

New perspective
on habitat
Page 5



The Source

forum of diversity

Vol 19 No 15 | February 19–March 5, 2019

www.thelasource.com



Photo courtesy of Simon Fraser University

Verbatim

Now I'm surrounded by mountains

by ABDUL BASIT

For a while it had become my daily routine to get lost in the streets of Vancouver. One minute I would be asking a stranger for directions and the next, I would be zooming in on Google Maps just to get more confused. Relying completely on Google Maps is never a good idea and I learned that the hard way when I first got to Canada in 2013.

I then landed in Toronto's Pearson Airport with a whole list of expectations and even though most of them were validated by my experiences, I eventually learned that holding expectations was limiting me. This is the same experience I encountered when I moved to Vancouver because I always used to hear compliments about Vancouver's beauty and complaints about how expensive it is. From that point on, I had fixed expectations about this city in the west coast of Canada where only the rich and worthy can reside. Right there and then, I set a limit on myself thinking that only in another more privileged life could I live in such a city which not only has some of the most beautiful mountains and lakes but also provides the thrill of a bustling downtown without the bone-breaking cold that Canada is famous for. While I never initially made my mind on moving to Vancouver, there was always something in my subconscious that pulled me to move here permanently.

Having lived most of my life in Kuwait, I am used to living by the water. You can have a stressful day but as soon as you let the water speak to you, it has the power to calm you down, pull you in and take away your stress piece by piece. Perhaps that is my favorite part about living here: whenever my mind is foggy, or if I am feeling very anxious, I

See "Verbatim" page 10

Challenging the rules of code

by COLLEEN ADDISON

There's a problem with computers, say Rachel Pottinger, Sarah Zwiép, and Alexandra Kasper. All of these women, who work in computer science, agree the field lacks diversity. But there's hope, they say. Programs such as Simon Fraser University's Girls Can Code and Go Code Girl, as well

as initiatives at the University of British Columbia, aim to change the computer science landscape.

"There are ethics of this community, propagated through the media, that make it look like a very unfriendly place to be [for women and other minorities]," says Pottinger, a UBC associate professor of computer science.

"You get this idea that writing software is one person sitting in a basement hunched over a computer with Cheetos everywhere."

The Cheetos-eater is usually white and male, Pottinger continues, similar to many characters on the popular television show Silicon Valley.

"Computer science is very much male-dominated," she

says. "That makes [it] less comfortable [for others]."

Coding with Confidence

According to Pottinger, and partially as a result of this stereotype, few members of communities other than this white male mainstream enroll in computer science programs.

See "Rules of Code" page 3

Also in this issue



Remembering
Gwendolyn Brooks
Page 7

Where science
meets art
Page 8



Reach the growing FILIPINO COMMUNITY in British Columbia!

Advertise in Dahong Pilipino
THE FILIPINO CANADIAN COMMUNITY DIRECTORY
www.dahongpilipino.ca



PRINT + MOBILE + ONLINE

Cultural Spotlight

From many mother tongues

by MATTHEW FRASER

As Canada continues to welcome immigrants, the language diversity within the country continues to increase. The 2016 census shows that over seven million Canadians report having an immigrant mother language (non-English, French or Indigenous languages), which is a 13.3% increase from 2011.

Paivi Koskinen, PhD, a linguistics professor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, lends her insight in preparation for Feb. 21, the UN international Mother Language Day.

Language expands our scope on culture

Koskinen sees language as an intricate tool to inform people of the world around them, but also to break down the fear barriers that have been on display in the wider media.

“What is most apparent in the media [today] – which presumably is a reflection of the thoughts a lot of people are currently having – is this strong division between ‘us’ and ‘them,’” she says. “The more you learn about other people the more you realize that just because something is different it does not make it threatening.”

Early immersion in multiple languages is closely linked to conscientiousness and open-mindedness, two traits that can pay dividends later in the business world.

“Language learning always comes with an insight into culture. For instance, if you can speak a little of the language and along those lines understand the history in why people react in a specific manner, then of course you will be much more efficient in doing business with someone in China, Japan or Korea,” says Koskinen.

According to Koskinen, learning languages at an early age can lead to numerous cognitive benefits including the ease of learning additional languages, increased proficiency in math, as well as a delay of up to five years in the onset of Alzheimer’s.

Sharing the first languages of Canada

Landmark and heritage names like Haida Gwaii, Squamish, Tsawwassen and even Kwantlen are among the strongest tools to



Photo courtesy of Health Ministry of Victoria

▲ Totem poles speak of Indigenous languages.



Photo courtesy of Paivi Koskinen

▲ Paivi Koskinen, a KPU linguistics faculty member, will speak on the importance of mother languages.

spread awareness of the people that first lived in Canada and their traditions. They serve as a constant reminder of the proud nations that 150 years of colonization could not remove and reiterate the validity of these languages by maintaining prominence equal to French and English. Though these landmarks are a start, there are certain hurdles before teaching Indigenous languages on a wider scale.

“What we have to realize is that a lot of the Indigenous languages had no writing system, therefore no grammar books, dictionaries or educational materials,” says Koskinen. “So, the

first thing you have to do is start writing textbooks and developing curricula. We need to fund them at an entirely different level as well as acknowledge that those languages existed here long before English and French did.”

The outlook is good for many traditional Indigenous languages as more and more people are speaking them in their homes and work on creating these educational texts and programs.

Language as a force

When language is shared it becomes a window into another culture and a step towards greater understanding and acceptance.

“Obviously, the more we understand the kinds of thoughts and values that are possible in other cultures, the more positively we will feel towards other people,” says Koskinen. “As much as Western culture believes it has all the answers and we can teach everyone else [everything], there is so much everyone can learn from other people.”

One very important factor to learning another language is to accept that one may never be perfect in speaking it.

“Very often in our society the idea in language learning is to become fluent like a native speaker,” Koskinen explains, “but I don’t think that should be the goal of language learning.”

THE ROGUE PRESENTS

Carlos Del Junco

To say he plays the harmonica is like saying that Jimi Hendrix plays guitar. Simultaneously sophisticated and raw, his playing blurs the boundaries between blues and jazz. Carlos Del Junco and his band are not afraid to deliver a seamless fusion of New Orleans second line grooves, swing, Latin, hip-hop, ska melodies and swampy roots rock.

Thursday, March 7th at the St. James Hall
3214 West 10th Avenue - \$28 (\$24 members)
Info: 604-736-3022 - Tickets: Highlife, Tapestry or
www.roguefolk.com



CALL FOR ARTIST SUBMISSIONS

2019/2020 Salt Spring National Art Prize

\$40,000 in awards

SALT SPRING PRIZE - THE JOAN MCCONNELL AWARD
+ RESIDENCY FOR OUTSTANDING WORK
\$20,000 (\$15,000 and a \$5,000 Salt Spring Island artist residency)

JURORS' CHOICE AWARDS
Four awards of \$3,000 selected by each juror

PEOPLE'S CHOICE - ROSEMARIA BEHNCKE AWARDS
Three awards determined by a vote of visitors to the exhibition
1st prize \$3,000
2nd prize \$2,000
3rd prize \$1,000

SALT SPRING ARTISTS AWARD
For outstanding work by a Salt Spring Artist \$2,000

Online submissions open
January 10 - May 31, 2019

Open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada who are 18 years of age and older

Guidelines and submission details to be found on our website
www.saltspringartprize.ca

A biennial competition and exhibition of Canadian visual art offering \$40,000 in awards in partnership with the Salt Spring Arts Council

Advertise in
The Source's
print or digital
versions.
Email info@thelastsource.com



THE SOURCE NEWSPAPER

Mailing Address
Denman Place PO Box 47020
Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1

Office
204-825 Granville St., Vancouver, BC

Telephone (604) 682-5545
Email info@thelastsource.com

www.thelastsource.com

Founding Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
Mamadou Gangué

Associate Publishers Saeed Dyanatkar (Digital),
Monique Kroeger (Print)

Art Director Laura R. Copes

Editor (English and French Sections)

Monique Kroeger

Copy Editors (English) Siddharth Bala, Bonny
Bung, Deanna Choi, Meagan Kus, Kira Matthes,
Cheryl Olvera, Betty Shea, Naila Topan, Anthony
Wan, Melodie Wendel-Cook, Lauren Wolf

Senior Copy Editor (French) Louise T. Dawson

Page Editor (Francophonie)

Jean-Baptiste Lasaygues

Executive Assistant Kevin Paré

Website Supervisor Enej Bajgoric

Website Coordinator Pavle Culajevic

Website Sepand Dyanatkar, Chelsy Greer,
Vitor Libardi, Silvia Pascale
Social Media Coordinator Laurence Gatineau
Social Media James Mainguy

Illustrator Joseph Laquerre
Writers Colleen Addison, Abdul Basit, Jess
Causby, Charlotte Cavalié, Gratianna Daum,
Hélène de Reytere, Kristy Dockstader, Matthew
Fraser, Petra Giffard, Sandra Guéhenec, Manon
Hamon, Susan Hancock, Theresa K. Howell,
Betty Jankowska, Raman Kang, Sarah Metzger,
Curtis Seufert, Betty Shea, Ozlem Suleyman,
Fanny Tricoire, Simon Yee, Robert Zajtmann

Translation Barry Brisebois, Louise Dawson,
Monique Kroeger

Distribution Alexandre Gangué, Joseph Laquerre,
Kevin Paré

Photo credits for front cover
Page 5 (top): Emily D. Photography
Page 7 (bottom left): Julia Miller
Page 8 (bottom right): Steve DiPaola

LEGALITIES

The Source shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Source's liability for other errors or omissions in connection to any published advertisement is strictly limited to the repeat of the advertisement in future publications or for the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. We welcome appropriate, unsolicited editorial submissions if accompanied by the author's real name, address and telephone number. The author should retain the original as we cannot return submissions without prior agreement, nor does submission guarantee publication.

For advertising call: (604) 682-5545

Snowshoeing for a cause

by JESS CAUSBY

The 9th annual Snowshoe race is back. This year, the organizers are partnering with Jack.org, a mental health charity empowering young leaders to revolutionize mental health.

Hundreds of people, from the expert snowshoer to first timers, will be running the trail at the top of Grouse Mountain. The trail will be sure to get racers' hearts pumping in beautiful surroundings and can be enjoyed by all abilities and fitness levels. This time around, the event has partnered with one of Canada's biggest mental health charities, Jack.org.

This year's Snowshoe Grind Mountain Run, a 5 km trail with a 240 meter elevation gain, takes place Feb. 24. All participants are encouraged to raise \$100 and a fundraising page can be created online. The money raised will go directly to the work being done by Jack.org, who are helping young leaders across Canada to transform mental health. Awards will be given to any participant raising over \$100 and also to the top fundraisers.

Snow for mental health

Jack.org is working hard across Canada to ensure young people understand how to take care of their own mental health as well as looking out for others. They have thousands of young leaders throughout all provinces and almost 200 Jack Chapters across local communities, ten of which are in Metro Vancouver. The chapters are groups of young people working year-round at



▲ Young Leaders working hard to make sure every young person gets the support they deserve.

their school or university to dismantle the barriers preventing positive mental health.

Suicide is the number one health-related cause of death for young people in Canada, making it "the health issue of the generation," according to Alex Johnson, Content and Communications Manager at Jack.org.

"It is just becoming a way of life that the students now know they need to take care of themselves and others around them," explains Sherry Agosti, Youth Engagement Worker at Handsworth Secondary in North Vancouver.

She goes on to say how the Jack Chapter at her school, cur-

rently in its third year, provides students with "lifelong tools to use when life throws them a curveball, they are becoming more resilient." On top of the funding from Jack.org, students at Handsworth Secondary have fundraised through various events such as bake sales and barbecues. This money has recently been used to give back to the community, providing brown bag lunches to groups in Vancouver Downtown who are suffering with mental health issues.

Through the money raised by events such as the Snowshoe Grind Mountain run, Jack.org gives young people the training and tools to face the issue

of mental health head on. "It's not a brochure or a workshop. It's real human interaction within their community, and it's the most powerful method of change," says Johnson.

Mountain commitment

Grouse Mountain Resorts aim to have a charitable focus with many of their events. "Grouse Mountain is the largest employer of the youth on the North Shore," explains Julia Grant, Communications Manager at Grouse Mountain. "And supporting an organization that promotes youth mental health is important to us."

The resort is hoping to see over 100 snowshoers out on

the trail, particularly since the Snowshoe Grind Mountain run has now been sanctioned by Snowshoe Canada, an organization committed to promoting snowshoeing across Canada.

"Jack.org's vision is to build a Canada without shame," says Grant. With the support of events such as the Snowshoe Grind Mountain Run and Jack's Chapters in the community, Jack.org's mission is a step closer to being achieved. ✍

For more information, please visit vancouvernorthshore.com/events/snowshoe-grind-mountain-run-2/

► "Rules of Code" from page 1

"Across our undergraduate majors, there are roughly 32 per cent women. This is very high across North America at this point," she explains. "Data is not available for minorities, but here, too, enrolment appears 'very low.'"

Zwiep, an SFU computing science student who teaches Go CODE Girl and other programs, and Kasper, a member of the SFU Outreach program for the Faculty of Applied Science, agree with Pottinger's assessment.

"I have an undergraduate class of 300," says Zwiep. "There are only 20 women."

In fact, members of these underrepresented groups show a lack of confidence when even attempting to engage with computers in a technological way, say Zwiep and Kasper, who currently run computer science programs targeting younger girls.

"The girls come in and they are frightened to even put their hands up in class, in case they are wrong," says Zwiep.

But initiatives such as that of Zwiep and Kasper, in which young girls from grades 2 to 12 complete technological projects, are changing this situation. At Go CODE Girl, led by Zwiep, girls programmed robots to respond to a series of forest-fire themed challenges. And at the yearly Technovation BC, a global tech entrepreneur competition, girls aged 10 to 18 create a business plan and mobile app that ad-



▲ Students coding Edison Bots using the programming language Python.

dresses a community problem, such as bullying or unprepared hikers.

"It's a competition," says Zwiep, "[but] it's teamwork and encourages confidence in the girls."

Verbs and nouns

Zwiep and Kasper's courses aim to demystify computer sci-

ence and thus remove some of the fear for this group. Classes for girls in lower grades concentrate on block coding, while older girls study theoretical aspects of computer science.

"It's like when you learn to write," says Kasper. "You start with making sentences, putting in the verbs and the nouns. You

don't have to spell [the verb] 'run' to put it in the sentence. You just put the [word] blocks in order. Later you learn more theory, how to spell, how to create sentences."

Such classes help girls gain a better appreciation of their skills.

"We had one girl who came in, very timid," says Zwiep. "We had to be very careful and encouraging every time she said something, but by the end of the week, she was bringing in her parents to show them what she had done. Stories like that make this work worthwhile."

Pottinger has her own initiatives directed at university-age students.

"I worked on a course for non-majors, a computational thinking course, and it definitely does attract a more diverse crowd," says Pottinger. "We've definitely had people who've told me they weren't interested in computer science until that course. [One] student went on to major in computer science, which is really good to see. She's from Africa, and she comes in with this great big smile."

Mentors for multiculturalism

Most initiatives target girls and women, as universities do not often record information about ethnicities and other minority groups. However, some in the field look at other underrepresented groups. A new focus

group at UBC is looking at LG-BTQ2+ students.

"We want them to tell us what they need!" says Pottinger.

At the SFU Academic Summer Camp, faculties present lessons and information to Indigenous students about what programs and university life are like.

"We've done trips to the Blue River reserve," says Kasper. "We did two weeks there, and taught lessons which included computer science. We're also going to Haida Gwaii."

Zwiep and Kasper point out that programs such as these allow members of underrepresented groups to see female and multicultural role models who have entered the computer science field. Girls who have gone through Girls CanCode and other programs often come back five or six years later to help out.

"There's the Girls CanCode Family Coding Event program for girls and their families, where the adults attend sessions to encourage the girls to be creators and users of technology," adds Zwiep. "The girls also teach the adults their new coding skills."

"This is something that diversity brings," says Pottinger, whose department has a "vigorous" mentoring program pairing younger students with older ones. "Students who come from these diverse groups are interested in giving back to the community and in making sure that things are good." ✍

Martin Luther King's teachings about civil disobedience

"Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love. Love is not emotional bash; it is not empty sentimentalism. It is the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another," Martin Luther King Jr.

by OZLEM SULEYMAN

As February is Black History Month, members of SFU's Philosophers' Café are conducting a discussion related to Martin Luther King's teachings about civil disobedience on Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Surrey City Centre Library.

For the discussion, *What did Martin Luther King Jr teach us about civil disobedience?*, the Philosophers' Café moderator, Valerie Malla, will introduce Martin

American folks but on world culture," Malla comments.

She states that Martin Luther King Jr. was very influential because he was very connected to himself; he was focused on his work and his studies. King didn't seem to allow miscellaneous things to distract him from his goals.

"He had a number of really great qualities. He was a wonderful orator. He was very sensitive. He was very genuine," Malla adds. "He was incredibly intelligent, and he was able to incor-

“ Martin Luther King made a massive impact not just on American folks but on world culture.

Valerie Malla, Philosophers' Café moderator

Luther King's work to discuss how it made an impact socially and on an individual level. She will also talk about how King's work is meaningful and what the public learnt from him.

"Martin Luther King was very influenced by Ghandi's work, and talking a little bit about the pattern of non-resistance might come up," she says.

According to Malla, civil disobedience has to do with justice. One must speak for oneself and trust that their thoughts are right and based on 'goodness, purity and an objective moral value.'

"But civil disobedience is understood to be a non-violent method of resistance by civilians toward social change," Malla adds.

Martin Luther King and civil disobedience

Martin Luther King Jr. was identified with nonviolent direct action and civil disobedience as he worked to overturn systemic segregation and racism, and advance civil rights across the southern United States.

"Martin Luther King made a massive impact not just on

porate a broad-spectrum viewpoint into his argument. It was easy for people to trust in him, because he was speaking their truth."

Malla believes that, from the beginning of the 20th century, non-violent campaigns have better outcomes and success rates compared to violent campaigns. The aftermath of the peaceful campaigns is also not as severe when compared to violent campaigns.

"Peaceful demonstrations or non-violent demonstrations actually tend to produce more democratic politics, whereas violent campaigns tend to produce authoritarian type of politics," she explains.

About the cafés

SFU's Philosophers' Café is a series of informal public discussions that was started in 1998 by SFU members. The program has engaged the interests of scholars, seniors, students, philosophers, and non-philosophers through thought-provoking, interesting conversations, and expressions of opinion.

"There is no real formality to attend," Malla mentions. "We just get together as a community. They are all free events, and we just have a conversation about the topic."

SFU's Philosophers' Café has different moderators for their topics, and the discussions are conducted all over the Greater Vancouver area.

"Moderators chosen for the SFU's Philosophers' Café are interested in their topics of choice, are knowledgeable about them, or have otherwise researched the topic," Malla says. ✉

For more information please go to: www.surreylib.ca/event/what-did-martin-luther-king-jr-teach-us-about-civil-disobedience
www.sfu.ca/continuing-studies/about/program-units/philosophers-cafe/moderators/valerie-malla.html

**AU CSF,
LE FRANÇAIS,
C'EST BIEN PLUS
QU'UNE LANGUE!**

**INScrivez
VOTRE ENFANT DANS UNE DES
ÉCOLES PUBLIQUES FRANCOPHONES DU CSF**

- Enseignement de qualité de la maternelle à la 12^e année
- Expérience riche et exclusive d'apprentissage en français
- Programmes sportifs et culturels
- Services de transport scolaire

Pour plus de renseignements, communiquez avec la direction de l'école la plus près de chez vous.

CSF
Conseil scolaire francophone
de la Colombie-Britannique

f t in
Apprendre à réussir.

ÉCOLE DU MONDE
ib



COMMUNITY ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM LEARN WITH A FRIEND FREE ENGLISH CLASS FOR JOB SEEKERS

Services Provided:

- Employment related training
- Resume and cover letter
- Interview skills
- Computer job search
- Work expectations
- Extra one-on-one support



Eligibility:

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Work Permit Holder
- Refugee Claimant
- Looking actively for work
- Low literacy and numeracy skills

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
EVA TOUZARD
604-596-7722 (EXT. 138)
eva.touzard@pics.bc.ca



Photo by Curtis Yochoski

▲ Valerie Malla will moderate the SFU philosopher's café around the legacy of Martin Luther King.



Photo courtesy of Hive & House

Roof to garage – the building of community

by BETTY SHEA

At a time when more people are turning to high-density housing in Greater Vancouver, cohousing is gaining recognition as an alternative to traditional housing. Cohousing is a housing model that aims to build intentional communities.

“Traditional low-density housing is unaffordable for many, but most higher density housing often sacrifices public spaces in favour of more units,” says Marta Carlucci, a partner at Hive & House, a consulting group that works with cohousing communities. “In cohousing, there’s a nice balance. It’s built in such a way that when we want to, we can spend time with people. When we want to retreat, we can do that as well.”

The difference with traditional housing

With cohousing, design is essential. “In urban cohousing, you’re typically going to be living in a smaller space,” says Carlucci. “The idea is that a lot of your living can spill out into those common areas.”

While individual units have private kitchens and private outdoor spaces in the form of balconies, cohousing communities also invest in a large common kitchen, dining room and a playroom. This means that a member throwing a party could entertain in the larger common space and children in the community can play in the common playroom.

“You’re building a community and you’re the developer for the housing project,” she explains. “Your money is going into different aspects of living and there is typically more of a community piece.”

Because community members are also the developers, there could be details in their building design that professional developers may not have considered. For example, many cohousing projects will invest in additional sound proofing for their building.

“We believe that the process of real people building their future homes and falling into the role of the developer changes the way that housing can be built,” says Carlucci.

Cohousing designs encourage neighbours to interact in their daily lives. For example, in a traditional condo, the elevator goes directly from the garage to individual units. In cohousing, the elevator is designed to open up to common areas. Mail rooms are often placed next to the common dining area. There are open hallways on the outside of the building that allow people pass-

ing to pause and talk to a neighbour sitting outside with a cup of coffee.

Project time commitments

For those interested in cohousing, one of the biggest concerns is the time commitment required to see a project to fruition. Much time is spent on community building, legal work, financial planning, housing development and a range of other details. Typical projects take more than five years to go from the initial stages of forming a group to finally moving in.

Yet it is precisely this long process that makes cohousing successful. Working on a complex project together reveals individual strengths and skills. Participation encourages engagement with other community members.

Some aspects of cohousing projects are also more time consuming by design. For example, communities generally come to decisions through consensus decision making. It is a slower process but it incorporates diverse opinions and needs.

“It forces you to address somebody who isn’t in favour of a decision, to understand that person’s perspective,” says Carlucci.

Carlucci is part of Driftwood Village Cohousing, a North Vancouver community that has recently been granted rezoning approval. Her family has been part of the group for four years and although they have not moved into their units yet, she already considers other members as her neighbours. Through the process of decision making,



Photo courtesy of Hive & House

▲ Hive & House partners Lysa Dixon, Mackenzie Stonehocker and Marta Carlucci.

she feels that she has already gotten to know them and that, in many ways, they have already built their community.

“We forget that time is what’s required in order to build your community, to make those social bonds stronger and to build that social fabric,” she says. In cohousing, the journey is as important as the destination. ✍

For more information on cohousing, visit www.hiveandhouse.ca.

A Good Wife: Escaping the life I never chose

by SUSAN HANCOCK

Samra Zafar is an advocate for equity, human rights, women’s rights, diversity and inclusion. She’s also a survivor of violence and abuse, recalling her personal story of resiliency and perseverance in the Good Wife, her memoir of being a child bride and immigrating to Canada with her husband and in-laws. They promised her a better life and the opportunity to pursue an education. She had no idea how hard she would have to fight for this right.

Vancouver Writers Fest presents *Incite: Resiliency in Storytelling*, Feb. 20 at the Vancouver Public Library. Zafar shares the stage with Darrel J. McLeod, author of *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age*.

A good wife tolerates...

As a young girl growing up in India, Zafar wasn’t interested in cultural traditions and naively thought these rules didn’t apply to her future.

“I was always the girl who was going outside to play cricket or dreaming of going to university,” says Zafar, “whereas my cousins were dreaming about wedding gowns and getting married. I was a bit of an anomaly even then... I’ve always been a bit of a rebel...”

When she arrived in Canada her life was turned upside down. She was pregnant with her first child, living in a new country and unable to speak the language. Overwhelmed by many changes in her life, including living with her in-laws, Zafar struggled to conform to family expectations, which manifested into physical and psychological abuse from her husband and her in-laws.

“From the standpoint of my husband and his family, a good wife stays quiet, a good wife tolerates, a good wife listens, a good wife obeys, a good wife keeps the family together and protects the family’s honour,” says Zafar.

Throughout her marriage, Zafar fought against social and cultural traditions that she believed were imposed by both men and women in her life who were trying to maintain the status quo. She explains these people are often victims themselves, or they conform because breaking the rules jeopardizes their own reality of their position within the family hierarchy and community.

“I actually feel sorry for [these people] because they are victims of their own mental prison that is created by society,” says Zafar. “They cannot do it, so a woman who does it, who is able to break free and build a life of her own is a woman that’s promiscuous, or there must be something wrong with her...How could she do it, if I couldn’t do it?”

Zafar explains both women and men are willing to discipline others who don’t conform to cultural norms. She suggests we’re all complicit in making violence and abuse acceptable.

“That’s why gender based violence is not a woman’s issue, it’s an all of us issue...,” says Zafar.



Photo by Emily D. Photography

▲ A good wife must always obey.

ardizes their own reality of their position within the family hierarchy and community.

“I actually feel sorry for [these people] because they are victims of their own mental prison that is created by society,” says Zafar. “They cannot do it, so a woman who does it, who is able to break free and build a life of her own is a woman that’s promiscuous, or there must be something wrong with her...How could she do it, if I couldn’t do it?”

Zafar explains both women and men are willing to discipline others who don’t conform to cultural norms. She suggests we’re all complicit in making violence and abuse acceptable.

“That’s why gender based violence is not a woman’s issue, it’s an all of us issue...,” says Zafar.

Breaking the silence

Violence and abuse, an universal issue, require ongoing support and awareness. Zafar has shared her story for the last six years at conferences like TEDx and Amnesty International, as well as part of conferences at major universities, banks and corporations.

Zafar finds it emotional sharing painful times in her life, but she also knows it’s part of the healing process.

“Writing this book has opened my eyes to some of my own

healing that I needed to do,” says Zafar. “It’s allowed me to look within myself and reconcile with my past and what happened, rather than running away from it. It’s been an emotional journey for sure, but a good one overall.”

Prior to leaving her husband, Zafar had little to no money to support a new life with her two daughters. But somehow, she cobbled together the resources to rent a small student apartment where her children would be safe and she could continue her education. Her resiliency and perseverance were rewarded with a master’s degree in economics. And today, she has a successful career as a commercial banker with the Bank of Montreal in Toronto.

The blog version of Zafar’s story was released six years ago. Zafar was compelled to post her personal experiences after an intense conversation with one of her daughters, who put it all into perspective for her.

“Mum [said her daughter], if every woman feels ashamed and traumatized, and thinks that she cannot do it, then how will things ever change,” recalls Zafar. “If anyone needs to speak up mum, it’s you.” ✍

For more information, please visit www.vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5bf8894d472c6e2b00fe0214

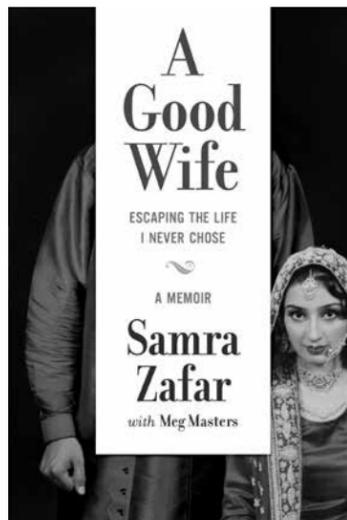


Photo by Emily D. Photography

▲ Samra Zafar will read from her book at the VPL.

International Women in Film Festival

The feminist initiative

by THERESA K. HOWELL

On March 8, 2019 – International Women's Day – the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival (VIWFF) will celebrate their 30th year with free screenings at VanCity Theatre. *She is the Ocean* and the Canadian Premiere of *The Feminist: A Swedish Inspiration* are films portraying heroic women who relate to their passions through science, politics, dance and sport.

"When you see this film, you will want to engage," says Helene Granqvist, International Women in Film and Television (WIFTV) president and producer of *The Feminist*.

Hampus Linder, director of *The Feminist*, said the idea for the documentary was sparked while on paternity leave with his two children: he was motivated to better understand feminism. Meanwhile, Inna Blokhina, director and producer of *She is the Ocean*, became inspired by the story of a little girl named Cinta while surfing in Bali, Indonesia. Even though the films share a commonality, each movie has its own unique approach.

Earth

The Feminist is a film about one charismatic woman, Gudrun Schyman, who Granqvist feels has been one of the most influ-

ential politicians of the past decades. From humble beginnings in a blue-collar family, Schyman rose to lead the Leftist party to record election results. She was shamed for her struggles with addiction, but overcame her demons and founded Europe's first feminist party, the Feminist Initiative (FI).

"Gudrun is like a rockstar in Sweden; she is so popular. Every time she talks with people you can see lights come on inside them," says Granqvist.

Granqvist says the film, however, is not only about the woman as a politician but also as a person. The film follows Gudrun's life as she transforms herself from a timid wallflower into a force of nature. The plot weaves her political life with her home life, creating a choreographed dance between two worlds. In the end, the FI party becomes bigger than her.

Water

Blokhina's passion for surfing started on the Black Sea. In Russia, she was pursuing a television career. While on a three-month hiatus to Indonesia to expand her surf horizons, she recognized this could be a way to combine her career with her hobby. After three years of shooting her first film, *On the Wave*, it opened in Indonesia. That was where she and Cinta met.

▲ Still from *She is the Ocean*.

"I asked her, what is your goal? What do you want to do in life? She said, 'I want to be a world champion.' When she told me, I was almost crying – Cinta had the same determination as I had at her age; a very strong character," says Blokhina.

This was how the second film began, with Blokhina's filming of Cinta. From there, it blossomed.

"When I started travelling, I realized there were so many women who have beautiful stories and goals. I wanted to tell their stories; I wanted to tell as

many stories as possible," says Blokhina.

Each woman Blokhina met became her hero. *She is the Ocean* is about nine women from around the world – Indonesia, Chile, Russia, Germany, U.S – reflecting a cultural universe of stories. Starting with three women who engage in the thrill of ocean sports, then moving on to a famed scientist who plunges into the deepest depths on the edge of human survival, to a cliff diver who is hailed as 'the bravest woman in Germany,' the film

captures the one thing they all share: a profound love for the sea. Blokhina feels these nine women, ranging from the ages of 12 to 83, create a portrait metaphor of a woman's oceanic life through all her ages.

"The film is so much more than a film," says Blokhina.

It's another way to think about life, love, friendship, goals, dreams – everything. ✍

For more info, please visit: www.riotheatre.ca www.womeninfilm.ca

Canadian literature – the road ahead

by KRISTY DOCKSTADER

When asked what Canadian literature means to her, Shazia Hafiz Ramji, an emerging writer and University of British Columbia (UBC) Creative Writing Masters student, ponders for a moment.

"It means so many different things," she says.

This is a main topic Ramji is interested in exploring further as a panelist at a discussion panel entitled *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins* later this month at the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Central Branch.

Ramji has been published in several magazines and recently published her first book of poetry titled *Port of Being*. She is completing her MFA in Creative Writing at UBC, where she has also written essays, criticism and is currently working on a novel.

While publishing her own works, Ramji has also spent a large amount of her career working as an editor and creative writing instructor. She says all of this experience has given her an insight into the world of Canadian literature and the problems it currently faces.

"I think a lot of people don't know what's happening in Canadian literature and it worries me."

CanLit – stuck in the past

In the late 1950s, the Royal Commission on National Develop-

ment in the Arts, Letters and Sciences – often referred to as the Massey Commission – was created to help develop a Canadian identity, distinct from American and British culture. This ultimately led to the formation of the Canada Council for the Arts that aimed to support young authors and arts professionals, Ramji explains.

"Writing in Canada – the kinds we might consider literary[...] – has always been tied to a colonial project of nationhood. And so, when we talk about writing in Canada, and CanLit especially, we are also always talking about the legacy of colonialism here on these lands," reads the

introduction of *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins*, the book in discussion.

Fast forward to the 21st century and although books and authors have changed, the contributors of this book feel that many of the foundational ideas that define Canadian literature as an industry appear frozen in time, says Ramji. She also feels that this is contrary to Canada's multicultural principles in the face of increasing globalization. While Canada continues to pride itself as being a country of diversity and inclusivity, in Canadian literature, recent scandals regarding appropriation have raised controversy about the state of its literature as we know it, says Ramji.

"The way these controversies relate to the 1950s nation-building project of Canadian literature and Canadian identity, is that they still emphasize the dominant narratives of white male writers and established writers, who hold positions of power and privilege, and that's what Canadian literature has come to be defined by, and that's what many of us are still up against," says Ramji.

Paving a way to a new future

Ramji's thoughts appear to be shared among many others in the CanLit community. Many of Canada's writers and creative thinkers are calling for discussions such as this one that focus on exposing the injustices within the CanLit industry in hopes of creating a brighter, more diverse space for future writers.

"Speaking with younger writers, I want them to be able to feel like there is space for them, and that we are able to make new literature despite all things crumbling right now. I want it to be a hopeful place," Ramji says.

The anthology *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins*, edited by three women, explores these thoughts and is the inspiration for the discussion panel later this month. The book is a collaborative work featuring many different authors to provide a context in which to discuss the history, controversies and future of CanLit. Ramji is acknowledged in the book for her own work and activism that expands upon what she deems the important and relevant concepts.

"Is there a sense of duty that writers feel towards Canada in the sense of a nation? How do Indigenous writers conceive of 'Canadian' in terms of Canadian literature? How do immigrant and diaspora writers such as myself perceive Canadian identity and Canadian literature?" asks Ramji.

These are just a few of the many questions that Ramji is interested in discussing at the panel. ✍

Refuse: CanLit in Ruins lecture and panel discussion will be held on Feb. 27 at VPL's Central branch. More information can be found here: www.vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5c41174d06c1d23500c96fc6



▲ Emerging writer Shazia Hafiz Ramji will speak about why the time has come to enlighten readers.

Need the skills to find a job? We can help!

Design a fantastic resume and cover letter, fine tune your interview techniques, learn valuable skills to succeed in the Canadian workplace, gain insight into the job market, access special services for skilled workers – all at NO COST. The Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society, Vancouver Branch, has been helping immigrants and newcomers to Canada for over 14 years!

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

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

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

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





BC ALLIANCE
FOR MANUFACTURING

RTEP

Refugee Training and
Employment Program

MOSAIC

Do you know what manufacturing has to offer? Are you eager to find full-time employment?

You can obtain manufacturing-specific technical and soft skills training that will result in full time employment, at no cost to you.

Participants will receive the following support as needed:



English
Language
Training



Manufacturing
Production
Level-1 Training



Canadian Workplace
Communication and
Workplace Culture
Skills



Job Readiness
Training



Job
Maintenance



Intercultural
Competencies

Training is two months. Participants will also receive on-going consultative support for one year.

Eligibility

- Recently arrived refugee
- Permanent Resident Status
- Will commit to full-time training and job

If you would like to start working, but need training first, please register immediately.

Information and Registration

E-mail: esaad@mosaicbc.org

Call: 778-389-0314

Canada

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Funding provided by the Government of Canada
through the Canada-British Columbia Job Fund.

BC Alliance for Manufacturing | 230 – 10451 Shellbridge Way, Richmond, BC, V6X 2W9 | www.manufacturingbc.org



Photo by Julia Miller

Memories of blue in Vancouver

by RAMAN KANG

A new production of the life of famed poet and activist Gwendolyn Brooks will be performed in a variety of media.

“It’s a live biopic, a music video, a poetry performance, all mixed up into one giant onstage show,” says Sarah Fornace, co-artistic director of *No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*.

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks will be performed at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia, on Feb. 24.

Connection to community

After being asked to create a live cinematic piece around Gwendolyn Brooks as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival, the performance collective, design studio and film and video production company Manual Cinema reached out to poets and scholars. They found Eve L. Ewing and Nate Marshall, who have a deep connection to Gwendolyn Brooks’ writing and legacy, says Fornace.

“This really is a dream team of Chicago based artists who all have a connection to poetry,” says Fornace, who helped found Manual Cinema in Chicago, USA with four other members in 2010. “The performance, written by Ewing and Marshall, weaves Gwendolyn Brooks’ poetry, such as ‘Eventide’, the first poem that she wrote as a child and was published, into the story of her life”.

Fornace also explains that Ewing and Marshall not only wrote the script but also pointed out specific places in Chicago important to the story so that an accurate vision of the city could be recreated for the show.

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks features a six-piece live band and an original score from Jamila Woods and Ayanna Woods.

“We have an extraordinary group of artists on stage,” says Fornace.

Life and times of Gwendolyn Brooks

“She led such an extraordinary life by being an artist. She was part of this community of black intellectuals and artists that all did extraordinary things,” Fornace comments.

Born and raised in Chicago, Brooks (1917–2000) was an artist and a mentor who won a Pulitzer Prize for her poem “Annie Allen.” She became the first black woman to become a poetry consultant for the Library of Congress, was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was appointed Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968. Although Fornace admits she wasn’t too familiar with the famed poet

before doing the show, upon re-reading Brooks’ work, Fornace saw its value.

“Gwendolyn Brooks was incredibly important to the world and United States,” Fornace says.

But Brooks was also significant locally in Chicago, Fornace points out. As soon as the show was announced people started making remarks on how Gwendolyn Brooks impacted their lives.

“This really is a dream team of Chicago based artists who all have a connection to poetry.”

Sarah Fornace, co-artistic director of No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks

Locals remembered how Brooks came to their graduation or how she gave out prize money for winning a poetry contest in their community.

“Even after she won the Pulitzer she was still supporting a lot of the local youth and schools around Chicago,” says Fornace.

Promises of inspiration

Manual Cinema combines shadow puppetry, overhead projectors, sound design, actors and live music to tell a multimedia story of Brooks.

“It’s an incredible show with a beautiful and emotional sto-



Photo by Julia Miller

▲ Manual Cinema creates a live cinematic piece in honour of Gwendolyn Brooks.

ryline,” says Fornace of *No Blue Memories*.

“I think the audience will be on their feet during sections of it and will cry during sections of it,” says Fornace.

Fornace hopes after seeing the show, audiences will be inspired to go back and read her poetry as well. ✍

For more information, please visit www.chancentre.com



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

March 9th, 2019

17th ANNUAL SHAKTI AWARDS GALA

Do you know a woman who deserves to be recognized as a leader, advocate, artist, visionary or a source of strength? This is your opportunity to have her celebrated by nominating her for the Shakti Award.

The Shakti Awards were founded in 2000 in honour of International Women's Day to recognize and celebrate women who have displayed Shakti-strength and energy, in their community, locally and/or globally. Shakti is the mother Goddess, the source of all, the universal principle of energy, power and creativity. Not only is Shakti responsible for creation, she is also the agent of all change. Similarly, the Shakti that resides within every woman is a force to reckon with and to celebrate.

The women who have displayed Shakti amongst us represent an inspiring account of positive social, cultural and economic change in the world. The Shakti Awards are an opportunity for us to recognize these women, quite often the unsung heroes, and share their vibrant stories.

If you would like to nominate a woman that embodies Shakti, please use the information below and email your nomination to shaktisociety2000@gmail.com no later than February 24th, 2019.

The Shakti Awards will be presented at the Shakti Awards Dinner Gala on Saturday, March 9th at Bollywood Banquet Hall at 6:30 p.m. We are expecting approximately 500 attendees. Tickets are \$50 each. For tickets, donations and sponsorship enquiries, call 604-307-8796.

Please note that nominations must be submitted via email. Submissions sent through other means, (social media, in-person or phone/text messages will not be considered).

Ensure that the description of the nominee's accomplishments reflect the category in which she is being nominated and provide clear examples of how the nominee has excelled in the specific field and why you feel she deserves the Shakti Award in that specific category.

Categories:

- ♀ Academic Achievement Award (High School or University/College student)
- ♀ Public Service/Volunteer Award
- ♀ Business Entrepreneur Award
- ♀ Artistic Achievement Award
- ♀ Sports and Recreational Award
- ♀ Resilience Award - A woman who has overcome adversity and has used her personal journey in a way to inspire and motivate others to be positive despite challenges and setbacks.

Nomination Information:

- Name
- Age
- Address, phone number(s) and email
- Name, phone number and email of nominator
- Brief summary of reason for nomination - how the nominee's accomplishments relate to the stated category, the impact of their role, and why they should be chosen to receive a specific award.
- Identify how the nominee will contribute to Shakti: Empowerment of Women, Children and Families Society

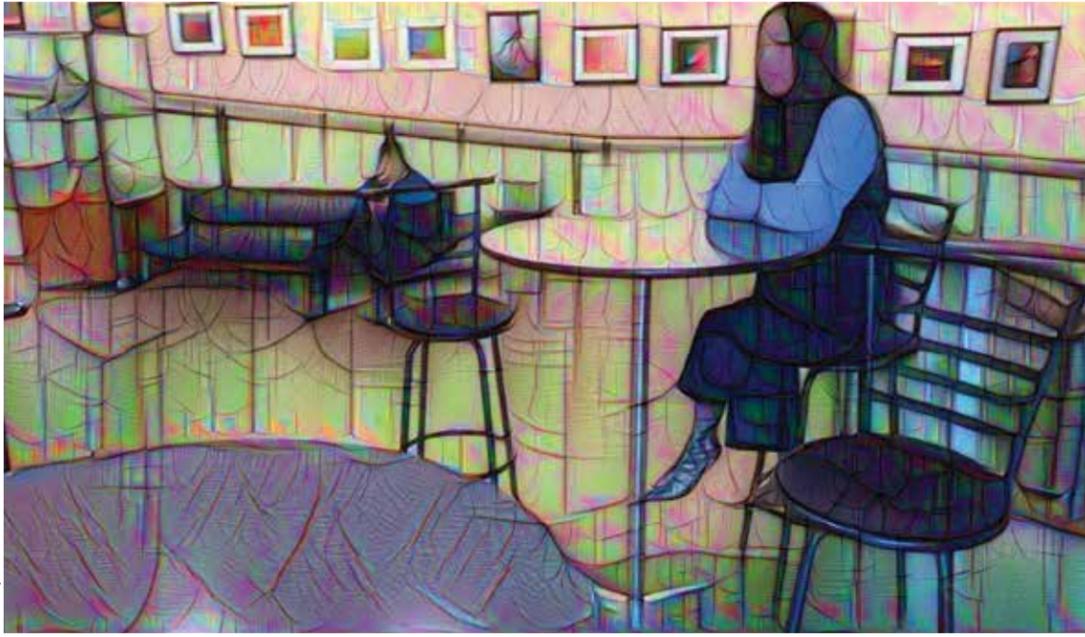


Photo by Steve DiPaola

The art of science and the science of art: Pareidolia

by PETRA GIFFARD

Scientist and artist Steve DiPaola has dedicated his career to the interplay between human cognition and artificial intelligence (AI). Now he's continuing this work while adding a new dichotomy. His latest site-specific artwork at Surrey Art Gallery is an example of how intertwined science and art really are, and what it means to be both an artist and a scientist.

"I've always been a bit of both," explains DiPaola. "At high school I drew but then I got into computer science at college and for many years after that I would have to separate the two because one didn't really appreciate the other. In fact, for many years in NYC I had two resumes: one art and one computer science."

It was not until 2002 while at Stanford University that DiPaola felt comfortable claiming he was both an artist and a scientist. His latest installation demonstrates what he calls this "alchemy." *Pareidolia* consists of two screens placed in the lobby of The Surrey Art Gallery and employs pattern recognition software to augment footage of the lobby space and volunteer workers in the space.

"We used a deep dream algorithm and changed it a lot. We actually allowed bias and hallucination to happen within the system," says DiPaola. "The result is that shapes come alive in the nothing. Often it is in the nothing areas that some ghost, shape, object or flick of the light seems to come alive."

Truth and beauty

DiPaola adopts a flexible approach to his creative and sci-

entific investigations, sometimes starting by sketching and other times by mapping out a scientific journey for the work to take.

"I think both art and science are ways to find truth and beauty," says DiPaola. "They just tend to use different kinds of techniques. One takes really big philosophical swallows, the art, and the science tends to want more exact truths."

DiPaola describes his creative work as being steeped in modernism with a strong focus on deconstructing things in order to understand them. He also cites abstraction, cubism, futurism and impressionism as points of reference for his computer-generated artwork.

"This comes back to the research because I am trying to get a strong emotional element within the artwork and I actually try and make computers be emotional or expressive," says DiPaola.

Art system

"Typically what I'm doing in my research is that I'm understanding something about the human condition, human creativity and expression, and then modelling that in a com-

puter in a way [with which] I can experiment and play," says DiPaola.

Through careful programming, DiPaola is able to create generative computing systems that react to source material or people. In the case of *Pareidolia* the desired effect is that of a dream-like world.

"I am building an art apparatus that I like to call an art system," explains DiPaola. "At that point I turn it on and it is actually doing more things than I thought I put in because it is reacting. Although this piece isn't interactive I did work with people in the Surrey Art Gallery and the way they reacted all affected the dream state."

The creative side of DiPaola's output is just one aspect of his work at Simon Fraser University. He is also an expert in aspects of AI such as facial and emotional recognition.

"We are trying to use AI and graphics as a way to better understand the human experience and to help humans," says DiPaola.

More recently DiPaola and his team have also been focusing on software that will enable humans to eventually understand animal expressions.



Photo by Steve DiPaola

▲ Still from Pareidolia.



Photo by Steve DiPaola

▲ Still from Pareidolia.

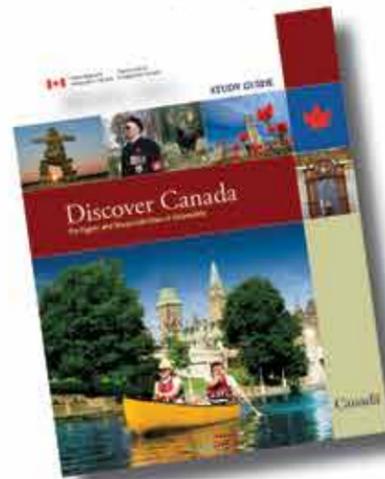
"It is time to crack the ability for humans and animals to communicate with each other, which is not a little thing," says DiPaola. "But some of the same [AI] techniques that make art will look at animal expressions. This is an effort that is already underway, and gives you the breadth of the lab. But all of this is all still about expression and AI picking that up with our sensing systems." ✍

For more information, visit www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/28256.aspx

Canadian Citizenship and Civic Engagement



Get Ready for your Citizenship Test!



Gain knowledge of Canadian history, systems, rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic involvement.

- » A 10 week course to prepare for the Canadian Citizenship exam.
- » 3 hours a week course
- » Learn about Canadian History, Heritage and Culture and Civic engagement.



Source: Macleans.ca, Photograph by Brian Howell

You qualify for this program if you are:

- » Age: at least 18 years old
- » Have permanent resident status
- » Have resided in Canada for at least 4 years (short absences do not affect the application) in the last 6 years.
- » Have sufficient knowledge of English (at least CLB Level 4 completed)



DIVERSEcity Community Resources

Society Main Campus

604-507-6060

13455 76 Avenue

Surrey, BC V3W 2W3

www.dcrs.ca

For more information and registration, please contact:

Raihan Akhter

Group Orientation Coordinator

604-547-1369

rakhter@dcrs.ca

Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

www.dcrs.ca

Shahzad Ismaily goes solo at the Western Front

by CURTIS SUEFERT

New York-based multi-instrumentalist Shahzad Ismaily will be performing at the Western Front on Feb. 26. Having recorded and toured with artists such as Laurie Anderson, Ben Frost and Colin Stetson, the acclaimed accompanist and band member sets out to bring a more intuitive, improvisational direction in his solo shows.

“I will plan to have around me a variety of instruments so that as I sit in the centre of all of them, I can look out at the audience and feel a sense of my own body, and then make the choice that I want to make in the moment that it happens,” says Ismaily.

Gaining perspective

Over the last 20 years, Ismaily has been a member in various bands, and recorded for and performed with artists from all around the musical world. Ismaily says that because of these experiences, he has a new outlook on life through music.

“I feel like when I perform with others, I’m immediately gaining an alternate perspective of what is real because that person that I sit across and that I’m working with is 100 per cent choosing in every moment and micro-moment what is the correct expression of sound in terms of how they see it, how they see the world,” says Ismaily.

For Ismaily, the experience of performing with others can vary wildly from setting to setting. He says that some artists are much more strict in their

moment accompaniment from the instrumentalist.

Although the two friends have never officially been in the same band, the musical bond

to] the form of an invitation to a recording session with an artist... leads consistently, in and of itself, to a [certain] way of doing things,” says Ismaily.

in connecting not just with another artist, but also with the audience.

“There’s a kind of, comfort wouldn’t even be the right word,

“ I will plan to have around me a variety of instruments so that as I sit in the centre of all of them I can look out at the audience...

Shahzad Ismaily, multi-instrumentalist

musical vision while others, such as Ismaily’s close friend and contemporary folk singer-songwriter Sam Amidon, encourage a much more in-the-

between them is as strong as ever, given their extensive musical history together.

“I don’t think that the form of band partnership [as opposed

“I could get asked by my friend Sam Amidon to go and track a song of his, and because Sam himself is a very free spirited musician and artist, he allows me in the studio with complete free reign to approach that song however I feel like.”

Going solo

Though Ismaily’s own show at Western Front takes place on the 26th, he’s set to perform alongside Amidon in his show the day prior. And although Amidon would more than likely be able to accompany Ismaily for his own show, Ismaily is set on creating his own musical space for the performance.

Having toured and recorded with countless other artists over the last 20 years, Ismaily says he has had no shortage of surreal and emotionally resonant musical moments. But for the artist who has spent most of his career performing with and for others, he has found that there’s a special experience to be found within his own performances in the few solo shows he has already had,

a kind of deep healing glow of happiness that starts to generate that gets started from that welcoming embrace,” says Ismaily. “Setting aside the up-and-down judgement of whether they like it or not, the ecstasy already happens simply from allowing yourself to say fully who you are and then to have that fully received by someone.”

Ismaily notes that conveniently, given the work he has already put in with artists across the industry, it’s probably safe to say he has his foot in the door to be able to perform on his own from time to time.

“I’m just gonna let things keep coming hopefully, but I do feel like I’d like to do more solo shows. And I think, because of the things that I’ve done so far in my life, that I probably have the luxury to email or call venues in New York once in a while,” says Ismaily. “If it’s like 6:30 on a Tuesday, I don’t really care, it’s really more about the habit of doing it.”

For more information, please visit www.front.bc.ca.



▲ Shahzad Ismaily, multi-instrumentalist.

THE ROGUE PRESENTS

ÍMAR

There are many reasons to be excited about this new Glasgow-based band. Their crammed trophy cabinet includes several BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and All-Britain/All-Ireland titles.

“Ímar comes highly rated, and you can tell why.”
- THE LIVING TRADITION

Wednesday, March 20th at the St. James Hall
3214 West 10th Avenue - \$28 (\$24 members)
Info: 604.736.3022 - Tickets: Highlife, Tapestry or
www.roguefolk.com

THE ROGUE PRESENTS A MEMORABLE NIGHT OF BLUEGRASS!

FRANK SOLIVAN AND DIRTY KITCHEN

ROB ICKES AND TREY HENSLEY

FRANK SOLIVAN & DIRTY KITCHEN were voted IBMA’s 2016 Instrumental Group of the Year for a second time, with a third nomination in 2017. Their album ‘Cold Spell’ earned a 2015 GRAMMY nomination for Best Bluegrass Album of the Year. The band banjoist Mike Munford has been named IBMA Banjo Player of the Year. ROB ICKES AND TREY HENSLEY’s first album was nominated for a GRAMMY. Rob has won the IBMA Dobro Player of The Year Award an unprecedented 15 times!

Sunday, March 10th at the St. James Hall
3214 West 10th Avenue - \$32 (\$28 members)
Info: 604-736-3022 - Tickets: Highlife, Tapestry or
www.roguefolk.com

Cultural Calendar

February 19–March 5, 2019

by SIMON YEE

I hope everyone is warm during this cold polar vortex snap we've got going on in Canada and the United States this month! It's pretty chilly out there, but if – like Disney's *Frozen* character Elsa – the cold doesn't bother you, there are plenty of events and festivals to check out in around town. From film festivals, musical performances, roundtables and panels, there is something for everyone!

How the Fiddle Flows

Feb. 20, 6–8 p.m.
Surrey Public Library,
Newton Branch
www.surreylibraries.ca/events/lets-talk-about-reconciliation-0

On Feb. 20, the Surrey Public Library will screen the Indigenous-created film, *How the Fiddle Flows*. The film reveals how a distinctive Métis identity and culture were shaped over time. The movie features some of Canada's best known Métis fiddlers and step dancers. The film is a part of the Let's Talk About Reconciliation project aiming to strengthen relations between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities by creating a space where the two communities can interact with each other in a spirit of openness and mutual discovery. A community dialogue and light refreshments will follow the screening.

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival

Feb. 22–Mar. 3
Various venues around
Metro Vancouver
www.vimff.org

Running for ten days this year, the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival is an annual international community festival, featuring mountain film screenings, live multimedia presentations, photography exhibitions, workshops, seminars and other special events. Presenting unique outdoor and mountaineering films that illustrate experiences and cultures from all corners of the globe, VIMFF brings communities together to promote positive values and active lifestyles. For a complete list of movies and showtimes, check out the festival website.

Tagore & Beyond

Feb. 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Renegade Productions, Vancouver
www.facebook.com/events/324234024873638

Enjoy live renditions of select, assorted Bengali songs of different genres including the songs of Rabindranath Tagore, the first Nobel Prize winning lyricist and one of the greatest composers ever in South Asia. Spots are limited; please visit the Tagore & Beyond Facebook page for contact info and further details.

"L'Elisir D'Amore:" The Elixir of Love

Selected dates between
Feb. 23–Mar. 2
Shadbolt Centre for the Arts,
Burnaby
www.tickets.shadboltcentre.com

Burnaby's Shadbolt Centre for the Arts will be putting on "L'Elisir D'Amore:" *The Elixir of Love* by Italian composer Gaetano Donizetti. This is a delightful tale of lovers' quarrels and reconciliations, magic love potions and romantic confusions. Donizetti's comic masterpiece is filled with a colourful cast of characters that is a perfect remedy for any hopeless romantic. Take a sip of this musical love potion and let the magic do its work! For tickets and more information, visit Shadbolt's website.

Vancouver International Wine Festival

Feb. 23–Mar. 3
Vancouver Convention Centre
www.vanwinefest.ca

The Vancouver International Wine Festival, Canada's premier food and wine event, returns to the city for the 41st time to celebrate the finest wines throughout the world. This year's event features 160 wineries from 16 countries, with a special focus on the wines from California, USA with 53 wineries from the Golden State. There will be educational wine seminars, lunch minglers, gala dinners and, of course, wine tastings! For a complete list of events and winemakers in attendance, check out the festival website.



▲ Raising a glass to the Vancouver International Wine Festival.



▲ Smetana Trio performs Dvořák.

Song and Dance and the Sonic Territorialization of Xinjiang

Feb. 26, 4–5:30 p.m.
Liu Institute for Global Issues
at UBC, University Endowment
Lands
www.sppga.ubc.ca/events/event/song-and-dance-and-the-sonic-territorialization-of-xinjiang

The School of Public Policy and Global Affairs will be inviting University of London researcher Rachel Harris to speak on the notion of territorialization to probe current developments in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where a "People's War against Islamic Extremism" has developed into an assault on Uyghur cultural identity, massive securitization of the region and the detention of over a million people. Focusing on the 2014-15 campaign that compelled Uyghurs in Xinjiang to take part in weekly singing and dancing sessions in the name of tackling Islamic extremism, and the ongoing use of singing revolutionary songs within the internment camps, she argues that sound is a crucial aspect of territorialization; the soundscape like the landscape is also a site of struggle; and cultural development, state power and the shaping of habitus are all played out through sound.

Smetana Trio

Feb. 26, 8 p.m.

Vancouver Playhouse
www.friendsofchambermusic.ca

The Friends of Chamber Music will invite the Smetana Trio to perform at the Vancouver Playhouse on Feb. 26. This longstanding and musically exciting Czech group makes its second appearance for the Friends, with a programme that is both melodious and relatively modern, presenting the folk-dance dynamism of Antonín Dvořák's "Dumky" trio, Bohuslav Martinů's "Bergerettes" and an early Romantic work by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Please visit the Friends of Chamber Music's website for tickets and more information.

Le Soulier

Feb. 27–Mar. 9
Studio 16, Vancouver
www.seizieme.ca

Théâtre la Seizième will present the world premiere of its newest production, *Le Soulier*, from Feb. 27 to Mar. 9 at Studio 16. Written by award-winning Quebec playwright David Paquet, and directed by Esther Duquette and Gilles Poulin-Denis, this dark comedy is full of touching and relatable characters trying so very hard to be happy. Melanie's son Benoit, age 8, has a pain that won't go away so she takes him to the dentist. This results in an epic meltdown. You see, with Benoit, nothing is ever simple. Once in the dentist's chair, the story un-

folds and Benoit turns out to have a lot more than cavities inside his mouth. Melanie – with the help of a kind, alcoholic receptionist and a dentist who prefers plants to people – must face the fact that her son's problems are much larger than a simple toothache. Check out the theatre's website for more information.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Mar. 2, 8 p.m.
Chan Centre for the Performing
Arts at UBC, University
Endowment Lands
www.chancentre.com

Borrowing from both traditional Zulu music and gospel, the nine-member a cappella South African ensemble Ladysmith Black Mambazo combines call-and-response, harmonization and soulful melody to vigorously uplifting effect. From hushed bass to soaring tenor, the singers' jubilant and energetic vocal performances are underscored by their choreographed movements. Designated by Nelson Mandela as "South Africa's cultural ambassadors to the world," the members of Ladysmith Black Mambazo have for decades delivered messages of peace, love and harmony through their music. They will be joined by two luminaries of Malian music, Habib Koité and Bassekou Kouyate. For tickets and more information, check out the Chan Centre's website.

Pursuit of Smart Cities in Municipalities

Mar. 4, 2–6 p.m.
Anvil Centre, New Westminster
www.eventbrite.ca/e/pursuit-of-smart-cities-in-municipalities-tickets-55983183208
www.bit.ly/2UHYIKJ

The Anvil Centre will be hosting a panel on Mar. 4 on the topic of Smart Cities in Municipalities. This event brings together technology leaders from various municipalities and high-tech industries to discuss the pursuit of smart city vision in B.C. communities. Representing cities of various sizes as well as from the global perspective, the panel speakers will talk about the aspirations, socio-economic benefits and challenges in this endeavour. They will also share their success stories and experiences in trying to make "smart city" a reality in their community. They will also discuss their perspectives on forthcoming technologies, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet-of-Things, and their impacts on businesses and residents.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

go to one of the many bodies of water surrounding the region and breathe myself back to clarity. No matter whether you are in Vancouver, New West or even Delta, you will always have water near you, that is the beauty of living in BC.

This place has a rich history which was made possible by the efforts of immigrants in search of opportunity and resources. To think about it in this context, it is precisely the same reason why an immigrant like myself has decided to set up camp in this part of the world. People from all around the world come to Vancouver



▲ A bird's eye-view of Vancouver.

and it is such a multicultural city that it can be challenging to find people who were born here.

I grew up in a very multicultural environment and when I arrived in Vancouver it played a huge role in helping me feel immediately at home. When I first got here, every day I would wake up, rub my eyes and think to myself "Oh my God, I can't believe that I am actually in Vancouver". This daily realization turned into a feeling that slowly dissipated as reality kicked in. Like any new experience, it only feels fresh and exciting for a short while until it eventually becomes familiar and plain. I noticed that people in Vancouver

keep to themselves and do not smile in public a lot, so I do not doubt that Vancouver is one of Canada's least happy cities, according to a study done by Statistics Canada. By far, my favorite thing about this city is its thoughtful layout to complement the water and mountains that lie around it. During my first couple of months, my senses were getting bombarded with beauty and I would often have to stop just to collect my thoughts because it became overwhelming. In simple words, the beauty of this city is straight out of my childhood fairy tale imagination. ✍