

From Kerala  
to Canada,  
Christians  
rejoice  
Page 2



# The Source

forum of diversity

Vol 20 No 10 | December 10, 2019–January 7, 2020

www.thelasource.com



## A year in review: weaving cultures and traditions

by SIMON YEE

**Emblazoned in a red banner on the front page of every issue published by *The Source* this year are the words, "Celebrating 20 years in 2019." To all of our readers - from those who have been with the newspaper since 1999 to those of you who are reading for the first time in 2019 - we are grateful for your support and readership.**

Publishing a small community newspaper is no easy task, given the withering state of local

journalism in the 21st century throughout the world. Even so, as I wrote in *The Source's* 20th anniversary cover story in June, I credit our paper's longevity to our ability to provide a vital platform and voice to the myriad individuals from a variety of backgrounds living and working in Vancouver. By reporting on stories which touch upon universal themes of communication, multiculturalism and diversity, the paper strives to promote civic engagement, celebrate and recognize cultural differences and create a strong sense of belonging in the local community.

These are the values that have helped *The Source* succeed for 20 years and will continue to help the paper carry on for another 20 years. Before we head into 2020 and our 21st publishing year, let us take a look back at some of the stories we wrote for you in 2019.

### On the uses and abuses of language

How information gets communicated depends on how language is used or abused. Sometimes language is dangerously underused as reporter Colleen Addison found out, all the way back in

our first cover story in January. Addison chronicled the efforts of Marianne Ignace, a member of the Secwepemc tribe who has been working to preserve and promote Indigenous languages like Haida and Squamish. Not only would its speakers struggle to communicate their needs to others, humanity would lose unique ways of seeing the world since language structures different ways of thinking. Ignace leads programs to teach Indigenous languages and to research and document the knowledge of Indigenous language speakers, See "Year in Review" page 7 >

### Verbatim

#### Where I come from

by ÉMELINE RIFFENACH

I think that for travelers, whether over the short or long term, the search for meaning and identity follows them everywhere. Having arrived in Vancouver on October 22nd 2019, I would never have thought of being part of such a mix of cultures. And yet, diversity is something I had always experienced in my native Alsace.

I grew up in Mulhouse, France, a breeding ground for immigration. Different cultures rub shoulders, exchange ideas and communicate. A dynamic that is familiar to me but that was turned upside down by my arrival in Canada. Finding myself this time in the shoes of an immigrant, I was more aware of the changes and complications of building a new life elsewhere - new habits, new language, new landmarks. Notwithstanding this observation, I had the good fortune to be French and to have experienced very acceptable living conditions. I also found things much the same here, even if everything had to be redone in terms of professional networks and friends.

The loss of landmarks is not to be taken lightly. I am particularly impressed by immigrants from far-off countries, both geographically and culturally, and whose living conditions are nothing of an El Dorado. The journey, whether agreed to or forced, involves uprooting.

Immersed in the Canadian experience since October, I am able to observe the welcoming of different immigrants. The task is not easy, but Canada is doing it. Everyone can live freely, without being criticized for their lifestyle, their appearance or beliefs. I am still surprised by so much kindness. Coming from a country where criticism and racism are commonplace, I ap-

See "Verbatim" page 4 &gt;

### Also in this issue



Nature inspires  
Filipino artists  
Page 7

Local artist  
deploys her wings  
Page 9



**CSF**  
Conseil scolaire francophone  
de la Colombie-Britannique

**GRANDIR  
EN FRANÇAIS**

csf.bc.ca

OFFREZ À VOTRE ENFANT  
UNE ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE  
FRANCOPHONE

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



# Cultural Spotlight

## From India to Canada: Catholic Christmas celebrations

by CURTIS SEUFERT

**Approaching another wintry holiday season, both pharmacist Mary Mani and Father Ajin George say the celebration of Christmas can play an important role in maintaining both cultural and religious traditions and practises.**

Both Mani and Father Ajin are practising Catholics in B.C. who grew up in the Indian state of Kerala. For them, Christmas has proven to be a kind of universal holiday, allowing them to celebrate their faith and upbringing with their community wherever they go.

### Finding community

Mani grew up in Kerala, a state in southern India with one of the highest numbers of practising Christians, and has studied and practised pharmacy across the globe, from New Zealand to Virginia and, now, in the Lower Mainland.

And while she's come across many places of worship throughout her travels, she's experienced some challenges

In the midst of travelling and practising pharmacy across the globe, Mani felt that her children would benefit from becoming more involved in religion and faith. And so, as her family eventually arrived in Canada, she's found success in finding a religious community with Good Shepherd Church in Surrey.

I learned a lesson of how light and easy and beautiful it is to come down to the level of the people. Because they will take us as their friends and as their family members."

**Celebrating faith at Christmas**  
Both Father Ajin and Mani point to a handful of different tradi-

“There are different cultural traditions that happen in the practise of faith, but ultimately there are elements that never change, wherever you go, if you go to any Catholic church.

*Father Ajin George, Catholic priest*

“They have a huge part in the community in the sense that [Good Shepherd] does a lot of volunteering. I really like that when we talk about God, it's really through your work,” says Mani.

Father Ajin, who is also from the state of Kerala, has found

tions between Christmas in Kerala and Christmas in Canada. For example, the tradition of hanging a Christmas star on one's front door isn't as common here as it is in Kerala, and there's much less focus in Kerala on the often stressful Canadian tradition of buying gifts for everyone in the family.

Overall, both Mani and Father Ajin agree that, while there are some differences between Christmas in Kerala and Canada, maintaining religious and cultural holiday traditions from India hasn't proved to be especially challenging.

Mani says attending Christmas mass, singing carols – many of which are just as popular in India as in Canada – and cooking a grand Christmas breakfast with plum cakes and appam, a rice-based pancake topped with meat stew, is just as possible in the Lower Mainland as it is in Kerala.

“I still do those things that my mom used to do, for my kids, just to make them feel how I did,” says Mani. “It was a family thing before too, but [back in Kerala] it was more centered around why Jesus came to earth. Now, it's more about having the family together again.”

Father Ajin is happy to simply practise Christmas as a religious holiday, in celebration of his faith and of the birth of Jesus.

“There are different cultural traditions that happen in the practise of faith, but ultimately there are elements that never change, wherever you go, if you go to any Catholic church,” he says. “As a priest, I think that the real joy is Christ. He never changes, and he is the one we need to hold onto.”



▲ Father Ajin George celebrates Christmas with simplicity and happiness.

in finding a community with which to practise her faith.

“Even though I'd say every corner had a church in Virginia, somehow I was never a part of the church,” says Mani, a feeling she feels came from moving so often.

a similar sense of community in his experience practising in British Columbia. While currently based in Kamloops, he remembers finding joy in shared community during his time with the Immaculate Conception parish and elementary in Delta.

“I loved that ministry and visiting the school,” he says. “It's a wonderful community of teachers and students, and that had a really powerful impact on my life as a priest. Sometimes in India, priests are on a pedestal, put on a higher level. But

**St. Andrew's United Church**  
1044 St. George's Avenue in North Vancouver, BC V7L 3H6 • 604-985-0408  
events@st-andrews-united.ca • www.st-andrews-united.ca

Translation **Barry Brisebois, Louise Dawson, Monique Kroeger, James Mainguy**  
Distribution **Joseph Laquerre, Kevin Paré**

Photo credits for front cover  
Page 2 (top): courtesy of Father Ajin George  
Page 7 (bottom left): *Paraiso* by Chito Maravilla  
Page 9 (bottom right): courtesy of Janet Strayer

### 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



**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**  
Senior Editor (English and French Sections)  
**Monique Kroeger**  
Copy Editors (English) **Siddharth Bala, Bonny Bung, Deanna Choi, Meagan Kus, Thierry Maout, 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 Gatinel**  
Social Media **James Mainguy**  
Editorial Content Advisor **Denis Bouvier**  
Contributing Editor **Simon Yee**

Layout Artist **Helen Luk**  
Illustrator **Joseph Laquerre**  
Writers **Ashley Boyko, Xi Chen, Gratianna Daum, Kristy Dockstader, Laurence Gatinel, Anindita Gupta, Gina Hsu, Harry Jing, Thierry Maout, Mary-Lynn Riendeau, Émeline Riffenach, Guy Rodrigue, Curtis Seufert, Solange van der Zwaag, Lin Weaver, Robert Zajtmann**

# Timberline Country Christmas

Maple Ridge, BC

November 30 - December 22, 2019

Leave the city behind, and be enchanted by glorious lights, beautiful trees, lovely music, and relaxing activities that remind us of when Christmas was a lot simpler – and a lot less commercial. You'll enjoy cookie decorating, pony rides, a hay maze, a Christmas craft, Storyland, covered wagon rides, the snowball room, and lots more. When you want good, healthy family fun, it's time to "Come out to the Country!"

	Fr Fridays	Sat/Sun
General Admission	\$12	\$14
Children (1-5) Seniors (65+)	\$10	\$12
Children (pre-walking)	Free	Free

Book Online: [www.TimberlineChristmas.ca](http://www.TimberlineChristmas.ca)

## The Power of Tibetan words: golden letters arrayed like stars and planets

by GINA HSU

**"I love the earthiness of Tibetan culture and think this is something often lost in translation in the West. This reverence for text and words manifests in very concrete, tangible ways," says curator Patrick Dowd.**

The exhibition is ongoing until Jan. 4, 2020 in the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC.

### The power of letters

"Never throw away anything with Tibetan writing. Never place a book on the ground. Every letter is holy; every syllable is mantra," Dowd writes in his introduction to the exhibition, recalling his first lesson with the Tibetan teacher he studied with in the Indian Himalayas. "They told me every letter of their alphabet was sacred, imbued with the power to liberate beings from suffering."

Taken from a 13th-century Tibetan poem by Chögyal Pakpa Lodrö Gyeltsen, the title of the exhibition *Golden Letters Arrayed Like Stars and Planets* captures Tibet's reverence for letters. For instance, the poet, Pakpa, compares the blue-black paper to the blue sky where golden letters, like stars and planets, are beautifully arranged in lines. This image depicts the transcendental and celestial power of Buddha's teachings and wisdom that are inscribed in delicately ornamented books.

This 8000-line *Prajñāpāramitā Sutra* (*The Discourse on the Perfection of Transcendent Wisdom*)

carvers in Nepal. Above the glass case is an image of the mani wall in Nangchen, Tibet where stones carved with sacred syllables pile up 'literal mountains of prayers' around which Tibetans ritually circumambulate. The most common mantra carved is the six-syllable mantra om mani pémé hung.

Another image shows two Tibetans in the forefront, one woman applies ink on the side while another man places a rolling pin on his lap. They each holds down one end of the paper strip on top of a carved woodblock. According to the catalogue, it takes three days on average to engrave a two-sided woodblock, with each letter carved in reverse to create a mirror image for print.

This picture not only shows the traditional Tibetan print culture but also offers an earthly insight into the production and transmission of what is held to be unworldly and divine.

"Devoted human hands function every step of the way, from the making of the ink and paper, to the carving of the blocks, to the printing of the books themselves," Dowd further explains. "Even though woodblock texts may be harder to read than machine printed ones [because of less precise printing], people value that human connection that went into the production, and this is why the tradition persists."

Dowd believes that it is important to remember that modern print technology exists in Tibet.

"But the fact that Tibetans still maintain this tradition of woodblock printing, far slower and



▲ Traditionally printed scripture.

is a significant scripture about the 'perfected manner of understanding the true nature of reality,' printed in golden ink on deep-blue paper made with lapis rock.

### Godly blessings in earthly objects

"[The exhibition aims to] take the audience on a kora, [which means] a clockwise ritual circumambulation of holy objects," says Dowd.

While kora is spiritual in nature, and the displayed objects are imbued with godly blessings, there is an intriguing aspect of materiality that brings the power of Tibetan letters – of stars and planets – down to earth and close to the people who look to the spiritual guidance that has transcended time and space.

The mani stones in the glass display are inscribed with holy mantras and carved by master



▲ *The Discourse on the Perfection of Transcendent Wisdom.*

laborious than modern printing, speaks to the connection between motivation, the hand and the product," he adds. "There is also a sense that blessings accumulate with age, so these wooden blocks that have been used for years hold centuries of blessings, something not possible with modern printing presses." ✍

For more information, please visit [www.sppga.ubc.ca/events/event/golden-letters-arrayed-like-stars-and-planets-the-tibetan-culture-of-language-and-letters/](http://www.sppga.ubc.ca/events/event/golden-letters-arrayed-like-stars-and-planets-the-tibetan-culture-of-language-and-letters/)

Photos courtesy of Gina Hsu

**S'ÉPANOUIR EN FRANÇAIS**

OFFREZ À VOTRE ENFANT  
UNE ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE FRANCOPHONE

Enseignement de qualité de la maternelle à la 12<sup>e</sup> année  
Services à la petite enfance  
Service de transport scolaire  
Programme d'anglais langue première  
Programmes de sports, musique, théâtre, plein air, etc.  
Programme du Baccalauréat International

[csf.bc.ca](http://csf.bc.ca)



## Everyone belongs here: charity advocates for newcomers to Canada

by THIERRY MAOUT

**Surrey-based non-profit organization DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society empowers newcomers and other diverse communities to build the life they want in Canada.**

Through efforts like the recent Bundle Up Campaign which provided warm clothes, food staples and more for local refugee families, it champions diversity and inclusion for all, with a clear message: everyone belongs here.

### Being a voice

With a history dating over 40 years in Surrey and the Lower Mainland and a promise to welcome newcomers with open arms, DIVERSEcity has been offering free, multilingual services in language, settlement, employment and counselling, with initiatives such as the RISE program.

Standing for “Refugee & Immigrant Specialized Experience,” the RISE Program is close to “a mentoring program” explains Hermon Lay, case counsellor at DIVERSEcity. It provides support to adult and youth newcomers who are experiencing complex and multiple challenges in settling into their new community: “We advocate for them. We go out with our clients, teaching and supporting them on how to do things on their own.”

A former refugee from Burma himself, Lay was exiled in Thailand where he spent some of his childhood years before immigrating to Canada at a young age. Working for the past 10 years with DIVERSEcity serving vulnerable populations and refugees, he is fluent in four languages and breaks down some of the services the RISE program provides:

“Disability, mental health, access to healthcare, school, land-

lords, legal issues, a little bit of everything. We are a voice for our clients,” he says. “We refer them to experts and support them with their needs.”

### Running is not a choice

Refugees and newcomers are faced with many challenges when relocating to an entirely new part of the world.

“Some of the clients, especially kids, don’t even know where Canada is,” explains Lay. Without a firm grasp of the English language, these challenges can be found in many aspects of life, from transportation to accessing health services.

“Some have never been to the city or to urban areas, so we have to teach them how to take a bus to access the hospital. Then what about the language? As a case counsellor we advocate for the client, we teach them about the systems that they will be able to access,” he adds.

Speaking about refugees and particularly about the Karen population, an ethnic group from Burma (Myanmar) facing religious and ethnic persecution by their government and which he primarily works with, Lay insists that “running is not a choice,” but focuses on the positive side, evoking what he’s witnessed over the past decade working with vulnerable populations: “They are strong, resilient, and are just people like you and me,” he comments. “They’re now far away from persecution, they have a better life, so if they work hard on it – I’ve seen the success stories! – they will be able to integrate. The children can go to school and get into college.”

### A beacon of hope

Asked about Canada and its international image as a welcoming country, Lay is quick to reply. “It is! I have experienced it myself!” and goes on to high-

light the gratitude of the Karen people to the Great White North. “There are still Karen people in refugee camps in the Karen state who are not safe, so we would like to thank the government for supporting the Karen people.”

The case counsellor insists on thanking the Canadian government, emphasizing that government assistance brings a great deal of help to refugees and to the newcomers DIVERSEcity is helping, and acknowledges the appreciation for being here.

“We are happy to be here because this is a safe place” before concluding, once again on an optimistic note. “We want to focus on the positive side: We are out of war-torn zones, in a free country. Let’s enjoy! This is Christmas!” Lay says. ✍

For more information, please visit [www.dcrs.ca](http://www.dcrs.ca).

### ► “Verbatim” from page 1

preciate the apparent social ap-  
peasement.

I was, however, faced with questions, having first set foot in Montréal. Queries related to the presence of what you call “First Nations” or “natives.” I noticed a difference in the treatment of history from one side of Canada to the other. In British Columbia, native culture seems to me more present and accepted.

of the veil, and more broadly of religion, does not seem to be as tense an issue here in British Columbia.

I would like to take advantage of this serenity to make people reflect. To push them to travel as well so as to understand the Other and put themselves a little more in their place. To understand that it is not easy to leave one’s family and adapt to a new way of life.



▲ Mural near Granville Island.

In the end, this issue of origins seems to me to be the same throughout the world. One clan following after another, often within the violence of colonizing movements, while seeking to legitimize their presence.

In Canada, the situation seems peaceful, but taboos are not far away. Vancouver is a reflection of this ambiguity. It brings many nationalities and communities into close proximity, but one wonders about human relationships and their depth. A difficult question to resolve.

The apparent serenity, however, is a good thing. While in my country, the social and identity crisis is becoming more and more important. I would like to emulate a bit of this Canadian example. The question

To also understand that one can live together while being totally different.

Although I left my “home,” I now know that I have taken small bits with me. Small pieces of identity that we can show, describe and share with others.

I will take advantage of this “Canadian” experience to share more about who I am and where I come from. Opening one’s mind, based on exchange and discussion. That seems to me to be an important key to “living together,” threatened everywhere on the planet. So, let’s find the optimism in simple sharing without any monetary expectation. And there you are, I have shared a little of my “heimat” as we say at home. ✍

Translation by Barry Brisebois

**HIPPY CANADA**  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

- Are you a newcomer in Canada?
- Do you have a 3, 4 or 5 year-old-child?
- Do you want your child to succeed in school?
- Are you willing to spend 15 minutes a day with your child?

**If yes, HIPPY is just for you!**

**HIPPY is about...**

- Weekly in-home support and training from a Home Visitor
- Children’s books and lesson packets to teach your child at home
- Group meetings and talks based on your interest and needs

- Participating in your child’s education and personal development
- Helping you to teach your pre-schooler at home
- When your child enters kindergarten he/she will be ready to succeed
- Parents and children learn and grow together



PACIFIC IMMIGRANT RESOURCES SOCIETY  
210-3680 East Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V5K 2A9  
Tel: 604.298.5888 Fax: 604.298.7115  
Email: [info@pirs.bc.ca](mailto:info@pirs.bc.ca)  
[www.pirs.bc.ca](http://www.pirs.bc.ca)

Funded by: the North Growth Foundation

Contact: Lupita Boris

Phone: 604.298.5888 ext. 23

or;

Email: [lboris@pirs.bc.ca](mailto:lboris@pirs.bc.ca)



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada

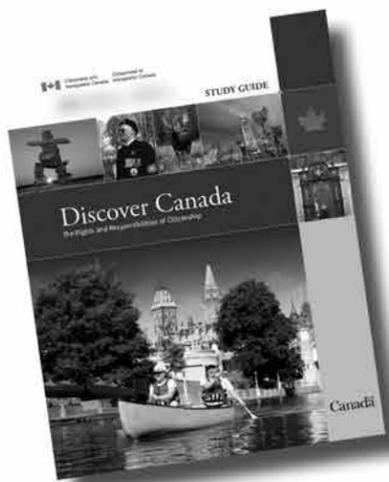
# Canadian Citizenship



## 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.

**FREE  
SERVICES**



Source: Madeans.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:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

[www.dcrs.ca](http://www.dcrs.ca)

# Heritage buildings of Gastown: Hotel Europe

by ANINDITA GUPTA

**Gastown, a Vancouver neighbourhood beloved by many for the restaurants, bars and pubs. But to connoisseurs of history, Gastown stands out as the foundation stone of the city.**

Everything here is dipped in heritage: the cobbled roads, the lamps that light up its nightlife and the buildings. For this series of articles, the focus will mainly be on the latter – the many beautiful heritage buildings of Gastown.

In this issue, the focus is on Hotel Europe.

#### In all its glory

Vancouver's very own flat iron building stands tall at 43 Powell Street, across from the statue of Gassy Jack in the Gastown neighbourhood. Before Hotel Europe stood on these grounds, it was the site of a restaurant called the Tivoli Saloon. It is said that they advertised for a free lunch with the purchase of a schooner of beer for a mere 5 cents. A police raid in the year 1886 left the Tivoli infamous when a whopping \$10.75 was seized from an illegal gambling game. The building was then purchased by hotelier Angelo B. Calori.

Calori, an immigrant who came to British Columbia as an unskilled labourer, soon rose to fame for being one of the only Italian-immigrant entrepreneurs to be successful in the city before the depression of 1930. He commissioned the construction of this building to the city's most prolific architect duo at the time: James Edmeston Parr and Thomas Arthur Fee. Parr and Fee went on to complete this structure in the year 1909. As of today, Hotel Europe is now 110 years old. It was the first of its kind to be built with concrete frames, which made it one of the first ever fireproof hotels built in western Canada.

At its prime, Hotel Europe was one of the city's finest, in terms of luxury, architecture and location. It was close to the steamship docks at the foot of Columbia Street and attracted many that came into the city just as it would have today. However, it is now a government subsidized housing that is not open to the public anymore. Towards the end, it is said that the hotel became disrepute as a brothel.

Many things remain untouched in this heritage building: the marble flooring, the tile work in the lobby and the



▲ Hotel Europe, Gastown.

Photo by Anindita Gupta

glasswork in the entranceway. And finally, small glass tiles you may have seen on the floor, on Alexander Street. These glass tiles provided light to an underground parlour, known as an areaway, during the hotel's functional days.

#### Haunted?

Something fascinating that surrounds old, heritage buildings are the rumours that we may never be able to confirm. One such rumour is that the Europe Hotel is haunted.

The first supernatural encounter in the hotel was experienced by a contractor, in the 1980s, who was working in one of the underground cellars. He heard scratches on the brick walls behind him and is said to have felt a 'bad presence' around him. These scratching noises can apparently be heard even today.

A second account from the early 2000s is that of someone having sighted an apparition of a tall man wearing a black coat and a flat cap. He appears in the poster shop in the bottom-most level of the building and has been seen more than once. Whether the scratching sounds are that of mice or spirits, and whether the apparition is of a spirit or a fragment of one's imagination, we will never completely know.

The beauty of heritage buildings are the reminders of the years that have gone by. And in those years, many things have changed. There may have been wars, natural and man-made disasters. But these buildings have stood through it all, knowing the city the longest and telling the most interesting stories through their doorways, columns and walls. ✍

## The web has a new forum of diversity!

Visit us online at [www.thelasource.com](http://www.thelasource.com)

Twitter/Faceboo: @thelasource

**Contribution**



Photo courtesy of Senate of Canada

▲ Portraits of French kings that used to hang in the Salon de la Francophonie in Centre Block are illuminated in their new home in the Senate of Canada Building.

**Portraits of almost half a millennium of French presence on Canadian soil**

In February 2019, the Senate moved to the Senate of Canada Building, a former train station built in 1912. It is expected to occupy its temporary location for at least 10 years while Parliament's Centre Block – the Senate's permanent home – is rehabilitated.

Although Centre Block is shuttered for rehabilitation work, Canadians can still experience its art and architecture through the Senate's immersive virtual tour.

With a single command in 1534, François I, King of France, laid the foundation for the vibrant francophone presence of modern-day Canada.

The aging monarch had survived war and prison, and watched the plague take his mother.

The portrait of François I is part of a collection that used to hang in the Salon de la Francophonie in Centre Block and is on loan to the Senate from the National Capital Commission.

But with renovations forcing Centre Block to close, the portraits were given a new home and a place of prominence in the Senate's expansive foyer, which was once the ticketing block of Ottawa's grandest train station.

The Salon de la Francophonie paid homage to one of the founding peoples of Canada; the nine French kings on its walls reigned as New France was settled.

For Senator Serge Joyal, P.C. – who donated the art to the National Capital Commission's Crown Collection of the Official Residences through the Canadiana Fund – it was



▲ Freshly uncrated, Henri III appears to watch with trepidation as exhibition preparators settle his portrait onto a custom-built mounting in the foyer of the Senate of Canada Building in October 2019.



▲ Exhibition preparators from Bouwdesign carefully unwrap a portrait of King Henri III.



▲ A bronze relief portrait of King Henri IV receives minute adjustments.

And then, as he turned 40, he sent Jacques Cartier to North America, where the famous explorer established a French presence on the continent that still thrives today.

Nearly 500 years later, the king's likeness stares out at senators and visitors to the new Senate of Canada Building from a heavy gilt frame, as if to supervise the country he helped to create.

important to keep these paintings accessible to the public to recognize the prominent role that French language and culture played in Canadian history.

"These French kings shaped Canada into the country that it is today," Senator Joyal said.

"Modern Canada remains a proud part of the French-speaking world and we can trace that back to François I and Jacques Cartier." ✎

Photos courtesy of Senate of Canada



恒例  
VJLS-JH

**Community Mochitsuki Festival**

コミュニティーもちつき大会

6ドルで食べ放題！  
つきたてのお餅で、  
お腹も、心も幸せに！

Come and Celebrate  
Japanese style New Year with  
**All-You-Can-Eat Mochi for \$6!**

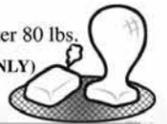


入場料 大人\$6 子供\$4(3~12歳)  
Admission Adult \$6 Child \$4 (Age 3-12)

**お持ち帰りについて (事前予約のみ)**

当日のおもちは食べ放題ですが、ご自宅用のお餅は電話で事前にご予約ください。予約が 80 ポンドに達した時点で締め切りますので、お早めにお申し込み下さい。1 ポンドにつき\$6.00 です。一家族様につき 2 ポンドまで。

If you plan to take plain mochi home, please call us to pre-order. Order will close after 80 lbs. Take-home mochi is priced at \$6.00/lb (MAX 2 LBS/HOUSEHOLD. ADVANCE ORDER ONLY)



**Friday, December 27, 2019**

11:00 am – 2:30 pm (Door Closes at 2:00 pm)

バンクーバー日本語学校並びに日系人会館  
Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall  
487 Alexander Street, Vancouver Tel: 604-254-2551

Registered Charitable Organization 119281996RR0001

**Main St. Village Vancouver  
& Little Mountain Neighborhood House**  
Present...



**Food Security & Sustainable Living  
Workshops and Potluck**



**What:** Potluck and Workshops\*  
**Where:** Little Mountain Neighbourhood House  
(3981 Main Street at 24<sup>th</sup> ave)  
**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month 6-8pm:  
6pm-potluck & 7pm-workshop begins

\*Workshop topics vary each month and include: gardening, beekeeping, seed saving, backyard chickens, growing local, bikes & bike maintenance, renewable energy, recycling & composting, sewing, and more!

**Information or to Register:**

Jason Mertz:  
jason@villagevancouver.ca  
or

Jennifer Wesman:  
jennifer\_wesman@lmnhs.bc.ca  
604-879-7104, ext. 315



Presented by Main St. Village Vancouver (www.villagevancouver.ca) and  
Little Mountain Neighborhood House (www.lmnhs.bc.ca)

# How green is your muse?

## An appreciation and a wake-up call

by HARRY JING

**Celebrate nature at The Filipino Music and Art Foundation's new exhibition of nature-themed artwork at Surrey Art Gallery. How Green Is Your Muse? is a collaborative project, displayed until Feb. 2, consisting of thirty-four contributions from 12 different Filipino-Canadian artists.**

How Green Is Your Muse? is first and foremost an appreciation of nature from artists who derive their inspiration from nature's beauty. Twelve established and emerging Filipino-Canadian artists share their own personal experiences with nature by depicting subjects ranging from childhood forages into nature to the devastating weather events impacting the Philippines. Using a variety of media, ranging from traditional paintings to abstract pieces using recycled-material, the twelve artists remind gallery-goers of nature's beauty and warn of the devastating effects of climate change.

### Why you should climb a tree

"The theme of nature really resonated with me," says Danvic Briones, a painter and a graphic artist. "My paintings are all memories of childhood. When I was a child, we had nature as a toy. We used the air to fly kites and the trees to climb."

Briones' contributions consist of three paintings that use a mix of oil and acrylic paint carved onto recycled wood. Briones chose familiar subjects of his childhood in the Philippines, recalling fond memories of climbing trees; making little structures out of leaves; and generally discovering the won-

ders of nature. At the same time, Briones laments how children's imaginations are restricted by their dependence on technology. In *Nature Climb*, Briones explores how climbing a tree was a way of satisfying his curiosity and exploring the environment. Through the painting, he hopes to teach the value of nature as a playmate and a source of fun.

"If you make nature part of your play, it's limitless," says Briones. "Don't be boxed in by technology."

### We are all connected

"I wanted to raise awareness for the environment, and I wanted to engage everyone," says Esmie Gayo McLaren. "It's no longer just being concerned for the future, because the effects of climate change are being felt now. It isn't someone else's problem, and we each have to do something about it."

McLaren was born in the Philippines and moved to Canada when she was 12. Growing up in Alberta, she described her transition from the Philippines to Canada to be very fast. Today, McLaren is an esteemed painter who works with oil painting and watercolor. In *White Carpet*, McLaren depicts a park in Vancouver during springtime. The paintings tell the story of how a couple of squirrels stole some tulip bulbs, and eventually forgot about them. The tulips then naturalized in the squirrel's hiding spot, sprouting new life where there wasn't any before. *White Carpet* reminds gallery-goers that all life exists on a web of connections, and how climate change harms all living beings.

"White Carpet got me thinking, if the park setting were to disappear, there'd be so many



▲ *White Carpet* by Esmie McLaren.



▲ *Nature Climb* by Danvic Briones

living things left without a home," explains McLaren.

### Beautiful British Columbia

Ferdinand Barrameda Maravilla, nicknamed "Chito," is a graphic designer and part-time painter. After migrating to Canada nearly 17 years ago, Chito started out designing childrens' playgrounds. Chito's contribution of found-object collages deviates from his usual medium of painting. One collage, titled *Paraiso*, is constructed from an old 1973 BC car plate and crossed-stitched cupids. Chito explains the statement "Beautiful British Columbia" is not just a slogan printed on car plates, rather, it was British Columbia's bragging rights

and pride. The cupids represent the young people to whom the world is entrusted to. The collage in its entirety serves to remind people British Columbia is truly blessed with natural wonders, and warns not to squander those blessings for the sake of young people.

"My art is a conscious effort of recycling discarded materials made useful again as a medium for my art," explains Chito. "It's a warning of how beauty can be altered by decay if we are not careful." ✍

For more information, please visit [www.art-bc.com/events/surrey/upcoming-exhibitions/how-green-is-your-muse-at-surrey-art-gallery](http://www.art-bc.com/events/surrey/upcoming-exhibitions/how-green-is-your-muse-at-surrey-art-gallery)

### ► "Year in Review" from page 1

hoping to keep these languages alive before they are lost.

In other cases, language can be abused to peddle false stories and narratives. Reporter Siddharth Bala discussed the issue of fake news and disinformation with philosophy professor Endre Begby in April. Fake news arises not because an individual's belief-making process is compromised, but the environment and context surrounding the belief is manipulated. The proliferation of fabricated stories through social media, attacking journalism as agenda-driven and the re-sharing of conspiracy theories through social media are some of the elements in play in today's media environment. Given this environment, forming a rational belief can be difficult and can output false beliefs – an ongoing concern in this decade and the next.

### Telling a story through comics and tech

Telling stories is part and parcel of being human. But how those stories are told is totally up to the storyteller. Reporter Jake McGrail covered the Vancouver Comic Arts Festival in May, which brought artists and

fans of comics together to share their love of the artistic medium. McGrail spoke with Teresa Wong, one of the festival's featured guests. Wong published *Dear Scarlet*, detailing her experiences with motherhood and postpartum depression following the birth of her first child. Despite being a first-time illustrator, she felt the comic book medium provided a great vehicle for expressing her story, as her memories came to her in images. The graphic panels lent themselves well to depicting the moments of silence that come with taking care of a baby. She hopes her comic helps uplift or inspire others going through similar struggles.

In October, reporter Xi Chen profiled Emily Carr student Edward Madojemu who told his story using a more contemporary medium. He created an immersive virtual reality (VR) novel, *Dami and Falian*, based on his experiences of moving from Nigeria two years ago. Madojemu related to Chen how he needed to express his emotions about moving to Canada, learning about a new world and self-discovery – the novel parallels his experience. Crafting the novel in VR allowed him to flesh out the world the novel takes place

in: inventing new alien languages and allowing the users to experience the story the way the protagonists do. The novel was a finalist for the Vancouver International Film Festival's Immersed competition.

### Diversity and social unity

Living in a cosmopolitan city like Vancouver encourages us to think about the way we practise diversity and social unity. For some, that manifests in physical spaces; for others, in our hearts and minds. In February, reporter Betty Shea brought to our attention the concept of co-housing, a housing model that aims to build communities out of shared common spaces. As opposed to traditional housing, which discourages communication between neighbours, co-housing designs prominently feature common areas, encouraging neighbours to interact with each other. By doing so, co-housing hopes to not only build more housing, but also build social bonds and develop the social fabric among its residents.

On the occasion of the UNESCO International Day for Tolerance in November, reporter Matthew Fraser challenged the notion that intolerance and disharmony pervades the city. Al-

though acts of prejudice exist in the city, they primarily stem from cultural misunderstandings and manifest themselves in isolated incidents that are quickly blown up by media and then fizzle away just as fast. Rather, Fraser suggests that tolerance for others and the desire for unity is the ideology most Canadians embrace and draws its strength from.

### Two perspectives on Vancouver's multiculturalism

Vancouver's multiculturalism strikes a chord differently among those who grew up in the city and those who are newcomers. Verbatim writer Kira Matthes wrote in March about her experiences as a newcomer to Vancouver. She came from a place where people were almost expected to follow a life story that was not totally her own. Moving to Vancouver in 2018 in search of a clean slate, she detailed how her perspectives have broadened living in a multicultural place. She wrote how the city welcomed diversity of thought and opinion and encouraged the freedom to be different, all of which felt liberating for her.

"You can be different, the same, unique, new – whatever you

want," Matthes wrote. "You can be anything here, and you won't be alone in it."

Reporter Harry Jing shared his thoughts in the September Verbatim column about growing up in Vancouver, where multiculturalism is sometimes imperceptible and taken for granted. While travelling, he noted how much less diverse other Canadian and world cities are compared to Vancouver and realized how much other places struggle with the concept, treating it as something abstract and academic, rather than as a lived experience. Having originally taken multiculturalism for granted, Jing came to realize how special Vancouver is in the world.

"Multiculturalism is so omnipresent here in Vancouver that it's woven into the very fabric of society," Jing wrote. "Though we can't always see or hear multiculturalism, it envelopes us every waking moment in this beautiful city."

We hope our stories inspire in you the values of diversity and love of culture, as much as it does in us. On behalf of everyone at *The Source* Newspaper, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and amazing new year – we will see you in 2020! ✍

## Mosaic Riddim

# Out of many, comes one reggae music

by XI CHEN

**Mosaic Riddim, a Vancouver-based reggae band – with its band members coming from all different parts of the globe – resembles a microcosm of the world.**

“The motto in Jamaica is ‘out of many, one people’ – the same with music: out of many diverse cultures, comes one band, one message and one sound,” says lead singer/songwriter Marrett Green, who started the band in 2016 and hails from Jamaica, the home of reggae music.

The band – backup singer Natalia Ramirez is from Peru; guitarists Daichi Araki and Rudolph Bonn Deita are from Japan and the Philippines, respectively; keyboardist Mani AD is from Iran; and drummer Jean Thomas is from Mauritius – has been performing in the city regularly and will have its next show at the Princeton Pub on Jan. 3, 2020.

Mosaic Riddim is also in the process of launching an EP in the coming months.

### From hardship comes the music of love

“Our concerts are more inclusive,” says Green. “What we are trying to achieve is the message of love, as corny as it sounds. For what we can see, life is of love; what does that say about music? It is not the notes that we are connecting to; it is the place where the shamans and



▲ Mosaic Riddim sends a message of inclusive love.

gurus are attempting to get to – that place of silence. The notes pull us out of our place of complacency, and it is the silence between the notes that our souls are drawn to, and in roots reggae, you have a lot of spaces in that.”

Music came to Green when he was at a low point in his

life. Following an eviction, he found himself homeless for eight months. He was working and sleeping in Tim Hortons and experienced vastly different treatments from people.

“In that experience I learned so much. When you are desperate, and you see how other

people see you when you are desperate, you really see the fragilities and the shortcomings of human beings,” says Green. “I also learned about myself, that’s when the music started coming, and that is what people are gravitating towards now and are enjoying.”

Green wrote more than 20 songs during the period he was homeless.

### A communicator at heart

As a man who wears many hats, Green had taken on many roles in his career: a TV anchor, an actor, an educator, a published author, a charity founder, an inventor and now a musician. He says ultimately his passion lies in teaching and music.

“I am a communicator – everything I have done up to now, and there are still so much more I want to do. I love communicating, not just sharing as a teacher, but also seeing the rewards in students when they grow,” he says.

Green also conducts a seminar called the Original Message that focuses on spirituality.

“My father was a pastor. I don’t subscribe to the same bible that he does, but it is the same conduit to love,” says Green. “The journey that I have taken so far shows that the greater you are connecting to the source energy and the more you understand that, as much as you want to plan, if you truly want to be part of that spirituality then you have to go with that flow.”

Like the lyrics he wrote, “There is a light inside of you, let it shine true,” Green says ultimately he is just looking to be happy, and with the solid people he has met, music is doing just that for him. ✍

For more information, please visit [www.theprincetonpub.ca](http://www.theprincetonpub.ca).

*The Rogue Presents the Return of*  
**David Francey**  
*Two Nights!*

Friday, January 10th and Saturday, January 11th  
 at the Mel Lehan Hall at St. James  
 3214 West 10th Avenue - \$32 (\$28 members)  
 Info: 604.736.3022 - Tickets: Highlife, Tapestry or  
**[www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com)**

THE ROGUE PRESENTS  
**VAN DJANGO**  
 with L J Mountenay

**COOL YULE!**  
 Come celebrate the season with Vancouver’s favourite  
 GYPSY JAZZ ensemble, appearing at the Rogue for the  
 SEVENTH year in a row! It’s the most FUN you can have  
 sitting down with your clothes on.

Friday, December 13 - Mel Lehan Hall at St. James  
 3214 West 10th Avenue - \$28 (\$24 members)  
 Info: 604.736.3022 - Tickets: Highlife, Tapestry or  
**[www.roguefolk.com](http://www.roguefolk.com)**

**TUESDAY - 8PM  
DECEMBER 31ST**

**HERITAGE BANQUET HALL  
726 12TH STREET  
NEW WESTMINSTER**

**FOOD & DRINKS!  
LIVE MUSIC!  
& LOTS OF  
DANCING!**

**new year's eve party!**

**20\$ PRE-SALE | 25\$ AT THE DOOR  
INFORMATION: 778-882-5223**

**CELEBRATING 61 YEARS  
OF THE CUBAN  
REVOLUTION!**

**VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA - VCSC  
VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM**

# A leap of passion

by KRISTY DOCKSTADER

**"If not now, then when?" This is the very question Janet Strayer asked herself when she was considering taking the terrifying leap from a successful career as a psychology professor to become an artist.**

The Wings of Imagination exhibit will be running Nov. 28, 2019–Jan. 5, 2020 at the Sydney and Gertrude Zack Gallery.

## From appreciation to realizing a new path

Strayer was born in Germany but has lived a great deal of her life in the United States and Canada, while also exploring every opportunity to travel. She has always been an appreciator of art and has collected it from all over the world, especially street art.

Strayer has been a hobbyist painter since she was a child. Throughout her years in school she maintained this fascination with creativity and even finished her studies with a minor in art history.

After years of appreciating other people's art, and making art for her own enjoyment, she decided to start creating artworks that could be shared with an audience. However, at the time of this realization she was also busy as a tenured professor at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and it quickly became difficult to balance her two worlds.

"I had a very satisfying career as an academic and psychological researcher," says Strayer. "I

"With a very established career in one field, I took a great leap of faith into the art world," Strayer recalls. "It was surprising and it was frightening. But I am adventurous and I thought, if not now, then when?"

Fast-forward nearly two decades and Strayer has had her work featured in multiple public gallery solo exhibitions, curated juried shows and private and public collections all over the world. Her latest works are

“Flying is part of the human imagination and a human wish.

*Janet Strayer, painter*

currently being featured in an exhibition entitled Wings of Imagination. The pieces in this exhibit are themed around a fascination with flight, discovery and freedom, expressed through vivid colours and playful imagery.

"Flying is part of the human imagination and a human wish. The wish to be able to surpass barriers, to cross boundaries and to have freedom," Strayer explains regarding the ideas behind her current exhibit.

She currently spends a great deal of her time on the quiet Southern Gulf Island of Saturna, where her working studio is located. The natural beauty and

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
SERVICE**

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 at 10 am

*Everyone welcome!*

St. Andrew's United Church  
1044 St. George's Avenue in North Vancouver, BC V7L 3H6 • 604-985-0408  
events@st-andrews-united.ca • www.st-andrews-united.ca

## 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 works – 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](http://www.pics.bc.ca),  
or visit us at  
200-8161 Main St.,  
Vancouver, to  
find out how  
we can best  
help you.



▲ For Janet Strayer, solitude is fundamental to inspiration.

still have strong interests in it, but as I matured into my career I had reached a place where I started yearning to do more art. I began spending all my free time taking classes and workshops and going to shows, and the more I did, the more I craved it."

## Taking the leap

After struggling to balance the love for her academic career and her creative passion for the arts, she eventually decided to explore this piece of herself more thoroughly. She wanted to be able to dedicate more than just her free time to art.

peace of the island plays a vital role in her ability to create and helps inspire her. Her work can also be seen at the PRISM gallery on the island in the summer months.

"I need solitude," says Strayer. "Then I can listen for the inspiration. I often find it by looking around me, in nature, art history and world culture. At any particular time, inspiration could be some of these, all of these or just one of them. But I need solitude in order to hear the inspiration in any of those." ✍

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

**Advertise in The Source's  
print or digital versions.**

Email [info@thelastsource.com](mailto:info@thelastsource.com)

# Cultural Calendar

December 10, 2019–January 7, 2020

by SIMON YEE  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Here we are friends – the last Cultural Calendar of 2019 and the 2010s decade. Close out the decade in style with a little holiday cheer. From seasonal music, dance and theatre to Christmas festivals and New Year celebrations, it will be a cold but lively winter in Vancouver. Have a happy new year everyone. I'll see all of you in 2020 – the next decade!

\*\*\*

**The Tragic Comedy of MacBeth**  
Now Playing until Dec. 15  
Jericho Arts Centre, Vancouver  
[www.jerichoartscentre.com](http://www.jerichoartscentre.com)

Wait...MacBeth, a comedy? It is, at the Jericho Arts Centre where they are hosting the Literary Larceny Artistic Collective's production of The Tragic Comedy of Macbeth until Dec. 15. This production takes William Shakespeare's classic tragedy and mixes in a little bit of comedy and improv to produce an entertaining evening for comedy and Shakespeare fans alike. In an attempt to lift the curse from the Bard's most popular play, the original MacBeth uses improvisation to try to alter the ending in the wild comedy with dark edges. Check out the arts centre website for tickets and more information.

\*\*\*

**ArtRich 2019**  
Now on display until Dec. 31  
Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond  
[www.richmondartgallery.org](http://www.richmondartgallery.org)

The Richmond Art Gallery, with the Richmond Arts Coalition, will be hosting ArtRich 2019, their third bi-annual, juried exhibition, taking place now until Dec. 31. The exhibition looks to celebrate emerging and established artists with a connection to the Lower Mainland from Richmond and nearby communities and provide them with an opportunity to exhibit together. This year will once again feature a set of People's Choice awards for the community's favourite artworks.



▲ Samantha Harrison, Jeong Min as Bacchus, 2019, oil on Linen, 30 x 36 inches.



▲ Labyrinth of Light by Gregory Byrne.

\*\*\*

**New West WinterFest**  
Now until Jan. 5, 2020  
Various venues throughout  
New Westminster  
[www.tourismnewwestminster.com/winterfest/](http://www.tourismnewwestminster.com/winterfest/)

If you're in or around the Royal City (the nickname for New Westminster) this holiday season, check out the cultural scene happening in honour of the wintry season. This festive celebration will feature a wide array of fun, seasonal attractions for the whole family. The Anvil Centre will be filled with a cornucopia of entertainment for everyone – from choirs, singalongs and art installations to musical performances and arts & crafts. There will be a Santa Parade on Dec. 15 and a Solstice Pride Party on Dec. 21. For a complete list of events, check out the WinterFest website.

\*\*\*

**Music for the Winter Solstice 2019**  
Dec. 11–12, 8 p.m.  
Heritage Hall, Vancouver  
[www.musiconmain.ca](http://www.musiconmain.ca)

This Music on Main tradition returns to the city for the Winter Solstice once more. The winter solstice is a time of contrast: light and dark, cold and warmth, endings and beginnings. As the current decade comes to a close, take a moment away from the hustle and bustle to enjoy the coming of winter and the fresh start it offers us all. Bask in the candlelight glow of Heritage Hall as people come together with gorgeous music for the solstice. For tickets and programme information, check out the Music on Main website.

\*\*\*

**MakeIt**  
Dec. 11–15  
The PNE Forum, Vancouver  
[www.makeitshow.ca](http://www.makeitshow.ca)

The MakeIt Handmade Revolution is coming back to the Pacific National Exhibition with over 250 local artists, artisans and makers (Makies!). With clothing, accessories, art, home decor, gourmet goodies, baby and kid items and other unique treasures – visitors will be sure to find gifts for everyone on their list. In addition, MakeIt has food trucks and a beer garden to get visitors in the festive spirit! There will be a special opening kick-off on Wednesday night, featuring a fun night of special events, entertainment and a venue-wide liquor license. Check out their website for tickets and more information.

\*\*\*

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
Dec. 12–31  
Gateway Theatre, Richmond  
[www.gatewaytheatre.com](http://www.gatewaytheatre.com)

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is one of the most well-loved musicals of all time and the Gateway Theatre in Richmond will be putting on director Barbara Tomasic's adaptation of the musical until Dec. 31. A joyous reimagining of the biblical story of Joseph, Jacob and the coat of many colours, this heartwarming hit will have your whole family humming along. Check out the theatre's website for tickets and showtimes.

\*\*\*

**Third Venezuelan Christmas Bazaar**  
Dec. 14, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Burnaby Lake Rugby Clubhouse,  
Burnaby  
[www.facebook.com/events/333977904116691](http://www.facebook.com/events/333977904116691)

The Venezuelan-Canadian Society of BC will be presenting the Third Venezuelan Christmas Bazaar with the aim to promote Venezuelan talent in British Columbia. Drop by and enjoy a day with friends, family and immerse yourself in Venezuelan culture. Take this opportunity to finish up some of your Christmas shopping, taste some delicious Venezuelan dishes and support Venezuelan artists and entrepreneurs. There will be live music from Venezuelan groups starting at 12:30 p.m.: Viene Sonando, Asi Somos and Los Parranderos de Vancouver.

\*\*\*

**26th Annual Winter Solstice Lantern Festival**  
Dec. 21, 6–10 p.m.  
Various venues around Vancouver  
[www.secretlantern.org](http://www.secretlantern.org)

The dance of the sun and earth has inspired celebrations of the human spirit, expressed through art and music, throughout the ages. Honouring many cultural traditions, the annual Winter Solstice Lantern Festival illuminates the darkest night of the year with lanterns, fire, singing, drumming, music, storytelling and dancing! Returning to the city for the 26th year, celebrate this free community event with a glowing constellation of lanterns shining in three Vancouver neighbourhoods: Yaletown, Strathcona and Granville Island. Please visit the festival's website for programme information.

\*\*\*

**Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert**  
Jan. 1, 2020, 2:30 p.m.

Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver  
[www.vancouversymphony.ca](http://www.vancouversymphony.ca)

Waltz into 2020 with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert, which has been delighting Vancouver audiences for 24 years! This dazzling performance evokes a golden age of Viennese music, brimming with energy, merriment and romance. It is a glorious re-creation of the beloved Neujahrskonzert, the concert that has welcomed the New Year for more than 80 years in Vienna and all over the world. The concert brings the music of Johann Strauss to life with European singers, ballroom dancers and ballet. The performance is rich with selections from beloved operettas, elegant dances, lively overtures and the beautiful Blue Danube Waltz.

\*\*\*

**Infinity**  
Jan. 7–19, 2020  
Historic Theatre at The Cultch, Vancouver  
[www.thecultch.com](http://www.thecultch.com)

In January, The Cultch will be putting on Infinity, a surprising, funny and revelatory new play about love, sex and math. The cynical, skeptical daughter of a theoretical physicist and a composer, Sarah Jean's clinical approach to love meets with little success. In this absorbing drama infused with science and classical music, three exceptional minds collide like charged particles in an accelerator. Sarah Jean's hugely talented, yet severely dysfunctional, family will learn that love and time itself are connected in unimaginable ways. Check out the theatre's website for tickets and showtimes.



Reach the growing  
FILIPINO COMMUNITY  
in British Columbia!

Advertise in Dahong Pilipino  
THE FILIPINO CANADIAN COMMUNITY DIRECTORY  
[www.dahongpilipino.ca](http://www.dahongpilipino.ca)

