfnight. ☒

NEW WORKS PRESENTS

Dance Allsorts 15th Anniversary With Vancouver Tap Dance Society + Guest Artists

It's About Time

Tap Dance with Vancouver Tap Dance Society

plus guest artists

*Sunday December 2, 2012, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews (Located at Davie & Pacific,
Yaletown-Roundhouse Skytrain Station)*

A limited amount of advance tickets for reserved seating will be available at eventbrite.com, priced at \$15 adult/senior/student, \$5 children. To ensure accessibility to each of our shows, tickets are available at the door on a first come, first serve basis. Suggested sliding scale is \$5–\$20, however no one will be denied access.

It's About Time is a rhythmic romp energized by technical prowess and innovative choreography. Dancers accompanied by live jazz musicians engage audiences in an unforgettable percussive conversation that features tones, syncopated rhythms and over the top steps executed in rapid fire succession. This is tap at its best!



Creekside Workshop

*Saturday December 8, 2012, 12:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.
Tap Dance with Alicia Koevoets*

Learn the rudiments of tap dance and before you know it you will have a combo that you can take away with you and then tap, tap, tap when and wherever you wish! If you have tap shoes, bring them. If you don't, don't worry, we will have tap shoes just for you. Shuffle, flap, hop!

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, Dance Allsorts is Vancouver's most eclectic dance series. In partnership with the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, New Works' Dance Allsorts series introduces all sorts of dance to all sorts of people!

These intimate, memorable shows feature dances of all traditions and customs, and are accompanied by a workshop on the following Saturday at Creekside Community Recreation Centre. All shows are one hour and appropriate for all ages. Visit newworks.ca for more info.



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Tuesday, December 4th, 2012

Pavilion Ballroom, Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver

6:30 Reception

7:00 Performance

8:00 Dinner

Complimentary valet parking available

Dress Black Tie

Tickets \$250 (tax receipt for \$175)

Tables of 10 available

The proceeds of all tickets sold by the Vancouver Chamber Choir will support our award-winning educational programs.

To reserve your tickets, please contact Violet Goosen at vgoosen@vancouverchamberchoir.com

or vancouverchamberchoir.com by Tuesday, November 27th, 2012

Vancouver Chamber Choir
1254 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 1B6

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Our Group Job Search Workshops are a flexible, 5 module rotating program, running weekly, with 16 sessions each month. This includes basic computer orientation, with instruction on using Word and Excel, and accessing the Internet. Workshops are held within a culturally diverse environment, led by qualified facilitators.

Past and current E.I. recipients are always welcome. Knowledgeable case managers are available to guide you through the process of reaching your career goals.

PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division.

Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.

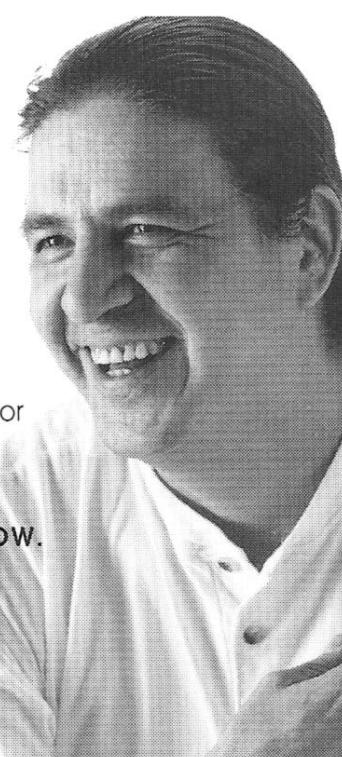


"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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▲ Explore local Canadian fashion.

Photo courtesy of Portobello West

Cultural Calendar

November 20–December 11, 2012



Photo by Jeff Lieberman

by PHOEBE YU

Get ready for the holidays with some seasonal festivities. The Vancouver Men's Chorus will be performing at Making Seasons Bright. There are also craft fairs for unique gift ideas at the Portobello West Holiday Market and at Got Craft? Other notable events are: the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinians.

* * *

Taste of Africa

Tuesday, November 20
 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
Legacy Liquor Store
 1633 Manitoba St., Vancouver
 604-331-7900
www.legacyliquorstore.com

Enjoy some authentic African food paired with South African wines. Three lucky guests will be given a chance to win native handmade African crafts. Must be 19+. Book in advance. Tickets \$35.

* * *

Who is a Jew?

Wednesday, November 21
 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Jewish Museum & Archives
 6184 Ash St., Vancouver
 604-257-5199
www.jewishmuseum.ca

With moderator Jeff Lieberman, explore what it means to be a Jew—is "Jewishness" part of one's DNA or religion? Who and what is a Jew? Lieberman is a journalist, producer and documentary filmmaker. His latest documentary, *Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria*, tells the story of the Igbo people of Nigeria, who were purportedly once Jews themselves. Open to the public. Suggested \$5 donation.

* * *

Portobello West Holiday Market

November 24–25
 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Creekside Community Centre
 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver
 manager.van@
portobellwest.com
www.portobellwest.com

A fashion and art market, with products made by local Canadian and Pacific Northwest designers, artists and producers. With over 50 vendors, expect to see a collection of fashion, art, accessories, jewellery and some goods for babies and kids. Tickets \$2, free for children under 12 years old.

* * *

Philosophers' Jam: Do People Really Have Minds?

Thursday, November 29, 7 p.m.
Langara College
 100 W. 49th Ave., Vancouver
 604-323-5414
www.langara.bc.ca

What is mental realism – do people really have minds that is the result of intelligent behaviour? Speaker Wayne Henry will attempt to defend Jerry Fodor's theory of mental realism. Henry is currently an instructor at Langara and the University of the Fraser Valley, with a PhD on the conceptual foundations of cognitive science. Free admission.

* * *

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Monday, December 3, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.
Roundhouse Community Centre
 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver
 604-873-7799
www.vancouverdisabilitiesday.ca

Showcasing achievements of persons with disabilities in art,

culture and more. There will be a panel discussion, performances, art show, refreshments and more. Open to the public.

* * *

Got Craft?

December 8–9
 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Croatian Cultural Centre
 3250 Commercial Dr., Vancouver
 info@gotcraft.com
www.gotcraft.com

Expect to see homemade baked goods, artisan chocolates, curated handmade clothing, jewellery, etc. There will also be workshops where you can make your own craft project. First 50 people receive a goodie bag. \$3 entrance fee, children 10 and under are free.



Photo courtesy of Got Craft?

The Sacred Girls

Until December 13
 Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Rufus Lin Gallery
 415–5811 Cooney Rd., Richmond
 604-303-6330
www.rufuslingallery.com

Solo exhibition by Taiwanese manga artist, Wu Peiying. A collection of 6 illustrations, all depicting female characters in the manga art style. Open to the public.

Vancouver Olive Oil Company

A new world awaits when you walk through the door of Vancouver Olive Oil Company (vooc). First you're taken in by the beautifully arranged dark-stained shelves made of pine beetle wood and filled with cylindrical stainless steel containers called *fustis*. The *fustis* have spigots which dispense exotic olive oils and balsamic vinegars. Lower shelves contain tasting utensils and empty, labeled bottles waiting to be filled. The central table in this photo is made from reclaimed acacia wood and sits atop wheels from India. On the surrounding walls are framed photo prints by Robert Doisneau, a French photographer who took the famous 1950 photo of two lovers kissing near the Town Hall in Paris. The vooc photos are of Italian villagers harvesting olives and producing olive oil.

You'll also discover facts that you probably didn't know about olive oil. I never realized that there is such a thing as an olive oil sommelier, but owner Michaelanne Buckley has been trained by one. Not only that, but olive oils and vinegars receive awards like wines do. In Modena, Italy where the vinegars here come



from, Italian law dictates that traditional balsamic vinegar must go through a certification agency that oversees all phases of production.

With this in mind, you'll find the highest standards are adhered to at vooc. All the oils and vinegars are purchased from their supplier, Veronica foods, in Oakland, California. Veronica Foods buys their oil directly from the producers and is familiar with each particular farm and farmer. The only olive

oils vooc sells surpass international standards for quality and freshness and are high in antioxidants. The optimal time for consuming such superior oils should be within a year. Consequently, vooc switches their oils twice a year based on when the olives are crushed for production in northern or southern hemispheric countries. Balsamic vinegars, on the other hand, last indefinitely and some of the best are aged for 18 years.

Do you know what determines

a quality oil? Can you detect the difference between mild, medium and full-bodied olive oils? Have you ever tasted an olive oil infused with blood orange or Persian lime? How about a balsamic vinegar infused with espresso? What about pairing oils and vinegars with different food dishes?

All these questions can be answered and multiple tastings are offered by vooc's friendly and enthusiastic staff, like Trisha Le-Vatte, the mother of owner Mi-

chaelanne Buckley. Both mother and daughter hail from Nova Scotia where Michaelanne discovered her passion at an olive oil tasting room in Halifax. They will soon be celebrating their first anniversary in January 2013.

You can find vooc at 2571 W. Broadway between Larch and Trafalgar. www.vooc.ca

Don Richardson

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