

Savour Christmas,  
Filipino-style  
Page 2



# The Source

forum of diversity

Since 1999

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## Verbatim

### Retrospective 1982

by LOUISE DAWSON

Dear younger friends, I will take you to a Vancouver you never knew! I was born in Quebec City and made my way very gradually to the “green city,” with a stop in Ontario for university studies, a quarter of a century in Alberta to bring up our children, and two enchanted years in New Mexico. When the nest was empty, we accepted my husband’s transfer to the West Coast to start our life again as a couple.

I had already made short trips to Vancouver but it had not won me over. It was the rainy season. First surprise – most of its denizens seemed to be impervious to the rain, strolling in it without umbrellas or raincoats! After renting for a few months, we decided to settle in the heart of Kitsilano. A detached house with a small garden back then sold for about \$150,000.00. The neighbourhood, with its lingering touches of the hippie era, endeared me with its cultural diversity, its small shops and its incredible number of restaurants. It was a predominantly Greek area but also home to many people of European descent.

Vancouver started to work its magic on me. Its transit system may be criticized, but I had two buses at 7-minute intervals, much better than in Edmonton where certain routes operated on the hour, a mortal danger in -40 C temperatures. And here, one doesn’t get eaten alive by mosquitoes and black flies! I found a seniors’ hiking club and discovered many trails in the mountains (pre-Grouse Grind!) and on the islands. Kitsilano Pool, newly revamped, however, did not yet have lanes for lap swimmers!

Our neighbourhood public library offered books in French, and the newspaper *Le Monde*. A few bookstores, alas bygone, sold books, records, newspapers, magazines and

See “Verbatim” page 3 >

## A year in review

# Tales of Canadians making a difference

by SIMON YEE

As Canada celebrated its 150th birthday **The Source Newspaper reported on Canadians making a constructive change to the country they call home.**

Movements and protests supporting vulnerable citizens and exhibits and performances giving voice to marginalized histories were covered, as well as progressive projects and inventions designed to improve our environment and social well-being.

“The freedom to be yourself,” as contributor Felipe Viana remarked, is Canadians’ greatest strength. “You’ll be accepted with all your virtues and imperfections. No matter what you are, how you dress or where you come from, you’ll be accepted equally by others.”

There will be a lot of stories to tell in the new year, but let’s take a moment to revisit some of the highlights of the past year.

### Winter activism

In January, citizens marched alongside other world cities

protesting local xenophobes and bigots emboldened by Trump’s presidency. Derrick O’Keefe covered how South Asian and Chinese Canadian communities reacted and responded to the recent rise of hate groups. While they were concerned for their community and urged greater vigilance against bigotry, they remained hopeful, suggesting that future youth will be more aware of social ills and injustices than past generations.

In honour of International Women’s Day in February, Alison Chiang profiled three local

women – singer Alysha Brilla, poet Jónína Kirton and fashion designer RozeMerie Cuevas – creating art in Vancouver. They shared their stories of overcoming challenges and finding success. Whether it is making music, writing poetry or designing clothes, all three women use their position to empower others and exert positive influences on their respective industries.

Ley Doctor covered Vancouver’s activities during the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
See “Year in Review” page 7 >

## Also in this issue



Hone your chocolate senses  
Page 7

Snow White comes to East Van  
Page 8



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SCOLE DU BORDIER

f t in

# Cultural Spotlight



Photo by James Sarmiento

## Christmas in a Filipino home

by VINH NGUYEN

**It is December and that means Christmas decorations are seen in the neighbourhood and those “fa la la” songs are playing in the mall. Families get together in this special season to enjoy their home-cooked meals, gifts from their loved ones and also family tradition.**

Filipino homes celebrate this special season with a little variance. Audrey Radstake, Stefanie Baltasar and Ron Darvin tell their Christmas stories and their connection with Filipino cultural heritage.

### Blessings, pancit, lechon

Radstake, a second-year Economics major at SFU, describes her family's annual activities. Church is her first place to visit on Christmas.

“We go to church on the 24th at 5 A.M. for Simbang Gabi, or ‘church night,’” she says. “And then I visit all of my grandmother’s siblings’ houses and send [them] blessings.”

Her family serves a unique mix of Filipino dishes on Christmas day.

“We eat spaghetti (Filipino style), lechon (roasted pig), bbq, pancit,” she says.

Revealing the secret ingredient to her Filipino spaghetti, Radstake says her family makes their own version of sweet sauce and hot dogs. “Lechon” is another special dish served on Christmas.

“Lechon is like a “festival” meal or for special occasions such as birthdays,” she explains. “And

then we have dessert called halo halo, it’s shaved ice with fruits and milk.”

Baltasar, a third-year Health Science major at SFU, says on Christmas she and her family often go to church.

“The first thing we do for Christmas celebration is usually [go] to Mass (my family is Catholic), after which we either go home or to my uncle’s for Christmas dinner,” says Baltasar.

On the topic of Filipino cuisine, she reveals her family often cooks meals with their recipes in mind.

“There’s usually ham and pancit (noodles), but the other dishes vary from year to year because my family loves cooking anything they’re in the mood for,” she says.

Baltasar also elaborated more on pancit – a Filipino noodle dish her family serves on Christmas.

“It’s one of the most common noodle dishes in the Filipino



Photo by Iris Young

▲ Pancit, a Filipino holiday favourite.

community,” she says.

According to Baltasar, there’s many variations of pancit.

“There’s a few variations of pancit, like pancit palabok or pancit canton,” she says. “Pancit canton is usually the one Filipinos would call just pancit. It’s made with two kinds of noodles, a thin one called bihon and a thicker one. Then vegetables like green beans and carrots, sometimes shrimp or pork can be added or it can be left vegetarian,” she says.

Baltasar reveals other dishes often found at their holiday table.

“Some staples are rice, puto – Filipino dessert which is like a sweet steamed rice flour-based bun – and ham,” she says.

### Karaoke and midnight gifts

After a full meal, the Baltasar family usually gathers together to do activities.

“We then just kind of hang out, usually my uncle breaks out the magic mike for karaoke,” she says.

When it comes to the routine of gift opening, Baltasar thinks her family does this earlier than most other homes do.

“Midnight is when we can open presents. I’m not sure when that tradition started, where we don’t wait until Christmas morning to open presents; but in my family we open them at midnight/past midnight,” says Baltasar. “Family celebrations run pretty late on Christmas and New Year’s.”

Ron Darvin, a PhD candidate in Language and Literacy Education at UBC, joins his family for a hearty meal on Christmas Eve. He looks forward to welcoming a new member this year.

“This year, there’s one addition to the family – my husband, Mike – and I’m excited for him to be part of this tradition,” he says.

Tasty treats are always a spotlight after dinner for Darvin.

“Close to midnight, we have some ensaimada, a buttery brioche sprinkled with cheese, and queso de bola, a sharp hard cheddar, and binatirrol, hand-whisked hot chocolate,” he says.

“At midnight, we exchange our gifts and hug each other, and have a glass of wine to celebrate being together in a season of giving,” says Darvin.

Baltasar joins the others in summarizing the meaning of Christmas.

“It’s just a lot of family bonding time for the most part,” she says. ✍

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## Latin Women's Business

# Female empowerment through business knowledge

by MASHA RADEMAKERS

**Starting a business in a new country can be overwhelming for newcomers. And when you come from a country with a different cultural background, establishing yourself in the Canadian business market can be a challenge.**

Paola Villagra, founder of the new not-for-profit society Latin Women's Business, experienced these barriers firsthand. She now aims to pass on her knowledge to other Latin American women by providing workshops and networking events to the Latin American female population.

### Starting from zero

Villagra and her husband are now successful business owners, but they had to start from scratch when they emigrated from Chile thirty years ago. "We landed in Toronto without speaking any English. Although my husband and I both had a degree, we had to start from zero. The only jobs we could get were survival jobs," says Villagra. But when the economic crisis of the nineties hit Ontario, Villagra and her husband found

themselves forced to move to Vancouver. "We drove seven days across Canada with our two-year-old son and our three-month-old baby boy and a trunk full of belongings. It was a scary feeling not to know where to go, and not having something to go back to. I did not want to have a survival job again, and we decided to start our own business."

This is a familiar story for many immigrants. Villagra laughs: "In the end our chances were indeed better in Vancouver. First I had a cleaning business, but later on my husband and I started an accounting business." This grew to be a successful tax law firm, currently located in Downtown Vancouver. In her encounters with clients, Villagra discovered a need for better education about Canadian business practices. "Tax rules and business code are often not what newcomers are used to, and for a new business to succeed you need to understand these rules. I saw that our Latin American population benefitted from knowledge that was provided in Spanish," she says.

### Consultation

Latin Women's Business will provide workshops in English



Photo courtesy of Paola Villagra

▲ Paola Villagra, founder of Latin Women's Business, a not-for-profit society, aims to connect Latin women to the business world.

and Spanish to Latin American women who want to establish, or have already established, their own businesses. Metro Vancouver's Latin American population ranges between 30,000 and 40,000 people. It became evident to Villagra that a large number of Latin American women needed more business

knowledge. "Women have enormous potential when it comes to business. If they work with their husband, then the growth is a lot faster. The faster they learn how to do business in Canada, the less their frustration will be," says Villagra.

The workshops that Villagra created in collaboration with her

team of business professionals will range from self-help reiki courses to enhance confidence in women to workshops on marketing and organizational taxation. She also provides networking events and connects participants to a mentor from the field. "Every newcomer has obstacles, but they can be transferred into opportunities. Women often feel intimidated in the corporate world, and that's why we want to create more self-confidence. Our goal is to have ten businesses up and running by the end of 2018." The organization will also connect with professionals from other newcomer and business resources to reach this goal.

For Villagra, this project is also a way of giving back to the city and its people. "Vancouver always felt welcoming to me, and I want to give back to society with this charity. Women have the potential to be great business owners," says Villagra. ✉

The launch of Latin Women's Business will take place on December 9 at the Vancouver Marriott Downtown. For more information, please visit [www.lwbusiness.ca](http://www.lwbusiness.ca)

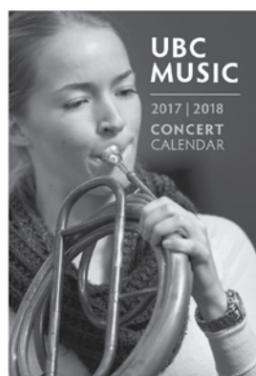
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### Celebrating Milestones, New Faces and Special Guests with the UBC School of Music 2017-2018 Concert Season

Vancouver - The UBC School of Music announces the 2017-2018 season of performances and special events by our ensembles, faculty, and guest artists. This year we are both celebrating past milestones and welcoming the future, including our new faculty member, distinguished clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester**.

#### 80 • 70 • 50 • 20

##### 80 Years

It's a big birthday year for UBC Music Professor Emeritus **Robert Silverman**. The School helps him mark this milestone with two performances: as concerto soloist with the **UBC Symphony Orchestra** on November 10, and as recital soloist in the **Wednesday Noon Hour** series on February 28, 2018. Looking to the future and the next generation of performers, we are delighted to announce the founding of **The Robert and Ellen Silverman Piano Concerto Competition at UBC**. The inaugural competition will be held in Roy Barnett Recital Hall on March 2, 2018.

##### 70 Years

In 1947, the first academic courses were offered in the **new Department of Music**. In the earliest years, celebrated Canadian violinist **Harry Adaskin** (first department head at UBC) and pianist **Frances Marr Adaskin** began giving concerts at noon on Wednesdays, a tradition that has evolved into the current concert series.

##### 50 Years

The Music Building opened in 1967. Our **Wednesday Noon Hour** series celebrates this anniversary throughout the year, starting with a special season launch concert on September 20. This concert features performances by **Terence Dawson piano**, **Eric Wilson, Laine Longton**, and **Oskar Falta cello**, accompanied by a chamber orchestra conducted by **Jonathan Girard**.

##### 20 Years

The **Chan Centre** is celebrating its 20th anniversary with their own special season of concerts. The School of Music is pleased to salute this magnificent hall and important anniversary all season, including a celebration concert: **20 Years of Opera at the Chan Centre** with the **UBC Opera Ensemble** on April 3rd.

### New Faces and Special Guests

New UBC School of Music faculty member and acclaimed Spanish-born clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester** will be featured as concerto soloist with **UBC Bands** on February 9, featured in the **Music on the Point** concert in a Mozart quintet with the **Borealis String Quartet** on October 20, and in a **Wednesday Noon Hour** concert with **Keith Hamel electronics** on January 31.

Special guest **UBC President Prof. Santa J. Ono** will join the **UBC Symphony Orchestra** as the narrator for Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, under the baton of conductor **Jonathan Girard** on December 2. The concert also includes works by Poulenc and Stravinsky.

On March 31, **UBC Choirs** and **UBC Symphony Orchestra** perform Bach's masterpiece *St John Passion*, conducted by **Graeme Langager** with guest **Derek Chester** as the Evangelist. This magnificent work is a fitting finale for a year that both honours the past and looks forward to the future.

A PDF of the entire season and up-to-date online event listings are available at [www.music.ubc.ca](http://www.music.ubc.ca).



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# Nordic traditions live on locally

by GORDON GAMLIN

Every year, the Scandinavian community celebrates, among other traditions, Santa Lucia on December 9. Elinor Barr, a researcher on Scandinavian immigration to Canada and author of *Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants*, shares her thoughts on Swedish-Canadian history.

Born in Ignace, Ontario to Swedish parents, Barr, 84, lived in Port Arthur and Fort William, where she worked as a registered nurse. After attending Lakehead University, Ontario, as a mature student, she became a research associate of LU's Lakehead Social History Institute.

Barr's research took 13 years and draws on a lifetime of experience. Her book, the first comprehensive overview of Swedish-Canadian history, describes the many facets and aspects that make up immigrants' lives.

"I spent much time at [the University of British Columbia's] Special Collections. They have the largest collection on Swedes in Canada. Did you know that Rudolph Verne brought skiing to Vancouver? They built Hollyburn Lodge in 1926, and it took 19 men to bring a piano over the rough trail. Now it's part of the Cypress Ski area," says Barr.

### Trolls, wild beings and Santa Lucia

According to Barr, the Canadian woods are home to all things extramundane such as trolls, which have long been on the Canadian conscience. They have always been responsible for all sorts of inexplicable shenanigans in our surroundings.

"Santa Claus is a troll. The Swedish-Ameri-

Santa Lucia function in Vancouver in 1936, with 14-year-old Ruby Arnesson as Lucia. She wore a long white gown with a red sash around her waist and was crowned with a wreath of lit candles to symbolize the return of light.

### Cultural and economic influences

Barr mentioned how assimilation and "Anglo conformity" were the accepted goals for early Scandinavian immigrants to B.C.

“ Santa Claus is a troll.

*Elinor Barr, researcher on Scandinavian immigration to Canada*

The school system, in particular, was designed so children could one day "be like the English," which was the stated ideal.

The integration process has always been one of mutual influences, says Barr, most visibly manifested in commerce and physically demanding work. Local Scandinavian endeavours included the first European expansion of the salmon fishery by Icelandic fishermen.

"The Thulin brothers founded the Swedish community of Lund [B.C.] in 1889 and Campbell River in 1904. They built a wharf and sold fresh water, salted salmon, repaired boats, opened a sawmill and then built hotels like [Campbell River's] Willows Hotel," she explains.

In 1872 Sweden's Eric Anderson jumped ship into the Salish Sea, walked ashore, cleared the forest and



▲ This year's Lucia: Annika Petersson.

can Haddon Sundblom was quite familiar with trolls. Our modern version of Santa Claus derived from his annual paintings from 1931 to 1986 advertising Coca-Cola," she says.

Barr says that the popular Santa Lucia pageant, is a good example of how customs can evolve over time. Matt Lindfors organized Canada's first public

built a cabin that stands preserved today as Surrey's oldest remaining pioneer-era home, right next to the Surrey Museum.

Ever since the first European contact, the Scandinavian community has been an integral part of B.C.'s cultural fabric. ✎

For more information, please visit [www.scandinaviancentre.org](http://www.scandinaviancentre.org)

Photo courtesy of Scandinavian Centre

# Connecting to the homeland through art

by YUSHENG CAI

**Deep inside Jose Urbay's heart, there's a land of gold where he sources his artistic inspirations. Born and raised in Havana City, Cuba, Urbay considers his homeland the backbone of his artworks.**

"It's where I come from and it's the goal of my works," says Urbay, now a Vancouver-based visual artist and graphic designer.

Urbay will showcase his works at *CRIMSON: Modern Culture through Artists' Eyes*, a two-phase exhibition that shows the collective works of sixteen Vancouver-based artists, at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Dec. 7–28.

## A way to represent migration

In Urbay's artworks, the narwhal, an Atlantic whale, is a recurrent character. For example, in *The Long Journey*, a painting created in 2015, Urbay depicts the migration of the water mammal. In the painting, groups of narwhals seen swimming across the blue water show a sense of loneliness and boldness at the same time.

For the artist, the whale is a symbol of migration and it represents his own life experiences in some way.

"I've been curious about narwhals. They are migrants. They do not belong to the Pacific Ocean, our coast. They belong to the Atlantic. They made their way to the unknown and they

you. For example, when you see those birds flying in a direction towards something, you feel like they are speaking to you," says Urbay.

Birds are another piece of imagery in Urbay's works, symbolizing faith for the artist.

"The birds keep coming and coming in my paintings. They represent the spiritual part of us—our hopes and desires to fly and know everything outside and inside of us," he says.

## Adaptation to Vancouver

Born into a family of professional artists, Urbay has shown great interest in visual art from an early age. In order to pursue his dream, in 1994, he enrolled at the Institute of Design in Havana, where he studied Informational Design and launched his career. His homeland has always played an important role throughout Urbay's artistic journey.

"Cuba is the backbone and source of my artworks," says Urbay, taking a deep sigh. He describes his home-country as the bone marrow of him and his works.

*Nap in the Valley* and *Full Moon at Sevillano* are two of the few paintings that travelled with Urbay from Cuba to Vancouver.

"Savillano is a neighborhood close to my home in Havana. I used to go there a lot. I have many friends there. A lot of my happiest memories happened there in that painting," says Urbay. "The place shown in *Nap in the Valley* is where I used to go a



▲ The Long Journey, acrylic on canvas, 2015.



▲ Jose Urbay, Cuban-Canadian visual artist and graphic designer.

just keep going. That's captivating to me. I feel attracted to that symbolism of moving forward and then I started to represent them in my paintings," says Urbay.

As an immigrant, Urbay has applied his inner world to his paintings.

"Every character represented in my painting has a meaning for myself. It's meant to talk to everyone who sees this like

lot. There I wrote down ideas for my works," he adds.

Urbay immigrated to Vancouver with his wife and children in 2008. With few chances of visiting Cuba again, his artwork has become a way of connecting the two homes – Vancouver and Havana. However, it took a while for Urbay to adjust to his new surroundings.

"The context changed and when I say context, it means basically everything. For example, I did a lot of oil painting back in Cuba. But the oil behaves differently here in Vancouver. It's more moist and cold here and it takes longer to dry and cure. I had to relearn a lot of processes," says Urbay.

An established artist, Urbay has exhibited his artworks internationally in solo and group exhibitions in Havana, Madrid, New York, Brussels and Vancouver. ✉

For more information, please visit [www.vancouverchinesegarden.com](http://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com)



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## Public Service Announcement: December 1 – 31 2017 Free Community Activities

### Canadian Citizenship Preparation

Join us for a 2-day workshop to prepare for Canadian citizenship! The session will be facilitated by MOSAIC staff. We will talk about topics such as Canada's history, symbols, government and geography, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This workshop will be held in English, with Chinese language support available.

🕒 December 11 & 13, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

📍 Tommy Douglas Library, 7311 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Angel 604 40877 8606 ext 236 || atse@mosaicbc.org

### Canadian Citizenship Application Process Workshop

We will go through step by step application process for Canadian citizenship. Find out the criteria for eligibility including age, residency and language requirement and the documents which are needed.

🕒 December 11 & 18, 10 am – 1 pm

📍 #206-2540 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam

☎ Eliza 778 730 0171 ext 2888 English Conversation Circle in Burnaby

The core of this workshop will be to practice your speaking and listening skills through active participation.

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Guest teacher: Sue Innes

Criteria: Minimum English Level 2

🕒 Fridays, until December 15, 12:45 pm – 2:45 pm

📍 MOSAIC 5902 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Mona 604 438 8214 ext 120 || masmani@mosaicbc.org

### Culture Connection Francophone – Anglophone Conversation Circle

What the Anglophone and others would like to know about the Francophone culture such as history, values, sports, food, government structure, population, economy, international cooperation, festivals and geography.

🕒 Fridays, until December 22, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

📍 MOSAIC #200A-7134 King George Blvd., Surrey

☎ Faustin 778 591 9334 ext 105 || fbilikano@mosaicbc.org

### English Conversation Circle for Persian-Speaking Women

Join this free conversation circle for women to improve your English. Persian-speaking volunteer assistants provide support to Persian-speaking women of all English levels. Topics are relevant to everyday life and are chosen by the group.

🕒 Tuesdays, until December 19, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Mehrzad 604 254 9626 ext 1013 || msalari@mosaicbc.org

### Drop-In English Conversation Circle for Work Permit Holders

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🕒 Mondays, until February 5, 2018 (excluding statutory holidays), 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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🕒 December 2 & 9, 12:30–2:30 pm

📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, 310–7155 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Joy 604 254 9626 ext 1120 || jjhocson@mosaicbc.org

### Moving Ahead: Friendship Circle by FreeRunning Program

Youths will be leading their discussions and connect with other newcomer youths aged 16 to 28.

🕒 December 15, 3–5 pm

📍 MOSAIC Highgate Office, 310–7155 Kingsway, Burnaby

☎ Noor / Nasrullah 604 636 4712

## SENIORS

### Basic Computer Class for Seniors

This workshop is for seniors. Learn how to use the basic functions of the computer. PR Card is needed for registration.

🕒 Fridays, until January 26, 2018 (excluding statutory holidays), 10 am – 12 pm

📍 MOSAIC Head Office, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

☎ Gerardo 604 254 9626 ext 1022 || gdelapaz@mosaicbc.org

## LGBTQ

### I Belong Peer Support Social Group for LGBTQ Newcomers

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🕒 December 11, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

☎ Masashi 604 254 9626 || ibelong@mosaicbc.org

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.

# Workshop seeks to provide new perspective on artisan chocolate

by NAOMI TSE

**With the holiday season approaching, many are sure to consider a box of chocolates as a gift. But how much is commonly known about chocolate? Geoseph Domenichiello, a chocolate sommelier and chocolatier, will be hosting a chocolate sensory workshop Dec. 17 to provide chocolate lovers with some answers.**

Domenichiello is of Italian descent and grew up in Woodbridge, Ontario. After studying biology and art history at the University of Toronto, Domenichiello went on to study at George Brown College to pursue his passion for food. Ten years ago, he took on a position as a chocolate sommelier, and his love for chocolate has only grown since then. Domenichiello realized that many people don't fully understand artisan chocolate.



▲ Chocolate workshop in progress, hosted by Geoseph Domenichiello, chocolatier.

"If they're going to pay substantial money, I feel like people should know what makes it worth the money," says Domenichiello.

## Chocolate lessons

Domenichiello started his own tasting workshops earlier this year and hosts them twice a month. Similar to artisan wine or coffee, artisan chocolate can intimidate would-be consumers and create challenges when deciding what kind of chocolate to buy. Domenichiello hopes that his workshops will be able to expand people's perspectives on chocolate and give them confidence in their chocolate choices.

"If you don't know a lot, you won't be able to appreciate it," says Domenichiello.

His workshops differentiate themselves from other chocolate tasting workshops due to the amount of information he presents to participants on the history and production of chocolate.

"I feel this heightens the appreciation of chocolate and we focus on using all five senses to enjoy the chocolate," says Domenichiello.

Each workshop starts with a discussion of the varieties of chocolate and cacao, the main features in each step of the chocolate production process, why it's important in determining the quality of the chocolate and what can go wrong in the process. Then Domenichiello goes through the history of chocolate and how it evolved to be



▲ Geoseph Domenichiello, chocolatier.

the chocolate that we consume today.

Domenichiello explains that flavour is created in our brains and not in food so the actions performed while tasting the chocolate help highlight all the flavours and allows the brain to receive the correct information. Participants will sit down together and Domenichiello will guide them through each chocolate tasted. The chocolate presented will be dark, vegan and gluten free.

"My approach is that I'm giving you the tools to learn how to taste and then you tell me what you tasted," says Domenichiello. "Most of the people in the group

will give me flavours that are contained in the bar."

## A growing industry

The purpose of the exercise is to provide an inclusive environment to give participants the confidence to express themselves and to leave with an appreciation of chocolate.

Domenichiello says that the feedback on his workshops has been positive with some people coming to the workshop hesitant to try dark chocolate due to previous bad experiences but leaving with a newfound appreciation. According to Domenichiello, the chocolate industry is growing and he would like to

focus on educating the world about it and decrease misconceptions about chocolate.

"I want to give people the facts and help them make smarter choices when purchasing chocolate," says Domenichiello.

Currently Domenichiello is working as a chocolatier at Mon Paris, a fairly new French pastry shop in Burnaby. One day he hopes to open his own chocolate shop with a focus on drinking chocolate. ✉

For more information, please visit [www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-chocolate-sensory-workshop-tasting-course-tickets-39683690988?aff=erelexpmlt](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-chocolate-sensory-workshop-tasting-course-tickets-39683690988?aff=erelexpmlt)

► "Year in Review" from page 1 in March. He interviewed UBC sociology professor Wendy Roth, who examines how workplace discrimination operates and manifests itself, and South Asian Family Association president Jasroop Grewal, who advocates dialogue and education as indispensable tools to combat racial discrimination. Both Roth and Grewal insist speaking up is crucial to helping end discrimination.

"Educating those who do not quite understand a culture or are scared of a [race] because of stereotypes goes a long way to promoting acceptance in our country," said Grewal.

## Spring hopes and summer wishes

In April, Vinh Nguyen told us about Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show by creator Loretta Todd, a show for kids highlighting the successes of indigenous science. While Western science is well-known in the school curriculum, the show focuses

on the science of the indigenous cultures, featuring topics like the engineering feat of Machu Picchu in architectural science and nixtamalization in chemistry. Todd hopes to raise future scientists with a broader well-rounded set of scientific knowledge and cultural values, enabling them to see the world in different and unique ways.

In May, Betty Shea brought us the issue of youth employment: young people hoping to find a fulfilling career in a difficult job market. While there are many obstacles to employment for both new and old Canadians, Shea found that improving soft skills - assertiveness, flexibility and communication skills - are key to not only landing a job, but also knowing oneself and one's abilities and life goals.

For World Refugee Day in June, Masha Rademakers gave us a glimpse of the status of refugee resettlement in the city. She also interviewed Nadifa, a refugee who came to Canada

fleeing war looking for a better life. Although the culture shock was enormous, she credits the support she received from settlement workers helping her make a productive life here.

"Every refugee should be supported to use his or her talents in their new home country. When I cannot work, I feel stressed and sick. Now I can be self-sufficient and sell my own products," Nadifa said.

Over the summer, in honour of Canada 150, Florence Hwang told us about Explore150, a project showcasing Canadians' wishes for their country. A lot of their wishes came from Canadians from diverse backgrounds and touched on a lot of different subjects, including the environment, political representation, race, sex and immigration. Many provided hopeful and encouraging messages for Canada's future.

"My wish for Canada in the next 150 years is that we may live in a country where hunger and poverty are no longer an issue. Pro-

vides opportunities and education to all who need. A peaceful Canada!" writes a Winnipegger.

## History in autumn

In September, Naomi Tse shared with us the story of a couple who travelled to 77 countries and six continents. Travellers Shahla and Peter Nygaard left Edmonton in 2004 and embarked on an adventure involving cycling, hitchhiking, boating, flying and more. Despite all the cultural diversity in the vast global landscape, they all found people everywhere strove for happiness, health and family in their own myriad ways.

In October, Yusheng Cai interviewed Anthonia Ogundele, a member of the Hogan's Alley Trust. Ogundele told us about the injustices Black Canadians faced in Hogan's Alley, a historical neighbourhood that was destroyed with the construction of the Georgia Viaducts in the 1970s. With the city's plan to remove the viaducts in the

coming years, Ogundele wants to ensure the legacy of Hogan's Alley is honoured and respected during redevelopment.

Last month, Simon Yee told you about a group of theatre members who recreated the 1942 Japanese-Canadian internment. Seventy-five years ago, over 8,000 Japanese-Canadians were incarcerated at Vancouver's Hastings Park before being sent to internment sites or work camps across the country. Theatre performer Yoshié Bancroft and her troupe historically re-enacted the experiences of those interned in the hopes that we would remember their suffering and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.

The Source Newspaper will continue to tell stories of Canadians building bridges, promoting diversity and creating inclusive communities in the years to come. On behalf of all of us here, we wish everyone safe and happy holidays and a great new year to come. ✉



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# East Van Panto explores Snow White fairytale

by FLORENCE HWANG

**For the past five years, Theatre Replacement has been putting on pantos, setting them in local places. This year's is set at the PNE. Theatre Replacement founders James Long and Maiko Yamamoto asked Mark Chavez to write this year's panto.**

"They convinced me to do a panto because they wanted something different because they wanted to lean on my strengths, which are character and story," says Chavez, who also wrote last year's panto, which was about Little Red Riding Hood.

The Cultch is presenting Theatre Replacement's East Van Panto: *Snow White & the Seven Dwarves* at the York Theatre from Nov. 29, 2017 to Jan. 6, 2018.

From the North Shore to the PNE, going over the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge, Snow White ends up on a ride, dances a bit and befriends has-been '80s rocks stars "The Seven Dwarves."

The cast includes Ming Hudson, Chirag Naik, Amy Rutherford and, the return of Panto favourite, Allan Zinyk.

## Pantos

Pantos are traditionally based on a fairytale. They are also based on rules. Chavez follows some of them. For example, it's a holiday show and a musical. There's also always a dame, an often villainous character played by a man. Another rule pertains to audience participation. For instance, when

somebody on stage says, 'Oh no it isn't,' the audience will yell back, 'Oh yes it is.'

"If someone is sneaking up behind a character on stage, if it is a villain [the audience] is encouraged to boo, or if it is the

for his work in the comedy duo the Pajama Men, thinks Theatre Replacement in general has always been interested in having as many voices heard as possible. The cast is reflective of this interest in diversity.

“The panto is so visual that you usually can tell what’s going on basically.

*James Long, Theatre Replacement co-founder*

hero to cheer. It's a very boisterous crowd. We also throw candy at the audience," says Chavez.

Long and Yamamoto started creating pantos as something their children could watch and enjoy. Their children, who are not trained in acting, are also included in this year's panto.

"The panto is so visual that you usually can tell what's going on basically. Sounds like it dumbs it down, but it doesn't; but how do we keep it interesting and how do we keep it moving?" says Long.

During rehearsals, actors are invited to add or tweak the script. For example, Zinyk will come up with suggestions.

"Every so often, he'll come up with a great zinger or some funny movement thing that I wouldn't have been able to write in. Just yesterday, we came upon a moment in the script," Chavez says.

One of the challenges of writing a panto is trying to entertain people of such a wide age range – whether they're four or 40. The panto also has to be simple enough for people who speak English as a second language to follow the plot.

## Collaborating with actors of different backgrounds

The panto incorporates actors from a variety of backgrounds. Chavez, a comedian best known

"I love working [in] a company like that. Everybody has a different point of view. It's nice to have all those points of view chiming in to create something. It doesn't have the feel of something made by a committee. There's very strong choices that are made. There are things that are daring and interesting," he says.



Photo by Tim Matheson

▲ Allan Zinyk.

Chavez had never written a musical before last year. Now, he all he wants to do is write them.

"It's no wonder they're so popular," he says. ✍

For more information, visit [www.thcultch.com](http://www.thcultch.com) or [www.theatrereplacement.org](http://www.theatrereplacement.org)

Photo by Tim Matheson

▲ Ming Hudson.



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Please call 604-324-7733, go to [www.pics.bc.ca](http://www.pics.bc.ca), or visit us at 200-8161 Main St., Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.



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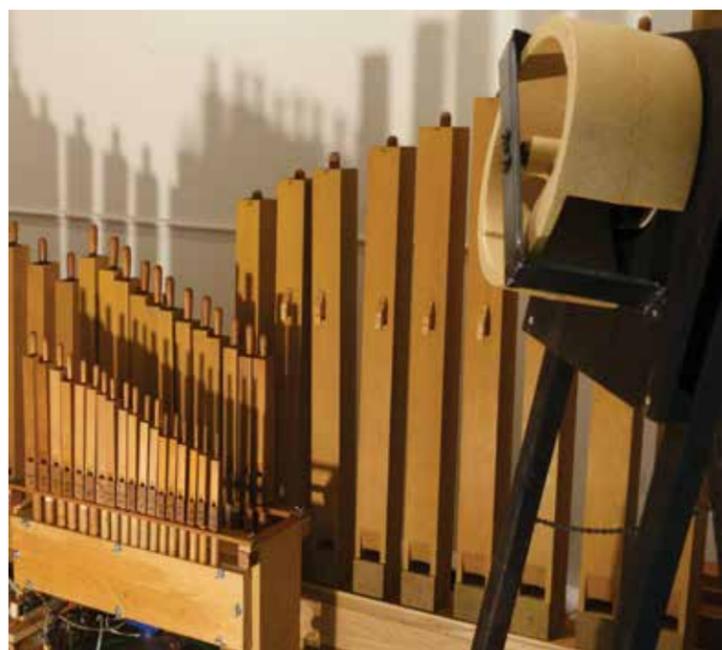


Photo courtesy of George Rahi

▲ A wooden pipe organ with rotary speakers designed to power household organs.

## Sound installations, settings, beckon listeners

by CURTIS SEUFERT

**Sound artist and instrument builder George Rahi and keyboardist and composer Robyn Jacobs will be performing a concert with the installation pulses // patterns at the Western Front on Dec. 14.**

The installation features a set of rotary speakers connected by a MIDI interface to a wooden pipe organ, reconceiving these separate musical inventions and bringing them together in a dynamic sound installation.

“The pipe organ has this sculptural quality already by its mechanics of pressurizing and releasing the air of the room through the pipes as tonal jets. Additionally, the rotary speakers add spin and velocity to the sound waves that creates different effects depending on where the listener is in relation to the speaker,” says Rahi.

### Taking on an ‘outsider role’

Rahi grew up in a musical and culturally diverse household. His father immigrated to the U.S. from Lebanon in the 70’s during its civil war, while his mother, of Polish, Scottish and mixed European descent, was a piano teacher. Rahi started playing the cello at a young age but says that it was a natural curiosity that led him to exploring the less ‘classical’ aspects of music. He became more interested in electronic music and how music and sound worked in the way that it did.

“In a very self-directed way, I got interested in the mechanics of instruments and a kind of understanding of the technology,” says Rahi. “I’ve been doing a lot of research just out of my own curiosity about how instruments work and the physics of sound. So that sort of interest started to permeate how I approached music.”

Rahi says that his conflict with ‘belonging’ in the U.S. and having a diverse, hard to pin down cultural background allowed him to take on a kind of ‘outsider’ role musically, something that encouraged his more unconventional, forward-thinking approach to sound art and music as a whole.

“I feel like I’ve taken that outsider position in a lot of the ways that I approach my music and art projects as well, having, in a strange way, the freedom to experiment a little bit. That is, if I wasn’t already kind of embedded in a certain cultural frame-

work for how I approach these instruments as a form of expression,” says Rahi.

### Sound and space

Many of Rahi’s installations and projects are found outdoors, in public spaces. And although Rahi’s sound installation at the Western Front is an exception to this trend, a recurrent theme in his works is the consideration of how a sound installation, as well as its listeners, interact with the setting in which it’s found. Drawing on his background in human geography, Rahi discusses the goal behind his project Soundwalk, a pre-recorded, guided tour through privately-owned public spaces.

“I think that Soundwalk is a way to interrogate how space is organized and bring attention to the other qualities of the space that we aren’t immediately aware of, especially using sound as a way to tap into other forms of meaning in the environment. I think that’s an interesting technique that Soundwalk as a practise promotes,” says Rahi.

From his automated, 100-year old piano performing Aphex Twin’s ambient Aisatsana in Hadden Park to his combination of a wooden pipe organ with ro-



Photo courtesy of George Rahi

▲ George Rahi, sound artist and instrument builder.

tary speakers designed to power household organs, Rahi’s works show a constant curiosity in what the environment and space of his instruments have to offer to the experience as a whole.

“I’m definitely interested more so in having a relationship with a place to work or just to the city in a broader sense,” says Rahi. “There’s a shared connection to the environment that we’re looking at together.”

For more information, please visit [www.front.bc.ca](http://www.front.bc.ca) and [www.georahi.com](http://www.georahi.com)

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# Cultural Calendar

December 5, 2017–January 9, 2018

by SIMON YEE

Time flies, doesn't it? The festive season is back already, and there are so many indoor and outdoor holiday events to attend. Catch a short film from Italy, watch illuminated lanterns at the PNE and Yaletown, and usher in the new year in style at the many New Year's Eve parties happening around town. There are also holiday markets, exhibits, performances and more! Have a great 2018 everyone!

\*\*\*

## Christmas Queen 4 – Secret Santa

Various showtimes until Dec. 23  
The Improv Centre at  
Granville Island, Vancouver  
[www.vtssl.com](http://www.vtssl.com)

She's baaack! The Christmas Queen, in all her nasty, bitchy glory returns this holiday season courtesy of the Vancouver TheatreSports Improv Comedy team. Confusion and hijinks ensue when the Queen and Santa exchange bodies in a Freaky Friday-style magical sleight-of-hand. What happens to the workshop's toy factory with the Queen as Santa in charge? Will there be presents? Will everyone receive a lump of coal? How will the experience of inhabiting the Queen's body affect Santa? Will he learn something about himself and her that will change Christmas forever? Check out the improv website for tickets and showtimes.

\*\*\*

## Vancouver Christmas Market

Until Dec. 24  
Jack Poole Plaza, Vancouver  
[www.vancouverchristmasmarket.com](http://www.vancouverchristmasmarket.com)

Each year, the Vancouver Christmas Market brings Christkindl-markts, the festive Old World tradition, to Vancouver. This cherished holiday event offers an authentic German feast for the senses. Stroll the twinkling pathways of a European-inspired Christmas village in the crisp winter air. Discover unique treasures to stuff into stockings or tuck under the Christmas tree at one of the more than 75 artisan huts offering handcrafted gifts for everyone on your list. Festive foodies can sample Glühwein (mulled wine), a selection of German and Austrian beers, and a variety of sweet and savoury epicurean delights.

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## Handel's Messiah

Dec. 9, 8 p.m.  
Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver  
[www.vancouverbachchoir.com](http://www.vancouverbachchoir.com)

The Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs along with members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will be performing the baroque composer George Frideric Handel's iconic *Messiah* at the Playhouse Dec. 9. Handel's *Messiah* is a timeless reminder of the deep power of human connection and kindness. Whether you are a first time listener or seasoned *Messiah* attendee, its captivating melodies and impassioned fugues never cease to inspire. For tickets and more information, please check out their website.

\*\*\*

## Goh Ballet: The Nutcracker

Dec. 14–19  
The Centre in Vancouver  
[www.gohnutcracker.com](http://www.gohnutcracker.com)



▲ Santa Claus and Christmas Queen switch bodies in Christmas Queen 4 – Secret Santa.

Prussian author E.T.A. Hoffman's timeless fairytale *The Nutcracker* will return to The Centre in Vancouver for its ninth year. Experience Clara's dream come to life as she embarks on a magical journey through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets where she is greeted by the enchanting Sugar Plum Fairy. An unforgettable adventure awaits as her gallant Nutcracker battles the evil Mouse King and his army of mischievous mice. Check out the Goh Ballet's website for tickets and more information.

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## Good Tidings!

Dec. 15–16  
Christ Church Cathedral,  
Vancouver  
[www.goodnoisevgc.com](http://www.goodnoisevgc.com)

Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir will present their much-loved holiday concert, *Good Tidings!* Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. & Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral. This year the choir will be joined by critically acclaimed Canadian jazz singer Maureen Washington in a glorious program of gospel, soul and jazz Christmas hits to get audiences in the spirit of the festive season. Please visit their website for tickets and more information.

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## Vancouver Chinese Lantern Festival

Dec. 15, 2017–Jan. 21, 2018  
Pacific National Exhibition,  
Vancouver  
[vancouverlanternfestival.ca](http://vancouverlanternfestival.ca)

Experience Vancouver in a whole new light in this five week celebration of Chinese culture. Debuting for its first year at the PNE grounds, the Vancouver Chinese Lantern Festival features 35 massive lanterns, amazing performances, storytelling, food trucks, kids activities and a marketplace. There will be something for everyone! Please visit their website for tickets and a list of events and activities.

\*\*\*

## Assaf Amdursky

Dec. 16, 8 p.m.  
Norman Rothstein Theatre,  
Vancouver  
[www.normanrothsteintheatre.com](http://www.normanrothsteintheatre.com)

The Rothstein Theatre will be hosting Israeli musician Assaf Amdursky in concert on Dec. 16. He has created a platform as one of the most productive and

multi-faceted artists in the current Israeli music scene. Since the early '90s, he has released seven solo albums and collaborated with several leading artists in Israel, putting on a show that is rock 'n roll with some electronic influences and high on emotion. For tickets, check out the theatre website.

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## Winter Solstice Lantern Festival

Dec. 21, 6–10 p.m.  
Various neighbourhoods  
in Vancouver  
[www.secretlantern.org](http://www.secretlantern.org)

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## Italian Short Film Day

Dec. 21, 7–9 p.m.  
Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre,  
Vancouver  
[www.italianculturalcentre.ca](http://www.italianculturalcentre.ca)

The aim of the Italian Short Film Day at the Il Centro Cultural Centre is to offer a showcase of short films to the general public, people who are not festival goers or do not have access to specialized programs. The day features a program of recent Italian shorts of various genres and on different formats, offering an overview of where young Italian filmmakers are heading and what the trends of tomorrow will be. Of the five short films that will be screened – varying in length from 14 to 20 minutes – some are funny, some are lyrical, some are dramatic and all are engaging. For more information and to RSVP a seat, please visit their website.

\*\*\*

## NYE Vancouver

Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.  
Canada Place  
[www.nyevan.com](http://www.nyevan.com)

Mark the date! Say goodbye to 2017 in style at Canada Place. This family-friendly event will feature plenty of concerts, exhibitions, food and live entertainment. There will be two fireworks shows, one at 9 p.m. for the children who need to go to bed early and another at midnight to usher in 2018. For further information and event details, check out their website.

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