



The Source

forum of diversity



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Verbatim

Vancouverites

by MARION GUIBOURDENCHE

I often doze in public transit. When I say often what I really mean is: all the time. Up to now, as a matter of fact. But one evening, I was feeling thoughtful and took a look at my traveling companions. And feeling a big curious, I watched.... The readers, the professionals, the students, and all the other passengers. How many different origins were there? Not an easy question.. and one certainly more magical than mathematical.

They are all there around me.

Vancouverites.

Vancouver is known for the diversity of its' landscape. Its' mountains, its' beaches and its' buildings: what a pretty combination! But do you know this very diversity is to be found within the city's inhabitants? Here differences are shared. Here one glimpses different faces. Here we hear all sorts of languages. Asia is not very far and we can even meet Filipinos. More rare are the Europeans but there are many Americans. Within the confines of the downtown area, it takes only a few seconds to tour the world. Yet I learned racism was indeed present. How can I believe this, seeing what I am seeing?

I usually don't particularly like sports. But it all depends on the context. To experience the World Cup in Vancouver means meeting all sorts of supporters: the bars overflow with all the nations, proud of their countries but without real competition. We meet, we share, we joke, we cheer. The streets become a rainbow for this occasional event. Flags and face-paint of all colours brighten up Downtown at all hours. English is not their mother tongue, but not hearing it would be a bit weird! To be without the English language would be an irritant - like trying to communicate without being noisy.

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Urban development eroding cultural identity

by PEGGY LAM

Located in the Pacific Northwest, a coast characterized by natural and cultural diversity, Vancouver is regarded as one of the most beautiful places to live. In Aug. 2014, the Economist Intelligence Unit rated it as the third "most liveable city" in the world. "The ethno-cultural diversity here is undeniable," says Nicholas Scott, sociology professor at Simon Fraser University. "That is the strength of life and urban vibrancy in Vancouver."

Neighbourhoods in the East end are seen as resources to hold onto by city officials and local residents. Areas such as Commercial Drive, Main Street and Strathcona are rich in cultural history and heritage.

Commercial Drive, more commonly known as "the Drive," first took shape as a distinct neighbourhood in 1891, with the arrival of the interurban streetcar. After the Great Depression in the 1920s, Grandview Woodlands was an area that many felt was neglected by the city. According to Jak King, author of the book *The Drive: A*

Retail, Social and Political History of Commercial Drive, the lack of transportation and few city services at the time created a culture of self-reliance and individuality that still remains in the area to this day. The neighbourhood is now characterized as a melting pot of funky small businesses, political activism, environmentalism and bohemian culture.

Not far from the Drive is Main Street, an area that has recently been home to many bustling art initiatives and immigrants. European settlement in uptown Main Street started in the 1860s,

with Edward Stamp. He dammed the streams and built bridges for workers to cross the water from the Granville Township and work for his mill business. The influx of artists and affluent young people moving to the area in the 1990s afterwards then infused the neighbourhood with hipster culture, filled with cafes, restaurants, bike and skate shops, bars, live-music venues and quirky fashion boutiques.

An investor centered approach

The city's demographic, cultural
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Moody and Amiri duo meld traditional and innovative sounds
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Community Profile

UBC prof creates opportunities for practical change

by ALISON CHIANG

As a young child who was more familiar with nature than watching television, UBC professor Kai Chan knew his path was to create change and opportunity in the sciences – and to make those changes have an impact in the world. Through an internship program and survey of scientists, Chan is hoping to better understand how universities and other science-based institutions value public engagement and outreach work done by scientists and encourage connections between academic researchers and organizations engaged in environmental and social advocacy.

Chan, 39, has been protective of, and intrigued by, the natural world from an early age and spent much of his time as a child outside.

“I wasn’t interested in destroying or crushing things,” says Chan. “Ponds and mud are such a delight.”

“I showed up on the first day [of one of my commerce classes] and it wasn’t for me,” says Chan.

Given his childhood fascination with animals and nature, Chan says his eventual switch to a Bachelor of Science program made more sense. He would later go on to Princeton University

and it takes a lot of time, especially when done right.

Through his work and research, Chan has a common message.

“We don’t need to demonize the current environmental situation – and it’s not just climate change – we just need to clean

“We don’t need to demonize the current environmental situation – and it’s not just climate change – we just need to clean it up.”

Kai Chan, Canada Research Chair & Assistant Professor in the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability

for graduate studies in ecological science and policy.

Now an associate professor at UBC’s Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability and a Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services, Chan says his goal is to build people’s capacity to create change, not only in the classroom but also in the real world.

it up. There’s a lot of inertia. We have to act before the catastrophe happens...and it will get worse,” says Chan.

Chan says we should take our impact on the Earth seriously and that there are choices available to everyone.

“When you see the opportunity to do better, please jump on it,” says Chan.

Bridging the gap

One of the projects Chan has been working on to bring academia and the broader public closer together is a survey program: Scientists and Engagement/Outreach. The survey asks the question: “How do universities and science-based institutions measure and reward staff for [public engagement and outreach]?”

Chan says the program is an examination of how scientists and other institutions that work with scientists (such as policy makers) determine what civic engagement activities are important and which ones are rewarded – taking into account the opinions of university professors, students and scientists in governmental or NGO organizations.

Another way Chan supports his students in making real-world contributions during their academic study is through the Biodiversity Research: Integrative Training and Education (BRITE) internship and grant. Approximately 40 people enter this program each year and learn more skills while on the job. Chan and his colleagues hand-pick the NGOs and organizations that students get paired up with: the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), Living Oceans and the Ministry of the Environment are just a few examples.

“I want to be closer to the action but it’s still hard,” says Chan who explains that teach-

“There’s a gap in critical thinking and inquiry and we want to insert that understanding in mainstream society,” says Chan.

Even though Chan says he has the flexibility and influence as a professor, he feels that there are still certain constraints in place that sometimes make it difficult to connect academic study and real-world projects.

“[The internship/grant] substantially contributes to students’ success,” says Chan. ✍



Photo by Edward Gregor

▲ Kai Chan doing fieldwork on kelp forests and sea otters in Kyuquot Sound.

Born in Malaysia to an English-Australian mother and Chinese-Malaysian father, Chan grew up in Toronto and initially thought his career would be in business.



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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 Mamadou Gangué
Associate Publishers Saeed Dyanatkar (Digital),
Monique Kroeger (Print)
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Halloween Programs at Surrey’s Heritage Facilities

SURREY MUSEUM

17710 – 56A Avenue
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @ASurreyMuseum

MUSEUM INFO

Surrey Museum – Unique artifacts, images and interactive displays in a stunning and modern space that highlights Surrey’s history. Attractive space for programs, changing feature exhibits, Hooser Textile Centre.
Hours: Tuesdays–Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Admission sponsored by Friends Society.

PROGRAMS

Candy Creations

Children get ready for Halloween by making candy creations while learning about the hair-raising history of trick or treating in Surrey and other countries. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 11, 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. 1 session \$10.75 (6–9 yrs).

Kids Can Sew: Spooky Sewing

Preschoolers enjoy hands-on fun as they learn how cloth was made in the old days. Try weaving and felting and make a woolly sheep to take home. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Wednesday, October 8, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Explore Like Dora: Boo Zoo

Tots explore Halloween’s creepy but cute animals. Decorate a backpack, play games, make crafts and go on a scavenger hunt in the Museum galleries. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Friday, October 24, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Weaving Webs, Spinning Spiders

Weave and spin delightfully spooky Halloween decorations and creatures, including a spider glove to use during the Cloverdale Costume Parade or while trick-or-treating. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 1 session \$14.50 (8–12 yrs).

Skeletal Science

Kids will love learning spooky bone biology! Young scientists put on lab coats and grab their ID badges, then explore the skeletal system through crafts, experiments and games. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 25, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. 1 session \$10.75 (6–9 yrs).

Pumpkin Power

Design a take-home Jack O’Lantern, make spooky crafts, do a Halloween scavenger hunt in the exhibit galleries and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate then participate in the Cloverdale Costume Parade. Saturday, October 25, 12 noon–2:00 p.m. All ages, by donation.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt

Tots come in costume to embark on a spooky scavenger hunt through the Museum’s exhibit galleries. Do tricks to get treats, play old fashioned Halloween games and learn about Halloween long ago. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Friday, October 31, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

HISTORIC STEWART FARM

13723 Crescent Road, Surrey
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @StewartFarm1

HISTORIC STEWART FARM INFO

Tour the charming restored 1894 farmhouse, pole barn and heritage gardens, try old-fashioned crafts, take part in a program or special event, and imagine pioneer life at the turn of the 19th century. 13723 Crescent Road, Surrey. 604-592-6956. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday, 12 noon–4 p.m. Entrance by donation.

PROGRAMS

An Evening with the Paranormal Society

Join the Vancouver Paranormal Society as they share their discoveries from investigations at the Historic Stewart Farm and elsewhere. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Thursday, October 9 OR 16, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. 1 session \$15 (16 yrs+)

Farm Tots: Pumpkin Fun

Join your child at the Farm to listen to fun stories about pumpkins and Halloween long ago. We’ll sing songs, play a game, and do a spooky craft too. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Thursday, October 9, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. 1 session \$5 (1–3 yrs).

Scary Movie Classics

Settle in with popcorn and hot chocolate to discover the earliest horror movies from 1897–1920, then brace yourself for the first zombie movie ever made: White Zombie (1932). Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 18, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. 1 session \$5.25 (13 yrs–Adult).

Haunted Farm

Something creepy is cooking in the farmhouse and the barn has been taken over by ghosts! Wear your costume and join us for a bewitching adventure at the Farm. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 25, 3:00 pm–4:30 p.m. zz(5–7 yrs) OR 6:30 p.m.–8:00pm (7–11yrs). 1 session \$15.

Grgar, Robert Groulx, Marion Guibourdenche, Pascal Guillon, Florence Hwang, Marc Kaiser, Derrick O’Keefe, Peggy Lam, Carime Lane, Tanouja Narraido, Vincent Pichard, Emilie Prunier, Don Richardson, Dongyue Su, Jenny Tan, Salena Tran, Edwine Veniat, Pierre Verrière, Simon Yee, Robert Zajtmann

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Diwali by the Sea adds light to cultural consciousness in White Rock

by SIMON YEE

On Oct. 18 along the White Rock waterfront pier, members from the Sanatan Cultural Society of British Columbia will host the city's first annual Diwali by the Sea, a festival of light and culture. Story, music and dance performances from individuals from a wide array of cultural backgrounds will be on hand to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Diwali by the Sea will be the latest cultural festival to grace White Rock, following the successes of the Irish Heritage



▲ From left to right: Aditya Mohan, Simmi Vasistha and Vivek Vasistha, three of the Diwali by the Sea organizers.

Month in March and the Moon Festival in September. The presence of these festivals is a reflection of the growing cultural diversity among the city's newer population.

"It's very exciting for us as we've never had a Diwali festival here before," says Helen Fathers, a White Rock city councillor. "Our demographics and cultural diversity are definitely changing. We have a lot of [people from] different cultural groups residing in our community."

Fathers says hosting the Diwali festival in White Rock's October and November shoulder season was the perfect complement to the city's year-round festivities. When organizers approached city council with the concept, council jumped on the idea and unanimously supported the festival.

"When we decided to hold this program, the idea was to introduce a festival part of our culture to the community. There was no better place than White Rock as it was starting to embrace cultural events," says Aditya Mohan, one of the Diwali organizers.

One dream. One heart. One word.

Diwali is one of the oldest festivals in the world, originating on the Indian subcontinent and is celebrated in many different ways. Jainists commemorate Diwali in honour of Lord Mahavira's attainment of moksha: the freedom of his soul



▲ Diwali will light up White Rock Pier this month.

from the cycle of birth and death. Buddhists observe Diwali as the date Mauryan Emperor Ashoka converted to Buddhism.

According to the Hindu epic *Ramayana*, Diwali celebrates the story of Lord Rama's defeating of the demon-king Ravana and return from fourteen years of exile. To celebrate his, his wife Sita and his brother Lakshman's return, people of his hometown Ayodhya lit oil lamps, distributed sweets and set off fireworks.

Basing off the Hindu celebration, Mohan, Vivek and Simmi Vasistha (three of the many organizers of Diwali by the Sea) want-

ed to bring this festival to White Rock and add their own twist to the festivities.

"Our slogan, for our version of the festival, is: 'One Dream. One Heart. One Word,'" says Vivek Vasistha.

"The dream is to be truly multicultural. In Canada we talk a lot about multiculturalism, but it's really only focusing on a single culture," says Vasistha. "For example, Chinese celebrate Chinese festivals, Indians celebrate Indian festivals, Germans celebrate German festivals and so on.

"But simply living together isn't multiculturalism. Multicultural-

ism is about integrating and celebrating each other's cultures."

To that end, Diwali by the Sea will host stage performances from people of many different backgrounds – be it Chinese, Filipino, Polynesian, Native American communities among others. They hope this festival will help others, especially the younger generations, to understand different cultures.

"We want to create a legacy so that this festival is done every year with more zeal, enthusiasm and motivation with each passing year," says Mohan. "Let's celebrate it together." ✍

Music on the Point

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2014

Media Contact: Laurie Townsend
604-822-9161 | laurie.townsend@ubc.ca

Jane Coop and Donna Brown launch Music on the Point's 2014-2015 season October 17th at UBC's Barnett Hall

Vancouver - Pianist Jane Coop and soprano Donna Brown perform October 17th in the first **Music on the Point: Concerts with Personality** concert of the 2014-2015 season. The Music on the Point series features UBC School of Music personalities performing and sharing glimpses - through engaging commentary - of their unique interpretation. Each concert begins at 7:30pm (no intermission) and includes light refreshments afterwards so audience members can mingle with the artists. Presented in partnership with the UTown@UBC.

For this concert, Jane Coop, a UBC professor emeritus, has invited Donna Brown to perform with her to feature the music of beloved composer Johannes Brahms. "Working with Donna Brown is like a dream come true - the next best thing to being able to sing like an angel is collaborating with one who can, in some of the most glorious music ever written," said Jane Coop. His songs are considered some of Brahms' most intimate expressions. As a companion to the songs on the program, Jane Coop has chosen Brahms' *Intermezzo, Op. 117* for solo piano. Inspired by poems, these pieces are like songs without words which Brahms once called "three lullabies to my sorrows".

Jane Coop

Jane Coop has established herself as a musician of stature. Her intelligence and perception, together with her refined and heartfelt approach to music, make her a pianist whom audiences want to hear many times over. Coop's love of chamber music has led her to collaborate with artists from many parts of the world, including the great Canadian soprano Lois Marshall. Her recordings have received three Juno nominations. In December 2012, she was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Donna Brown

Brown has been hailed as a remarkable interpreter of Art Song and has sung recitals throughout the world. She has performed with Quatuor Ebène, Trio Hochelaga, Vienna Piano Trio, and the eminent French pianist Philippe Cassard, in Paris, London, Vienna and many other European centres. Brown is a passionate advocate of the voice, and healthy vocal training. She gives masterclasses throughout the world and is a professor at the Conservatoire de Montréal and at the University of Ottawa.

When Friday October 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm
Where Roy Barnett Recital Hall, Music Building, 6361 Memorial Road, UBC
Tickets \$25 for Adults | \$15 Students
In advance
- Online (www.music.ubc.ca/music.on.the.point)
- In person at the Chan Centre Ticket Office (hours at www.chancentre.com/tickets)
- By telephone 604.822.2697 (service charge)

Concert day At the door (Barnett Hall, Music Building) one hour before start of the performance

► "Verbatim" from page 1

A mix of cultures, traditions, habits and distinctions: a child would compare it to a vegetable stew, in which gurgle the most beautiful vegetables without any bitterness. Basically, the immigrants are the majority and are so well integrated. What a beautiful lesson in humanity.

"Thank you' cry out [Vancouverites] as they exit the bus.

Easy to say: it's a running expression, respectful and courteous - and yet so rare where I'm from. This Canadian custom would be surprising in my daily life. In Paris, everyone shouts insults and rails against

so - well - welcome, before I have even made friends.

"How are you?" is something a stranger might say to you.

Finally, I let go of my suspicions a bit. I appreciate the good atmosphere. And I become aware of an omnipresent tolerance. I prefer to appreciate rather than compare. I want to meet, to give, and to share. The people are very pleasant and it's nice. It's not annoying - it's rather encouraging. Loneliness has no place here: one must have a tad of audacity. And one's personality suddenly rises to the surface. Not so much to reinvent oneself, but simply to nourish oneself with



▲ A smooth ride.

the subway; and lives a rat-race. In Vancouver, one gives thanks and smiles, one forgets the sadness of the overcast weather. I only needed to hear that phrase to realize where I really was. To realise I am nicely starting my four months stay in a new place. The kindness of Canadians has worked wonders on me. I feel

these new acquaintances. The meetings are enriching and they are abundant. It's perhaps enough to leave in order to discover oneself.

They teach us about ourselves.

These Vancouverites. ✍

Translation by Chris Herron



Left Bank



Vancouver election: What's the point of the NPA?

Maybe Kirk LaPointe and his team with the Non-Partisan Association are Seinfeld fans, because so far theirs has been a campaign about nothing.

The NPA, the traditional party of Vancouver's establishment, has never looked so played out and anachronistic. They have failed to define a clear, policy-based set of alternatives to the status quo at City Hall.

Why is the NPA so listless?

The main answer is the breadth of the hegemonic coalition that Vision Vancouver has come to represent. When the founders of Vision split from the Coalition of Progressive Electors a decade ago, they managed to keep much of that progressive voting base with them, while boxing out and marginalizing COPE and other alternatives to their left. This story is pretty well known.

What's less often observed is the way that Vision has taken over much of the NPA's *raison d'être*. The NPA still describes itself as a "coalition of Liberals and Conservatives." They were founded way back in the 1930s explicitly to block the socialists of the CCF from office. But today many Liberals feel more at home with Vision, and the NPA is no longer needed to keep the political left out of power.

Almost all the city's big developers and much of the wealthy elite are part of Vision's big tent – from BC Liberal stalwart and 'Condo King' Bob Rennie to the libertarian Lululemon founder Chip Wilson, whose \$50 million compound is the most ostentatious mansion in a town filled with rich people with rooms to spare.

With Mayor Robertson serving as an attractive pitchman selling the city to tech and other new industry giants worldwide, while keeping corporate and property taxes low, what is the point of the NPA? What is left of their traditional constituency in Vancouver?

The vagueness of the NPA's campaign this year might reflect uncertainty in its own ranks about this last question.



▲ Kirk LaPointe, NPA candidate.

To their credit, the NPA realizes they can't win by pandering to social conservatives; earlier this year, for example, they made the commendable decision to cut loose NPA School Trustees Ken Denike and Sophia Woo after they engaged in an appalling transphobic campaign against equal rights.

The NPA also seems to have toned down their opposition to expanded bike lanes and other minor reforms that Vision has made toward a more sustainable city. Gone are the shrill, negative right-wing talk-

ing points of the 2011 campaign, which infamously included a guy in a chicken suit in front of City Hall to protest Vision allowing chickens to be raised in backyards.

In Kirk LaPointe, the NPA has recruited a presentable, articulate but ultimately bland candidate. With his long experience as a journalist, he's an effective communicator, but he and the NPA just don't seem to have much of anything to say.

LaPointe has a compelling personal story about growing up in poverty but, other than pledging to make sure school children are better fed, the NPA has had precious few specifics when it comes to how they would actually alleviate poverty or address the city's glaring inequality.

Take LaPointe's recent field trip to Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, which the candidate blogged about last week. It almost reads like he's visiting the neighborhood for the first time. Worse, his only proposals are to create a "DTEC Czar" and to audit the service providers and government spending in the area.

The NPA's criticisms of Vision on social housing are toothless, because their own proposals on this are paper thin, and because as a party they are also backed by the same big developers and so refuse to propose any substantive interventions in the market that would make the city more affordable. Worse, in recent years NPA councilors have actually voted against the provision of new social housing.

Finally, there is the issue of transparency, which LaPointe seems quite sincere about promoting and where Vision has clearly been lacking. LaPointe has pledged to create a new ombudsperson position and to create the "most open" civic government in the country. Here again, however, the NPA itself undermines the candidate's credibility. After all, the NPA's candidates were all pre-selected without a nomination race and membership vote, and the selection of LaPointe was done in secret by a handful of the party's leadership.

Vision Vancouver, with their superior communications infrastructure, has pretty effectively defined the NPA ahead of the November election, highlighting LaPointe's unwillingness to oppose the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion and the NPA's poor voting record on housing.

In the end, this may be the biggest purpose the NPA still serves: as a right-wing threat that can make Vision look good in comparison. That's why Vision will keep all its attention on the NPA, a mostly spent political force.

So while much of the media presents this election as a battle between Robertson and LaPointe, the more interesting and substantial challenge to the status quo at City Hall is coming from the left. That's why future columns here will focus on proposals from Meena Wong and COPE, as well as One City and the Greens. ✍



MOSAIC Settlement Services
604 254 9626 ext 255
elam@mosaicbc.com
www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services

Free Community Workshops & Activities English & Multilingual

EI Application Process

- 🕒 October 10, 1–3pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
- ☎ Gerardo 604 254 9626 ext 227

Canadian Citizenship Preparation

- 🕒 October 10 5:30–8:30pm & 11 10am–1pm
- 📍 Burnaby Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave
- ☎ Eliza 604 292 3907

Mom's Support Group (Korean)

- 🕒 Thursdays 10:30am–12:30pm October 9–December 11
- 📍 MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
- ☎ Michelle 604 438 8214 ext 123

Canadian Citizenship Preparation

- 🕒 October 13 & 14, 9am–12pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
- ☎ Solmaz 604 438 8214

Citizenship Application Process (Korean)

- 🕒 October 14 10am–12pm
- 📍 Burnaby Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave
- ☎ Michelle 604 438 8214 ext 123

Protecting Seniors From Fraud: Counterfeit Currency (English with Mandarin Support)

How to tell if money is counterfeit or legitimate and what you can do to protect yourself from counterfeit currency

- 🕒 October 14, 10–11:30am
- 📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
- ☎ Daisy 604 254 9626 ext 273

How To Start Your Small Business

- 🕒 October 15, 2–4pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
- ☎ Mika 604 254 9626 ext 484

Financial Wellness

The workshop will introduce the Canadian banking system to newcomers. Topics include borrowing and investing.

- 🕒 October 16, 3–4pm
- 📍 MOSAIC Vancouver, 2nd floor, 1720 Grant St
- ☎ Mika 604 254 9626 ext 484

New Residents of BC: Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Tenant

The Residential Tenancy Branch will provide basic information on rental agreements and other related issues. Limited seating; priority for work permit holders.

- 🕒 October 16, 7–8:30pm
- 📍 Vancity Community Room, 5066 Kingsway, Burnaby
- ☎ Yumi 604 292 3907

My Tween & Me Multicultural Mom's Support Group

A space to discuss parenting techniques across cultures and to make friends for parents with tweens aged 7–12. Strengthen your confidence to positively influence your children and prevent high-risk behaviour such as drug and alcohol usage. Learn about healthy growth and development such as temperament, protective and risk factors for children. Build your child's self-esteem, understand how children learn, understand learning disabilities. Talk about family relationships, parenting styles, communication techniques.

- 🕒 Thursdays 10am–12pm, October 16–December 4
- 📍 Dunbar Heights Baptist Church, 3320 Crown St, Vancouver
- ☎ Daisy 604 254 9626 ext 273

PR Card Renewal

Learn about maintaining your permanent residency, eligibility criteria for PR Card renewal, related documents, fees and the application process.

- 🕒 October 17, 10am–12pm
- 📍 Burnaby Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave
- ☎ Eliza 604 292 3907

Canadian Citizenship Preparation

- 🕒 October 18 & 19, 1–4pm
- 📍 Vancouver Public Library Hastings Branch, 2674 East Hastings St
- ☎ Tim 604 438 8214 ext 114

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

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, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.



▲ Anbari and Zeto mid-session in a study room at the Surrey City Center Library.

Photo by Carime Lane

Arabic speakers find more than books at Surrey facilities

by CARIME LANE

Immigrants unfamiliar with North American culture and possessing minimal English skills discover living in Metro Vancouver is comprised of many insurmountable practical tasks. In Surrey, Options Community Services assists immigrants with these tasks and acquaints them with North American culture through the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Settlement Program.

The program branched out in 2011, placing settlement workers at local libraries and recreation centers at established days and times throughout the week. Gurrinder Roy, program manager of the settlement program at Options, explains Options' "reciprocal relationship" with libraries and recreation centers enables Options to make their services more accessible to clients. In turn, these community centers gain new patrons who might otherwise struggle to access their services because of the language barrier.

A comprehensive program for a burgeoning community

According to Statistics Canada, between 2006 and 2011, Arabs were the fastest growing minority group in Surrey (+80.9%). In 2011, Arabic was the mother tongue of 2,930 Surrey residents. Suzan Anbari, Option's Arabic and English speaking settlement worker, holds her outreach hours at Surrey City Centre Library and Guildford Recreation Centre (where Arab communities in Surrey are concentrated).

Anbari emigrated from Syria 14 years ago to study and work in better economic conditions. Anbari tells The Source her transition into North American life was much smoother than most of her clients', chiefly because she had studied English while at university in Syria.

"Lots of my clients speak no English whatsoever. Whatever letter they get by mail, they will run to me and say, 'What is this?' – 'Don't worry!' I say," explains Anbari.

Anbari says she translates her clients' letters frequently. She struggles to find a place to start in listing some of the other services she provides.

"Everything. Anything they need to settle and start their new life, we will help them out with it.

Everything," says Anbari. "Housing, banking, social services, school, medical, applications for anything, applications for citizenship, for child care subsidy, BC Housing, the job search, the native culture in the workplace or in general."

Anbari adds some of her other primary services include connecting her clients to programs and events occurring within the city and orientating them to the library and computers.

A mission to settle down

The vast majority of Options' Arabic clients are from Iraq, with some from countries such as Syria, Egypt and Jordan as well.

"[Anbari] gave me more information about [Prince George], about life there and it opened my eyes to the opportunities there. Now, I know more about it and I believe I have more options than just staying and struggling in Vancouver," says Zeto.

New beginnings through Options

Anbari and Roy have seen many immigrants helped through Options.

Roy references the new Meeting Employers series (eight sessions) where 26 immigrants were hired.

"There are people who have found jobs and they are happy

“Everything. Anything they need to settle and start their new life, we will help them out with it. Everything.

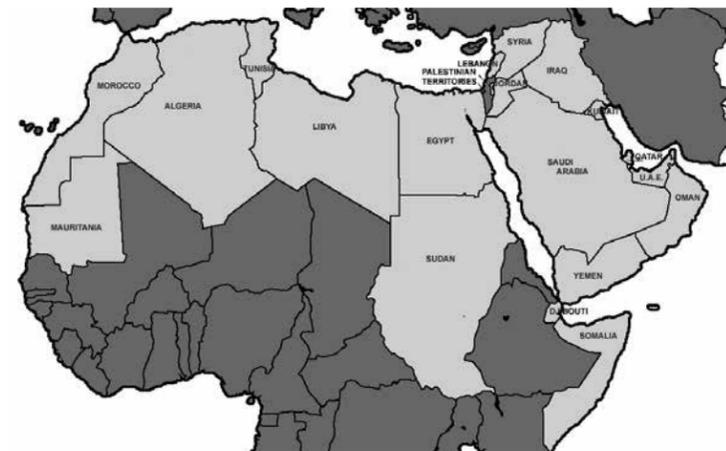
Suzan Anbari, Arabic and English Settlement Worker at Options Community Services

Ninety one per cent are refugees. Addi Zeto, one such refugee, emerged from the volatile environments: those of Iraq, his home country, and Syria. He arrived in Canada 1.4 years ago.

"Canadians are very supportive, so they helped me – they helped us when we struggled to speak English," says Zeto (through Anbari's translation).

with their jobs and they go to English classes. I know it is a hard job but it is rewarding at the same time when [the clients] come and say: 'I'm very thankful you told me about this,'" says Anbari.

Currently, Options has Korean, Spanish, Mandarin, Punjabi, Somali, Arabic and Tagalog speaking settlement workers and provides



▲ 85 per cent of Options' Arabic clients are from Iraq. Options also has clients from Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Algeria.

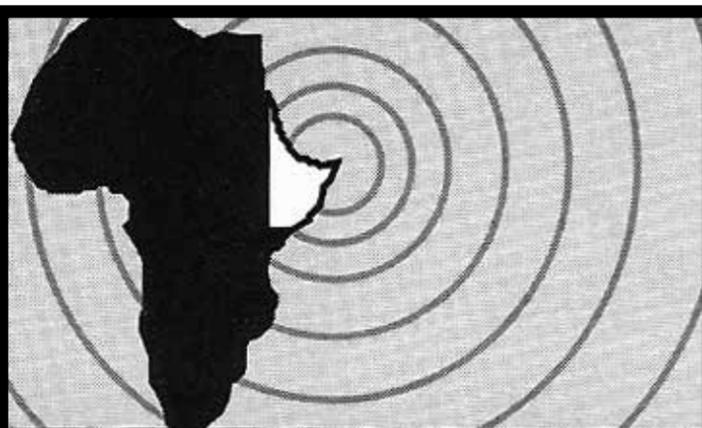
Now, Zeto envisions a future in Canada.

"I consider it my home country – as my father, mother, everything," says Zeto.

Zeto, although currently employed, is searching for the best way to become established in Canada; and visits Anbari because he wonders if he might find it in Prince George.

translation and interpretation services for the less widely spoken languages in Surrey as well. ✉

The Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Settlement Program is available to Permanent Residents in Surrey and North Delta. Find out more about this and many other programs that Options offers by visiting: www.options.bc.ca.



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Ancient Oriental wisdom meets modern occidental thought

by JULIE HAUVILLE

Practicing meditation through yoga or tai chi in parks or watching TV shows on how to “feng shui” your house is not an unusual thing in Vancouver life. Ancient Chinese wisdom originating from Confucianism are indeed making a noticeable comeback in modern society, usually in association with a healthy lifestyle.

In China, the statues of Confucius have replaced those of revolutionary heroes. After being rejected by the revolutionaries of the 20th century, it seems that the philosopher's theories are undergoing a renaissance, from Beijing to Vancouver.

Overwhelmed by the stress of their daily routine, more and more people are trying to find new points of reference and are going back to traditional ways of living and thinking. A trend that Edward Slingerland, professor of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia, has noticed over the last few years.

“I think people are interested in recovering earlier modes of thought because they often have insights that are quite different than the received wisdom of our own [modern] cultures.”

Then, our modern western society seems to go back to ancient



▲ Statue of Confucius located in Hunan, China.

values, particularly to Chinese philosophy.

“Chinese thought offers perspectives on the role of the individual versus society or emotion versus reason and even spontaneity as opposed to effort,” says Slingerland.

The professor made this topic the theme of his last book *Trying Not to Try*.

“I really want to oppose this notion that, when we want to achieve a goal, constant striving

and effort are what is required. There are many goals like happiness, charisma and creativity that can only be achieved indirectly, by people who are able to let go of effort at some point, and where direct, constant effort is in fact counterproductive.”

Enriching the debate

This renewed popularity of Confucian thought isn't a surprise in Vancouver as the influence of Asian culture is noticeable

in almost every quarter of the city. The economy, for example, plays a leading role explains Lee*, owner of a transportation company in Richmond.

“Many companies in Vancouver have been created by or are managed by Asian people. They instill their way of thinking and transmit their traditional Asian values to their employees.”

So even people who did not grow up with these values are influenced by them. This is a theory discussed by Slingerland.

“I don't think anyone has a link with early Chinese culture directly; these ideas were formulated a long time ago (sixth to third century BCE) and a lot has happened in China since then. It's not at all clear to me that people in China still have any connection to these ideas. So the challenges involved in grasping early Chinese thought are, I think, more or less the same no matter where you come from.”

During the last few years, Confucian private schools have opened their doors, entering into partnerships with local institutions. However, UBC as well as other universities have rejected hosting these institutes.

“They insist on keeping complete control over the curriculum, whereas most universities have their own ideas about how to teach Chinese culture,” Slingerland says.

The concern of universities is the censorship at schools that have accepted Confucian institutes, where people begin avoiding issues that would be seen as controversial by the Chinese government. “This kind of interference in open intellectual debate is anathema to what universities stand for,” Slingerland explains.

To increase awareness of the role that Asian philosophy plays in Vancouver life, the professor will be launching a free online course, *Foundations of Chinese Thought*, open to everyone on the platform Edx. A few thousand people have already registered.

“We will also explore the relevance of early Chinese thought for contemporary debates in ethics, moral education and political philosophy,” says Slingerland.

As Anna Ghiglione, sinologist, explains to *Le Journal de l'Université de Montreal*, this Confucian thought could help enrich the current debate in Western societies, especially those struggling in the relationship between religion and state.

“Confucianism is neither a religion nor a doctrine that advocates secularism,” Ghiglione says. “It's a wisdom that is outside of secularism, outside religion. Confucius was respectful of rites and popular beliefs and he managed to strike a balance between secularism and religion.”

*Name has been changed.

New project aimed at accommodating LGBTQ newcomers

by ALEXANDER AGNELLO

MOSAIC Settlement Services has long worked to help refugees and immigrants overcome social and material obstacles during their settlement in Canadian society. The organization now aims to take its commitment to promoting greater and more equal access to employment resources a step further, by implementing a settlement program to identify the needs of LGBTQ newcomers.

Khim Tan and Roja Bagheri, who are spearheading the initiative, note that the stigmatization the LGBTQ community faces compounds the challenges that all newcomers must deal with.

one of my clients,” explains Bagheri, who has taken note of the great disparity in social resources in Vancouver, particularly in certain ethnic communities.

Bagheri explains that after traumatic experiences in Iran, her client, a self-identified transsexual woman, hoped to become a part of Vancouver's Iranian community. Instead, she was turned away.

Bagheri admits that while Vancouver is, on the whole, a multicultural and open community, newcomers, especially LGBTQ newcomers, are not always free to be themselves.

“If [LGBTQ newcomers] do not feel welcome in their primary community, it will be very difficult to foster a more general feel-

ing of acceptance,” says Bagheri. Tan adds that the pilot project has been commissioned and instituted because there is a perceived need for it in the Vancouver community.

“Canadians are still in the process of becoming accepting of diversity,” says Tan.

About a week into the program, MOSAIC's coordinators are beginning to see a need for their services in the Burnaby and New Westminister districts. Their

next course of action will be to implement a social mentoring program that would call upon current LGBTQ community members help facilitate a newcomer's interactions with the community.

When asked about the fate of the project after the short-term funding period, Tan was adamant about pursuing this program through the other channels of MOSAIC.

“We are hoping to cause a ripple effect,” says Tan.

Bagheri and Tan are optimistic about the future of the project, but recognize that achieving their long-term aims will require engagement by all parties involved.

“MOSAIC plays a strong role in preparing newcomers for the challenges of the workforce. That said, we are also hoping to see a comprehensive community effort on the part of employers,” says Tan.

One proposed way of motivating changes at the institutional level is to make companies aware of the potential for stigmatization in current hiring practices.

Future plans

Tan and Bagheri are very clear that launching this project into its second phase will ultimately depend on whether they can empower members of the community to be agents of change. Their goal is to be the catalyst for stories of personal achievement that trump previous memories of discrimination.

“We are hoping to inspire LGBTQ newcomers to tell their stories, and help create a sense of safety in our community for those who have may have undergone traumatic experiences,” says Tan.

For more information about the MOSAIC Settlement Program for LGBTQ Newcomers, or want to get involved, contact Roja Bagheri at 604-522-3722 (ext: 155)



▲ Khim Tan (in sunglasses) mans a MOSAIC booth at a community event.

“They are minorities within minorities; their disadvantage is amplified,” explains Tan.

Vancouver's communities and social stigmas

Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), this six-month pilot project is in its early stages, beginning with a careful assessment of the needs of LGBTQ newcomers in the Metro Vancouver area.

“This project was inspired by



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CircusFest Early Bird Tickets Now Available Online!

CircusFest early bird tickets for single shows have just been released and are available at www.circusfestvancouver.com.

CircusFest's lineup includes 14 different ticketed shows, including 2 double bills and 2 cabarets featuring a variety of artists performing short acts. The full lineup can be found on the [website](#).

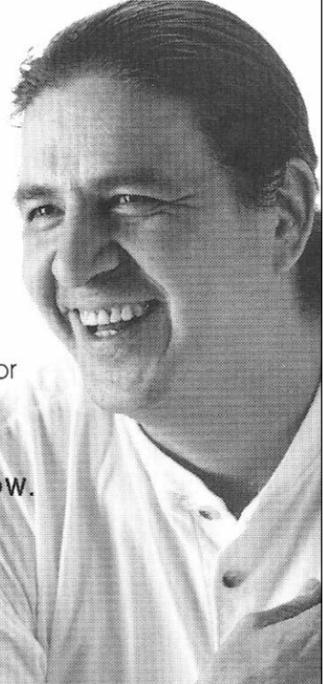
Early bird tickets range from \$10-\$27. Full festival passes include tickets to all 14 ticketed shows at the festival and cost \$199 (a 30% savings). Day passes for Friday, Saturday or Sunday cost \$60, \$125 and \$60, respectively (a 20% savings).

The festival will also offer workshops for all levels on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as well as panel discussions, live music and late night dance parties.

CircusFest is organized by CircusWest Performing Arts Society on its 30th Anniversary year with a mission to engage, inspire and celebrate the Circus community and its audiences. The festival will take place at the Cultch Theatre, the PNE Garden Auditorium, the Wise Hall and Sideshow Studios.



circuswest.com | 604.252.3679 | CircusWest Performing Arts Society
2901 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V5K 5J1



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Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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Here's what's happening in October at Surrey's heritage facilities

See our ad on page 2 for our Halloween programs

SURREY MUSEUM

17710 – 56A Avenue
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @ASurreyMuseum

MUSEUM INFO

Surrey Museum – Unique artifacts, images and interactive displays in a stunning and modern space that highlights Surrey's history. Attractive space for programs, changing feature exhibits, Hooser Textile Centre. Hours: Tuesdays–Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Admission sponsored by Friends Society.

EXHIBITIONS

Every River Tells A Story

People from past and present reflect on how Surrey's rivers have shaped our identity. Personal stories explore the winding paths of Surrey's rivers; not just through our physical landscape, but also our social and economic landscapes. On display September 23 to December 20.

PROGRAMS

Make Believe Birthday Parties

Invite your friends then choose one of our fun themes: Trains, Pirates, Ancient Egypt, Greek Mythology, or Medieval Europe. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Saturdays: 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. \$13.75 per child, birthday child is free.

Craft It With Wool

Preschoolers enjoy hands-on fun as they learn how cloth was made in the old days. Try weaving and felting and make a woolly sheep to take home. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Wednesday, October 8, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Explore Like Dora: River Kids

Tots decorate their own backpack then be like Dora as they explore river navigation in BC. Tour the feature exhibit, Every River Tells a Story, then make a boat to race! Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Friday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Tot Tour: Puppet Theatre

Experience the world of puppetry by practicing shadow puppets in the Museum's theatre, watching a puppet play, then making your own puppet theatre and stick puppets. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 11, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Sewing Level 1

Learn basic sewing skills, including how to use a sewing machine and read pattern instructions. Get advice on how to purchase a pattern and fabric to make a skirt. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Thursday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. 4 sessions \$50 (16+ yrs).

Farming Buddies

Discover Surrey farms and the animals that live there with a tour of the exhibit gallery. Then make a furry craft and eat a locally farmed treat. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Friday, October 17, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3–5 yrs).

Felted Bear

Join talented felter, Carol Funnell, to learn the fun art of soft sculpture using needle felting. Sculpt an adorable six-inch bear using wool fibre and special felting needles. Supply fee \$20. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 18, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 1 session \$53 (16+ yrs).

Salsa Sauces Workshop

In Mexico, fresh salsa is served with almost every dish. Learn to make this delicious and healthy dip three ways. Afterwards, join us for our Discovery Saturday: Latin Fiesta. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 18, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 1 session \$7.25 (16+ yrs).

Discovery Saturday: Latin Fiesta

Discover the colours, sounds and tastes of Latin culture! Speak with local community groups, make take home crafts and enjoy colourful music and dance performances. Saturday, October 18, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. All ages, by donation

HISTORIC STEWART FARM

13723 Crescent Road, Surrey
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @StewartFarm1

HISTORIC STEWART FARM INFO

Tour the charming restored 1894 farmhouse, pole barn and heritage gardens, try old-fashioned crafts, take part in a program or special event, and imagine pioneer life at the turn of the 19th century. 13723 Crescent Road, Surrey. 604-592-6956. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday, 12 noon–4 p.m. Entrance by donation.

EXHIBITION

Dig This!

Dig down to the roots of gardening as we explore early practices that are influencing and informing the gardens of today and tomorrow. Garden inspired art and archival artifacts tell the stories behind the growing business of backyard gardening. On display September 20 to November 1. Open Fridays 10:00am–4:00pm, Saturdays 12noon–4:00pm and other days by appointment.

PROGRAMS

Scottish Afternoon Tea

Enjoy an old-fashioned Scottish tea with baked treats then explore the charming 1890s farmhouse and grounds with a costumed guide. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Fridays, September–November, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. 1 session \$10.75 (16 yrs+).

Birthday Parties

Party like a pioneer! Celebrate your child's special day the way kids might have done 100 years ago. A costumed guide will lead parties in traditional games and a craft to take home. You supply the cake, and let the kids make the ice-cream! Choose from several themes. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Saturdays, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. \$13.75/child (birthday child is free).

Garden Friends

A good garden takes lots of work! Discover the animals that help our gardens grow and how you can support them. Make a birdhouse to take home for your garden friends. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 4, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. 1 session \$10.75 (6–11 yrs).

Mushroom Walk

The Lower Mainland is home to some of the most diverse forms of fungi found anywhere. Join our expert to discover the common and unusual mushrooms that can be found here in Surrey. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, October 18, 10:00 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10.75 (16 yrs+).

SURREY ARCHIVES

17671 – 56 Avenue
Info 604-502-6459
www.surrey.ca/heritage

Her-Story of Surrey

Her-Story of Surrey - Women played an integral role in the development of Surrey. Discover Surrey's stories through oral history reminiscences and diary entries of women from Surrey's past. Must pre-register at 604-502-6459. Saturday, October 11, 11:00 a.m.–12 noon. 1 session \$10 (16 yrs+).w

Pacific Rim Asian writers gather for a second year

by FLORENCE HWANG

It's the second year for LiterASIAN: A Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing. The organizers of the Vancouver Asian Writers' Workshop will host the event from Oct. 9 to 12.

Although there are mainstream literary festivals that recognize diversity and inclusiveness, says Jim Wong-Chu, LiterASIAN organizer, he feels there is a need to feature visible minority authors that have a common historical cultural background.

In the first year, 2013, there were 600 participants. To make the festival more accessible, this year, the organizers have created an outreach initiative/book fair for the City of Richmond's

of 'Asian Canadian writing,' she says. In fact, she thinks labelling a writer limits the person and their works.

Thanh plans to rub shoulders with fellow writers as well as make connections with the public through her readings at this year's festival.

Her novel, *Floating Like the Dead*, was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed Award.

Mingling and sharing

To Wong-Chu, writing is a solitary discipline and writers, aside from readings and literary events, seldom have an opportunity to meet and dialogue with readers and the public.

"LiterASIAN uses the event as a cross-fertilizing process – a

“LiterASIAN uses the event as a cross-fertilizing process – a means to inspire young emerging writers by surrounding and intermingling them with more established and successful role models.

Wong-Chu, LiterASIAN organizer

main library to bring the festival to people in areas outside of Vancouver's Chinatown, where the festival's main venue, the UBC Learning Exchange, is located.

The workshops at the literary event are designed to offer introduction and pathways to writing and publishing. "There is (also) a celebration dinner event, which is a way to bring writers and readers together to share a meal and socialize as a community, says Wong-Chu.

means to inspire young emerging writers by surrounding and intermingling them with more established and successful role models," says Wong-Chu.

"By putting them within a positive community environment, featured writers were afforded an opportunity to experience the community and their readers and share their experiences and a more casual and meaningful way," says Wong-Chu.

He notes that the one of the public's comments was that

Stories, style and ethnicity

Yasuko Thanh is one of many authors invited to feature their works, do readings or even launch their books at this event.

"I hope to meet other writers whose work I've read and admired, whose works I've not yet read but would like to. It's an opportunity to talk shop, to meet emerging writers and offer the benefit of some of my years of experience, to pass on what I can, to learn from them, too," says Thanh.

She believes one challenge an Asian Canadian author might face is the risk of labelling. In writing about something with an Asian subject matter, Thanh points out that a writer may be classified according to his or her heritage alone.

"Then [if the author is] trying to write something completely different in their next book, [they may] not be taken seriously. What does a Vietnamese writer know about polkas in Northern Germany for instance, or hoodoo root doctors in the Deep South. Can you hear the suspicions of detractors? The challenges are beneficial in the sense that, I guess, the public may be apt to take you more seriously when you write about an 'Asian' subject matter [like] D'Arcy Island lepers," says Thanh.

"I might say, this writer works in the vein of magic realism vein, or this book is predominantly a work of realism, but I don't set out, before I read, to label a work



▲ Yasuko Thanh, author.

many wanted to take every workshop because they offered different and valuable information.

"This year, we are deliberately staggering the workshop schedule to allow for those who want to take as many as they need," he says. ✍

LiterASIAN: A Festival of Pacific Rim Asian Canadian Writing runs October 9 to 12 at 612 Main St., Vancouver.
More info: www.literasian.ricepapermagazine.ca/

Borrowing books and taking out diversity: VPL showcases local voices

by MAGGIE CHUANG

Those of us who frequent libraries know what books offer: a new perspective, or a pleasurable escape to an alternate reality. But the Vancouver Public Library provides something more: a look into our own community. With the upcoming event *Diverse Voices in Canadian Literature*, VPL will showcase dynamic voices of Canadian authors and their importance in understanding our own culture.

The event features authors of different backgrounds, but their works broadcast a common theme. Two of the authors, Nilofar Shidmehr of Iran and Julia Lin of Taiwan, talk of reaching crossroads of heritage and identity. It is a desire to communicate that inspires them to write, and to connect in a land of different voices.

Shidmehr cites one of her poems, "Few and Far Between," from her book, *Between Lives*, as one of her favourites because it expresses the longing for home, but finding roots somewhere else. Her collection of poetry is a desire to connect.

"Letting them get to know me and letting me get to know them, is the inspiration," Shidmehr says.

Lin is presenting her book, *Miah*, with the knowledge that

buying their publications and putting them in their collection, [the libraries] can help to support those new writers and poets in Canadian society," says Govahi.

Defining diversity

The events dedicated to multiplicity and highlighting our diverse community have been met with geniality and warmth. With the publication of her book featuring stories of Taiwanese men and women, and immigrant culture, Lin was surprised to find interest from both Taiwanese-speaking and English-speaking audiences.

"There are so few Taiwanese voices in Canadian literature and I'm privileged to be one of the first," says Lin.

The pieces she chooses to perform reiterate the motivation to touch and connect with the rest of the world.

"I like to choose parts which convey the emotional realities of characters, and help the audience understand the historical and political backgrounds of the stories," Lin says.

Shidmehr agrees that there is a lack of exposure of diverse voices in our community, which is why this VPL event is so invaluable in providing publicity. She states that while it isn't easy to understand differing cultures, she believes that literature should be complicated.

Readers are challenged, yet rewarded at the same time. Literature enables them to do research, to imagine and to discover one another.

"To make Canada truly diverse, we need to make our ways of communication and expectations of communication diverse."

A difficult but rewarding road ahead

While there is still tough and challenging path ahead to get true exposure and representation of the diversity that makes up our community, emcee Govahi believes the public library



▲ Author Julia Lin.



▲ Author and poet: Nilofar Shidmehr.

her work is helping to introduce Asian-Canadian voices to mainstream audiences. Lin says, "It's important to help raise awareness if the existence of Asian-Canadian voices so mainstream society can have a deeper understanding of people from various backgrounds in our wonderfully diverse multi-cultural country."

Which is where the significance of a public platform, such as the public library, comes in. The event's emcee, Narges Sonya Govahi, emphasizes the community library's pivotal role in showcasing different local talent.

"By introducing these new writers and poets, and also

plays a big role in helping expand our dynamic voices. But the ones who have come and listened give her hope.

"The most surprising response is the people's smile and the willingness to learn about new cultures and new ideas which is pretty rare, but in Vancouver is not like that. It seems every one that can make a sense of him/herself is very welcomed," says Govahi. ✉

Diverse Voices in Canadian Literature takes place on Oct. 12 at VPL Central Branch.

For more information, visit www.vpl.ca/calendar/index.php/calendar/progid/50567



▲ Jim Wong-chu is talking about the Chinatown history at the exhibition opening.

Chinatown activism: a moment in time

by DONG YUE SU

Holding up a protest sign which reads "Save Chinatown," a group of Chinese people stand in the middle of a Vancouver street. This is one of a hundred black-and-white images from the current exhibition *Jim Wong-Chu Photographs 1973-1981: People, Place, Politics*, held until Oct. 18 at Centre A Gallery. The exhibition reveals the history of Vancouver Chinatown protest in the 1970s, a time and place that many younger Vancouverites have forgotten.

"Those days are the darkest moment of Chinese-Canadian history," says Jim Wong-Chu, who captured the images featured in the exhibition.

Born in Hong Kong in 1949, Wong-Chu arrived in Canada in 1961 and took the photos while he was a student at the Vancouver School of Art, now known as Emily Carr University.

"At that time I was too young to realize the significance of these images. Later, when I looked back in history, I realized those are the pivotal moments in our history," he says.

The exhibit shines a light on an important period in Vancouver's history, according to Centre A executive director Tyler Russell.

"These photographs capture a moment in time in Chinatown and it is still relevant today," says Russell.

Struggle to preserve the Chinatown community

"If you were a Chinese, you were different. You were seen as an

outsider," says Wong-Chu of his experiences at the time.

He moved to Chinatown, seeking an identity and a sense of belonging. There he witnessed and recorded the struggle of his community to protect their properties from those "insidious" forces that "would like to see the Asian kicked out," in Wong-Chu's words.

According to Wong-Chu, such incidents include the proposed Quebec-Columbia Connector Freeway, a massive eight-lane freeway project that would have occupied most of Chinatown and destroyed the entire neighborhood had it been built. The closure of BBQ Pork stores was another campaign against the Chinese community, through rigid food regulation that ignored Asian culture sensitivity.

Wong-Chu puts these incidents in the context of anti-Chinese sentiment that had existed since a 1907 riot when the entire Chinatown neighborhood physically attacked by whites, resulting in many Chinese businesses being destroyed.

Writing as a means of activism

Wong-Chu joined in the fight as well as documenting it. Writing was one way he expressed this activism.

"Publication in English is important for us. When people can see your writing, they will get to know you and things start to change," says Wong-Chu.

Wong-Chu has been instrumental in the literary scene in

Canada. He became the first Chinese-Canadian to publish a literary book in English, founded the Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop to help young writers to find a publisher and created Ricepaper Magazine to feature Asian writers. His efforts have helped create the Asian-Canadian genre of literature.

"[Wong-Chu is] an undeniably important figure in the contemporary Vancouver cultural scene," says Russell.

Know the past so as to work for the future

Decades have passed since the exhibit's photos were taken and Wong-Chu acknowledges that blatant acts against Asians could not happen today. However, his activism continues and he views the current exhibit as a part of it.

"It is meant to be educational. We need to educate younger generation about the history. Without the fight of the 1970s, there would be no Chinatown today, and many Chinese foods such as BBQ Pork would not exist today. Young people have to know the past so that they can work for the future," he says.

To this end, Wong-Chu finds the combination of photographs and writing most effective. Alongside the photographs hung on the gallery wall of Centre A, Wong-Chu puts up a small write up about the story behind the scene.

"Photographs magnify the event in time. Writing cannot go that far. But without the context from writing, you cannot see it," says Wong-Chu. ✉

"Attracting and retaining the best international talent to fill skills shortages in key occupations is critical to Canada's economic success."

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Minister of Employment and Social Development

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Cuban music stars poised to ignite the Vancouver stage

by SONJA GRGAR

The inaugural Vancouver Cuban Music Festival (Oct. 16–19) will bring to our city some of that country's most influential music stars, and will allow the local audiences to be immersed into, as well as educated and seduced by Cuban culture.

The festival, which will take place on Granville Island, is organized by the Island of Music, the recently formed not-for-profit cultural society whose mandate is to promote and preserve Cuban culture in Vancouver. Julio Montero, the society's artistic director and local dance instructor, moved to Vancouver from Cuba 14 years ago.

Montero says that his life in Canada embraces a persistent duality of enjoying this country very much, yet simultaneously missing Cuba. This is why he is passionate about sharing Cuban cultural values with Canadians through the various forms of Latin dance he teaches here.

Montero specializes in *Rueda de Casino* (Cuban style salsa), whose very form fosters a feeling of community because it features dancing within a circle.

"My approach to teaching dance is to make it a cultural experience. I like to bring the Cuban collectivist approach and values to dance, and *Rueda de Casino* is an amazing cultural tool that promotes community building and societal cohesion," says Montero.

He feels that the Cuban collectivist sensibility is highly appealing within the more individualistic Canadian cultural landscape. Montero says that Canadians also seem to particularly value Cuban warmth and a generally joyful disposition, which persists despite the challenging economic reality of life in that country.

Music as Cuban life-blood

Montero attributes that uniquely Cuban *joie de vivre* to the country's profoundly musical

culture, with its rich musical heritage permeating every facet of daily life.

"The music embodies our attitude towards life: some songs may be discussing problems, but [we accept that] this is how life is. We don't have a perfectionist attitude towards life," he says.

Music is what, according to Montero, sustained Cubans

always convey what is relevant to our daily life," says Leonel Limonta, the band's founder and leader.

For example, the lyrics of the band's popular 90s song *Almas Disfrazadas* (Disguised Souls) promote diligent condom use, and echo Cuba's highly conscientious efforts to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in that era.

The Cuban music and dance scene is known for effortlessly mixing generations, and Montero is passionate about the potential of the Vancouver Cuban Music Festival to educate and encourage young talent through its Kids Talent Show.

"We live in an electronic age, and I think it is very important to expose our children to mean-



▲ *Azúcar Negra*, a widely popular Cuban timba band, will bring their vibrant beats to the first ever Vancouver Cuban Music Festival.

through the economic collapse and near-starvation during what is called the special period in the early 1990s, when the loss of the dismantled Soviet Union as the major export market devastated the country.

Montero says that some of the most inspired Cuban music since the Cuban Revolution was conceived in that era, including the internationally popular *timba* – a vibrant and rhythmically complex Cuban musical genre (with a dance style attached to it) that mixes Afro-Cuban musical influences with those of other popular forms such as salsa, funk and soul.

Azúcar Negra (Brown Sugar) is a renowned *timba* band that will be playing at the Vancouver Cuban Music Festival.

"Our signature musical stamp is an infectious chorus, vibrant mambo melodies that bring out the brass instruments, poly-rhythmic beats and lyrics that

Limonta, who is known as "*El Poeta de la Timba*" (Timba Poet), was a member of the popular salsa and *timba* band *Bamboleo* before forming *Azúcar Negra*, and also wrote hits for Cuban greats such as Charanga Habanera and Issac Delgado.

Inter-generational inspiration

"I have carried music inside me all throughout my upbringing because we would always sing and dance spontaneously in my family. It wasn't necessary to have a birthday in order to celebrate and to put together a good party," says Limonta.

In addition to *Azúcar Negra*, the inter-generational musician line-up includes younger stars such as Tania Pantoja and Gardi, as well as the legend and festival opening act Pedrito Calvo, former lead singer of the most iconic Cuban band of all time, *Los Van Van*.

ingful and traditional manifestations of music [which don't allow] the computer to do the job for them," he says.

Between evening concerts, dance workshops, the Kids Talent Show and a film screening of *They Are We*, a documentary depicting a small Afro-Cuban ethnic group's search for ancestral roots in Africa, the festival promises to convert many into devotees of Cuban culture.

"Cuban music is definitely one of the greatest manifestations of popular music that humankind has ever created. It resonates deeply in our senses and does not ever go out of fashion," says Montero. ✎

For tickets and information on the Vancouver Cuban Music Festival, visit www.islandofmusic.com, and for information on Julio Montero's dance classes go to www.vancubansalsa.ca

► "Urban landscape" from page 1

and historical mix places it in a positional advantage when it comes to condominium development. With high-rise towers being built at a rapid pace in existing neighbourhoods, Vancouver has become a hotbed for housing investment. Neighbourhoods, such as Strathcona, Commercial Drive and Main Street are undergoing gentrification at an accelerating rate.

"There is just so much money in Vancouver so there is a tendency to put things into monetary value," Scott explains. "There are efforts by the city to brand neighbourhoods, taking advantage of historical communities like Chinatown to make them marketable."

"It's very unhealthy," David Wong, urban ecologist and architect explains. "All we're doing is building investor products as opposed to creating community, as in places to work, places to enjoy life and places to live. You have all these condos, yet they keep building more and more. But then the question is: where are people going to live? There's a difference between creating a place for peo-



▲ David Wong.

ple to live and creating opportunities for people to invest in."

He recounts his experiences working as an urban planner when he proposed creating "pocket parks" in Vancouver's Chinatown. The idea was to renew abandoned spaces and create small outdoor parks for seniors to play chess or read. However, a lack of funding and political will halted his plans.

"The politicians always ask about funding – who is going to pay for that sort of stuff. Many of them don't understand the value that comes out of it. I presented it to council, but the City of Van-

couver was not interested," says Wong.

Erosion of community and cultural heritage

With an investor-centered approach, a sense of community and culture heritage in Vancouver remains difficult to conserve. Growing up with his grandmother in Strathcona, the sense of community back then remains prominent in Wong's memory.

"When I was growing up, everyone looked after each other. We were impoverished as a family, but we had a lot of fun because everyone knew each other. There is a very strong historical element to Chinatown, but we're losing all of that. The displacement of people who live and work there is a real shame."

Hogan's Alley was one of the many historical elements that were lost due to urban development, where city planners failed to integrate a people-centered approach.

In the 1960s, the urban renewal project was implemented by the City of Vancouver as a means to

reverse property decay and establish a new transportation system. However, many residents in Chinatown were displaced in the process. Among them was the Afro-Canadian community, who settled in what was known as Hogan's Alley. The entire community was demolished after the construction of the Georgia Viaduct in the 1970s.

"My neighbour was Jimi Hendrix's grandmother because we lived on the same block on Union Street. There used to be a beautiful black community here and I had these friends, but they were all uprooted," says Wong.

The development of Vancouver's landscape and its direction poses tough questions for the city's urban planners and designers. For Scott, addressing some of the controversies begins with involving residents in the decision-making process.

"It's a hot debate everywhere: how to do public consultation not only at the procedural level but in a way to invoke people's imagination on the direction of the city. That's been a very difficult thing to do in a complex and diverse city." ✎



Photo courtesy of Moody and Amiri

Canadian duo creates new music from traditional roots

by MARC KAISER

Moody/Amiri, a duo appearing in the Cap Roots Series at North Vancouver's Presentation House Theatre on Oct. 17, bring together an unusual combination of instruments: the santur and the viola.

The santur, played by Iranian-born Amir Amiri, is a 72 string dulcimer used in Persian classical music played with a variety of lightweight hammers. It has a clear, brittle, ringing sound. His partner, Richard Moody of Win-

ipeg, plays the viola, the darker-toned and larger member of the violin family featured in string quartets and the symphonic repertoire.

Together, Moody/Amiri have developed a style that draws on both Western and Iranian classical music, but which has been influenced by jazz, Indian and modern spiritual idioms. It sounds traditional, but also highly innovative, familiar yet strangely new.

“Have you ever cooked lentils, yellow lentils? You get a foam at the top which you don't want. That has to be disposed of. It's the same with music.

Amir Amiri, santur player in Moody/Amiri duo

Moody/Amiri have developed a style that draws on both Western and Iranian classical music, but which has been influenced by jazz, Indian and modern spiritual idioms. It sounds traditional, but also highly innovative, familiar yet strangely new.

Together, Moody/Amiri have developed a style that draws on both Western and Iranian classical music, but which has been influenced by jazz, Indian and modern spiritual idioms. It sounds traditional, but also highly innovative, familiar yet strangely new.

Musical roots

Amiri received his early musical training in Tehran, where he attended some of the best music schools and studied with the

instrument from another part of the world, but still recognizably a viola.

Musical inspiration

The group draws its inspiration from a wide range of sources. For example, Amiri notes the influence of the tangos of the Argentine master and popularizer of the form, Astor Piazzolla.

“Do you know how many versions there are available of the tango I'm interested in? Over 150. That's amazing. But, unfortunately, many of them are not so good. Too dry. Music has to have some passion and depth to be interesting, don't you think?” says Amiri.

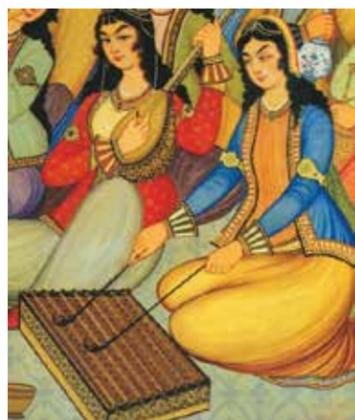
The process

The intense commitment of the two players to their art is shown by their experience in the recording studio. They have just released their new CD, *Safar*, and their appearance in B.C. is part of a release tour.

Amiri says it was recorded in the heat of the summer and that there were moments when they were completely covered in sweat. But the final product also involved the rejection of much of what they had recorded, leaving only the work that met their exacting standards.

“Have you ever cooked lentils, yellow lentils? You get a foam at the top which you don't want. That has to be disposed of. It's the same with music,” Amiri says.

Moody/Amiri will be performing at Presentation House in North Vancouver on Oct. 17.



▲ *Painting from the Hasht Behesht Palace, Isfahan, Iran, 1669.*

foremost teachers of Persian music. Arriving in Canada exposed Amiri to the strong rhythmical sense in jazz and especially Afro-Cuban percussion. Another extremely formative experience was at the Banff School of the Fine Arts, an institution which has hosted many up-and-coming

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Screenwriting workshops
October 5 and 12, 2014

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Slocan Hall, 2750 East 29th Avenue (beside the 29th Avenue Skytrain Station)

Introductory screenwriting workshop, over the course of two Sundays, for artists, writers and aspiring filmmakers with disabilities. Professional-level instruction, constructive feedback, and valuable next step guidance for the participants and their finished (short) scripts – all with an eye toward exploring genuine and individual perspectives on the disability experience. **October 5 and 12, 10am to 5pm.** Lunch is provided on both days.

Award-winning screenwriter **Adam Grant Warren** will lead the workshops. Warren, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, graduated from Vancouver Film School in 2008 and has since joined the faculty as a screenwriting instructor.

This workshop is for people with disabilities. There is no charge but you must register by September 21. Space is limited. For more information, or to reserve your space, email kickstartdirector@gmail.com

Visit facebook.com/kickstartdisabilityarts to learn more about Kickstart and The Fine Line Project



Cultural Calendar

October 7–21, 2014

by SALENA TRAN

Enjoy the crisp autumn weather with these fun activities for young and old alike! Fine arts, parades, and much more will give you a chance to be with the family or with a special date. This month enjoy a show, indulge in a new cuisine, or maybe even both! The wide variety of events will appeal to a range of different people, so find an event that sparks your interest and enjoy the season!

* * *

Blood Moon Night Walk

Oct. 8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Campbell Valley Regional Park,
Langley
604-432-6396
www.metrovancouveronline.org

This exciting event is for the whole family to experience the critters lurking in the night. The Blood Moon Night Walk is a guided tour allowing adults and children to spot nocturnal animals. You'll have an experience like never before. Ask professionals questions about the nocturnal animals and even have a chance to see the lunar eclipse! For more information, please visit the website.

* * *

Art Lecture Series – Street Art

Oct. 8, 7:30–8:30 p.m.
West Point Grey
Community Centre
4397 W. 2nd Ave., Vancouver
www.westpointgrey.org

Do you enjoy the fine art of paintings? This event is for art enthusiasts who want to learn more about the inspirations of Street Art. Modern art is complicated, and this discussion allows art fanatics to come with questions and ideas on the subject. Street Art is a discussion about famous street artists such as Banksy, Vhils, and many more. Those who decide to attend the discussion will automatically be entered to win a painting by Stewart Stephenson. The entrance fee is \$12, please visit the website for more information.

* * *

RENT: Sing with Soul

Oct. 9–11, 8 p.m.
The Orpheum Annex
823 Seymour St., Vancouver
www.ticketstonight.ticketforce.com



▲ The Diwali festival is back in Vancouver and Surrey.

Come and enjoy an evening of music put on by local students of the Vancouver Film School at RENT: Sing with Soul. For three days, this limited production will have you dancing in your seat. Watch as hard work pays off in the fun musical performed at the beautiful Orpheum Annex. These students make the most of the stage by singing and dancing. Please visit the website for more information.

* * *

The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors

Oct. 18–Jan. 11
Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby St., Vancouver
604-662-4719
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

The Forbidden City once a secretive site has recently become open to the public. Experience the Forbidden City exhibition as the Vancouver Art Gallery is transformed into the Court of China. This extravagant exhibition will spark questions and there will be opportune times for discussion during the exhibition dates. For more information on the Forbidden City art exhibit, please visit the website.

* * *

Modern Sculpture Exhibition

Oct. 14–19
434 Columbia St., Vancouver
778-835-6815
www.modernsculpture.ca

Local artist Rudolf Sokolovski presents an exciting exhibition featuring his modern sculptures. Sokolovski's work looks into a variety of themes, including beauty and the power of human form. The sculptures are made of different varieties of wood and bronze. Sokolovski uses Tectonics and Linear expressions to convey emotions and feelings through his art. Free admission and open to the public.

* * *



▲ Sokolovski presents his wood and bronze modern sculptures.

A Taste of Yaletown

Oct. 16–30
Multiple Venues
Yaletown, Vancouver
www.yaletowninfo.com/events/tasteofyaletown

Have you ever walked by Yaletown and saw a new restaurant you planned to try? If so, this event is for you! A Taste of Yaletown is back for their 10th year, and with more restaurants! Sample a variety of cuisines from different chefs and indulge in fine food! With fixed menu prices of \$25, \$35, and \$45, you can try a new restaurant (or go back to a favourite) for a good price. For more information on participating restaurants, please visit the website.

* * *

Vancouver Cuban Music Festival

Oct. 16–19
Performance Works,
Granville Island
1218 Cartwright St., Vancouver
www.islandofmusic.com

The Cuban Music Festival of Vancouver is a Latin event you won't want to miss! These four days are jam-packed with music events, dance workshops, shows for children, and much more. Performers have travelled from all over the world to be here for this year's festival. With much to do at this event, come experience Cuban culture! For more information on schedules

and ticket pricing, please visit the website.

* * *

Diwali Fest

Oct. 17–26
Multiple Venues
Vancouver and Surrey
www.diwalifest.ca

The 11th annual Diwali Fest is back! This year's theme of "Unity in Diversity" is adopted at multiple events all over the Lower Mainland. Diwali Fest has two main events: "Diwali Downtown" and "IndiGlam" (both located in Vancouver and Surrey). This year's festival promises performances, entertainment for kids, and an East-Indian celebration you'll never forget! For more information on ticket prices and free events, please visit the website.

* * *

Vancouver Halloween Parade and Expo

Oct. 18, 10–9 p.m.
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
1088 Burrard St., Vancouver
www.vanhalloween.com

The Vancouver Halloween Parade and Expo features elaborate costumes and fun activities! The expo is your chance to show off your costume before Halloween! The parade is meant for everyone of all ages, so bring the family and get swept away in the Halloween spirit! For more information on the parade route and expo pricing, please visit the website.



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Reconnection

Québécoise artist Danaé Brissonnet is in front of her mural, *Reconnection*. She's painting it on the Moss St. side of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV). The mural was part of the Puppets for Peace Celebration, the first of its kind, taking place in Victoria September 19–21, 2014. It was a collaboration between the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria and the Puppeteers of America Pacific Northwest Festival under the direction of Canadian Gemini award-winning puppeteer Tim Gosley.

Puppeteers of America is a US based non-profit organization founded in 1937 to provide information, encourage performances and build a community of people who celebrate puppet theatre. It has produced over 160 national and regional festivals to celebrate and share the art of puppetry.

One of the main events of the celebration was the Puppets for Peace Parade which occurred on September 21, 2014, in conjunction with the United Nations International Day of Peace. *Reconnection* became part of a performance as puppeteers animated aspects of Danaé's mural seemingly bringing them to life off the wall and then joining the Puppets for Peace Parade which made its way from Craigdarroch Castle to Victoria's Government House, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Danaé's mural combines elements of Danaé's eastern Canadian background with familiar West Coast symbolism. Since children were to carry butterfly puppets in the parade, Danaé recalled a legend of a butterfly told to her by a family friend.

"This legend tells the story of a woman in an Algonquin village who was the only person who could see tiny colorful lizards that ran on the ground. These lizards gave her the power to heal people of their anger and



© 2014 Denis Bouvier | denisbouvier.com

hate, and allowed her to keep peace in the village. When she grew old and was about to die, she invited the lizards to join her underground. Her soul lifted from the ground, part lizard and eventually a colorful butterfly. The butterfly continued the woman's work in healing people of the village from anger and hate.

Images on the right hand side of the mural depict the village on the woman's back. Dying, the woman's body becomes part lizard and her soul, a colorful butterfly. Roots and salmon grow from her body symbolizing reconnection to the earth and the water. She exhales a forest populated by beings – people as trees.

The forest landscape is a tribute to *Emily Carr: The Young Generation* currently on exhibit at the Gallery.

On the left hand side of the mural, the theme of transformation is reflected through the processes of creation, death and rebirth using West Coast animals to tell the story. The people trees are ingested by the bear, forming a social structure of people shaped bones akin to a spine/tail of a salmon. The bear's salmon tail signifies predator with the prey, both necessary elements in a balanced, stable and healthy ecosystem. At the end of the fish tail is a face, exhaling feathers creating a two-headed sea gull, with one

exhaling a heron. The sea gulls are useful to the bear, holding the salmon tail over the bear by human hands.

At the top centre of the mural, the sun shaped like a mouth beams light yelling "liberation!" – encouraging us to transform and heal ourselves of hate and anger." – Danaé Brissonnet transcribed by Peter Freedman

Although Danaé is only 22 years old, her murals have appeared over the past few years in Mexico, Nicaragua, the French Caribbean, Nepal and Taiwan. Her surrealistic murals reflect on the reality of our globalizing world and its effect on diverse cultures. She is skilled as well in

puppeteering, sculpture and drawing.

Danaé was sponsored by the AGGV Education, Public Programming in an artistic exchange with the Puppets for Peace Celebration where she participated as both a muralist and puppeteer. She gave a puppet-making workshop at the AGGV on Sept. 13.

Danaé is a passionate, creative and prolific artist. Her youthful exuberance is contagious and one can only wish her well in her future endeavours. Her mural will be on display for the next several months at the AGGV.

Don Richardson

Erratum

In our last issue, Vol 15 no 5, the second paragraph of Peggy Lam's article *Polynesian dance preserves traditions and creates resiliency* was accidentally deleted during production. The paragraph should have read: "Hawaiian dance teacher Paddy Kuhane was born in Honolulu, Hawaii with both Canadian and Hawaiian heritage. After her parents' divorce, Kuhane relocated to Canada with her mom at a young age. In Canada, she grew up feeling isolated from her traditional culture." We apologize for any confusion.

JUBILATION! : A Celebration of 125 Years of Musical Theatre

A Gala Benefit Concert celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Christ Church Cathedral

Saturday, October 18th, 2014 | 2pm & 7pm
Christ Church Cathedral,
690 Burrard St. (at Georgia), Vancouver

Tickets \$25 available through cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca and at the door

From *HMS Pinafore* to *The Book of Mormon*, a special program of some of the best known songs from musical theatre will be presented by some of Vancouver's most celebrated performers, all in honour of the 125th anniversary of Christ Church Cathedral, and to raise funds for the Performing Arts Lodge Vancouver and the 127 Society for Housing.



COASTAL SOUND OFFERS AN UPLIFTING CHORAL EXPERIENCE WITH NEW SEASON
Award-winning choirs deliver artistry, spirit, community and heart to concert-goers.

Christmas with Coastal Sound Youth Choir: Saturday, December 6, 2014. 7:30pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St., Vancouver. Celebrate the joy of the season with the award-winning Coastal Sound Youth Choir. A holiday tradition for many lower mainland families, this concert features carols old and new in an evening of introspection and celebration. Morna Edmundson, director. Special guests, Coastal Sound Children's Choir.

Comfort & Joy: Sunday, December 14, 2014. 3pm at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam. Choral music to soothe, uplift and inspire during the bustling holiday season. Singers of all ages- Con Brio, Con Bella, Children's Choir and DeCoro- share the stage for this family friendly concert.

As The Rain Hides The Stars: Saturday, February 28, 2015. 7 pm at St. Andrew's Wesley, 1012 Nelson St., Vancouver. Featuring the world premiere of Kristopher Fulton's new work, with all of our 200 singers on stage! Be transported in the gorgeous St. Andrew's Wesley while we serenade you with glorious sound.

From Sea to Sea: Sunday, June 7th, 2015. 7pm at the Evergreen Cultural Centre, 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam. Enjoy songs of travel, adventure and risk on high seas, beautiful songs of Canada, and rollicking folk tunes from our Maritimes and East Coast. Join us as we celebrate our vast and inspiring country, through songs of the sea and the waterways that unite us all.

Indiekör: Saturday, June 14th, 2015. 7:30 pm at the Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street, Vancouver. Experience what everyone is talking about! Mixing Mumford and Sons with Monteverdi, Coastal Sound Youth Choir and local indie band The Salteens join forces for a fourth year to present their innovative cross pollination of classical choral music and indie rock. Choral music just got cooler than ever.

Ticket pricing and purchase information for all shows at www.coastalsoundmusic.com. VIP Season Pass program for preferred seating and other advantages available until November 1st, 2014.

About the Coastal Sound Music Academy

Coastal Sound Music connects singers and outstanding choral music educators with the community. From the wee 4 to 5 year old "Sources" song play program, to the professional and award winning Youth and Children's