

Photo by Rosewood Photography

## Verbatim

### A quiet acceptance of our differences

by MARIE-GEORGE LEDRIEU

I've chosen to spend my Canadian working holiday in Vancouver for one simple reason: the climate. I come from the south of France. I'm one of those people who occasionally appreciate (and I do mean occasionally) spending a few days in the snow. Otherwise I take refuge at home under the covers with a cup of tea by the fire at the first sight

“I'm also pleasantly surprised by the calm acceptance of each person's quirks.

of a snowflake. Of course I really do want to visit the rest of Canada and intend on doing so when spring begins over there as well.

I only arrived a short while ago and, for the moment, one of the spots where I spend much of my time is my neighbourhood library; I noticed that they had novels by Fred Vargas (a French author of detective stories), *Doctor Who* DVDs (a British television series) and knitting magazines. The library has become my new favourite hangout. I was also very happy to notice that they had a section for “international newspapers,” thinking that I might find *Le Monde*, but my neighbourhood is mostly made up of people of Asian origin so they only have Chinese newspapers. It's understandable, too bad. But there's a fire by the reading corner (so I know where to take refuge in case of snow).

Like most new arrivals, the variety of restaurants amazes me and I often try to guess the background of the people I have a chance to speak with. When I mention that I am French, the question “from France or Québec?” leaves me a little perplexed. I guess

See “Verbatim” page 9 ➤

# Being Iranian means being together

by SANDRA ZIMMERMANN

**In May, Canada's official Asian Heritage Month, the explorASIAN festival will celebrate art and culture from all parts of Asia with many different events. Vancouver's Iranian community will mark the occasion with events featuring Persian art, poetry and more. Yet, for Iranian Vancouverites, maintaining their cultural identity is a year-round effort. There are, however, also critical voices.**

25-year-old Mehdi Naseri says he has not felt homesick once since he came to Canada two years ago, thanks to Vancouver's big

Iranian community. For many young Iranian Canadians in Vancouver preserving their heritage is crucial: both UBC and SFU have clubs aimed at keeping Iranian culture alive.

Naseri, a graduate student at SFU, is vice-president of the SFU Iranian Club, which he says is one of the university's most active clubs.

“Being Iranian means being together. And our club is the place where people get together,” says Naseri.

### High engagement at universities

Despite the large Iranian community here, Yasaman Khosh-

noudian missed Iranian culture a lot when she first moved to Canada four years ago with her family. The 19-year-old studies at UBC and is a member of UBC's Persian Club.

“We plan events that are relevant to Persian culture. I missed our culture at the beginning but the club made it better,” she says.

At both UBC and SFU, activities focus on Persian music, poetry, and movie get-togethers. Every last Wednesday of the month, for instance, the SFU Iranian Club participates in the “docunight,” a movie screening event that takes place on the same day in six cities across North America – San Francisco, Los Angeles, Wash-

ington, New York, Toronto and Vancouver. The event features documentaries about Iran or by Iranian directors.

According to Naseri, it is easier to maintain a cultural program in Vancouver than in Iran.

“There are no limitations here,” he says.

The “Vancouver Iranians” meetup group also regularly organizes social and cultural events, both in regard to Iranian traditions and local activities, such as hiking or bowling.

“We also watch soccer matches together, for example, of the Iranian national team, but we also attended a Whitecaps game,”

See “Iranian culture” page 7 ➤

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Untangling the  
complex web  
of identity  
Page 9



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# Community Profile

BC Metis Federation

## Keeping local Metis communities connected

by KATRINA TRASK

Solving the confusion around community representation was part of the agenda at the recent BC Metis Federation (BCMF) gathering held at the Pinnacle Hotel April 25. It was a chance for Vancouver members to address their issues and concerns, as well as to propose new initiatives and celebrate Metis culture. A larger project is *The Louis Riel Symposium* being planned to exonerate Louis Riel, the Metis leader who was hanged for treason in 1885.

“We have a number of members from different areas, so we wanted to check in with the community. People want to see community groups reformed,” says Keith Henry, president of the BCMF.

### Community representation and Van City initiative

Henry says the problem with lack of community representation is rooted in the fact the

meet and talk about issues and about the direction of the organization itself.

Henry hopes one initiative proposed at the meeting, the Van City Metis Federation, will solve the confusion and problems around community representation.

“We want the organization to be interacting with municipal governments on issues affecting Metis, and we want it to work with school districts to make sure that Metis culture and education is in all Vancouver school districts,” says Henry.

Most of all, Henry hopes the Van City Metis Federation will keep Metis children and families in the Vancouver area connected with local Metis communities.

### The Louis Riel symposium

The other major initiative reviewed at the meeting was the exoneration of Louis Riel. Riel’s execution, the Metis argue, was legally wrong and therefore should be overturned by the Canadian government.

Metis and the government that this country needs,” says Henry.

### Cultural celebration and activities

Metis members who attended the meeting also voiced their desire for more cultural activities in the Vancouver area. Henry says the BCMF is working on planning more events in the future, such as a community BBQ to be held this summer.

In addition to addressing issues and concerns and proposing initiatives, there was also a celebration of Metis culture with fiddling by JJ Lavallee, and jig dancing by Rowan and Quinn Pickering.

“JJ Lavallee is one of the best Metis musicians in Canada,” says Henry.

It was these performances that set the positive atmosphere for the meeting. Henry notes members in attendance were supportive of the discussions and wanted to reconnect with their fellow Metis.

“People hadn’t had a chance to connect for a while, so every-



▲ BC Metis Federation members.

Metis are not legally a First Nations group. They get less funding from the government, which makes it more difficult for non-profit community organizations to function properly through governance.

A functioning representative organization is the main goal of the BCMF, says Henry. It will give the Metis community a place to

The group plans a major symposium to draw attention to the issue.

“We hope that – with Metis representation – that a clear plan of action of where we go, as a community and as an organization with Metis people across the province and Canada, to get his name exonerated which will lead to the reconciliation between

body was very friendly. People were putting a priority on being a functional community organization in the Vancouver area for the Vancouver members. It’s not just about the politics, but also about kinship and a celebration of culture,” says Henry. ✍

For more info, visit [www.bcmets.com](http://www.bcmets.com)



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7pm Wed, May 20, 2015  
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Jon Washburn, conductor

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Tickets available at [bellperformingartscentre.com](http://bellperformingartscentre.com)

### PARTICIPATING CHOIRS

North Surrey Secondary School Concert Choir  
Jonathan Krueger, conductor

North Surrey Secondary School Chamber Choir  
(also known as Polaris)  
Jonathan Krueger, conductor

Pacific Academy Senior Choir  
David Rosborough, conductor

Panorama Ridge Senior Concert Choir  
Ronald Davis, conductor

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We will contact the lucky winner by May 15.

### Erratum

In our last issue, Vol 15 No 18, the article “Brassy tunes from a faraway land” was mistakenly attributed to Katy Thompson. It was actually written by Audrey Tung.

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### Welcome Back to SSLC!

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#### Heritage Home Skills

Select Saturdays | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | \$12.75

This program covers six of the requirements for a Heritage Home Skills Badge. Girl Guides will tour the Historic Stewart Farm to learn about the people and animals who lived here. They will make preserves on a wood-burning stove, use a hand-churn to make fresh butter, and do traditional chores. Participants will find out how children played 100 years ago by making a simple Victorian craft.

**Pre-Registration required: call 604-592-6956 TODAY!**





### MYzone | After School Drop-in Program

MYzone is a drop-in program provided during the critical hours after school to create safe, affordable and high quality programming for middle years children. MYzone provides active play and recreation, homework support, social-emotional skill development, leadership building, peer and staff relationship development, and facilitates civic engagement. The program currently operates at 6 sites (5 recreation centres and 1 elementary school) and has the capacity to serve 30-45 children per site, per session.



▲ *Fazineh Keita (left) and Ava Vanderstarren, founders and directors of the Innocence Lost Foundation.*

# Regaining lost youth: A place to heal in Sierra Leone

by SIMON YEE

**Fazineh Keita and Ava Vanderstarren, founders of Innocence Lost Foundation, are raising money to build a community centre in Kabala, Sierra Leone in order to provide a safe haven and educational facility for former child soldiers affected by the Sierra Leone civil war in the 1990s.**

Through presentations, event fundraising and outreach programs throughout the Lower Mainland, they also hope to raise awareness of and draw attention to the deep social issues in Africa and other places around the world where children are being used in war.

"Through art, people can heal, and the main purpose of the community centre is to help people who've been through war to understand their experiences and traumas. If people don't have a healthy way to express that, they may pass it on to their children and others," says Keita.

## Finding hope after war

During the Sierra Leone civil war, which lasted from 1991 to 2002, both rebel and government forces conscripted children into their respective militias. Child soldiers fought on the front lines, worked in forced labour camps or were used as sexual slaves. Some saw their parents murdered. Many children coming out of the war continue to face physical and psychological traumas and addictions today. Keita, 27, born in Kabala and a former child soldier himself, experienced firsthand the horrors of war.

"I spent most of my childhood fighting in the war and I had to do what I had to do," Keita says. "For the longest time, I wanted to run away [from life rather] than accept it. But no matter how bad or wrong you think life is, it's still your life. When you accept it, other people will accept it."

After coming to Canada, Keita met Vanderstarren, 22, at Vancouver Film School, which they attended together. Keita identified strongly with Vanderstarren's kindness and passion to help others in need.

"She was there for me when I was going through a ton of trauma at the time. Now I laugh and find myself at peace more often," says Keita.

"Everything he's been through, he's still such a good person. He didn't let them drag him down, turn him into a negative person," adds Vanderstarren. "He chooses every day to do the right thing."

## Rebuilding a community

Mutually inspiring each other, the two incorporated their non-profit foundation, Innocence Lost, in 2013. Their pilot project is the Kabala Community Centre, a multipurpose complex for Kabala's community to heal the wounds from the civil war. A water well, medical clinic, gym, library, classrooms and computer labs are among the many facilities they envision for the centre. Music, fine arts and other creative programs are some of the

“ He chooses  
every day to do  
the right thing.

*Ava Vanderstarren,  
founder of Innocence  
Lost Foundation*


services they hope to provide. Over time, Keita and Vanderstarren plan to establish similar centres throughout Sierra Leone and West Africa.

"We could have raised money to give to a charity, but we want to personally do something that will make a difference. We want to use our art and our talent to not only bring healing to child soldiers, but to teach people to understand what's happening," says Keita.

Starting up and running their non-profit foundation has been difficult and a lot of work, but the pair are passionate about their cause and see themselves doing this together for the rest of their lives.

"We're in this journey together," says Vanderstarren.

Thinking back on his life's journey so far, Keita feels the most important things in life are accepting your own life and who you are.

"No matter how hard, difficult or complex life is, if you believe it's going to be better and you keep working for it, it is going to be better," Keita says. 

To learn more about Keita  
and Vanderstarren's foundation  
and its projects, visit  
[www.innocencelostfoundation.com](http://www.innocencelostfoundation.com)



Left Bank



Alberta election shocker should have Christy Clark worried

Last week, I gathered with some friends in East Vancouver to watch the Alberta election results come in. The surprising surge in the polls by the NDP had raised expectations for progressives. Still, few people really believed that an NDP government could get elected in what is commonly referred to as the most conservative province in Canada. The early vote tallies seemed to drive home our suspicion that the polls numbers were too good to be true. 20 minutes after the polls closed and with the numbers starting to come in, the NDP was a distant third, trailing both the Wildrose Party and the governing Progressive Conservatives under new Premier Jim Prentice, who were trying to hang on to a 44-year-old dynasty. It was beginning to feel like a repeat of the 2013 election in B.C., where polls were predicting an

\$5 billion deficit. The party also benefited from a well spoken and popular leader, Rachel Notley, whose father Grant had been the party leader in the 1980s. He died in a plane crash just prior to the previous high water mark of the NDP in the provincial legislature. But this Alberta election result is still absolutely stunning, and a reason for hope. Over 40 per cent of Albertans voted for an NDP platform that included a raise in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, an end to corporate or union financing of election campaigns and a pledge to renew relationships with Indigenous peoples on the basis of respect and understanding. The other significant factor in the Alberta vote was that it revealed the weakening influence of endorsements from the mainstream, corporate-owned media.

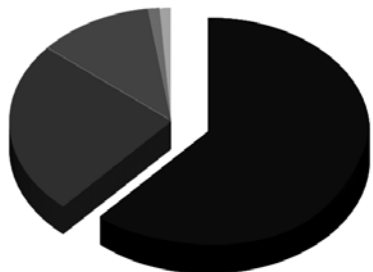


▲ Rachel Notley, new Premier-elect of Alberta.

NDP win. That miserable election night from two years ago had conditioned those of us on the left of the political spectrum not to get our hopes up. But then, the numbers started to change. The NDP crept ahead in the seat count. Then they sprinted to a huge lead. Within an hour, all the major networks covering the election had called it: the NDP had won a majority government. In Alberta. The results were almost unbelievable. Although the CCF, the radical left predecessor to the NDP, was founded at a convention in Calgary way back in 1932, the left has barely had an electoral presence in the province historically. As I have written in this space before, the stars in Alberta were uniquely aligned to facilitate an NDP breakthrough, given a divided right-wing and a sudden

In the final week of the campaign, all the major daily newspapers in the province came out in support of Prentice and the Conservatives. They all conceded the government had been pretty bad, but that the NDP was not a credible alternative. Essentially, the owners of the big media told voters they had no choice but stick with Conservatives. The electorate completely ignored this condescending advice from the corporate media CEOs. We are now in uncharted territory in Canadian politics. If the NDP can win in Alberta then, presumably, they can win anywhere. No doubt the Alberta election results are keeping Stephen Harper up at night, and they must also be of concern to Christy Clark and the B.C. Liberals. Premier Clark should be worried. For three straight elections, the B.C. Liberals have pulled off relatively narrow victories against an NDP opposition. Right-wing media outlets always endorse the Liberals in the final days of the campaign, helping keep the Liberals in power. No matter the level of corruption or callousness of the government in Victoria, they always seem to eke out a win based largely on the fear that is whipped up about the potential of an NDP government. The west coast used to be known as the left coast. Now we just aspire to catch up to Alberta. If the status quo in Alberta can be turned upside down, then it is only a matter of time until we at last change the status quo here in B.C. ✍

Results of Alberta Election 2015



- NDP
- Wildrose
- Progressive Conservatives
- Liberal
- Alberta Party

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**ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
**Books and Biscotti Literary Series**

**Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00pm**  
**Museum Hall, Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver. Free admission.**

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers presents *Books and Biscotti*, a literary event featuring readings by B.C. writers Diego Bastianutti, Anna Ciampolini Foschi, Robert Pepper Smith, and Osvaldo Zappa. During the evening, the audience will also enjoy the premiere of “Generazion/Generations” a new short documentary film by Ornella Sinigaglia about Vancouver’s Italian Canadian community. A lively panel discussion about social media will follow, hosted by Anna Maria Zampieri Pan, a journalist and writer, former Editor of L’ Eco d’ Italia. In cooperation with Italian Cultural Centre, Accenti Magazine and National Congress of Italian Canadians. Tuesday, June 9, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Museum Hall at the Italian Cultural Centre. Light Refreshments.

# HORN OF AFRICA EMERGENCY

**1 888 664-DEVP**

Here’s what’s happening in May at Surrey’s heritage facilities

SURREY MUSEUM

17710 – 56A Avenue  
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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

A Queen and Her Country

You might dream of being queen (or king) for a day, but Queen Elizabeth II has been the British monarch and Canada’s Head of State for 60 years! This feature exhibit recalls Her Majesty’s many visits to our country through commemorative items, historical images, and a quiz on royal protocol. From the Canadian Museum of History. On display to May 16.

PROGRAMS

Make Believe Birthday Parties

Make Believe Birthday Parties – Walk like an Egyptian, shiver your timbers like a pirate, or be Queen for a day! Choose one of our fun themes, invite your friends, and call us to make your party memorable. 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

Small hands master new skills as they try weaving and felting, find out where cloth comes from, and make a woolly sheep to take home. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Wednesday, May 13, 10:30am-12noon. 1 session \$10.75 (3-5yrs).

Sewing – Level 2

Put the needle on the mark and your foot on the pedal as you take your sewing skills to the next level. Let our stitchery expert guide you in the creation of a top or vest. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Friday, May 15, 10:00am-12noon. 4 sessions \$50 (16yrs+).

Traditional Rug Hooking

Get hooked on rugs! Our instructor shares her passion for rug hooking and all the techniques you need to create a small sampler to take home. Supply fee \$85. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-4:00pm. 2 sessions \$80 (16yrs+).

Creative Crochet

Crocheting is stylish, fun and easy. Join other beginning stitchers and learn the skills to create beautiful items for your home and wardrobe. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-12noon. 4 sessions \$60.50 (16yrs+).

Discovery Saturday: Ready to Rodeo

Cowpokes of all ages learn the ropes as you lasso and try cow-folk crafts. Tap your toes to western music and enjoy a swinging country square dance performance. Saturday, May 16, 1:00pm-4:00pm. All ages, by donation.

Batik Cloth

Instructor Liza Wajong will share traditional Indonesian techniques to make a batik wall hanging using wax resist and colourful dyes. Supply fee \$10. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. Saturday, May 30, 1:00pm-4:00pm. 2 session \$47.25 (16yrs+).

SURREY ARCHIVES

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

Surrey’s First 50 Years

Travel back to Surrey’s roots. We’ve raided the Archives’ vault for rare photos, maps, and papers from 1879 to 1929. Explore major events, residents, and transportation routes of our City’s formative years. Pre-register at 604-502-6459. Saturday, May 9, 11:00am-12noon. 1 session \$10 (16+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 (May-August): Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday, 12noon-4pm. Entrance by donation.

PROGRAMS

Scottish Afternoon Tea

Enjoy delectable farm-baked scones and Scottish shortbread served with a pot of tea and a little Stewart family history. Then explore the charming 1894 farmhouse and grounds with a costumed guide. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Fridays, April to June, 1:00pm–2:30pm. 1 session \$10.75 (16yrs+).

Old-Fashioned Birthday Parties

Party like it’s 1899! Celebrate your child’s special day the way kids might have done 100 years ago. An instructor will lead parties in traditional games and a craft to take home. You supply the cake, and let the kids make the ice-cream. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Saturdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm. \$13.75/child (birthday child is free).

Royal Victorian Party

Little princes and princesses bring their families to celebrate Queen Victoria’s birthday. Enjoy cake and crafts, watch the hijinks of the colourful Morris dancers, and take a family portrait with the Queen. Sunday, May 17, 12noon-3:00pm. All ages, by donation.

Heritage DIY: In the Home

Put your do-it-yourself skills to the test! Explore innovations that make home life easier, then create a gadget or gizmo using materials that were available to pioneers. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Saturday, May 30, 10:30am-12noon. 1 session \$10.75 (16+yrs)(birthday child is free).

Multicultural community kitchen invites ESL moms

by KATY THOMPSON

Judy Venable, a Seattle-born ESL teacher, is delivering a free cooking program called ESL Cooking for Moms for immigrant mothers seeking to improve their cooking skills and conversational English.

Participants of the class have the opportunity to practice their English, cook delicious and nutritional meals, learn about community resources and make friends – all while their children learn and play under the supervision of childminders.

“What’s great about this program is that kids get to go spend time with other kids while mothers get a break and can really focus on learning the English they need to know for daily living and to raise their families,” says Venable.

Funded by Vancouver Coastal Health’s Smart Fund, ESL Cooking For Moms is one of many programs run by Family Services in New Westminster, Vancouver and Richmond as part of Community Education and Development Services.

Cakes, casseroles and composting

Though actively involved in local family literacy programs in Greater Vancouver, Venable has also taught ESL internationally. ESL Cooking For Moms allows Venable to combine her love of food with her teaching experience in a unique way.

Although she has ideas for the curriculum, Venable always asks her students what they want to learn. Mothers are particularly interested in learning to prepare baked goods their children always ask for, as well as quick and healthy main dishes such as casseroles and meatloaf. For the class’s first cooking lesson, they made banana muffins.

“We make things that are simple, easy and nutritious,” says Venable.

Also of interest to mothers is discussing ideas for their children’s lunch boxes. In future sessions, a nutritionist will visit to talk about healthy eating using the Canadian Food Guide and a dental hygienist will check the children’s and mothers’ teeth. Venable also plans to discuss



Photo by Katy Thompson

▲ Participants Jessica Feng and Jen Zao reading from a cooking verbs worksheet.

food preparation and safety, grocery shopping, composting and recycling and cooking vocabulary with her class. According to Venable, the combination of a specific theme and hands-on activities helps English language learners better remember words and concepts.

“I’m not good at cooking, but when I had my children, I wanted to provide healthy food for them,” says Abby Wang, a program participant who moved from Beijing to Canada in 2009 to pursue an MBA at Vancouver Island University before having her children, now ages two and one. “Through this program, I’m not only learning cooking skills, but also about cultures. I’m broadening my scope of knowledge.”

A multicultural, multipurpose kitchen

While many immigrant mothers want to learn English, some ESL programs can be difficult to access because they do not include childminding. ESL Cooking For Moms overcomes this obstacle by providing free, on-

site childcare for participants’ children.

“It’s very helpful,” says Wang of the childminding service. “Otherwise I couldn’t come.”

Jen Zao, a participant who relocated to Vancouver from Shanghai in 2013, explains that the program is also good for her daughter, as it allows her to practice English as well.

Participants have the opportunity to improve their English while making meaningful social connections with other mothers. Venable notes that in addition to providing a lesson in cooking, the program provides a time and place to share information with others, building a community with friends and support systems. The kitchen creates a comfortable setting to learn and socialize.

“They like to share their own culture and learn about the culture they’re now living in as well so that they can become a part of that,” Venable says.

As Canadians, the class participants are now immersed in a new culture that includes all those who surround them.

“All the students come from different countries. It’s a new experience,” says Zao.

Venable says that her main goal is to help immigrants feel more comfortable using English, cooking for their families and trying new things, because a lack of confidence is often the biggest hurdle to overcome.

“I used to think cooking was very hard, for professionals, but then I realized that it’s not that hard. The instructor made it simple; I feel more confident,” says Wang. ✍

ESL Cooking for Moms  
Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
April 14 to June 16  
East Richmond Community Hall  
12360 Cambie Rd.

For more information about multicultural community kitchens, visit [www.fsgv.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Community-Kitchens-Richmond-2015.pdf](http://www.fsgv.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Community-Kitchens-Richmond-2015.pdf)



Photo by Katy Thompson

▲ Judy Venables, participant Abby Wang and daughter.



Photo courtesy of Joan Fairs

# 50 years of Ikebana

by KATE MURRAY

**On May 23 at the Alan Emmott Centre in Burnaby, the Vancouver Ikebana Association (VIA) will kick off a celebration of its 50 years in existence with a one-day show by the Japanese Consulate General.**

Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, is an art steeped in history in both Japan and Vancouver. According to Judie Glick, president of the VIA, the practice differs from western flower arranging by incorporating a more meditational approach.

“You’re doing more than just flower arranging, you’re looking at the material very selectively and you sort of wait for it to talk to you in some way. So mostly what it does is it opens our eyes to nature and makes you more aware of what’s around you,” says Glick.

**Celebrating half a century**

The VIA, founded in October 1965, was set up at a time when there was a lot of interest in Japanese culture.

“Every large city in the world has an Ikebana chapter and there’s usually a Japanese consulate in those parts of the world. So many of the original teachers [in Vancouver] were from Japan,” says Glick.

Many Japanese people in Vancouver in the 1960s were encouraged to start Ikebana associations but now there are five different schools that fall under the VIA.

‘Ikebana International,’ the umbrella group that the VIA falls under, has schools in many large cities and puts on large shows throughout the world.

“Because Vancouver has a small population and a small group of Ikebana people, we started our own association,” says Glick.

“At 2 p.m. on the day, there will be a demonstration of what we’re doing to celebrate the unity of the organisation. There will be four teachers using the same materials and doing a demonstration for each school,” says Glick.

**Finding the school for you**

Glick also says that this shows how important it is to research which sensei you learn under.

“Each school has their own style of arrangement, and with

“You’re doing more than just flower arranging

*Judie Glick, President of the Vancouver Ikebana Association*

The group’s constitution – called “The Purpose” – is simple: to promote the awareness and appreciation of Ikebana in B.C. and to encourage its study in individual schools around Vancouver.

With some schools in Japan having operated for 500 years, this particular set of skills has been well established in Japan and is on its way here in Vancouver, with this month’s 50th year celebration of Ikebana.

five teachers in Vancouver it is very important to research well when choosing which school you’d like to join. Some work better for a different type of Ikebana, so you have to be careful and find what suits you,” she says.

Finding the materials to use for Ikebana can also be personal. “You have to seek it out and I think that’s the most important thing that you learn; sometimes you have to go looking for what you want,” says Glick.

According to Glick, one of the main benefits of Ikebana is the awareness it builds of the surrounding environment and the changing of seasons.

“It’s very much related to the seasons and we like things in the spring and fall when they are sort of beginning and ending. It’s our favourite time to get materials. You fall in love with flowers and of course we all appreciate the flowers in Vancouver,” she explains.

But it’s not all about the flowers. The main element in Ikebana flower arranging is the branch material and their lines.

“[Ikebana flower arrangers] are always looking for branch material. They’re always looking and seeing what they can do with it,” Glick says.

Of the upcoming ‘Spring Show,’ Glick says:

“[It is] a celebration of what the Vancouver Ikebana Association has been and we’re looking forward to people’s continued interest in Ikebana.”

Visit [www.vancouver-ikebana.ca](http://www.vancouver-ikebana.ca) for more information. A teacher’s directory is available at the show.



Photo courtesy of Joan Fairs

▲ Flower arrangement at Sangetsu School of Ikebana.



## Job Opening: General Manager

**The Company:**

City Opera Vancouver is a professional chamber opera company. We specialize in new and unusual repertoire, with an emphasis on Canadian themes and artists. We commission and produce mainstage opera, and give concerts throughout the year.

**We are now hiring our first General Manager**, and seek someone able to help realize the potential of a growing company. City Opera will maintain a strong volunteer component.

**Website & Company History:** [www.cityoperavancouver.com](http://www.cityoperavancouver.com)

**Competition Period:**

15 April to 15 May 2015

**Requested:**

1. Personal resumé and/or curriculum vitae, with three (3) letters of reference and contact information for each.
2. A brief statement of your interest in the position of General Manager.

Please forward to Janet Lea, President / [info@cityoperavancouver.com](mailto:info@cityoperavancouver.com)

## City Opera Vancouver: General Manager

**A. Responsibilities**

*Management And Leadership*

- Manage all aspects of the organization in accordance with its defined mission, mandate and objectives
- Attend all Board meetings to report on the status of ongoing projects, issues, and opportunities
- Maintain close communication with the Board of Directors
- Foster development of, and liaison with, new supporters, partners, volunteers, and audience

*General Administration, Operations And Finance*

- In collaboration with the Artistic Director, build and maintain the annual budget, subject to the approval of the Board
- With the oversight of Board Treasurer generate forecasts, cash flow projections, and financial reports
- Pay invoices and cheque requisitions
- Manage communication and correspondence with City Opera supporters, volunteers, partners and participants

*Production*

- Write contracts for artists including performers, designers and other freelance artists
- Liaise with Canadian Actors' Equity, Vancouver Musicians' Association, UBCP, and ACTRA
- Liaise with performance and rehearsal venues, box office, and Production Manager

*Marketing, Publicity, Communication*

- Contract and supervise the Marketing Coordinator, Publicist, Graphic Designer and Webmaster
- In collaboration with the Artistic Director, oversee the development and execution of ongoing and event-centered marketing plans and publicity
- Maintain database of donors, supporters, volunteers, and patrons

*Fundraising*

- Coordinate and contribute to the writing of grant applications to ensure that deadlines and content meet application criteria
- With the Artistic Director, act as liaison with government and private funding organizations to foster relationships and ensure awareness of guidelines, policy changes and new opportunities
- In collaboration with Artistic Director and Fundraising Committee, help develop and maintain database of potential funding sources, requirements, and deadlines
- In collaboration with the Fundraising Committee, assist in the organization of fundraising events

**B. Competencies**

- Knowledge of and passion for opera preferred
- Knowledge of theatrical production, arts marketing, and fundraising techniques
- Familiarity with Vancouver's arts community and funding organizations
- Highly motivated, with a strong work ethic, able to meet deadlines, and to work independently and collaboratively
- Highly organized, with superior time-management skills
- Positive, flexible and collegial - able to respond with humour and grace to unexpected demands or events
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Willingness and ability to work *irregular and flexible hours*, including evenings and weekends

**C. Job Description**

- Function as the hub of day-to-day operations, administration and management of City Opera
- Report to the Board of Directors
- Work collaboratively with the Artistic Director
- This is a half-time position, \$21,000 p.a. on contract - approximately 20 (twenty) hours per week, which could be combined with a part-time position in an allied arts organization

## The Source needs a cartoonist!

The Source is currently looking for a cartoonist for the English section to replace our regular “Spencie’s View” feature. Candidates should have previous experience creating politically-oriented cartoons and knowledge of British Columbian/Canadian politics and current events. Send your resume and samples of your previous work to [info@thelasource.com](mailto:info@thelasource.com) or [monique.kroeger@gmail.com](mailto:monique.kroeger@gmail.com).

# Local talent feeds burgeoning Vancouver comic arts scene

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

**The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival (VanCAF) brings together thousands of people to celebrate comic art every year. Run by the Vancouver Comic Arts Association, a non-profit organization that aims to connect the community with local comic artists, VanCAF fuels the expanding comic fanbase in Vancouver**

Shannon Campbell, president and event coordinator, explains that there is a particularly strong comic fanbase in Vancouver.

“Yes! I feel like once upon a time being into comics was something that was very exclusive to a certain crowd. But these days I just think comics are very accessible to everyone,” she says. “The fan culture in Vancouver is just as big as it is anywhere, and at the moment it’s huge.”

**A growing comic fanbase**

VanCAF started with 3,200 attendees in 2012, the year of its launch. Over the course of two years, it has more than doubled, hosting 8,000 attendees in 2014. This year, VanCAF is expecting approximately 10,000 attendees from all over the Lower Mainland, and is doubling the number of exhibitors from 92 in 2012 to 260.

“Anyone can walk in. We always get those people every year who had no idea it was even happening and just walk in off the street,” says Campbell.

The free admission makes VanCAF attractive to not only comic

lovers but to anyone who’s looking for a fun afternoon out.

“It’s easy to also just look at things like the Marvel movies – hugely successful and hugely accessible – but also even smaller indie projects are just kind of opening comics for everyone who might not have read comics before,” says Campbell.

VanCAF contributes to the overall comic scene in Vancouver by introducing people to the artform. As a free event, VanCAF draws in people who otherwise would not attend.

“I think Vancouver definitely has a market for it, but what’s large in Vancouver is the indie scene. We have an appetite for indie comics up the West Coast, especially in Portland and Seattle as well,” adds Campbell.

Because of VanCAF’s increasing popularity, the festival’s growth will soon become stunted, even with the generosity of the Roundhouse Community Centre, the location of this year’s event.

“Eventually there will be a breaking point because VanCAF is a non-profit show, so you’re limited to what space the parks board can provide for us,” Campbell says. “It’s going to grow, and it will keep growing as long as we can provide the space.”

**An inspirational local icon**

VanCAF has been a home to comic artist Camilla D’Errico’s work since 2012. A Vancouver-based urban contemporary painter, illustrator, character creator and more, D’Errico has become a top name in Vancouver’s comic world.



Photo courtesy of Camilla D’Errico

▲ “Beekeeper” by Camilla D’Errico.

“A lot of people are always very excited to know that Camilla’s coming,” says Campbell. “She’s a bit of a Vancouver mascot. People feel very possessive of her as a Vancouver icon.”

D’Errico’s work can be found on toys, accessories, clothes and more. Published by companies such as Random House, Tokyopop, Boom! Studios, Image Comics, IDW and Dark Horse, D’Errico also produces her own books, such as her most recent publication, *Tanpopo*.

“Camilla is the most successful merchandiser I have seen in her specific area,” says Campbell. “Just knowing that she is a self-made woman is very inspiration-

al to anyone. Especially in comics, where people basically become their own mini-empire.”

The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival will run May 23–24 at the Roundhouse Community Centre. ☞

For more information: [www.vancaf.com](http://www.vancaf.com)

**May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada!**

[www.explorasian.org](http://www.explorasian.org)

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FESTIVAL

This year we celebrate the Persian community at the Recognition Gala. Make sure that you do not miss the following events:

**MAY 11TH - 17TH, PERSIAN CARPETS, THE BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF ART IN HISTORY, UBC ALUMNI, ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE**  
Hear the history and see a demonstration of carpet weaving that has been handed down generation after generation. Trace the history of Persian carpets and see examples of different weaving techniques showcasing the cultural growth of the Persian civilization. Free, self-guided tour showcasing the Persian Carpets throughout the building.

**MAY 24TH, 2015 @ 6PM, MYSTERIES OF ETERNITY (اسرار ازل), CENTRE FOR PERSIAN ART (C.P.A), INLET THEATRE**  
A brief introduction to Khayam’s life and work history (one of the most known scientist and poet of Iran), as well as playing music videos and poem reading and live folklore music performance. [Ticket Purchase](#) / contact: [theatre@portmoody.ca](mailto:theatre@portmoody.ca) / 604.469.4722 Event enquiry: Kaveh Haghighat (604)780-2967

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE FOR THE RECOGNITION GALA.** You can support the closing event, our only fundraiser, by purchasing tickets or donating items to the silent auction/raffle. *Cost of Gala tickets--\$50.* Tickets will be available for sale at the Opening or can be ordered by emailing: [office.vahms@gmail.com?subject=Tickets%20-%20Recognition%20Gala](mailto:office.vahms@gmail.com?subject=Tickets%20-%20Recognition%20Gala).

On **MAY 29** get dressed up for the Recognition Gala featuring a great evening of Persian performances and refreshments at the [Inlet Theatre and Galleria in Port Moody](#).

► “Iranian culture” from page 1 says Mehran Shirazi, one of the group’s organizers.

The meetup group occasionally also attracts international participants, for instance from Russia, India or Mexico.

Besides the social activities, all three groups concentrate on events essential to Iranian culture, such as Yalda Night, the longest and darkest night of the year, which takes place in late December.

“We get together and make the night feel like a day,” says Naseri.

The last Yalda Night was organized by the SFU Iranian Club together with the UBC Persian Club. “Even our parents participated,” says Khoshnoudian.

At UBC, the celebration of Iranian New Year in March – Nowruz – attracted attention from non-Iranians as well.

“When we celebrated Nowruz, random people came to us and asked questions about our culture,” says Khoshnoudian.

**The centrality of family**

Shirazi is a 32-year-old PhD student at SFU, who came to Canada in 2009 to study. He notes that occasionally preserving Iranian traditions can cause problems. In his opinion, Iranian culture has many good aspects, such as Iranians’ ambition in terms of education, but also ones that he considers problematic.

“Too much love towards family members, for instance,” he says.

In his opinion, parents often interfere in all aspects of their children’s lives, even when they are adults. Also, young Iranians often give priority to their parents and siblings instead of their spouses.

“This ruins many marriages,” Shirazi adds.

Being married to a non-Iranian, Zohreh Bayatrizi, associate professor at the University of Alberta and a UBC graduate, faces different problems. For her, maintaining Iranian traditions is not always easy since she does not have Iranian family members in Canada.



Photo courtesy of Zohreh Bayatrizi

▲ Zohreh Bayatrizi and husband Derek visiting the ruins of Persepolis.

“I try to celebrate Nowruz. However, I don’t have any Iranian family or a lot of Iranian friends, so it’s tough to celebrate alone,” she says.

Despite the distance, Bayatrizi still maintains close ties to her family in Iran and visits her home country once a year with her children. While they don’t speak Farsi, Bayatrizi insists on passing Iranian hospitality and the importance of family on to them.

“They pick up on that when they are in Iran and they love it,” she says.

After the Iranian embassy was established in Canada in 1961, lots of Iranians came to Canada to study. Following the Iranian revolution in 1979, many immigrated to Canada for better economic opportunities and political refuge. The majority of Iranian Vancouverites live in North and West Vancouver.

Bayatrizi points out that nowadays the Iranian community is defined primarily by people who immigrate as skilled workers.

“I see a lot more Iranians in the downtown peninsula nowadays. There are many people who are coming with a lot of education and skills and a cosmopolitan outlook and they’re attracted to downtown living for these cultural and economic reasons,” says Bayatrizi. ☞

To learn more about the explorASIAN festival, visit [www.explorasian.org](http://www.explorasian.org).

# Dark comedy: Emotional journey of survival

by ALISON CHIANG

**Noticing the lack of positive energy being represented on stage or in literature, Drew Hayden Taylor, rather than complain or whine, decided to deal with contemporary Native issues in a more positive way. Taylor's *God and the Indian*, showing at the Firehall Arts Centre (May 20–30), is a story about Johnny, a Cree woman in her late forties, and her chance encounter with an Anglican priest who abused her many years ago in a residential school.**

Taylor wrote *God and the Indian* as a response to Firehall Arts Centre director Donna Spencer's call to write something as "serious as possible."

A little annoyed, Taylor says he went home and wrote the most depressing thing he could think of: the residential school issue.



▲ Award-winning author Drew Hayden Taylor.

"It was a darker topic than others I've worked on," says Taylor.

### Positive energy

The vast majority of stories coming out of the Native community when Taylor first started out in Native literature were "oppressed, depressed and suppressed."

Taylor, who hails from the Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario, is an award winning author of numerous plays, novels and publications.

Taylor's latest creation is such a serious topic, yet still has elements of humour to keep the audience engaged.

"It's humour that has allowed us (Aboriginals) to survive 500 years of colonization," says Taylor.

Taylor says he has been lucky to travel to over 130 Native communities across Canada and the US where he was greeted "with a laugh, a smile and joke."

"You can bang on the front door and people will ignore you, or you can go in the back door with a smile and be welcomed," says Taylor.

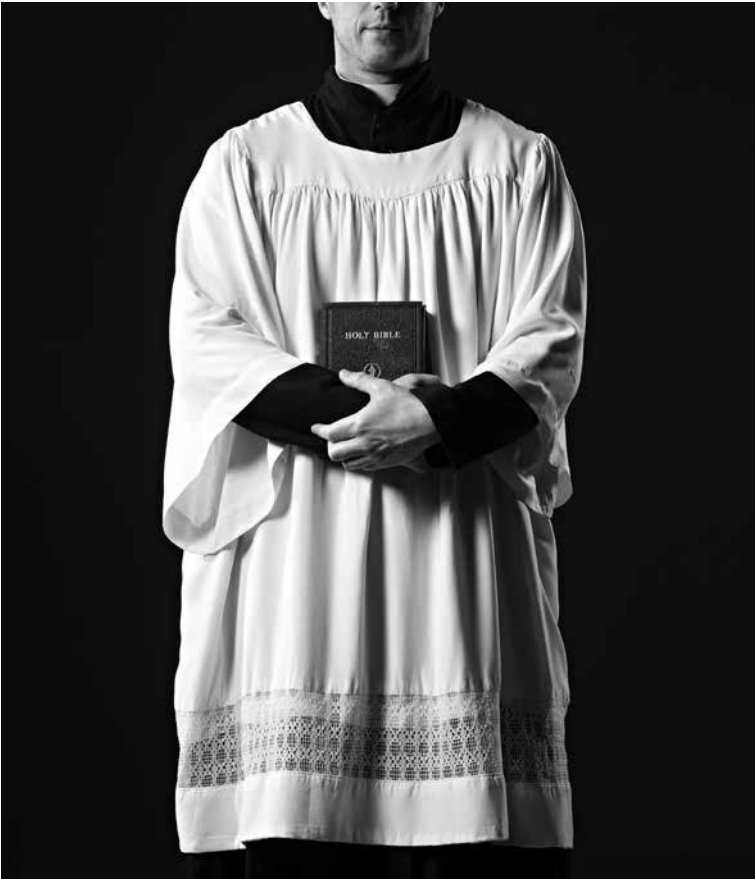
### A conversation: Actor and audience

Lisa C. Ravensbergen plays Johnny and says the character, at first read, can easily be played 'two dimensionally,' but that wasn't interesting or realistic for the actor.

"She's (Johnny) a survivor, as well as whip-smart and very trickster-like," says Ravensbergen.

Getting the role of Johnny was really about the right timing and circumstance.

"My curiosities led me through the script looking for clues – past



▲ *God and The Indian*, a play of survival and atonement.

and present – that would help flesh out a woman who is rooted in her heart and in her spirit, and in a past and a future full of hope," says Ravensbergen.

Originally from Manitoba and Ontario, Ravensbergen says it's an honour to raise her son on unseated Coast Salish territory. What she loves about the theatre is the 'middle ground.' It's when an actor brings what they know of a particular story and the audience brings whatever their knowledge is and it all comes together.

"In an hour and a half, we have a conversation where the audience is invited to be open to new truths or to reaffirm their own," says Ravensbergen, who has been acting professionally since 2001.

### Finding (dark) humour

Even though no one in his direct family ever attended residential schools, for his research, Taylor spoke with a lot of Aboriginal people and read a lot of literature. He even visited some residential

schools that have been reclaimed by Native people or torn down.

"It's impossible as a Native person in Canada not to be touched or aware of what happened," says Taylor.

Taylor originally wrote *God and the Indian* as a play for two men but says there weren't any older men available at that time to play Johnny. It was suggested a female character replace the male one.

"At first I was hesitant because I wrote what I wrote...but it opened up new and dynamic questions (with a female character)," says Taylor.

Taylor points out theatre is fun, collaborative work: where the writer provides the blueprint (an example: for a house) and the actor puts in the dry wall, the furniture – finishing the house.

"I'm excited to see what she'll (Ravensbergen) bring to the character of Johnny," says Taylor.

Taylor says Johnny is a woman who was victimized and doing her best to deal with it. From his research, Taylor learned many survivors are looking for acknowledgment of what happened to them.

*God and the Indian* is a play in which Taylor says he didn't want to hide anything.

"I want the play to be like a courtroom drama. Go in and give the evidence, and the audience leaves the play having learnt something, and having been on an emotional journey and thinking who's right and who's wrong," says Taylor. ✍

For further information: [www.firehallartscentre.ca](http://www.firehallartscentre.ca)

# Capturing what lies beneath the surface

by FLORENCE HWANG

**To some extent, photographer Greg Girard is drawn to the contradiction between the surface of a city and what the underlying reality might be. He explores this idea in his exhibit *Richmond/Kowloon* featured at explorASIAN at the Richmond Art Gallery.**

"A reality might reveal itself through various cracks that might appear, both figuratively and literally, in less guarded moments or places," he says.

He is attracted to situations or places that present a world that is hidden in plain sight.

"A hidden place might be overlooked because it has fallen out of favour, or it could be so commonplace as to be almost invisible, or it could be an embarrassment and a willful blindness behind

it," says Girard, whose work has been published in numerous magazines, including Asiaweek, TIME and Newsweek.

### Featured exhibit at explorASIAN

Between assignments, from 1987 to 1992, Girard photographed in Hong Kong, particularly Kowloon Walled City.

"It is one of Hong Kong's most extraordinary communities: over 33,000 people living in 300 interconnected high-rise buildings built entirely without the contribution of a single architect," he says.

In collaboration with architect and photographer Ian Lambot, Girard published "City of Darkness: Life in Kowloon Walled City," which documented the final years of the Walled City in photographs, interviews and essays. Kowloon was demolished in 1993.

"Our book became the only comprehensive record of what life was in that very compromised, but fascinating place," he says.

In 2014, Girard and Lambot updated and expanded the book with more historical material, new essays and previously unseen photographs. This latest book is titled "City of Darkness Revisited."

Girard says he chose to pair photographs of Richmond and Kowloon together in his exhibit because they are lesser known places with a better known whole – Vancouver, in Richmond's case, and Hong Kong, for Kowloon. He points out that the links between Vancouver and Hong Kong are ongoing in terms of family, trade, social and cultural ties.

Hong Kong was the first foreign place Girard visited in 1974, and he lived there for nearly 15 years.

"I wanted to bring together some of my earliest work, especially that which looked at the Kowloon Walled City, with the City of Richmond, which I had been invited to photograph for a project sponsored by the Richmond Art Gallery," he says.

He notes that on the surface Richmond and Kowloon appear to have little in common, but both were shaped by migration (the Walled City was made up of immigrants from southern China) and were known more by reputation than by the people who actually spent time there.

"The Walled City was a place where outsiders never ventured,"

he says. "It was considered a dangerous and threatening place. Richmond, on the other hand, is a place many people simply drive through on their way to and from the airport. So, although the reasons were completely different, each place was more or less avoided unless you had special interest, knowledge or other reasons to visit."

### Themes

Girard says that migration and the reproduction of the familiar are two themes that he addresses in his work. He has noticed the way outsiders or newcomers create – intentionally or unintentionally – physical and social spaces in their new home countries.

Another theme he deals with is how rapid change causes disruptions.

"There is always going to be a certain tension in any community going through rapid change, whether the changes are physical or social or both," he says.

He points out that in recent decades this has been the case for Chinese cities because of an increased pace of migration from rural areas to urban centres, higher living standards and a newly affluent class.

"What we see in Richmond is connected to these changes in China. We see it in many other places in the world as well, and will continue to," Girard says. ✍

Until June 28  
For more info: [www.explorasian.org](http://www.explorasian.org)



▲ Kowloon Walled City, Children on Rooftop, 1989.

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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.

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





# A musical journey with Boris Sichon

by AUDREY TUNG

From May 11–17, multi-instrumental performer Boris Sichon will be showcasing a selection from his eclectic collection of instruments from all over the world as part of the Jewish Community Centre’s Festival Ha’Rikud. Utilizing the diverse array of instruments accumulated from his globe-trotting days, Sichon’s music showcases folk music styles from a wide variety of cultures.

At the event, Sichon will feature 30 different wind, percussion and string instruments from different corners of the world. They are used for a myriad of styles, including Brazilian Samba, Classical Indian, Chinese music and African drums.

The instruments are part of his musical collection of over 300 items, each of which holds a special appeal to Sichon.

“There are no favourites! When I play each of them I am totally focused in the moment – I love them all,” he says.

### An expanding musical vocabulary

Sichon’s life has always revolved around music and the performing arts. Before he became a curator, composer and performer of world music, he grew up in Ukraine (part of the former Soviet Union) and studied at the

experimentation, different combinations of instruments, and it opens up many more possibilities,” he explains.

### A world explorer

Throughout his life, Sichon spent many years travelling extensively as a musician, which enabled him to continuously expand his musical palette and develop an encyclopedic knowledge of the global musical landscape.

His global musical journey began while working with the Russian National Folkloric Band as a stage musician, dancer and singer. He had the opportunity to visit and perform in 25 countries spanning five continents, where he began to collect local instruments and learned to play traditional music from native musicians. He then continued touring Europe with the Footsbarn Travelling Theatre from France as a musician and actor, obtaining more instruments and musical information in the process.

“When I travelled countries like India and [those throughout] South America, I found that they could communicate beautiful things through simple stuff,” says Sichon.

### A Jewish heritage

His Jewish roots also form a large part of his musical identity. In the Soviet Union, he was a member of the Moscow Jewish Theatre. He spent five years in Israel,



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**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](http://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 Choirs, to DeCoro, a new choral experience for adults, there is a place for singers to share a sense of spirit, artistry, heart and community.

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▲ Boris Sichon, composer and performer of world music.

Academy of Music in Saint Petersburg to become a classically trained percussionist. During this time, he worked with the Saint Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, and even performed under world-renowned composers and conductors such as Dmitri Shostakovich.

Despite his admiration for Western classical music, Sichon soon left the strictures of this genre to explore the realm of world music, which he believed allowed for more musical experimentation.

“Classical music is the most beautiful music in the world. It is incredible, but there is not much freedom. Ethnic music is very interesting and more colourful. There is lots of space for improv,

where he composed music for the Habima National Theatre in addition to teaching at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

“My mom spoke Yiddish, and being Jewish is a huge influence and a huge part of me. This year I performed at [Vancouver’s 15th annual] Chutzpah Festival, where there was a beautiful program about the Holocaust,” he says.

After arriving in Canada in 2004, Sichon found his musical niche without missing a beat. Here, he continues to share his passion for music through performing, leading workshops, participating in festivals and composing music for theatre. ✂

For more information visit: [www.jccgv.com](http://www.jccgv.com)

Vancouver New Music in association with Vancouver Soundwalk Collective presents

## Spring Soundwalks 2015

Sunday, May 24 + May 31, 2 PM | FREE

### Re-listening to Vancouver

Sunday, May 24, 2015; 2PM

Led by Jorma Kujala

Meet by the tennis courts Andy Livingstone Park Fieldhouse  
89 Expo Boulevard (between Carrall and Quebec Street)

Skirting boundaries of time and space, this soundwalk will investigate neighbourhoods and communities along the peripheral east side of Vancouver’s downtown core, in part retracing and “re-listening” to a 1973 walk entitled A Vancouver Soundwalk. This approximately 60 to 90 minute exploration weaves through diverse soundscapes, both constructed and natural, inviting the listener to become immersed in the totality of the sonic environment, and to sensually imagine, respond to, and hear often overlooked social environments, communities and other urban places.

### Parks, Trees, and Tankers

Sunday, May 31, 2015; 2PM

Led by Helena Krobath

Meet on the path by the tennis courts at Burrard View Park (Penticton and Wall Street)

Burrard Inlet is a corridor of shallow water and mountain peaks formed by the last ice age. It was home of the Skwxwú7mesh and Tsleil-waututh Nations for several thousand years before the arrival of European explorers in the eighteenth century. Now, million dollar homes perch the tip of this stunning view. The area also takes the brunt of the industrial cargo racket that, when active, transforms the neighbourhood soundscape from the crest of the slope all the way to the shore.

Along the banks of Burrard Inlet is New Brighton Park, an active public space just a stone’s throw from a tanker port and rail yard. Set among harbour and mountain views, this soundwalk contemplates sounds of urban green space at the foot of industrial activity.

[www.newmusic.org](http://www.newmusic.org)

May 12–26, 2015

# Cultural Calendar

by SALENA TRAN

Celebrate diversity by attending one of these events this May! From art series to festivals, there's something for every member of the family. Enjoy a little bit of what the Lower Mainland has to offer at these fun cultural events.

\* \* \*

**Zen Embroidery (ZENSIL) by Yijun (Tony) Tang from Suzhou**  
May 1–31  
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden  
578 Carrall St., Vancouver  
www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

Yijun Tang is the founder of Zen Embroidery. This new art form is intended for individuals to find themselves while creating wonderful pieces of art. Combining his two well-known skills, Tang infuses embroidery with abstract oil paintings. For more information, please visit the website.

\* \* \*

**Dimasalang III International Artist Group**  
May 2–July 4  
Surrey Art Gallery  
13750 88 Ave., Surrey  
www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation

Dimasalang III is an international artist group that consists of Filipino-Canadians. The artistic work shows contemporary scenes of the busy streets of the Philippines. The exhibition's theme focuses on freedom and shows human tenderness in the crowds of Filipino

markets. For more information on the exhibition, please visit the website.

\* \* \*

**Pastel Artists Canada 2015 Juried Exhibition**  
May 12–24  
Federation Gallery  
1241 Cartwright St., Granville Island, Vancouver  
www.artists.ca

The Pastel Artists Canadian Juried Exhibition takes place at beautiful Granville Island. The exhibition displays the vibrancy and versatility of pastel paintings. With free admission, come enjoy the beautiful pastel works of multiple artists.

\* \* \*

**The Sensationalists**  
May 12–16



▲ Performers engage and involve audiences in *The Sensationalists*.

**The Cultch**  
1895 Venables St., Vancouver  
www.thecultch.com  
(604) 251-1363

The Sensationalists performance is an experimental dance creation brought to you by the 605 Collective and Theatre Replacement team. The performance requires audience participation and mashes up the relationship between the audience and the performers. The Sensationalists is a performance that is compelling and unexpected.

\* \* \*

**Aché Brasil**  
May 14, 12 p.m.  
Scotiabank Dance Centre  
677 Davie St., Vancouver  
www.thedancecentre.ca

Part of the Discover Dance! Series, Aché Brasil is coming to the Scotiabank Dance Theatre. Filled with bright colours and Brazilian rhythms, this show promises excitement and loud music. The company will perform traditional folk dances as well as the martial art/dance combination, capoeira. For more information on tickets, please visit the website.

\* \* \*

**Scotland Road**  
May 14–23  
First Impressions Theatre  
4360 Gallant Ave., North Vancouver  
www.firstimpressionstheatre.com

This show, on stage for a limited time, tells the story of a woman found floating in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean. She utters only one word when found: "Titanic." This play takes the audience back to the early 20th century and explores one of the world's greatest mysteries and tragedies.

\* \* \*

**Cinderella**  
May 15 & 30  
Centennial Theatre & Surrey Arts Centre  
www.coastalcityballet.com

Watch a beloved children's tale come to life on stage in Irene Schneider's *Cinderella*. With elaborate costumes and a classical full-length ballet, this story will rekindle childhood memories. Watch the "rags to riches" tale in person, accompanied by flawless ballet.

\* \* \*

**Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair**  
May 15–18  
Cloverdale Fair Grounds  
6050 176th St., Surrey  
www.cloverdaleroдео.com

Take a trip to the Wild West at



Photo courtesy of Mary Downe

▲ David Dumbrell's automata is one of the works on display at *Artists in Our Midst*.

the Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair. The four-day festival is packed with fun activities for all ages. Watch the world's top ranked cowboys and cowgirls compete in multiple events. With sights to see and tons of activities, this is an event you won't want to miss!

\* \* \*

**Sujit Vaidya Presents Swapna-Maya**  
May 16  
Scotiabank Dance Centre  
677 Davie St., Vancouver  
www.sujitvaidya.com

Sujit Vaidya is a freelance performer who trains in *Swapna-Maya* in Chennai, India, and will perform for one day at the Scotiabank Dance Centre. Come experience the complex and intriguing dance by Sujit Vaidya and other special guests.

\* \* \*

**Asian Heritage Month Walking Tours**  
May 19–24  
Powell St. Community, Vancouver  
vancouverheritagefoundation.org  
(604) 264-9642

Explore the historic Powell St. Community with a guided tour by John Atkin, Maurice Guibord and Bob Sung. Learn more about Oppenheimer Park, the Chinese Cultural Centre and Chinatown. This free event is open to all, so gather a few friends and learn

more about what makes this neighbourhood unique!

\* \* \*

**Surrey International Children's Festival**  
May 21–23  
Surrey Arts Centre & Bear Creek Park  
13750 88th Ave., Surrey  
www.surrey.ca/childrensfestival

Celebrate youth and fun at Surrey's International Children's Festival! With performances by artists, fun crafts and many other attractions, it'll surely have kids jumping for joy. The festival also includes many performances from community participants. Attend one of the many workshops, booths and performances!

\* \* \*

**Artists in Our Midst: 2015 Exhibit + Open Studio**  
May 20, 23 & 24  
Roundhouse Community Centre  
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver  
www.artistsinourmidst.com  
(604) 713-1800

For the 23rd year, Artists in Our Midst holds its annual exhibit and open studio. The exhibit and sale offer a variety of paintings, ceramics, jewelry and photography. Join artists and art enthusiasts alike and go behind the scenes of the stories and inspirations behind the art. For more information on the exhibit and the art, please visit the website.

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# Shore to Shore

Shore to Shore is an amazing sculpture with an equally amazing history. The official unveiling was in Brockton Point, Stanley Park on April 25, 2015. The artist is Ts'uts'umutl Luke Marston, an accomplished young Coast Salish artist who lives in Ladysmith, B.C.

The history of Shore to Shore begins with Luke's great great grandfather Joe Silvey who came to B.C. from the Portuguese Azores Islands on a whaling ship. It was a way for young men to leave an impoverished life and hope for something better. But for "Portuguese Joe," as he later became known, the something better would have to wait till he reached B.C. Most young men on the whaling ships from the Azores were paid little – if anything – and were worked like slaves. Probably because of these conditions, Joe jumped ship in Vancouver around 1860.

Joe's story is one rooted in a Portuguese culture based on resourcefulness and respect for family. Joe welcomed the challenges of his new life and tried gold mining, did some whaling in Burrard Inlet, and had a saloon in Gastown called Hole in the Wall, which competed with Gassy Jack's saloon. Gastown is named after Gassy Jack Deighton. Managing a saloon was not an easy feat for the weak of heart as Vancouver was really the "wild west" in the 1860s. Another important achievement of Joe's was the introduction of seine fishing nets to B.C. This enabled the mass catching of fish, especially herring. He was the first in B.C. to obtain an official seine fishing license.

Joe soon had aspirations to marry and not long after arriving in B.C., he married a Coast Salish woman of Musqueam and Squamish background. Her name was Khalinaht, and she was of noble ancestry. Her grandfather was Squamish Chief Joe Kiapilano and her uncle Sam Kwee-ahkult was chief at the Squamish Xwayxway village on the south shore of Burrard Inlet, that would later become Stanley Park. This marriage had the blessing of Chief Kiapilano and was a completely Aboriginal ceremony. Mixed marriages were



certainly not popular with mainstream B.C. society, and probably not with all Aboriginals. But times were changing, and the Aboriginal population had been decimated by disease brought by the Europeans. This might have been seen as a pragmatic way of continuance.

Joe soon moved with his new wife to a village in today's Brockton Point area of Stanley Park, traditionally known as Xwayxway. The future Stanley Park had been home to the Coast Salish for thousands of years. They had villages and places where they fished seasonally. As late as 1870, Khalinaht's daughter Elizabeth recalls a potlatch in Stanley Park, where Lumberman's Arch is now located, attended by thousands of Coast Salish from all over the lower mainland. Where Joe lived with Khalinaht, there were other immigrants of European, Chinese, and Hawaiian ancestry who had mixed marriages with Coast Salish women, and they mutually supported each other. This general area was also a sacred place to the the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people who were all connected by family and cultural ties.

Khalinaht died young from tuberculosis, leaving Joe with two children. He soon remarried another Salish woman, Kwatleematt

from the Sechelt First Nation, and had nine more children with her. Joe went on to become the first Portuguese to receive British citizenship, and soon gained a sizeable amount of land on Reid Island, just off the north coast of Galiano Island. He moved there with Kwatleematt around 1879 when rising racism towards mixed married couples was making life difficult at Brockton Point. With the help of Kwatleematt he continued to be successful. He built his own sloop, the Morning Star and sailed up and down the coast making money from selling fish and fish oil. His family farmed on Reid Island and he also had a little store there where he sold supplies to other fisherman.

New immigrants like Joe are always praised with the building of B.C.'s society. This is praiseworthy but it should also be appreciated that the Coast Salish had a completely successful society with a highly developed culture before any immigrant set foot in this area. And the Aboriginal wives and Aboriginal people in general were key to the success of the new immigrants like Joe. They worked very hard in the new resource industries like lumber and fishing. And they had the traditional skills and knowledge of how to hunt, fish, and live off the land to

impart to new settlers that made the building of B.C. a success.

Inspired by his family's desire to have something substantial to commemorate the history of Joe Silvey, Luke Marston's sculpture is a monument to the cooperative relationship of both his Coast Salish and Portuguese ancestors. It was a difficult project to achieve nearly five years in the making. First carved in cedar and later cast in bronze, it is over five meters in height and weighs over 1,800 kg. The three figures in the sculpture represent Joe and his two wives. They are standing beside the three fins of an oversized cod lure which come together to form a triangular peak. This peak represents Mount Pico on the Azores and simultaneously B.C. mountain peaks. The "peak" is in the form of a carved head which represents the eagle in Coast Salish culture and the açor, a raptor, in Portuguese culture. The floor of the pedestal and the outside circle around the sculpture's base were designed by Luke and executed by Azores stone mason Carlos Menezes. The floor of the pedestal has an eagle/açor design. The 6.4 metre outside circle is a black and white stone mosaic Coast Salish/Portuguese motif of swirling waves. It represents the shore to shore concept of the sculpture from the At-

lantic shores of the Azores to the Pacific shores of B.C.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by many Coast Salish, some of whom are direct descendants of Joe who has more than 500 in B.C. There were representatives of Portugal and the Azores, as well as local representatives, including the lieutenant governor of B.C., and Vancouver's consul general of Portugal. There was a Coast Salish blanketing ceremony honouring all those significantly involved. You can view people with blankets in the background of the picture. A Salish dancer can be seen spreading down feathers to bless the grounds that are being walked on and to bring good feeling to those who stand on the grounds. It was also a blessing of protection for the people who where being blanketed. Later Portuguese folkloric dancers were performing on the same mosaic circle as the Salish dancer.

There is much more to the sculpture and its symbols but it is best viewed in its natural surrounding at Brockton Point. For more information on Luke Marston and the sculpture visit [www.shoretoshore.ca](http://www.shoretoshore.ca)

Don Richardson

# Soto Ayam



Back before the Second World War, when Indonesia was called the Dutch East Indies and moving abroad was still the decision of a lifetime, my great grandmother put on her 'naughty shoes,' as we say in Dutch, and

went. She bravely moved around the world by herself, fell in love with the country and her future husband, had three children and ran a hotel, right up until the war changed everything. So even though you might not be able to tell from looking at me, I have deeply rooted family history in Indonesia. Roots that also carry a desire for international adventure, a profound love for hospitality and, of course, food. Indonesia has some of the best in the world. You have not lived until you've had goat satay, grilled over hot coals, with spicy peanut sauce. Due to goat not being a particularly popular ingredient in B.C. cooking, I give you Indonesian chicken soup for the soul.

### Ingredients (serves 6)

- 5 chicken thighs, bone in

- 2 kaffir lime leaves
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves of garlic
- a 4 cm piece of fresh ginger, grated
- lemongrass, about 15 cm
- 1 tbs ground coriander seeds
- 1 tbs ground cumin
- 1 tbs turmeric

### Garnish

- Bean sprouts
- Spring onion
- Fried onion (store bought or homemade)
- Hard boiled eggs
- Rice
- Lime

### Method

1. Fill a large soup pot with cold water. Add the chicken: bone, skin, and all. Bring to a boil, turn down to simmer. Bruise the lem-

- ongrass with the back of your knife and add to the pot. Add lime leaves. Leave to simmer for about 30 minutes, without stirring. Skim off any impurities.
2. Meanwhile, prepare the spice paste by chopping onion and garlic till very small. Add grated ginger, coriander and cumin. Stir to form a paste, use a mortar if you have one. In a small pan, heat some vegetable oil and fry your spice paste for about 5 minutes on medium heat. You want to start smelling the spices, but be careful not to burn them.
3. Fish the chicken thighs out of the broth. Discard the skin. Shred the chicken and set aside. Put the bones back into the pot. Add your fried spice paste and salt to taste, or if you prefer, a bouillon cube. Let simmer for another 30 minutes or longer if

- you have the time.
4. Prepare the garnishes. This soup is served with an array of garnishes, added to the bowl before adding your broth. Of course you can switch it up, but traditionally a Soto Ayam is served with bean sprouts (washed), spring onions (sliced), cooked rice (or glass noodles), hard boiled eggs, lime wedges, and fried onions (chopped small and shallow fried till brown). And of course a good handful of the shredded chicken you have taken off the bones in step 3.
5. Strain the broth. Taste and season to taste. You can either prepare your bowls in the kitchen to serve or let your diners make their own at the table before adding the broth. Selamat Makan!