



Birdie, Set, Swat: a game of badminton

by KATY THOMPSON

Badminton, according to two local coaches, is the second most popular sport in the world after soccer. Vancouver offers many clubs and sports facilities for people of all ages and skills to play badminton, whether recreationally or competitively. Yet, in Vancouver, the majority of badminton players are of Chinese descent.

Ram Nayyar, born in Edmonton to a family of South Asian descent, serves as the head coach at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club as well as the High Performance Director for Badminton Canada. He says that badminton is huge in China and many parts of Asia.

“It is to that region what hockey is to Canada,” he says.

Alvin Lau, a coach at the Vancouver Racquets Club (VRC) and an on-call high school business teacher, adds that the Vancouver-based club is also primarily comprised of Asian members.

“Non-Asian players stick out like a sore thumb,” he says.

Diverse origins

According to the Badminton World Federation, badminton stems from battledore and shuttlecock, a game played in ancient European and Asian civilizations that involves two people hitting a shuttlecock back and forth with a bat to keep it in the air. Battledore and shuttlecock was a particularly popular pastime among the upper class in 17th century England.



▲ Canadian Open with Alvin Lau and Duncan Yao.

Contemporary badminton took its form in the 1800s from an Indian game known as Poona, which introduced a net over which to hit the shuttlecock, explains

Nayyar. British military officers stationed in India brought the game back to England where it was popularized after the Duke of Beaufort's guests played it at

his estate, named Badminton, in Gloucestershire, England.

The 1930s saw a rise in popularity of badminton internationally, particularly in Denmark, the U.S. and Canada. The International Badminton Federation was formed in 1934, but badminton was not recognized as an Olympic sport until it was played at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Universal appeal, Asian dominance

“North Americans don't watch badminton too much because we don't do so well at it,” says Lau.

Nevertheless badminton is played widely, both throughout Canada and internationally. The game's appeal ranges from the concept itself to the impressive speeds reached by shuttlecocks – some travelling in excess of 400 km/h – to its reputation as a lifetime sport, with players ranging from ages under five to over ninety.

Badminton's particular popularity among the Chinese population in Vancouver can be attributed to a couple of factors, according to Lau. He says that many Asians decide to pick up the racquet for the first time because they like the challenge of a technical sport.

“You don't see results instantaneously,” says Lau.

Also, unlike sports such as football and basketball where being a larger person is advantageous, badminton attracts many smaller, less traditionally athletic Asians who can learn to excel at the speed

See “Badminton” page 9 ➤

Verbatim

Understanding the beauty of difference

by JACQUELINE SALOMÉ

Vancouver is often labeled one of the most diverse cities in Canada. Are we ever lucky! Our multicultural coexistence provides us with exposure to a plethora of different cultures, cuisines, lifestyles and languages that ultimately enrich our daily lives. Our city allows us to feel like global citizens in our local environment and provides us a humbling home of heterogeneity.

We all see Vancouver's diversity on a daily basis. This diversity can manifest itself culturally, ethnically, politically, socially, economically or otherwise, and every day you are a part of it. But how often do we genuinely experience this diversity and multiculturalism, rather than act as a bystander to it? How often do we take a moment to learn and understand each other's cultures on more than a surface level?

In my opinion, many in Vancouver see the diversity and multiculturalism around them, but do not seem to make much of an effort to engage with it. In other words, although our city boasts extensive pluralism, we lack meaningful cross-cultural understanding and connection. You may sit next to someone of a different ethnicity on the Skytrain, but do you strike up a conversation? Do you make an effort to learn about their unique experience?

Oftentimes living in a multicultural environment can invoke a strong sense of pride in one's own culture. People want to celebrate the uniqueness and the importance of their beliefs, their history and their traditions – or in the case of my Dutch heritage, justify the practicality of wooden shoes and prove that the tulip really is the world's greatest flower. People want to feel a sense of inclusion. They want

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Cricket, a passion for all ages
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Community Profile

The Slovenian Society celebrates cultural sharing at 18th annual European Festival

by ALISON CHIANG

Known for their folk dancing, love of music, food and hospitality, local Slovenians have found their home away from home at the Slovenian Society of Vancouver. As one of almost 30 countries participating at this year's European Festival in Burnaby, Slovenia, represented by the Slovenian Society, will share their heritage with visitors in a variety of Cultural Exhibition activities.

The Slovenian Society of Vancouver was established in 1958 by Slovenian immigrants who wanted a place to call their own in the Lower Mainland. Joe Herceg, the current president of the Slovenian Society, says Slovenians in the 1950s made a week-long trip by boat from their home country to find a better life in Canada. Many settled in and around the Halifax area before migrating west to Vancouver.

"The most determined group landed in Vancouver because they were drawn to the nice climate and the scenery. The lush mountains and water reminded them of back home," says Herceg, who has been involved with the organization since 1975. "It was a struggle for at least 10–14 years, meeting in private homes, basements and renting out venues for meetings and events."

Luck changed one day when a wealthy woman and her husband saw a Presbyterian church for sale and decided to buy it for the Slovenian Society. Today, it serves as the centre of all Slovenian Society activities.

A community feel at the European Festival

Darja Zlindra, cultural coordinator at the Slovenian Society, says the European Festival brings everyone together; it's about teaching each other about different cultures and histories.

"Each culture brings forth something of their own, and when you perform, you feel the [warmth] and the public sees the confidence of that culture and it's appreciated," says Zlindra, who first became involved with the society as a singer in 1992 and has served on the committee for the past five years.

As the cultural coordinator, Zlindra organizes cultural events both within the Slovenian centre and outside it.

"If we keep it inside, it's very internal – we want to share the in-



▲ Young musicians to perform at European Festival.

terests of performers and members with the community so we can learn from one another," says Zlindra.

At the European Festival, Zlindra says, the Slovenian Society will have a cultural booth complete with souvenirs typical of the culture as well as informative pamphlets on Slovenia and travel.

"[The festival is] a wonderful opportunity for Slovenians and other cultures to show their cultures to one another," says Vilko Macek, the society's secretary and a teacher of Slovenian language at the centre. "We're doing all we can to preserve Slovenian language, culture and tradition. Part of that is to show it other nationalities."

Herceg says Slovenians are very warm and sociable people who often provide the food, music and dance at the centre of all gatherings.



▲ Traditional Slovenian costumes.

"Whether it's in our homes or at the centre, you're going to be dancing Polka for sure," says Herceg.

True love leads to Vancouver

When Herceg was in his early 20s, his girlfriend, whom he met while he was working in Austria, broke the news to him that she had a father living in Vancouver and that she would join him in Canada.

"I was terrified," says Herceg.

Eight months later, Herceg completed the necessary paperwork and moved to Vancouver. He later married his girlfriend.

"Thankfully it all worked out," says Herceg, who is now a father and a grandfather.

Herceg's first memories of Vancouver include a rainy afternoon in 1966 when he first arrived and began taking English language classes at a school in downtown Vancouver.

He recalls a very kind, retired English teacher who helped him get his first job as a bakery clerk on Granville Street.

"It was a huge help and morale booster that somebody – a complete stranger – would step up and help out like that. I will never forget that," says Herceg.

His current role includes leading the executive committee as well as helping with membership in general, membership details and event organization throughout the year. Membership numbers, says Herceg, are dropping.

"It depends on how many young people we can recruit in our society as the population is declining," says Herceg. ✍

For more information:
www.europeanfestival.ca
www.vanslosoc.ca

Erratum

With regards to last issue's article "Dark comedy: Emotional journey of survival" by Alison Chiang: the play *God and the Indian* was written in response to Yvette Nolan's challenge.

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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

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Associate Publishers Saeed Dyanatkar (Digital), Monique Kroeger (Print)
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New study shows problems for transgender youth

by SANDRA ZIMMERMANN

In May, the Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre of UBC published a national study focusing on Canada's transgender youth and their well-being. While the results show that transgender youth face significant physical and mental health issues, they



Photo courtesy of Morgane Oger

▲ Morgane Oger, 47, came out as transgender only a few years ago.

also indicate that a supportive environment is essential. Morgane Oger, a transgender rights activist from Vancouver, believes the study is essential.

The Canadian Trans Youth Health Survey, the first of its kind, was a national online survey conducted by researchers from several Canadian universities and community organizations. The survey included 923 trans youth participants between 14 and 25. It showed the problems trans youth regularly face, such as discrimination because of their gender identity or their appearance, sexual harassment and cyberbullying.

Morgane Oger believes the study is crucial, "It's a very good study as it shows the evidence. Now we can make a case," she says. Oger is the chair of the Trans Alliance Society, a spokesperson for the B.C. Safer Schools Coalition, executive member of the Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council and a member of Vancouver's LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee. Having come out as a woman only a few years ago, she is aware of the problems transgender people encounter.

Lack of acceptance

Oger, 47, believes being transgen-

der today is similar to being gay in the 1950s when it comes to lack of acceptance. She points out that while transgender people are usually safe in Vancouver, there are many other places where that is not the case. France, her coun-

“ I don't know a transgender doctor or lawyer. But transgender youth nowadays hopefully have a chance.

Morgane Oger, transgender rights activist

try of origin, is an example. Oger says that the biggest problem for today's transgender youth is the lack of support from the previous generation, the generation that raised and influenced their peers. She hopes that today's transgender youth will have a genuine chance instead of being marginalized for no reason like her own generation was.

"I don't know a transgender doctor or lawyer. But transgender youth nowadays hopefully have a chance," says Oger.

While there are a few communities and organizations that aim to help transgender people, they are often limited in their possibilities due to financial problems. The Trans Alliance Society and the Catherine White

Holman Centre do not receive any government funding. The Trans Alliance Society, whose focus is on legal issues, regularly organizes fundraising events. Whereas the Holman Centre, which is volunteer-run, aims to

"The policy maintains the principle of respecting students' gender identities and offers more specific strategies on things like language and pronoun use and gender inclusive space," explains Jordan. She is certain that this

provide free wellness services to transgender people. Oger notes that nowadays in Vancouver, parents of transgender youth are usually very involved in supporting their children, whereas in the past, teenagers were often abandoned.

Changes in Vancouver's schools

In 2014, the Vancouver School Board approved a new policy for transgender students.

"The policy was implemented to make schools a safer place for all students by creating understanding and respect for sexual orientation and gender diversity," says Sharalyn Jordan, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education of Simon Fraser University.

way, students learn about the respect for others needed to live in a plural democracy.

"The schools are currently in the process of building non-gendered spaces such as dressing rooms and washroom. They also train staff to not separate gender anymore and let students choose their pronouns," says Oger.

Oger believes that the changes are helpful as they allow students to be more confident and study in a harmonious environment. ✎

To read more about the study, please follow the link: <http://news.ubc.ca/2015/05/06/supportive-families-and-schools-critical-in-protecting-transgender-youth-health-ubc-study/>



► "Verbatim" from page 1

to be a part of a like-minded group of individuals with whom they can share this cultural patriotism and relate to a common identity. The desire to transcend individualism in order to form a collective is, arguably, only natural.

I believe that a celebration of one's culture and pride in one's identity is absolutely wonderful. I believe that it is important and simply enjoyable to celebrate your shared identity with others.

I do, however, think that our city's residents have a tendency to turn blindly inward to their own cultural collective. Not unique to Vancouver, this phenomenon seems com-

stereotyping seems to be a reflection of our lack of understanding for one another and the subsequent assumptions that we apply to the "other."

I think that there is a place for other cultures or other collectives, though I believe it is important that these collectives do not exist like oil and water. I think our city has more room for cross-cultural learning, for conversation and for appreciating peoples' true identities that exist between the lines of stereotypical labels. We are blessed to live together in a city with such an extensive culmination of uniqueness, and we should seize the opportunities for learning and understanding that come with it.



▲ Kite flown flags in Vnaier Park illustrate Vancouver's unique diversity.

mon in multicultural environments. We see mutual tolerance and peaceful coexistence, but we also see a wariness of difference or an indifference towards understanding it. I often hear our city's residents tossing around stereotypes of those in different groups than their own, regardless of how those groups are defined. This

We need to remind each other of the beauty of difference and the opportunity it presents to disrupt the mundane. Attempts to understand one another's experiences can only serve to better them, reducing the discrimination that arises as a consequence of ignorance. In my opinion, this is our mutual obligation. ✎

Photo by Proggie, Flickr



Left Bank



DERRICK O'KEEFE

Christy Clark's LNG economic miracle turned out to be a mirage

Christy Clark's come-from-behind election win in 2013 was based on false economic projections. Just three months before that provincial vote, in February 2013, her government made a promise of windfall revenues from the rapid development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.

In a press release at the time, the BC Liberals assured British Columbians, "Our LNG industry is quickly developing," and predicted this new industry would deliver "approximately \$1 trillion in cumulative GDP within British Columbia over the next 30 years and that means more than \$100 billion will flow directly to the Prosperity Fund." That \$100 billion, we were told, would fund public services and pay off the province's debt.

Earlier, on May 30, 2012, Christy Clark stood in the Legislature in Victoria and stated that the first LNG facility would be up and running by 2015.

Here we are, three years later, and there are no LNG facilities in operation, and the government has drastically weakened the royalty regime and lowered corporate taxes in a desperate bid to attract foreign investors. As a consequence, even in the best case scenarios the BC Liberals concede that revenues to the government won't come close to the hype of a \$100 billion "Prosperity Fund."

Last week, the government announced a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Malaysia-based Petronas for an LNG export project in Prince Rupert. According to a report in

vote: "Only Lax Kw'alaams have a valid claim to aboriginal title in the relevant area. Their consent is required for this project to proceed." The rejection was described as based on spiritual and environmental considerations. The proposed LNG export terminal is slated to be built on Lelu Island, next to Flora Bank, an important salmon habitat.

The BC government went ahead and announced the Petronas deal in spite of this decisive rejection, and Premier Clark claims to have confidence that an agreement with the Lax Kw'alaams can still be brokered. This hardly looks like a government that respects First Nations' land and title rights, nor their responsibility to obtain free and informed consent from First Nations before plowing ahead with development. In this case the company tried to buy consent with a massive offer of \$1 billion in cash, and they still failed. It turns out there are still some things that money can't buy. The proper response to such an assertion of Indigenous rights would be to take this whole project back to the drawing board.

But the BC Liberals don't have time for those kinds of niceties. The window for BC LNG is closing fast, due to the sheer number of countries developing shale gas and the related drop in global prices. The window, in fact, may have already closed on B.C., according to the latest research.

Writing in the online publication TheTyee.ca, Andrew Niki-foruk summarized a major new study of BC LNG prospects by the Oxford Institute for Energy Stud-



▲ Christy Clark met with Petronas President and CEO Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas during the 2014 Spring Trade Mission to Malaysia.

The Globe and Mail, the terms include: "...\$8-billion from the LNG project in royalty revenue to government coffers over the 23-year period. In addition to royalties, an income-tax framework will start with a minimum 1.5-percent rate, applying to net operating profit." The MOU locks in future BC governments to the low tax and royalty rates, a cynical and undemocratic "Hotel California" style arrangement for B.C.'s citizens.

But even the Petronas deal still faces significant obstacles: First and foremost the fact that a key First Nation has rejected LNG development on their territory. Members of the Lax Kw'alaams recently voted unanimously to reject \$1 billion in cash from Pacific NorthWest LNG, part of the proposed Petronas project near Prince Rupert.

Leaders of the Lax Kw'alaams issued a statement following the

ies: "The window of opportunity to capture Asian gas markets has eluded proposed liquefied natural gas projects in British Columbia, and as a consequence it is unlikely that any LNG projects will likely be commissioned or economic for another decade."

The BC Liberals' promises for LNG in BC have been exposed as fantasy. Christy Clark's promised LNG miracle turned out to be a mirage.

Any government whose main election promises prove to be fraudulent does not deserve to be re-elected.

We need a provincial government with a better economic plan than just 'dig it up and ship it out.' In an era of climate change and growing inequality, we need political leaders who will commit to get off of fossil fuels and to create green jobs that help us transition to a renewable energy powered society. ✍

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Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Jang

Game on: in conversation with Jeffrey Jang

by ANUJA KAPOOR

Young, innovative entrepreneurs are at the forefront of the vibrant gaming industry that has been flourishing over the last decade in the Lower Mainland. Among them is Jeffrey Jang, who was the recipient of the 2015 BCBusiness top 30 under 30 award. His expertise with illustration and design has grown over the years through freelancing and personal artistic creations; his talents reach out to entertain and educate both adults and youth.

"I would always try and draw art-related ideas that could sell," Jang says, recalling being an artist from a young age. "I would always try doing small entrepreneurial things."

Today, Jang's company is a success. In its first year, it generated over one million dollars in reve-

nue, making it a competitive venture in the gaming landscape.

It also received funding from various investors and secured partnerships with reputable names in the industry including Microsoft Canada and BlackBerry, which promote Jang's game Boximals in numerous countries.

Boximals

Jang, born and raised in Vancouver, is a graphic designer certified by the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

Jang broke into the Vancouver gaming scene in 2013 at the age of 23 when he co-founded Boximal Studios Inc., a company that devised an adventure game featuring a group of Boximals and their journey back home across a fantasy world of lush green forests, mountainous terrain and glorious waterfalls.

His idea was simple: he sketched characters that were a combination of boxes and animals.

preneurial space in Vancouver," says Jang.

Immersive experiences

These days, Jang finds himself increasingly involved with other ventures in the Lower Mainland as well, particularly the creation of what he calls 'immersive experiences.'

Co-founder and creative director of a company called Immersive, Jang is among the few individuals in the industry dedicated to creating real-life, interactive experiences for adults and children.

Run by a team of eight, the company strives to train and educate by creating custom video game design merged with a movie-set structure that exhibits 'immersive' and indulgent experiences.

A typical set, for example, might involve lasers, moving doors, and hidden passageways.

"Everything is connected with tablets on the walls that you have to play games on and progress through," says Jang.

Jang says the initial idea stemmed from the concept of escape rooms: participants are locked in a room and have to solve a series of puzzles to escape within a given time constraint. Usually such games have an interesting story, which is one of Immersive's primary focuses.

The concept reaches out in particular to corporate team building and hiring candidates that apply for tough jobs. Immersive offers corporations a customized video gaming experience to enhance team performance and challenge participants (allowing one to see who cracks under pressure, emerges as a leader, and is a team player) in an interactive environment.

"We found that there was an opportunity to do something better in Vancouver," says Jang.

Their latest showroom, G.U.E.S.S. HQ, is a fun playground for problem solving located in the heart of Gastown.

Jang is nominated for best emerging entrepreneur by small business BC awards. ✍

Learn more about Jang's game at www.boximals.com and immersive experiences at www.immersive.com

Richmond rooftop garden provides space for community gatherings

by NAOMI TSE

The next time you're at the Richmond Library, pause for a moment and enjoy yourself on the rooftop garden. Now in its fourth year, the rooftop garden at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre is primed to be a vibrant community space.

According to Judy Lo, cultural centre supervisor, volunteers at the Richmond Garden Club look after the watering and maintenance of the garden. The vegetables harvested from the garden are donated to the senior's centre located across from the cultural centre to create healthy meals for the residents.

Currently, the garden is available for events pre-approved by the City. Due to the 50 person capacity of the garden, the venue is restricted to small events. Lo says the turnout for events has been good.

"So far we've had poetry readings in collaboration with the Richmond Art Gallery and other private events," says Lo. "It really depends on the needs of the community."

A green public space

The rooftop garden is home to a variety of food crops including: herbs, tomatoes, cabbage, garlic, strawberries and kale.

Bin Phua also help out by giving tours of the garden to visitors, as well as senior groups and children's groups.

"I love mingling with visitors and the garden gives people a good feeling about the community," says Phua.

As a relatively new immigrant, Phua moved to Richmond from Hong Kong in 2011 with her family. Phua, now retired, dedicates her time to volunteering around her city.

"I don't want to stay at home and I want to use my knowledge and experience to contribute to the community," explains Phua. "It's always a win-win situation."

In addition to providing garden tours, Phua also assists with interactive programs teaching children about seeds and how to grow fruits and vegetables (courtesy of the Richmond Arts Centre, situated upstairs from the Cultural Centre).

"We encourage young children to plant at home and teach them about seed families and how to fully utilize food," says Phua. "We teach them to understand and appreciate nature and to treasure what you have."

Phua not only volunteers at the Richmond Cultural Centre, but also the South Arms Community Centre, the School District 38 and other public events around Richmond. She says as long as



Photo by Naomi Tse

▲ Geok Bin Phua, recipient of the Richmond Arts Award in Volunteerism, in the garden on the rooftop of the Richmond Public Library.

The unique space includes sustainable elements such as recycled glass pebbles along the pathways to represent water and pillar cisterns and planter troughs that help to collect rain water. The outdoor venue also has a large communal table in the centre with a foldable canopy and a small trough in the middle to provide additional space for planting. This year, the garden has a new attraction: a giant chess board. Chess pieces are available to be signed out at the front desk or it will be readily available if a volunteer is on shift.

"The garden is still relatively new and we are still trying to see what works and we are trying to draw more people with the new chess board," says Lo.

Giving back to the community

Besides the maintenance of the garden, volunteers like Geok

the shift fits her schedule and she can access the location by public transit, she will sign up for it.

As a result of her expressive personality and dedication, she won the Richmond Arts Award in volunteerism this year. Phua is glad her peers recognize her work but she also humbly explained there were many other volunteers who had committed more time to volunteering than her and were also more experienced.

"I was very surprised that I was nominated and I feel very honoured and lucky to have won the award!" says Phua. ✍

The rooftop garden is now open from 12–7 p.m. on weekdays and 12–4 p.m. on weekends. It is closed in the winter. For more information, please visit www.richmond.ca/culture/cultural-centre/rooftop-garden.htm.



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Jang

▲ Being recorded.

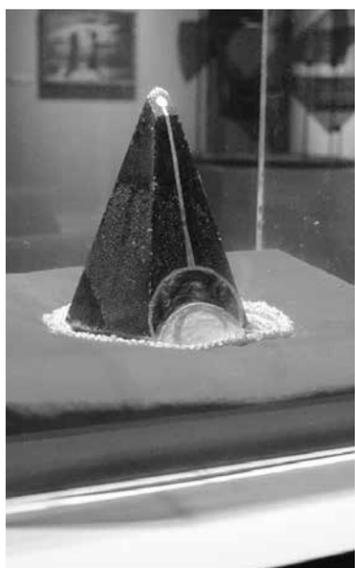


Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Jang

▲ Artifact at Immersive.

"I came up with Boximals when I first started freelancing – I think I was working with my first ever client, and was helping him create characters for his own t-shirt line," says Jang.

The game is one of friendship and admiration of nature, but also targets children to provide fun, early-education in numbers, counting and the English alphabet.

Inspired by the artwork he had made, Jang decided to develop new characters. He then approached his colleague (now the co-founder of the game) who wanted to integrate the artwork into a gaming idea.

"Boximals definitely played a key role in giving me the opportunity to get into the entre-

Cricket: it's all about the juniors

by CARL DENSEM

Every weekend, from early April until September, groups dressed in white and wide-brimmed sunhats make their way to local grounds to test their mettle against an opposing 11: Vancouver's cricketing contingent.

The fastest growth is in the junior ranks, ranging from 5 to 19 years old, where the excitement to represent Canada is feverish.

"Cricket is treated as part of our culture rather than a sport," explains Anil Khanna, junior co-ordinator of Cricket B.C.

What is cricket?

Cricket bears some similarities to its closest relative, baseball, though it can seem alien to those unfamiliar with its rules and rhythms.

In cricket, the ball must bounce and can be hit anywhere on the oval field, even backwards. In general, each team bats and fields once, with a single inning lasting a defined number of six-ball overs, usually 50.

Then again, similarities abound. Eye-hand coordination is tremendously important in cricket and a strong throwing arm and swiftness across the field are also critical.

Junior cricket in B.C.

On a given weekend, up to 800 junior cricketers head out to training programs throughout the Lower Mainland to learn cricketing skills and compete against



▲ Anil Khanna and his nephew Shivam.

neighbouring teams. Many of the juniors were born here in Canada although some have immigrated with their families and trace their roots back to cricket-playing nations like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and others.

Khanna oversees this growing group of juniors and has a long personal history in the sport. He began playing at three years old in Delhi, India, progressing from street cricket with neighbours to school competition and then to five years in the Delhi District Cricket Association. His favourite players include Sunil Gavasker, Vivian Richards and Sachin Tendulkar.

After immigrating to Canada in 1991, Khanna was pleasantly surprised by the amount of cricket being played by the British Columbia Mainland Cricket League. He joined the B.C. junior delegates to help organize tournaments and development programs.

"When I arrived in Vancouver, junior programs weren't common," Khanna says.

Inspired by the efforts of Jack Kyle, a long-time promoter of junior cricket, Khan involved himself in helping B.C. juniors go on to represent the province and, one day, the country.

"Juniors are the future of cricket, and it is important to make sure they have the right development programs to evolve into bigger, better players one day," Khanna says.

For Canadian juniors, the next goal is qualifying for the 2016 Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Ban-

gladesh. To get there, they will need to overpower the USA and Bermuda.

Up and coming

For a group of Under-16 boys asked if they want to play for Canada, the answer was a resounding "Yes!" Some of the boys are well on their way, having played for the provincial team in various age groups.

"There are definitely many opportunities for these juniors to make it big," explains Khanna, pointing out a number of upcoming inter-provincial, inter-school and club tournaments.

Despite these promising signs, he says, there is an urgent need for coaches to train young players and more competitive cricket at younger ages to raise the standard of play.

One shining example from the junior program is Elenko Emanuel. He has played for B.C. at the Under-15 level and was the top scorer in a recent match for the Surrey Dolphins, a team of Under-16 players started by Jack Kyle in 1966.

In the shortened 10-over game, he scored 25 runs with two boundaries (shots worth four runs each that bounce before crossing the boundary) hit straight down the ground. His effort guided the Dolphins to a win with just a single delivery to spare.

Vancouver cricket continues to shine out of the limelight but Khanna has big dreams for the future: an international fixture at a top-quality Vancouver cricket ground. This may still be some years off but the groundwork appears solid. ✎

Circle of Life: using Canada's strongest stone to cross and unify borders

by PAULA CHOUDHURY

Jade is at the centre of *Circle of Life*, a documentary film by Andrew B. Matheson, which will have its free film premiere at the Baumont Studios on May 28 in honour of B.C. jade day. Characterized by its sheer strength and durability, the stone holds many physically and spiritually important qualities.

Organized by the World Jade Symposium Association (WJSA), a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to the support of artists who work with the stone, the film speaks to the mostly unknown cultural and social significance that the stone holds for numerous nations, including Canada.

"The sun will melt everything else, but jade will remain," says Brian Matheson, a North Vancouver jade carver, and brother of the documentary filmmaker.

Multifaceted importance

Jade, according to Brian Matheson, is Canada's cultural blindspot. The fact that 75 per cent of the world's jade supply originates in B.C. is unknown to many Canadians.

The historical significance of the stone is a product of the durability and longevity of the stone itself.

Brian says that jade can retain its form for anywhere from 20,000–30,000 years, and perhaps even more. This is one reason why

jade has been used and revered for so long by such a variety of different cultures – Siberian, Maori and Chinese, among others.

Each nation and culture works with its own meaning of the stone. For example, in Chinese culture, says Brian, the stone has long been equated with spirituality, a symbol of the heavens, hence jade's nickname: the Stone of Heaven. In holding a small part of the gem, one is united with the heavens.

The versatility of the stone is measured by the various nations that have used it for artistic expression. Carving the stone is an important part of the film and, Brian says, the fundamental way the stone can be used as a tool for bonding and unity between cultures.

Jade as a metaphor for unity

The gemstone's most alluring quality, as the film and Brian



▲ Documentary filmmaker Andrew Matheson (left) with his brother and jade carver Brian Matheson.



▲ Chinese jade artifacts.

both express, is its intense ability to unite cultures all across the world. The film introduces us to many different peoples in different nations of the world to whom jade means something unique.

The stone invites people from all over the world to observe and share different methods and styles of carving and finding expression through this fine art. For example, the film explores the differences between a Chinese style of carving compared to a more Western style.

The film also allows the audience to understand that it is not only about cultures sharing and exploring one another's authenticity and art but also about hybridizing, forming an altogether new product that finds its seeds in various cultures and styles.

As Brian explains, with an increasing appreciation and awareness of the gemstone's capability, many more doors are

opening for different artists. The WJSA aids in ensuring that artists from around the world are able to share, rejoice and learn their art form – a visual expression of cultures meeting.

Jade also solidifies and unites cultures symbolically, says Brian. The gemstone itself is not grainy, and contains microfibrils that have no cleavage in between. These fibres, which are tightly locked in and woven together are symbolic of how united and complex the stone is for nations to which it is of importance, says Brian.

Much like the physical nature of the stone, the inter-cultural knowledge, traditions and styles that the stone is responsible for become unified and strengthened. ✎

For tickets for the free screening, visit bcjadeday.eventzilla.net. For more information, visit www.jadesymposium.org

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 Association des Écrivain(e)s Italo Canadien(ne)s

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 Tel/Fax: 604-986 0980 E-mail: larthia@shaw.ca

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.



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Group Truva: redefining Turkish folk music

by JAKE MCGRAIL

Group Truva is a Turkish folk group based in Vancouver. After performing in dozens of venues around the Lower Mainland and Seattle, they will feature in the upcoming European Festival on May 31.

Formed in 2008 by Erdal Kun, Erman Yavuz and Safak Karaca, Group Truva was originally called Truva Trio. The group came to-

Metro Vancouver’s Turkish community, and outside of it as well. This was shown a couple years ago when an invite to the Seattle Turkfest arrived.

“The Seattle Turkfest contacted us,” says Ayten. “They told us they wanted us to play, and that there were going to be about 300–400 people there. We went and there were actually 5,000 people there. The crowd reaction was wonderful, and after the show lots of

“ We’ve had people tell us that they’ve never heard something like our music before.

Ayten Kun, manager of Group Truva

gether after the three members had already performed solo for a long time. All three have a deep musical background: Kun has played *saz*, a Turkish stringed instrument, for over 20 years. Yavuz also has over 20 years of experience with acoustic guitar, while Karaca has extensive experience playing bass.

Ayten Kun, Erdal Kun’s wife, is the group’s manager and coordinator, and is involved with pretty much everything behind the scenes. “Erdal, Erman and Safak all knew each other through different festivals and performances,” said Ayten. “They were all doing stuff on their own and finally they thought,

people had positive things to say about the group.”

Playing before such an unexpectedly large audience gave the band a new sense of the appeal their music had.

“That’s when we realized, oh my gosh, Turkish music is valued, people want to hear it,” adds Ayten.

Group Truva is trying to change how people see Turkish folk music.

“We’re definitely not the same as other groups,” says Ayten. “We’ve had people tell us that they’ve never heard something like our music before, and that’s what we’re try-



▲ The members of Group Truva.

why don’t we come together and do something together?” says Ayten.

Group Truva has also recently added a couple of new members. Lisa Ronald, who has a background in Irish and Scottish music, plays the flute, clarinet and Irish whistle. Ronald met the other band members at an event that Group Truva performed at. Although she had never played Turkish folk music, she agreed to play with them and has stayed with the group.

“Lisa thought it would be difficult to learn our style of music,” explains Ayten. “But she worked very hard and has stayed, which is wonderful. She compliments us very well.”

Khashayar Mahboubian has also joined the group, and plays percussion.

ing to do. We don’t want people to think of our music as just for old people, or as something they’ve heard before. We want them to see that it’s something different, something for everyone.”

Group Truva will be performing at the upcoming European Festival, but it wants to use the opportunity to spread awareness and knowledge of Turkish folk music. After the show, anyone can come backstage, talk to the band members, see the instruments and even play them.

“If you like our music, you can come see how it’s played, and try it out for yourself. Come see what our Turkish music is like,” says Ayten. ☞

The music

Group Truva is well known in

For more information, visit Group Truva’s Facebook page.

Visit The Source online
www.thelasource.com
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Photo by Simon Yee

Portuguese religion and politics converge at MOA

by SIMON YEE

From 1933 to 1974, Portugal was ruled by the Estado Novo, the authoritarian regime of Prime Minister António de Oliveira Salazar, which censored creative expression and government criticism while promoting its own version of folk art. The 1974 Carnation Revolution overthrew the Estado Novo, and ushered in a period of unrestricted creativity, providing a climate for folk artists to freely criticize the government and its policies. The 2009 world financial crisis, which crippled the Portuguese economy and forced Portugal to accept a European Union bailout package, provided ample fuel for the ensuing anti-establishment popular art.

Visitors to the UBC Museum of Anthropology's exhibit *Heaven, Hell and Somewhere In-Between: Portuguese Popular Art*, on display until Oct. 12, can explore the various ways contemporary Portuguese folk artists express their religious, political and cultural beliefs.

"What we've tried to do is create a poetic rendition of Portugal with its own traditions, which are quite unique from the rest of Europe, traditions which continue to be alive and use images of the past to understand and make

Shelton spent over a year travelling around Portugal researching folk art and meeting artists and artisans who agreed to have their work shown at the exhibit. David Gomes, a furniture maker in Braga, Portugal, was one such artisan Shelton met and admired for his wit and imagination.

"After the revolution in 1974, Gomes said, 'I'm liberated! Now I can make anything I want!' And he promptly did, crafting 'The Hat of Salazar,' 'The Mask of Salazar,' 'The Glasses of Salazar,' and making up creative stories about them. It was his character, his personality, the things he made in his shop which inspired [the character of the exhibit]," says Shelton.

Heaven, Hell and Humans: the religious Portugal

Portugal is primarily Roman Catholic and many pieces reflect the popular influence of Christianity on everyday life. According to Shelton, the Portuguese popular religion is more cordial than institutional; for instance, saints are portrayed as approachable and friendly, rather than authority figures. Similarly, the Devil, rather than a figure of incarnate evil, is seen more as impish and mischievous.

Greco-Roman mythology also plays an important part in the Portuguese consciousness. A major section of the exhibit includes

sculptures, marionettes and wood carvings of characters from Os Lusíadas, the epic poem by Luís Vaz de Camões, which tells the tale of Vasco da Gama's journey to India and the various schemes of the Gods of Olympus that help or hinder the Portuguese explorers.

"Every schoolchild in Portugal has to read this poem. The part that they always remember is when the storm hits because it's so dramatic, described as a monster of a wave, the sheets of rain that come down and the cloud that makes everything dark," says Shelton.

Zé Povinho versus the government

Much of the art is political, and there are several artworks showing politicians and corporate leaders being mocked, parodied and skewered, and burning in Hell.

A recurring figure is Zé Povinho, a personification of the ordinary Portuguese man that appears in several artworks, typically shown being crucified or used as a tool or pawn of the politicians. One piece shows Zé Povinho giving the Moody's credit rating agency, which had downgraded Portugal's credit to junk status in 2011, the Manguito (a rude gesture).

"You've got Zé Povinho saying, 'Why do I always have to pay the national debt, when I'm on minimum wage?' And the president here is saying, 'Pay up! I only get €10,000 a week!'" Shelton says, translating one of the artworks.

The level of vitriol directed against the government raised eyebrows among some patrons.

"Somebody said the exhibit was politically incorrect. Well, if it's politically incorrect to criticize



Photo by Simon Yee

▲ Zé Povinho giving the "Iberian slap" (obscene gesture) to Moody's Corporation, after it downgraded Portugal's credit rating to junk.

the government, then I agree," says Shelton with a chuckle. "A museum's job is not to be the voice of the government, it is to be the voice of the people!"

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.moa.ubc.ca

Filipino art and history breathes new life into local modern art movement

by SOPHIA DELAFONTAINE

Dimasalang III International Artist Group exhibition, *Kalayaan* (freedom), is on until July 4 at the Surrey Arts Centre. Dimasalang founder Sofronio Ylanan Mendoza, known by Sym, leads the display.

Sandie Gillis, author of *Sym - The Power of Life and Struggle*, volunteers for the Dimasalang International Artists Group and organized the event.

An inspirational history

In 1968 in Manila, Sym founded the first Dimasalang group.

"He was a student at the time, and he lived on a street called Dimasalang," Gillis explains. "Our national hero was Jose Rizal. He was a doctor, but he was also a writer and a freedom fighter who wrote books inciting change in the Philippines while occupied by the Spaniards."

Using the pen name Dimasalang on occasion, Jose, who died in 1896, helped to inspire Sym for what would become the Dimasalang International Artists Group.

The Dimasalang I was the first rendition of the group, made up

great masters and am drawn to pursue a standard in line with the great ones," says Lantin.

Living up to the name

"All of the Dimasalang artists are very proud to be called Dimasalang," says Gillis. "They know the history, and they know what the group in the Philippines started. And they want to continue to be a part of that brand name."

The Dimasalang group is not

"We just want the public to enjoy art, because we believe that art is life.

Sandie Gillis, volunteer for Dimasalang International Artists Group

only making an impact in the world of art, but also in Canada's overall diversity and multiculturalism.

"With this, we would like to be an inspiration to the population of Filipinos. If we do good work



Photo courtesy of Sandie Gillis

▲ The original Dimasalang International Artists Group.

of Sym, Abe Cruz, Andy Cristobal Cruz, Ibarra de la Rosa and Romulo Galicano. It was a group of Sym's students who then formed Dimasalang II.

In 1981, Sym moved his wife and seven children to Vancouver. "Here he taught art, and he continued to form Dimasalang III, which is what is here in Vancouver today," says Gillis.

Made up of Filipino-Canadian artists, Dimasalang III now is referred to as the Canadian Dimasalang.

International success

Edgardo Lantin, an accomplished artist and a contributing member of the Dimasalang group, is a proud student of Sym's, and considers Sym his mentor. Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of Canadian Artists, Lantin claims his artwork has greatly benefited from his involvement in the Dimasalang, and that their group discussions about significant master artists have influenced him.

"As a professional artist, I have now emulated the works of the

and make good art, it makes them proud," says Gillis, "And I think that's one of the goals that our group is looking to achieve."

As a proud member of the Dimasalang, Edgardo Lantin shares this goal with the group.

"I believe that the highest culture in our society is art, seen through various forms. With the diversity of the people who live in Vancouver, we hope and intend to showcase and share our traditions and culture through arts. I believe that by sharing knowledge, success will follow."

Kalayaan will not only expose the group's artwork to the public, but also continue to strengthen art culture and diversity in Vancouver.

"One of our mandates is to increase the exposure of modern art in Vancouver," Gillis adds. "We just want the public to enjoy art, because we believe that art is life."

The *Kalayaan* is being held at the Surrey Arts Centre until July 4.

For more information visit www.dimasalang.org and www.edgardolantin.com



Photo by Simon Yee

▲ MOA Curator Anthony Shelton in front of David Gomes' artwork in *Heaven, Hell and Somewhere In-Between*.

sense out of the present," says Anthony Shelton, MOA's director and curator of the exhibit.

Understanding Portuguese perspectives

The roughly 300 works in the exhibit, collected within the last five years, include puppets, figurines, carnival masks, ceramics, paintings and more. The exhibit is thematically divided into three sections: "Heaven," "Hell" and "Portugal," as the place between the two. Religion and politics play an important part in all three sections.



▲ A Devil masquerade costume worn by performers in Northern Portugal to play tricks on unsuspecting people.



Photo courtesy of Vancouver International Bhangra Festival

Bhangra love takes over Vancouver

by KATRINA TRASK

The Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society (VIBC) will be putting on its 9th annual City of Bhangra Festival on May 28th through June 6th at various downtown Vancouver venues and SFU's Surrey campus. The festival will have seven events comprised of 350 performances, all centered on the Punjabi folk dance.

Anita Lai, general manager of VIBC, says the founder of City of Bhangra Festival, her longtime friend Mo Dhaliwal, wanted to create a space where Metro Vancouver's South Asian community could come together and celebrate the arts.

"VIBC started out in the living room of Mo Dhaliwal's parent's

home in Abbotsford, B.C., says Lai. "Mo, along with his friends Alan Gill and Robin Rathor, saw that there weren't very many South Asian organizations in Metro Vancouver that connected people through the shared experience of the arts and culture of the local South Asian population."

Lai explains how Dhaliwal further developed his vision for a more broad-based South Asian organization by focusing on bhangra as a way to connect people; he expanded what was originally a three hour exhibition of bhangra competitive dance into a ten day festival with community-accessible programming.

"He wanted to create an inclusive community movement that represented the face of B.C., one that is truly diverse and rich in culture and arts, all while elevat-

ing the profile of bhangra. It's a family event with great food and a great atmosphere," Lai says.

Lai explains that another one of VIBC's aims is artistic innovation, which is at the core of the City of Bhangra Festival.

"We create events around artistic collaborations between local artists and international artists of different genres, and it is through these collaborations that more connections are made within the community that span across ethno-cultural and artistic boundaries," Lai says.

Connection and inclusivity

Lai herself first got involved in VIBC through Dhaliwal. She was looking to change professions and saw an ad posting for the position of general manager.

"I am friends with Dhaliwal, so when the job posting went up, I

jokingly applied, and he took it very seriously. And after a few phone calls and conversations, I was hired, she says"

After a few months of working at VIBC, Lai began to appreciate the organization's involvement in the community, especially their participation as cultural partners in the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and EKTA, a program that connects Punjabis from Pakistan and India through concert. Lai says VIBC's City of Bhangra Festival is just one the organization's events that create inter-ethnic dialogue.

"VIBC was involved in so many important conversations around identity and providing the perspective of first and second generation Canadians. I was able to understand that we were visibly creating the space for South Asian arts, history and

dialogue, while creating inclusive spaces for the entire community."

Audiences will have a chance to connect with their community at this year's festival, which runs from May 28 to June 6, with over 10 hours of free programming and two days of a free backyard party sponsored by the Vancouver Art Gallery. DJ Lajit, DJ Reminsce, and Seti X will cross genres with their mix of R&B, Hip Hop and bhangra. Jaz Dhami, DJ Rekha and DJ Anjali are also expected to wow audiences this year with their genre blend of electronic music and bhangra. There will also be performances from Shava, a Finnish bhangra group, and Lady Ra, an Ontario-based DJ. ✍

For more information, visit www.vibc.org

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► "Badminton" from page 1

and skill badminton requires.

Lau adds that joining a badminton club in Vancouver is not an effective way to improve English language skills while exercising.

"It's tough for people to learn English in a very Asian-dominated sport because they don't need to know a word of English to talk at the sports centres," he says.

All ages and abilities

Initially founded as the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club in 1897, its name changed in 1928 to the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club when the Badminton Hall was built, the first of its kind in North America designed specifically for badminton. Today, the badminton club caters to all ages and stages, offering adult lessons and a junior development program. According to Nayyar, the most rewarding part of his job is seeing positive change in everyone at every stage he works with, not only as an athlete but as an individual.

As a coach at the VRC, Lau teaches both private lessons and larger classes, ranging from elementary school-aged children playing for the first time to experienced high school and university students who engage in competitive play. However, there is also a large population of adults,

ages thirty to fifty plus, who attend the VRC.

Lau explains that the large number of older players keeping up with badminton can be attributed to their high skill set, having mastered difficult techniques such as propelling a shuttle from one end of the court to the other and using proper footwork.

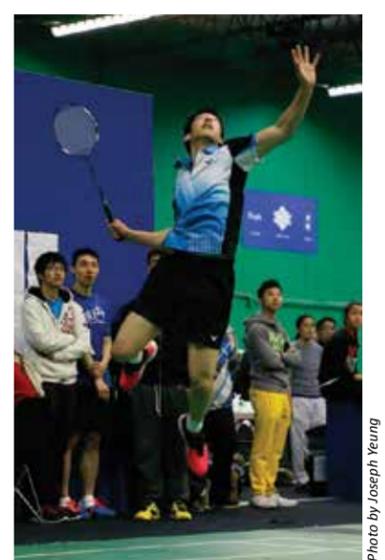
"The learning curve for badminton is quite steep, but they've gone past it and you can see how they enjoy the game now," he says. "They're very competitive."

Playing professionally

Being a professional badminton player is a difficult job because players are never offered huge contracts, as is the case for other sports such as hockey and basketball.

"Trying to support yourself while doing a full-time competition is quite difficult," Lau says. "In Canada, there's only a few focused sports and everyone else is competing in a small pool of money."

Badminton funding in Canada comes primarily from Sport Canada, a government agency that identifies potential athletes and funds them in what is known as cards. According to Lau, only five badminton cards are given out in Canada, even though a national team might have eight or nine players. Those awarded with a



▲ Alvin Lau at the Badmintonology Tournament.

Photo by Joseph Yeung

card get \$10,000 a year, which is supposed to cover training, travel, food and any other expenses.

"I don't think that people realize how difficult it is," says Lau. "I encourage people to watch a badminton match and see what the sport is all about to give it the credit it deserves." ✍

For more information about the Vancouver Racquets Club or the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club, visit: www.vrc.bc.ca www.vanlawn.com

Communicating through textiles – one stitch at a time

by FLORENCE HWANG

Local artists Shamina Senaratne and Christie Lim have collaborated to create an exhibit that showcases their textile creations. Senaratne's work for the Evergreen Cultural Centre exhibit, *Here and Through and Back and Through*, began with a line that she says looped back on itself.

"It was an image that wouldn't leave me. It spoke to me of progress and reflection; journeying away or astray and returning; backwards and forwards; beginnings, experience, traumas or disorientation and moving into coherence again," says Senaratne, who graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Communications and Public History BA.

Through independent research and exploration, Senaratne also studied textile design, colour theory, dye techniques, surface design and needlework. Her inspirations come from exploring Muslim/Sufi and Buddhist approaches to understanding the world and living everyday life.

Selecting the right medium

Senaratne has always been looking for the right medium to convey her message. She finds that textiles allow her to encode texture and form with metaphor and meaning rather than using full sentences.

"Materials convey some part of a message; whether verbal or non-verbal, communication affects how the message is formed

respect and love fine materials and craftsmanship, and how to consciously choose the right material for the intended design.

Hands-on appeal

As an Emily Carr art student, Christie Lim longed for something that was more tactile than what two-dimensional or digital mediums offered – so she started studying textiles at Capilano's Advanced Textile Art Program at the same time. She also studied privately with a textile artist in France in 2013.

"I enjoy working with thread and fibre because it's very hands-on. There is something to be said about the connection you build with a work through the long amounts of time simply holding it and working with the material directly in your hands," says the Burnaby resident.

Lim notes that she is drawn to this medium because of its immediacy. She explains that textiles are a medium that everyone is very familiar with and can connect with instantly.

"Textiles have tradition and historical relevance with every culture; we wear cloth every day, we touch textiles every day. Those elements of connection and intimacy are important to my work in that they bring an element of accessibility through materiality," she says.

She also finds the process of hand embroidery meditative, and draws inspiration from embroidery artists such as Tilleke Schwarz and Takashi Iwasaki, as well as graphic novelists, philos-

ophers and artists such as Keri Smith.

"While I'm working, I can get out of my head and into my body. It's a place where I find calmness and my thoughts are still. In this sense, the labour of the stitch[ing] and the act of slowing down are essential to my process and my personal philosophy," says Lim.

Although Senaratne and Lim have drastically different styles, they enjoyed their collaboration.

"I have so enjoyed being paired with Christie in this show – we've thoroughly enjoyed working together as we each developed the work for *Here and Through and Back and Through*," says Senaratne. Lim agrees.

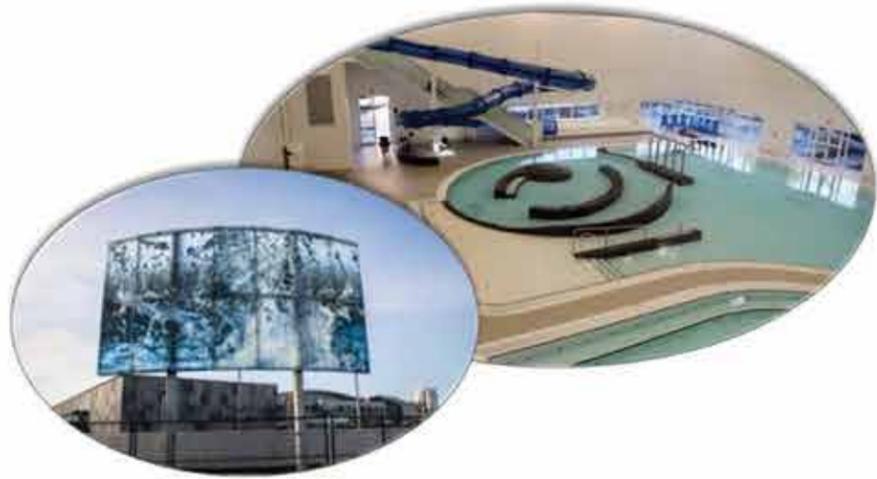
"It's been an exciting journey together from start to finish. I'm looking forward to working again with her on some upcoming project ideas we have brewing. Not revealing anything just yet – stay tuned to find out!" says Lim. ✂

The exhibit runs until July 11. For more information, visit www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca



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Waterslide | Steam Room | Dry Sauna | Large Family Friendly Universal Change Area



Welcome Back to SSLC!

After a five-week facility shutdown, doors to the newly redesigned Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex (SSLC) are now open! With a revitalized lobby, pool, weight room, studio and child-minding space, SSLC has a fresh new look and enhanced services to better serve our patrons. We hope to see you soon!

New features include:

- Comfortable family friendly seating areas and play structures
- Creative play table for families to draw and build
- Online comment card and registration system available on site via iPad
- Synergy weight station and more!



Preschool Programs | Ages 3-5

2015-2016 Course Registration is OPEN

Why Choose the City of Surrey?

Quality - The City of Surrey was a recipient of a 2014 Province of BC Childcare Award of Excellence for our licensed preschools.

Cost - Our hourly rate for care is among the lowest in the city. We also have options for *child care subsidy* and provide monthly payment plans.

Reach - We are the largest child care provider in Surrey, serving over 900 preschool students annually.

Choice - We offer over 85 preschool programs at 23 unique sites across 6 different towncentres.

Staff - We employ over 90 high quality certified Early Child Educators who specialize in leading our dynamic, child centered approach.

Girl Guides of Canada Badge Program Heritage Home Skills

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

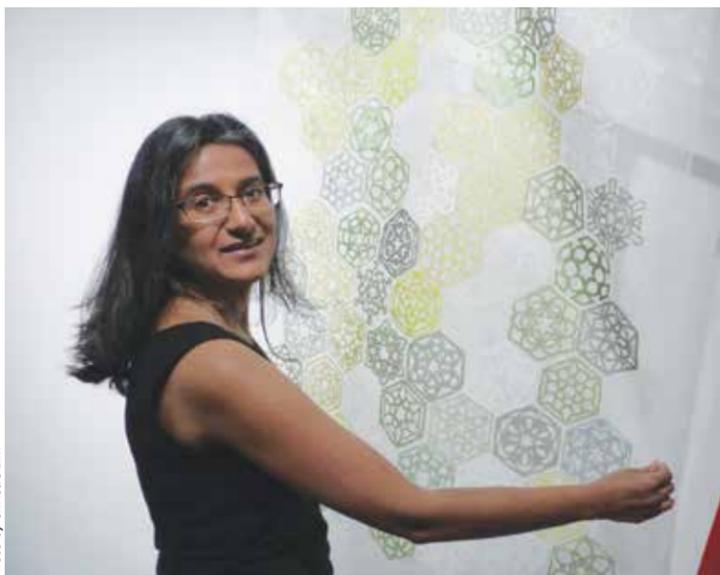
This program covers six of the requirements for a Heritage Home Skills Badge. Girl Guides will tour the Historic Stewart Farm to learn about the people and animals who lived here. They will make preserves on a wood-burning stove, use a hand-churn to make fresh butter, and do traditional chores. Participants 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.



▲ Shamina Senaratne prepares to install Interpret.



▲ Christie Lim with her artwork, Where Are You Going?

and received," says the Port Moody resident, who has also expressed herself through poetry, fiction, sound, dance and mixed media three-dimensional and two-dimensional art.

She is fascinated by how the age-old practice of sewing has connected women throughout history. Her mother was a tailor/dressmaker and pattern maker in ladies couture evening wear in London. From a very early age, Senaratne learned how to

Cultural Calendar

May 26–June 9, 2015

by SALENA TRAN

Summer's just around the corner and with it comes good weather and amazing events! With children's events and family-friendly festivities, there's no reason to stay indoors. Grab a few friends and hit the cultural art shows that include dancing, singing and much more. Here are some events you won't want to miss!

Vancouver International Children's Festival

May 25–31
Granville Island
1661 Duranleau St., Vancouver
www.childrensfestival.ca
(604) 708-5655

Bring the kids to the annual Vancouver International Children's Festival for a fun time! This event is fun for the whole family! Be sure to visit the variety of shows that showcase diversity and multiculturalism. There will be food, crafts and music all around for this joyous festival! Please visit the website for more information on pricing and scheduling.

Spanish Theatre with English Subtitles

May 26–31
Studio 16
1551 W 7th Ave., Vancouver
www.latinscenario.org

In May, Latin American theatre is celebrated all over the Lower Mainland. This year the Latin Scenario Association puts on Spanish theatre with English subtitles to celebrate the rich culture. Two renowned playwrights have been selected with two phenomenal plays: *Peter & the Captain* and *Two Scented Rose*. For more information on ticket pricing, please visit the website.

City of Bhangra Festival

May 28–June 6
Various locations
www.vibc.org

Learn more about the wonderful art of Bhangra dancing and music! With multiple events happening all across the Lower Mainland, there's no reason not to at-

tend this ethno-cultural festival! There's music, dancing and tons of performances! For more information about the festival, please visit the website.

Gravure Automatique: Dalla Husband at Atelier 17

May 28–June 21
Burnaby Art Gallery
6344 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby
www.burnaby.ca/Things-To-Do/Arts-and-Heritage
(604) 294-7944

The Burnaby Art Gallery features prints from the Canadian artist Dalla Husband. Her prints are from her time in Paris from the 1920s through the 1930s. Learn more about Husband's life and death through her work and story displayed at the gallery. For more information on the exhibition, please visit the website.

Kuroshio by Katsumi Kimoto

May 28–June 20
Kimoto Gallery
1525 W 6th Ave., Vancouver
www.kimotogallery.com
(604) 428-0903

Katsumi Kimoto pays tribute to her five years spent on the Pacific Ocean. Her paintings try to capture the movement of water in an abstract form, the reflection of light and the colours of its depths and different environments. For more information on the exhibition, please visit her website.

European Festival

May 30–31
Swangard Stadium
3883 Imperial St., Burnaby
www.europeanfestival.ca

The European Festival features music, food and crafts from all over the world in this activity packed weekend. This year's festival has Turkey as featured country. Learn more about Turkey and other cultures while enjoying the festivities! Watch performers on the festival stage and walk around the fairgrounds with a delicious snack in hand.



▲ Small Stage Canada – audacious, stylish and dazzling.

Photo courtesy of Dances for a Small Stage

RISE UP SINGING!

A Youth Choir Extravaganza

May 30, 7:30 p.m.
Fraserview MB Church
11295 Mellis Dr., Richmond
www.goodnoisevgc.com

This one night performance features three amazing youth choirs: Burnaby Central "A" Choir, North Surrey Polaris Chamber Choir and Vancouver Youth Choir. Come watch these talented young folks sing renditions of famous gospel songs while adding in some R&B and hip-hop songs and arrangements.

Wonderland Fayre: Spring Family Festival

May 30–June 2
Wonderland Valley Resort
1796 Depot Rd, Squamish
www.wonderlandvalleyresort.com
(604) 390-4200

The annual Spring Family Festival and Wonderland Fayre brings crafts, fun, sports and a whole lot more. Take a small road trip to beautiful Squamish, B.C., and participate in interactive games and fun! There's an option to camp overnight, which gives you an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors alongside other families.

The Human Library

May 30, 1–2 p.m.
Surrey City Centre Library
10350 University Dr., Surrey
www.surreylibraries.ca

This instalment of the Human Library is focused on the theme of religions, beliefs and spirituality. Learn more from others who are passionate about their faith and their beliefs. Discover similarities and differences while speaking to others in a safe environment. If you have additional questions, book a one-on-one appointment. For more information, please visit the website.

Veg Expo 2015

May 31, 10–5 p.m.
Vancouver Convention Centre
999 Canada Place, Vancouver
www.vegexpo.ca

This vegetarian and vegan event is focused on all things veggie! Sample new products to help you create and maintain the lifestyle you want. With giveaways, a kids' zone and free samples, bring the whole family to this natural wellness-filled event. For more information, please visit the website.

Small Stage Canada

June 2–4, 8 p.m.
The Emerald Lounge
555 Gore Ave., Vancouver
www.smallstage.ca

Dances for a Small Stage presents Small Stage Canada, a glamorous cabaret-style performance. This audacious and politically charged performance will dazzle audiences and leave them wanting more. The Vegas-style atmosphere and the talented dancers will be a night to remember. For more information, please visit the website.

Doors Open Richmond 2015

June 6–7
Various Locations in Richmond
www.richmond.ca/culture/about/events/doorsopen
(604) 233-8081

Learn more about what Richmond has to offer at Doors Open Richmond 2015. Discover Richmond's heritage, culture and arts at this two-day affair. With over 43 sites including museums, national historic sites and art galleries to choose from, you'll have fun learning about what this unique city has to offer.

North Delta Lions Club & The Corporation of Delta
Invites you to celebrate North Delta's

48th Family Day
Entertainment for the whole family

Sunday June 28 Parade 11 am to 1 pm
Festival 12 pm to 4 pm

North Delta Community Park
11311, 84 Ave
Delta, B.C.

Famous BBQ
Fun Games
Rides for kids
Prizes & Giveaways
live music

Delta Pipe Band,
Face Painting,
Hotdog and Burgers
Stage Shows
& much more!

Parade info 604-763-7251
E-mail: parade@northdeltalions.org

Festival info 604-596-6458
E-mail: displays@northdeltalions.org

Sponsors
Delta Corporation of Delta North Delta Lions



COASTAL SOUND OFFERS AN UPLIFTING CHORAL EXPERIENCE WITH NEW SEASON

Award-winning choirs deliver artistry, spirit, community and heart to concert-goers

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 à€œSourcesâ€ song play program, to the professional and award winning Youth and Childrenâ€™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.

A recent trip to Boston's North Square

The man dressed in 18th century American costume is standing in historic North Square, an integral part of the North End district in Boston, Massachusetts. It's the city's oldest residential community having been settled in the 1630s. The North End, and North Square in particular, was home to crucial events and influential people in early American history.

In the background of the picture, on the left side, is the home of Paul Revere, the famous American patriot who in 1775 warned the Colonial militia of the approach of British forces. His warning occurred on the eve of the American Revolution which culminated in the independence of the colonies from Britain.

One of the defining factors of the American Revolution was the imposition of the British Stamp Act, a hated tax which was supported by Governor Thomas Hutchinson, the last royal governor of Massachusetts. His home was also in North Square and was raided by citizens protesting the tax.

There are five intersecting streets in North Square, and on the corner of two of them, Sun St. and Moon St., diagonally across from Paul Revere's house, there have been several churches since 1649. The Old North Meeting House was the first and its Puritan minister was Increase Mather, an important figure in his day. Unfortunately, along with his son Cotton Mather, he became negatively associated with the Salem witch trials of 1692 by defending the judges and refusing to denounce the trials. The Old North Meeting House burned to the ground in 1676 along with Mather's House. Paul Revere's house was later built on the site of Mather's house. A second church was built but burned down in 1770. The present church was built

in 1833 and for the next 38 years was known as the Seaman's Bethel, a non-denominational chapel where sailors worshipped. They were ministered to by a famous orator of his day, Father Edward Thompson Taylor. He has been described as one of the most original and effective pulpit and platform orators America has produced. He inspired the character of Father Mapple in the Herman Melville novel, *Moby Dick*. In 1871, the church expanded and became today's Sacred Heart Italian Catholic Church.

Prior to 1788, North Square was called Clark's Square and was a bastion of English gentry with English gardens and Georgian mansions. After the American Revolution, people of English origin gradually moved to "better areas" since the North End was becoming too crowded and more commercial with development of nearby waterfront docks.

From the 17th to the 19th century, the North End included a community of free African Americans. One notable resident was David Walker, who worked in the early 1800s as an outspoken African-American abolitionist and anti-slavery activist.

The next massive wave of immigrants was the Irish who came after the great potato famine of 1846. Between 1865–1880, the North End was almost exclusively Irish Catholic. Very close to North Square was the home of John F. Fitzgerald, the first American-born Irish Catholic mayor of Boston and father of Rose Kennedy, mother of US President John F. Kennedy. Fitzgerald helped John Kennedy win his first seat in Congress. At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the Irish became successful economically and like the English, began moving to "better places" in the Boston area.

Between 1865 and 1895, there was also a substantial Jewish community which financed a lot



of construction in the North End.

By 1890, there was such a large influx of Italian immigrants, the North End became known as Little Italy. Italian bakeries, restaurants, small shops and groceries flourished. New immigrants sold fruit, vegetables, wine, cheese and olive oil. By the 1920s there were Italian physicians, dentists,

funeral homes and barbers. In the 1950s and 60s, as the Italians became more affluent, many moved on to greener pastures. However, unlike the English and Irish, they kept their businesses in the North End. Today there are nearly 100 business establishments. The area is lively and charming with great restaurants,

cafes, shops and residences. Italian festivals and processions are still celebrated in the streets.

A visit to Boston's North End with its many attractions is a highlight to anyone's Boston experience.

Don Richardson

Recipe by Jen dela Luna



Bordered by Italy, Austria, Croatia and Hungary, the nation of Slovenia has found itself at a literal crossroads between Western and Eastern Europe, with Asia farther (but not too far) afield. It's unsurprising, therefore, that its culture and cuisine – like much of the region – has touches of influences and shared histories with its neighbours; today's recipe bears similarities both to Turkish *kuymak* and, more familiarly, Italian *polenta*.

Recipes for *žganci* date back at least three centuries and

first began with buckwheat flour, later evolving to other grains like wheat and maize. As its ingredients are both affordable and more readily accessible, I chose to create my own interpretation of a Styrian *žganci*; the result is moist and soft rather than dry and crumbled. It serves as the perfect starch, whether on its own as a savoury or sweet dish, or as a side dish for a hearty meal. Yield: 6 Servings.

Ingredients

- 3 cups corn flour (not cornmeal)

- 5 cups water or broth
- Salt to taste

Savoury topping/inclusion ideas

- Pork cracklings or bacon
- Hard cheese (such as Parmesan)
- Sauerkraut
- Stew (goulash or braised lamb shank)

Sweet topping/inclusion ideas

- Honey
- Yogurt or Kefir

Method

1. Bring the water to a gentle boil in a medium saucepan – if you have one with taller sides, it will work best with this recipe, as the bubbling tends to splatter later on!
2. As soon as the boil starts, salt the water, then pour the corn flour in all at once. Cook on medium heat for approximately 15–20 minutes. The corn flour will form a large mass – that's normal!
3. Pierce the ball and flip it over, breaking the pieces apart to cook through the inside of the *žganci*. This will take another

8–10 minutes – keep an eye on it at this stage; much of the water will have been absorbed and you don't want the bottom of the *žganci* to scorch.

4. Drain most of the water or broth, but keep it aside. As you stir through the *žganci*, you may want to add back the liquid in order for you to reach your preferred texture. Though traditionally very dry and crumbly, adding liquid creates a smoother end result.
5. Season to taste. As a sweet dish, the *žganci* can be served sweetened with sugar, with yogurt or warmed milk, or with honey. As a savoury dish, pork cracklings (and a drizzling of drippings!) is the traditional accompaniment, as is kraut or a hearty stew in the wintertime. In my case, I chose to serve it alongside roast pork belly and finished off my *žganci* with a drizzle of honey, a few cracks of black pepper and a pat of butter.
6. Regardless of what ingredients you add, make sure to serve it warm, and enjoy!

Vancouver New Music in association with Vancouver Soundwalk Collective presents

Spring Soundwalks 2015

Parks, Trees, and Tankers

Sunday, May 31, 2 PM | FREE
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 Skwxwúmesh 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