

Celebrating
the remarkable
life of Sister
Elizabeth Kelliher
Page 4



Photo by Joseph Mark Switzer



▲ Turki Faez Al Souhayni prepares for the new school year.

Young Arabs flock to Vancouver for higher learning

by JOSEPH MARK SWITZER

If you've strolled downtown in the past couple of years, you might have noticed that Vancouver's streets have been increasingly populated with young Arabs: veiled women sometimes with strollers, young hipsters with afros or perhaps even young men in long flowing robes and headdresses. In fact, statistics show that there has been a surge in young Arab students in Vancouver. According to think tank Metropolis British Columbia, Saudi Arabia, the largest source of incoming Arab stu-

dents, was the third top source country for international students in Vancouver in 2009, up from 33rd in 2000.

It's important to first point out that the term Arab is a broad one which encompasses peoples of different cultures, religions and political backgrounds. This means that a wide range of factors attract Arab students from different countries and backgrounds to Vancouver.

A quality reputation

One primary draw for students is that Canada's universities are reputed to have high educational

standards. Eight Canadian universities placed in the top 200 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings in 2012–2013.

Turki Faez Al Souhayni, a 22-year-old criminology student from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia says that the quality of education in Canada is better compared to the United States.

"If I get a degree from a university here, I can get a job easily [in Saudi Arabia]. With the United States, they have to check which university I went to," he says.

Canadian universities' close adherence to high standards is

demonstrated by their score requirements for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test, one of the most common English proficiency exams.

Yousef Mohammad Ali, a 35-year-old business professor from Libya, plans to study for a PhD in Canada, but is currently focused on studying for the IELTS exam.

According to Ali, he must score at least 6.5 on the test to be accepted into his PhD program, while some American universities would accept a lesser score.

See "Arab Peninsula Students" page 6 ►

Verbatim

Sport in the City

by ALICE DUBOT

Before arriving in Vancouver, an abundance of googled images of the city flooded my mind. As much as I liked the idea of allowing myself to be carried away by imagination and come into contact with my new home in a naïve and spontaneous way, removing myself from the virtual reality of experiencing the world through the internet first was difficult to do. Compelled to see my new city even before I arrived, I looked through photos of whales in English Bay, sailboats pulling away from the urban horizon, snowcapped peaks and unobstructed Skytrain views over downtown.

Seen from the sky just before landing, the little islands that spread across the ocean and the abundance of greenery that surrounds the city created a feeling of serenity in me. No, Google Images was not wrong and Vancouver was even better in person. But I had missed one element of what would make it special for me. What the search engine had tried to tell me – through the photo of a jogger, slid surreptitiously between images of a seal and the Olympic rings of the 2010 Games – is that sports are very important in the lives of Vancouverites.

First of all, for a cycling enthusiast like me, Vancouver is a champion of two-wheelers. Kilometers of cycling paths have been created throughout the city and along the waterfront. There is no fear that drivers will mistake you for a UFO, which is sadly still the case in a number of metropolitan cities where bicycles remain the pariahs of the roadway. The clearest example of this is the device placed at each intersection allowing cyclists to stop street traffic and to continue on without breaking speed.

This freedom, however, has a price and I realized in the course of my outings that

See "Verbatim" page 5 ►

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comes alive in
pictures and sound
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in Vancouver
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My Turn

Playing by the book – the art of governing without making waves

Some will no doubt find this surprising, but former Prime Minister Jean Chretien’s shadow still looms large over Ottawa. We only have to consider the present tenant at 24 Sussex Drive to realize that the former Prime Minister’s stances tend to be followed by Stephen Harper in two ways.

First, the Prime Minister bases his political approach on the same grounds: each move is determined by a single aim – to win the next elections. Second, he doesn’t rock the boat by avoiding sweeping initiatives that often become difficult to manage and can easily skid out of control. If there are too many

for example, Senate reform. To date, the Prime Minister has avoided any deep reforms that would have pushed him into constitutional negotiations. Remembering, no doubt, the grand constitutional debates during Brian Mulroney’s progressive-conservative years – for which he paid a dear price in the West – Harper goes at it a step at a time.

Not that he didn’t try to reform the Senate long before some of his appointees gave him headaches. In fact, it has been one of the Conservative troop’s hobby horses for some years now. We’ll remember that the subject of Senate reform saw a

not to involve Canadian troops in a military expedition, yet he approves of international intervention. But no matter what, our troops won’t be involved.

Military deployments are always a source of acrimonious debates, seldom ending on a positive note for any government. What’s more, depending on the type of military intervention, Canada would have little to offer. Under those circumstances, the Canadian decision is a win-win move for the government.

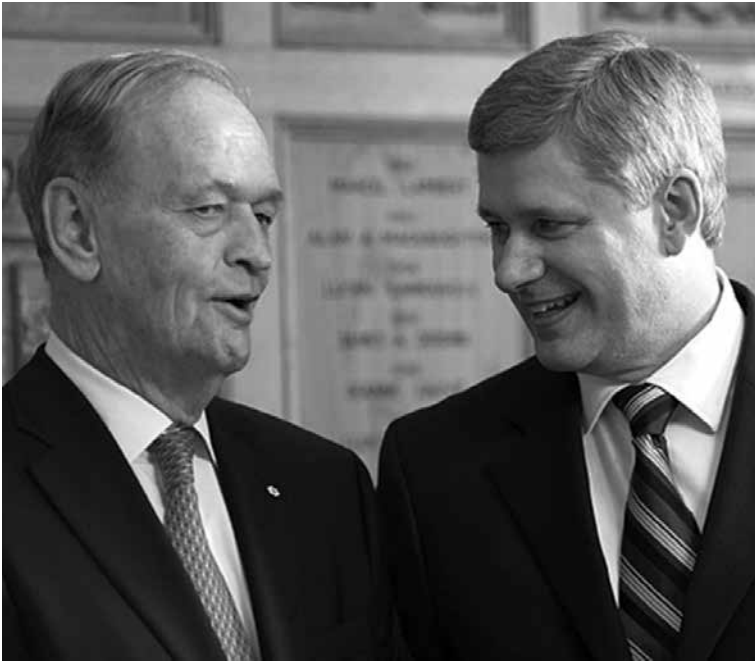
Jean Chretien couldn’t have done better. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

Spencie's View



...OKAY! I ADMIT IT!
I INHALED MORE THAN ONCE!!
THERE, NOW IS EVERYONE HAPPY?
I SAY LET'S PAY ATTENTION TO
OUR MANDATE AND MOVE ON!
RIGHT-- I FORGOT WE DON'T HAVE
ONE...ANYONE HAVE ANY CHEETOS?



▲ Chretien and Harper: two peas in a pod?

important dossiers at once on the table, it’s impossible to have total control over them. And this is why, like Jean Chretien, Harper prefers the incremental approach.

We can see how well this approach works in a number of federal government dossiers. Take,

Prime Minister testify, for the first time in history, before a specially appointed senatorial committee, in 2006. But, despite the importance of this dossier, the government has managed to avoid the worst. It goes at it carefully. For now, the government awaits the Supreme Court of Canada’s ruling, due sometime between Nov. 12 and Nov. 14.

What will follow in this dossier will become clear once the Court rules. But everything indicates the government will use this as a major issue against Justin Trudeau’s Liberal troops in order to keep its edge in the West. It’s a risky bet. Even if this is, in the present circumstances, a favourite topic, I’m not convinced that it alone can become a determining electoral factor.

Another dossier in which the Prime Minister seems to be taking a page from Jean Chretien’s book is with regards to Canada’s military intervention in Syria. When representing the Official Opposition, the Conservative Party vehemently denounced the Chretien government for its refusal to participate in the military intervention in Iraq. Yet now, the Prime Minister seems to have decided



▲ Memories of the price Brian Mulroney paid for constitutional reform keeps Harper from enacting Senate reform.

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▲ *New immigrant at the Citizenship and Immigration Canada office.*

Immigrant job hunt may be hard, but it gets better

by NAOMI TSE

Navigating the treacherous seas of the job market is difficult for anyone, much less someone new to the country. As an immigrant herself, Nerella Campigotto, a specialist in international business and intercultural communication with over 20 years of experience, understands the challenges that many newcomers face in the job market.

"For a lot of professionals, their qualifications are difficult to convert [to Canadian standards]," she says.

Intense competition

According to Campigotto, there is high competition for positions as well as many people who want to live in Vancouver. She notes that the lack of large corporate headquarters in Vancouver adds to the problems immigrants face and the shortage of available positions.

Campigotto suggests that some immigrants arrive from larger cities with more opportunities and are surprised to find that Vancouver is a smaller city with more limited opportunities. Immigrants who have not done enough research prior to immi-

Campigotto gives three tips in regards to job hunting for immigrants:

1. Participate in networking events. It's important to be out there and meet people.
2. Try to be patient because it may take longer than anticipated to land the right job. Immigrants should also be prepared to prove themselves if their skills are not immediately recognized.
3. Spend time researching Canadian culture to understand it better and ensure that the environment is truly suitable before moving here.

grating to Vancouver may have their high expectations regarding available job prospects disappointed.

Language and culture

Another obvious obstacle for immigrants, according to Campigotto, is the language barrier. Good communication abilities in the native language of the country is a must when it comes to landing a job, especially if your

says Campigotto.

Choo also says that it may take a long time for companies to understand how best to incorporate temporary workers into their business plan because often these workers will need to return to their home country eventually, which can be troublesome for businesses.

Pathways to success

Yet for all of the difficulties that

“Most employers are open to accommodating immigrants if they have the right skills.”

Nerella Campigotto, Specialist in Intercultural Communciation

desired position requires frequent communication.

But an unfamiliar culture and different business practices and laws are other factors that can make finding a job difficult for newcomers. Queenie Choo, CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of immigrants and new Canadians, says that in her experience, immigrants have a hard time writing a proper resume, finding employment information online and learning how to conduct themselves in an interview.

"If they are trying to set up their own business, they don't know how to do marketing or how to seek [legal or financial] advice in Canada," she says.

There is also the challenge of networking and integrating into business communities where personal contacts and relationships are key.

“Business culture here is all about who you know and employers are risk-averse in the sense that they prefer hiring people they know or people who have worked for a local business versus an international business [that they are not familiar with],”

immigrants face in finding a job, Campigotto emphasizes that there are many success stories.

"Most employers are open to accommodating immigrants if they have the right skills," she says.

One piece of advice Campigotto provides to immigrants seeking a position in Vancouver is to be mindful of what different companies are looking for.

"Small companies tend to hire people who will be productive with minimal disruption while bigger companies are more willing to do extra training," she says.

Most of all, Campigotto suggests that job seekers need to be 'culturally aware' as they approach their job search.

“One of the biggest mistakes [immigrants make] is that they don’t put themselves in the shoes of the other person to try to see how they are being perceived,” says Campigotto.

Of course, this applies to companies as well as job seekers – both employers and their culturally diverse employees must make efforts to learn from each other in order to be productive.

"Culture is a two way street," says Campigotto. **S**



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Left Bank



Sister Elizabeth Kelliher: Remembering a fighter for social justice

I keep fighting for justice because that seems to be what any life needs to do to come to fruition... We are meant to be people of integrity and courage.
Sister Elizabeth Kelliher

A few years ago, during Israel's Operation Cast Lead against Gaza, I was participating in a protest rally and march in downtown Vancouver. It was early January, during a cold snap, and the wind and snow had mixed with freezing rain in conspiracy against us, as the crowd of several hundred marched down Robson Street.

As I shuffled along, alternating bare freezing hands between pocket and umbrella, I looked over and saw an old friend coming towards me. She was taking off her gloves, "You look like you need these." I must have muttered some objection. But she quickly produced an extra pair from her bag for herself. I put on the gloves and we carried on together. That person was Sister Elizabeth Kelliher.

I have many fond memories like this of her. The nun and life-long social justice activist passed away at the age of 89 last month. Sister Elizabeth of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement lived and worked in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for over a dozen years, starting in the late

on this need to come together, in a recent article in The Nation on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington at which Martin Luther King gave his 'I Have a Dream' speech:

"[King] saw the connections between the wars we wage abroad and the utter indifference we have for poor people and people of color at home. He saw the necessity of openly critiquing an economic system that will fund war and reward greed hand over fist, but will not pay workers a living wage. In the years following the March on Washington, Dr. King ignored all those who told him to stay in his lane, just stick to talking about civil rights..."

"I have been staying in my lane... But no more.. In the years following the march, [King] did not play politics to see what crumbs a fundamentally corrupt system might toss to the beggars for justice. Instead, he connected the dots and committed himself to building a movement that would shake the foundations of our economic and social order..."

Today, there are more pressures – political, economic, social



▲ Sister Elizabeth Kelliher (right) with MLA Mable Elmore.

'90s. She made an indelible impression.

Sister Elizabeth and her colleagues worked to provide shelter and food to those most in need in our city. This wasn't mere charity, however, it was just one component of a life fully devote to social justice and solidarity.

What strikes me about the memorials for Sister Elizabeth, is that her years of activism in Vancouver cut across the full spectrum of the progressive community. She was incapable of limiting herself to one or two issues; it was an holistic practice of striving for justice.

The Globe and Mail obituary put it, "she led or attended meetings for almost every peace and social justice advocacy group in the neighbourhood, raising Cain everywhere from City Hall in Vancouver to Parliament in Ottawa to defend the rights of the city's unhoused, addicted and afflicted, and to better the lot of its poorest and most marginalized people."

We can take strength from Sister Elizabeth's spirit and example as we carry on in the struggle for social justice. It's very easy to get bogged down in our own silos of concern. But we need each other, and we need to see and make connections between the issues.

Michelle Alexander reflected

– than ever for people to "stay in their lane" or stay home from activism altogether. I'm hopeful these can be overcome. But we'll need new organizational forms to help make it happen. I'm encouraged by projects like the People's Social Forum that will bring together activists from First Nations, Quebec and the rest of Canada in 2014 to build new and stronger coalitions to oppose the Harper government and neoliberalism.

Here in Vancouver, we can draw upon many past models of multi-issue coalitions. This is where Greenpeace got started, after all, combining the concerns of the peace movement with the then nascent environmental movement. The global crisis of climate change will never be solved without putting an end to war and plunder, so it's urgent that we put 'green' and 'peace' back together in practice.

Sister Elizabeth is missed by everyone in Vancouver struggling for a fairer city and a better world. She's with us in spirit, at protests against the latest U.S. threats of war on Syria, and everywhere that people are standing up against big developers and slumlords for affordability and dignity.✍

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- Hon. Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
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MOSAIC is a multilingual non-profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees in the course of their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

East embraces West: Genre-bending group redefines world music

by SONJA GRGAR

Roma Swing Ensemble has been an inspired presence on the Vancouver music scene since 1997. Lache Cercel, the band's Romanian-born leader and violinist, sets the tone for the musical love affair between East and West that defines the group's body of work.

Defying borders

Cercel, a classically trained musician, describes his band's music as a Canadian invention that mixes his native Roma musical roots with jazz and North American musical sensibility.

While still living in Romania, Cercel discovered the work of legendary jazz musicians, violinist Stephane Grappelli and guitarist Django Reinhardt, and fell in love with the improvisational creativity of the genre.

Upon moving to Vancouver, he enrolled at Vancouver Community College to study jazz and to experience a North American approach to teaching music. He also began composing and performing what he considers to be a new world music genre he calls Roma swing. It blends Eastern European Roma music with jazz, klezmer and even Middle Eastern melodies.

Rather than simply representing other cultures in the diaspora, Cercel considers this original musical fusion to be a thoroughly Canadian genre.

"My goal was to bring people together, to break the borders between nations, and to introduce them to Canadian culture because the sound is Canadian," he says.

Collective inspiration

Cercel's inclusive approach defines the musical style of the Roma Swing Ensemble, which performs original compositions along with a large repertoire of classical and quartet music.

All of the band's permanent members, as well as its frequent guest performers, are accomplished musicians. Cercel encourages them to contribute their own musical heritage to

the group, which the band then infuses with Roma and jazz touches.

The group boasts a close rapport between its musicians, a family-like feel.

“Music is part of our communication, and trying to in the end realize that we are all one nation.

Lache Cercel, leader and violinist of Roma Swing Ensemble



▲ Lache Cercel and the Roma Swing Ensemble thrill audiences at East is East Chai Lounge with their unique sound.

He says that the band's 2006 album *Musica Konkordo* is an extension of the harmonious collaboration between its members. "It was kind of a natural blending," says Ogilvie.

"We want to allow the instruments to breathe," he says. Hazem Matar, a Middle Eastern-born singer, oud player (a string instrument similar to a lute) and a regular Roma Swing Ensemble

In addition to Ogilvie, the band features another guitarist, Steven Nikleva, and bassists Sam Shoichet and Kyle Hagen.

Hagen accompanied Cercel and Ogilvie on a trip to Romania to collect and record Roma music and was thrilled at the opportunity to observe firsthand the musical roots of his band's oeuvre.

Cercel and Ogilvie received a grant for the trip because they are working on a book which transcribes Roma oral musical tradition into written form, helping preserve its place in world music heritage.

"Music is part of our communication, and trying to in the end realize that we are all one nation," says Cercel.

A breath of fresh air

Cercel's devotion to inclusivity and collaboration is also evident in how he arranges his band's music to allow each musician ample space for expression.

guest performer, relishes this egalitarian approach to performing that he sees as uniquely Canadian.

"I am comfortable to be exposed to the Canadian point of view. I like the way they receive my music," says Matar.

Though Cercel feels Vancouver could do more to promote live music, he feels fortunate to have found a venue where the band performs weekly. With its ornate décor and warm eastern vibe, restaurant and lounge East is East is where you can hear Roma Swing Ensemble play.

It is the kind of music that is capable of bringing you to your feet and breaking your heart all at once. It is guaranteed to make you feel at home. ✍

See Lache Cercel and Roma Swing Ensemble perform weekly at East is East (4433 Main St. & 3243 W. Broadway), and visit www.lachecercel.com for more information on their music.

➤ *Verbatim from page 1*
some strict rules do exist. Anyone not wearing a helmet is fined \$29, a penalty which has gone so far as to trigger the anger of some and the creation of a protest page on Facebook. I was taken aback by how seriously this is taken when a little girl on Main Street denounced me to her mother while pointing her finger at me.

"Look mummy! No helmet, no helmet," she said.

Cyclists also make up the rules amongst themselves. On our way to Third Beach for the first time at night, we became somewhat lost. Though we were in a bike lane, a cyclist came hurtling towards us at full speed and narrowly avoided hitting us.

"Wrong way, that's the wrong way guys!" the man said in a blunt and authoritarian tone.

Thus, it is necessary to respect the direction of the bicycle lanes and woe betide the unfortunate pedestrian who happens to find himself or herself in a marked cycling lane.

The abundance of water all around has made an equally big impression on me. From relaxing canoe rides to frantic rowing competitions, there is no shortage of aquatic activities. Additionally, Kitsilano Pool offers up a good challenge. At the edge of the bay, a silvery-blue, 127-meter pool awaits you. When I first got in, I could not even see where it ended and I wondered if I would be able to cross this great sea in one go. I could not help congratulating myself when I saw the floor markings at 50 meters for having, without stopping, already crossed the standard length of an Olympic-sized pool.

"Almost halfway," I struggled to tell myself.

But I made it across and, likewise, in the course of my (no less glorious) swim back, I did not have to call on the lifeguards to save me. For a Vancouverite, the size of this pool seems perfectly normal and swimmers do several laps without even raising an eyebrow. They set the bar high.

The same goes for running. Not once have I been able to leave home, even to go to the coffee shop down the block, without running into joggers. At any time, you will find a Vancouverite running. If a sensation of guilt can sometimes be felt in the face of this general obsession, it is even more motivation. The plethora of parks and footpaths certainly help one in getting started.

Vancouver does not skimp on its outdoor infrastructure and the residents cherish it. In most other cities – I'm thinking notably of those in France – major degradations occur and the free services do not often last long. The surroundings certainly prompt respect for this environment in Vancouver and it is through collaborative effort that each person ensures the maintenance of these services.

These are simply my first impressions as far as seasonal sporting activities go, and I am looking forward to the promise of Vancouver's winter sporting pleasures. More than a breath of fresh air conveyed by the images on the web, Vancouver has been a veritable spa. My rejuvenation is just beginning. ✍

Translation Debo Odegbile



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by KUMIKO AOKI

Surrounded by sound



photo by Trudi Smith, courtesy of John Wynne





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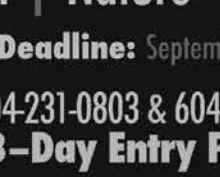
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UBC Continuing Studies is pleased to invite you to the:

2013 Vancouver Human Rights Lecture

Human Rights and Today’s Aboriginal Children and Youth

with Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC Representative for Children and Youth

Thursday, September 12th, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6pm.
Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, UBC Point Grey.

Admission is FREE. Register online or call 604.822.1444 to ensure a seat.

In the 2013 Vancouver Human Rights Lecture, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond will cover a range of topics including a description of living conditions and statistics on Aboriginal children in BC, and how we might go about addressing these unacceptable statistics. She will discuss recent work of the Representative’s Office and the government’s role in Aboriginal services over the past ten or so years. She will also look at education past and present and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as related to the rights described in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond is BC’s first Representative for Children and Youth, an Independent Officer of the Legis-

lature who supports children, youth and families who need help in dealing with the child welfare system. Ms. Turpel Lafond has worked as a criminal law judge in youth and adult courts, with an emphasis on developing partnerships to better serve the needs of young people in the justice system, particularly sexually exploited children and youth, and children and youth with disabilities.

Ms. Turpel-Lafond is a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and is active in her First Nations community. In 2007, the Indigenous Bar Association awarded her the distinction of ‘Indigenous Peoples’ Counsel’. Time magazine has twice bestowed honours upon Ms. Turpel-Lafond, naming her one of the 100 Global Leaders of Tomorrow in 1994,

and one of the Top 20 Canadian Leaders for the 21st Century in 1999.

The 2013 Vancouver Human Rights Lecture is presented by The Laurier Institution, UBC Continuing Studies and CBC Radio One, and will be recorded for national broadcast on Ideas, CBC Radio’s program of contemporary thought.





▲ One of the hundreds of images contributed by young Surrey artists.

Surrey youth culture on display at bold interactive showcase

by DEANNA CHOI

In October 2005, the combined efforts of nearly 100 young artists came to fruition at the Surrey Art Gallery. For the past eight years, their work, REMIXX.sur.RE, a multi-screen exhibit using hundreds of digital photos, audio clips and text, has been running almost continuously. Every image features a different person or place in Surrey – whether it’s a park, a storage facility or a pair of high school students – serving as a comprehensive look at the community, landscape and culture through the eyes of its youth.

An interactive artwork, REMIXX draws from the database of digital content and essentially ‘remixes’ the audio and the images shown on two flat screens. The speed of its change is based on the movement of the visitor, which is captured by a ceiling-mounted webcam. Because no remix is ever the same, each experience is unique to the viewer.

Project origins

The use of technology in art was uncommon at the time of REMIXX.sur.RE’s inception. *Every Bus Stop in Surrey, BC*, an installation featuring a database of photos by Surrey Art Gallery resident artist, Sylvia Grace Borda, inspired the gallery to give a voice to a younger generation.

The production team, which included Borda, constructed and configured the exhibit to display the digital contributions of 96 Surrey youths.

“The premise was this: could a mentorship program be set up where artists who work in digital media help direct and give guidance to another generation?” says Borda. “We wanted it so that they could be mobilized to portray themselves in a way they saw was relevant in terms of both their own sociocultural age and geography. There was a relevance to the community at large, but particularly to such a younger-based audience.”

Portraits of a city

Through technology, the contributing young artists could express their view of the com-

munity. Each entry represents a different aspect of Surrey, and the wide range of cultural backgrounds play an integral role in every unique vision.

“You look at Surrey, it’s such a multicultural zone on its own. The participants brought in different languages and text – even the way they portrayed certain social spaces was different,” says Borda.

Without the technology behind the REMIXX project, it would have been difficult to provide a platform for such a large number of diverse voices at once.

“It’s very hard, in any capacity, to represent a multi-faceted culture. But when you get to represent them directly, it becomes much more transparent,” says Borda. “Everyone’s going to have their own way of defining themselves. If you could just see snippets of that, you can sometimes find your own cultural identity or break stereotypes. I think that’s what the project really attempted to do, and that’s why it continues to be of interest.”

The evolution of art and technology

Over the years, technology has become an increasingly integral part of our everyday lives and a much more familiar medium for art. For those youth born in the digital age, it seems only natural for art and technology to merge, something that is reflected in the REMIXX project.

“In the capacity of REMIXX, technology was seen as this great purveyor because it offered an opportunity. It offered a link to a younger audience that is much more technologically savvy than older generations,” says Borda. “Technology has opened a platform for everybody to deliver a message.”

REMIXX.sur.RE is one of the first digital media exhibitions at the Surrey Art Gallery, and helps pave the way for other technology-based works to follow. Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the Surrey Art Gallery, Liane Davison, believes this use of technology has come to be a substantial part of culture and art.

“It’s no longer an isolated practice. It’s in everything,” she says. ☞

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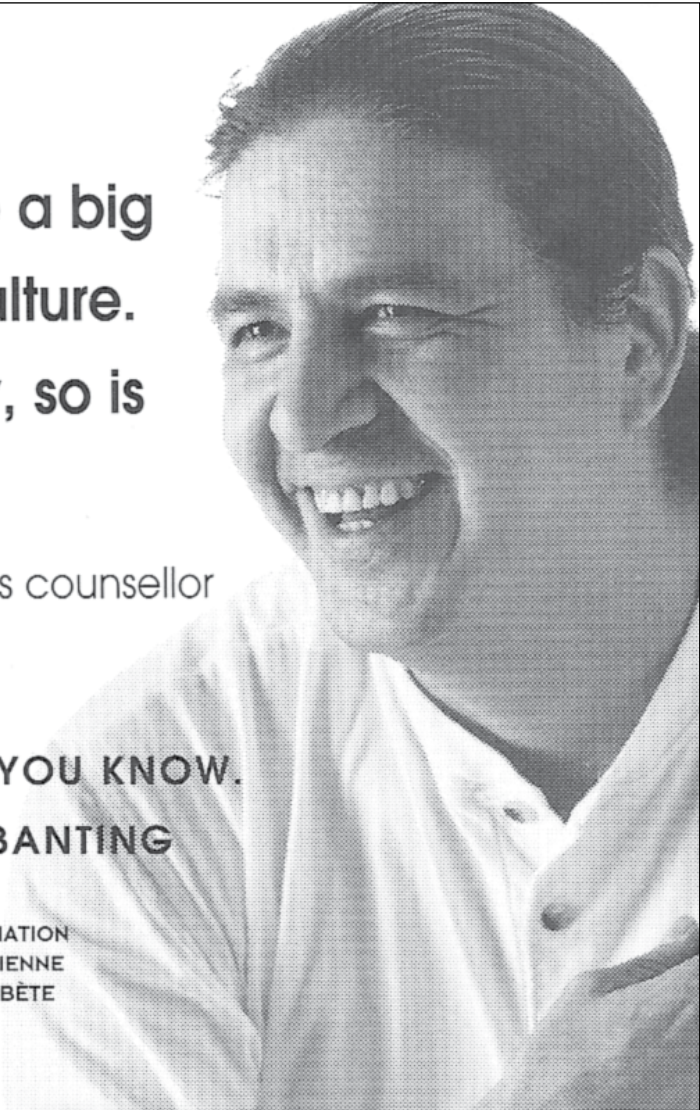
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Focus on Local Artist

Living harmony: Sogetsu Vancouver celebrates half a century of teaching ikebana to Canadians

by SONJA GRGAR

This September, the Sogetsu School of Ikebana celebrates 50 years of bringing the ancient Japanese art of flower arrangement to Vancouver. Sogetsu (the name translates as 'grass moon') was founded in Japan in 1927 by Sofu Teshigahara who believed ikebana can be done anywhere, by anyone, with any kind of materials.

“It is a way for people to get inside of themselves, and to develop a really meaningful relationship with nature.

Hollis Ho, ikebana teacher

Such a decidedly modern sensibility has allowed the school to gain a growing international following.

Paving the way

Sogetsu owes its long history in Vancouver to its founding teacher (sensei), Kiyoko Boycott, whose devotion to initiating and expanding the school's local branch will be honoured at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Boycott began teaching in Vancouver in 1963, and is a founding member of the Vancouver Ikebana Association, an umbrella organization for Vancouver's five practising ikebana schools. Decades of dedication later, Boycott ended up training enough teachers to open a Sogetsu Ikebana branch in Vancouver in 1985.

Hollis Ho is one of Boycott's students, and a Sogetsu Vancouver teacher herself. She credits her sensei with inspiring her own passion for this creative and meditative art form.

Ho began studying ikebana 23 years ago, and has been teaching it for eight years. Though she is half Japanese, she finds ikebana allows her to connect with new aspects of her own culture, as well as to share it with her students.

“That's one of the thrilling things for me as a teacher, that

I am able to introduce the students to my culture, and to this ancient art form,” she says.

Living ikebana

Ikebana is not just an activity for Ho, but a way of life that emphasizes profound reverence for nature, and inspires focus and calm.

“It is a way for people to get inside of themselves, and to develop a really meaningful relationship with nature,” says Ho.

She believes that part of Sogetsu's international appeal is that it encourages individual expression through the study of ikebana, and allows for the use of non-traditional materials such as metal, plastics, and paper.

Ho's own classes are comprised of both men and women who hail from countries as diverse as Slovakia and Brazil, and also include students from Japan who wish to continue their ikebana practice in Vancouver.

She believes her role as a teacher is to develop her students' creativity within the framework of



▲ Mrs. Boycott with one of her ikebana students.

Sogetsu principles, and to build their understanding of line and space in a manner that invites thoughtful reflection.

“Generally, a Japanese flower arrangement will invite con-

templation, and will exude some kind of feeling,” she explains.

Lifelong learning

Ho emphasizes that Sogetsu is a developing journey which promotes continuous learning. Students can take two 10-class sessions per year, one in fall, and the other in spring. Taking both sessions covers one out of four books in the Sogetsu ikebana curriculum.

Once done with all four books, the learning continues through practice and mentorship. Instructors have to train for five to seven years before beginning to teach, and even then, they never cease to be students themselves.

Ho continues to take classes from her sensei Boycott. The poignant teacher-student relationship between the two is exemplified by their professional names. In Sogetsu tradition, all teachers receive a flower name that contains a piece of their sensei's name.

So, Boycott's flower name is

Hakusei, and as her student, Ho's professional name is Sei Chiku, with the first word passed down from her teacher's name.

Along with a relaxed and social class atmosphere, it is this kind of connection and continuity that inspires Sogetsu students to adopt ikebana as an integral and long-term part of their lives.

And with a thriving membership, Sogetsu Vancouver has much to celebrate during its exciting 50th year celebration. The two-day event will feature a banquet honouring Kiyoko Boycott, as well as an ikebana demonstration and workshops conducted by an esteemed guest, visiting Master Teacher Kika Shibata.

To buy ikebana demonstration tickets for Sogetsu Vancouver's 50th year celebration on September 28th & 29th, and to find out more about the organization and their classes, visit www.sogetsuvancouver.com



▲ Sogetsu celebrates half a century of bringing the art of ikebana to Vancouverites.

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AUDITIONS

Vancouver Chamber Choir Auditions
Saturday, September 21, 2013

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is holding auditions for professional-level singers. All voices (SATB) are invited.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is a fully professional choir of 20 experienced, well-trained singers. The key activities of the Choir include a subscription series that is unique in Vancouver, extensive touring in Canada and abroad, broadcasting live concerts, recording, commissioning and premiering new choral compositions, and presenting four to five educational programs throughout each season. The Choir demands a major commitment of time and needs to be the singers’ top priority.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir usually rehearses on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. A list of substitute singers is maintained; these people may also be used to augment the Choir if a larger group is needed.

An audition lasts approximately one half hour and singers will be required to sing three or four pieces in different styles and languages. There will also be an interview with Jon Washburn. A formal résumé is required. Singers are expected to provide their own accompanist for the audition.

Contact Catherine for an appointment
at catherinelaub@hotmail.com

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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.



Cultural Calendar

September 10–24, 2013

BY FLORENCE HWANG

Looking for ways to kick off the fall? Consider the zany puppetry of Avenue Q, or the musical stylings of The National and Matt Nathanson. If you want to take advantage of the warm, early fall temperatures, plunge into the Colour Run 5K challenge or the Reconciliation Walk.

Avenue Q
Now until Saturday, September 14
Arts Club at Granville Island Stage
1585 Johnson St.
www.artsclub.com
(604) 687-1644

This show features puppets, but it ain't no children's musical. What comes out of the mouths of these puppets is irreverent, shocking and at times even raunchy. Princeton, the main character, is a recent college grad looking to start his new life in the Big Apple, but he can only afford a place on Avenue Q – a multicultural neighbourhood with a mix of humans and puppets. Tickets range from \$29 to \$54.

The National
Sunday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.
WestJet Stage Concert at the PNE
2901 East Hastings St.
www.americanmary.com
604-757-0345

Fresh off the release of their latest album, *Trouble Will Find Me*, The National performs for all ages at the PNE amphitheatre with special guest Frightened Rabbit. Tickets: \$40 advance, \$45 at door. Doors at 5:00 p.m.

Colour Run
Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m.
PNE Grounds
2901 East Hastings
www.thecolourrun.com/Canada/Vancouver

Want an excuse to plaster yourself with colour and go for a run? Colour Run is a 5 km run for charity that celebrates healthiness, happiness, individuality and giving back to the community. You start the race wearing white, you end the race being covered head to toe in colour! This race is known as the happiest 5k on the planet. Individual entry is \$52.50 and team entry is \$47.25. Start time is. This race is not timed, so the pressure's off!

Matt Nathanson
Sunday, September 22



▲ Avenue Q is Sesame Street all grown up and tackling adult subjects.

7:00 p.m.
Commodore Ballroom
868 Granville Street
mattnathanson.com

On his *The Last of the Pretenders* tour. Pop-folkie Matt Nathanson showcases songs from his eighth album. Ticket prices start at \$44.

Walk for Reconciliation: A New Way Forward
Sunday, September 22, 8:30 a.m.
Queen Elizabeth Plaza to Creekside Park
650 Hamilton Street
reconciliationcanada.ca

A walk in solidarity to demonstrate a shared commitment to the renewal and transformation of relations between Aboriginals and all Canadians – this event culminates Reconciliation Week. Enjoy live entertainment before and during walk, and multicultural food at the post-walk celebration. Donations are accepted.

Fourth Annual Autumn Shift Festival
Sunday, September 15
12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
Main Street (Between Broadway and 7th Avenue)



Photo by Cosmic Smudge, Flickr

▲ The most fun you will have running around the city.

Kiddies can take part in free activities while parents explore the farmer's market and nursery, watch the smoking sausage cook-off, a fundraiser for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, then stick around for a fashion show at Main and 7th.

brilliant! A Show of Love for Mental Health and People Living with HIV/AIDS
Saturday September 21

7:00 p.m.
Commodore Ballroom
868 Granville St.
www.helpstpauls.com/events/brilliant

This year's theme is "Fashion Through the Ages". Come with your dancing shoes and be ready to dance the night away at St. Paul's Hospital's second fundraiser, an extravagant show displaying Canada's most popular artists in the fashion industry. Be ready to bid on items in the live and silent auctions. Tickets: \$75 each (with a \$57 tax receipt in return).



Photo courtesy of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation

▲ Fashion for a good cause.

Scotiabank Dance Centre Open House
Saturday, September 14
11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Scotiabank Dance Centre
677 Davie St.
www.thedancecentre.ca

If you're curious about different styles of dance, check out the full range of options at this free day-long event, including ballet, tap and bhangra. Renowned tap dancer Danny Nielson concludes the day with his newest work at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 or \$26. Visit www.ticketstonight.ca for more information.

Dynamo Lines
Wednesday, September 11
7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
Grunt Gallery Media Lab
116-350 E 2nd Ave.
www.grunt.ca

Josephin Böttger and Sergej Toksdorf collaborate on this installation of video, sound and live act that examines the social constructs, urban development, traffic, lights and movement that fragment cityscapes. In the Media Lab until September 15th.



© 2013 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

The current metamorphosis happening in the block bordered by Georgia, Granville, Robson and Howe St. is the massive re-construction of the former Sears Building. If you like the Shangri-La, Fairmont Pacific Rim or the Shaw Tower, then you'll be pleased with the new design Canadian architect James Cheng has for this building. He helped create the architectural style known as Vancouverism, featur-

ing green glass towers. The new design will replace the featureless white tiles often referred to as a huge urinal wall. There will be glass windows and entrances, which will admit light inside and reflect the outside light, erasing the dull effect of the previous design. It will create a wonderful counterpoint to the black TD tower of the Pacific Centre and highlight Robson Square. It's the goal of Cheng to create a

buoyant structure for the city's centre which harmonizes with its surroundings. US retailer Nordstrom will occupy the first three levels; the remaining four levels will be expansive office space with two atriums and a landscaped rooftop. New retail space will be built on the mall level. The new Nordstrom is the first of five planned to be built in Canada. There will be in one Calgary, one in Ottawa and two in Toronto.

The initial metamorphosis of this site occurred with the building of the first Hotel Vancouver by Canadian Pacific in 1888. It had only 60 rooms and was surrounded by forest on all sides. With Vancouver's rapid development a larger hotel was needed. The second Hotel Vancouver was built in 1916 in a lavish Italianate revival style; at the time, it was considered one of the finest hotels of the British Empire. Un-

fortunately, it was demolished in 1949 supposedly because it was unsound. From 1949-1969, the site was a parking lot until the construction of the Pacific Centre with the TD Tower and the white-tiled Eaton's Centre (both designed by Cesar Pelli) completed in 1973. Nordstrom is slated to open September 2015. Don Richardson

Recipe by Chef Ben Kiely

Homemade cheese with rose water and pistachios

Here is a dessert which I feel like encompasses some of the truly amazing flavours of the Middle East. Making fresh cheese is something that maybe unusual to us here in Canada, however it is made in many homes across the Middle East. Fresh cheese is relatively easy, and once you have mastered the technique there are so many things that you can make with it. I like to serve this with roasted figs or apricots because the flavours all really go well together. Be careful in using rose water because if you add too much it may taste like perfume, however the right amount makes the flavour unique and exotic. Bon Appetit!



▲ Syrian delight: fresh cheese with rose water and pistachio nuts.

Ingredients for the fresh cheese

- 4 cups milk
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 4-1/2 cups water

Ingredients for the syrup

- 3 cups of milk
- 2-1/2 tablespoons of sugar
- 2 tablespoons of rose water
- 1/8 teaspoons crushed cardamom
- 1 tablespoon sliced almonds and pistachios to garnish

Method for the homemade cheese

1. Boil the milk in a heavy bottomed pan over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, and making sure milk does not burn on the bottom of the pan.
2. As the milk comes to a boil, add the lemon juice slowly and stir the milk gently. The curd will start separating from the whey. Turn off the heat.
3. Once the milk fat has separated from the whey, drain the whey using a strainer lined with cheesecloth or muslin cloth.
4. Wrap the curd in a muslin cloth, and squeeze well (Best to strain overnight).
5. Once the cheese is drained, place on a dry, clean surface and knead for 3–4 minutes

until the cheese almost rolls into smooth soft dough.

To finish the dessert

1. Divide the dough into 12 equal parts and roll them into smooth balls.
2. To make the balls, apply some pressure at first and then release when forming the balls. Lightly press to make about 3/4-inch patty shape.
3. Mix the sugar, water and rose water in a medium size pan on medium high heat and bring to a boil.
4. Add the fresh cheese balls to the pan and cook on gentle heat for 20 minutes.
5. Take out the patties from the syrup, squeeze them lightly, and keep aside.
8. Boil the milk in a frying pan on medium heat until the milk reduces to about 2 cups.
9. Make sure to frequently stir the milk as it burns easily at the bottom of the pan.
10. Add the sugar and the fresh cheese balls to the milk. Let it cook for a few minutes.
11. Add the cardamom and mix in. Garnish with sliced almonds and pistachios.
12. Serve chilled with fresh figs or apricots.

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