

Cultural
violence
or culture
of violence?
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The Source

forum of diversity

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Chinese diaspora community works to build bridges

by RALUCA MANOLACHE

Diaspora communities often work to create and promote cultural awareness and ties between their adopted homeland and their birth countries. Chinese-Canadians in Vancouver are no different and many have undertaken similar initiatives and formed organizations to foster cultural and economic links between their new homes here on the west coast and the lands of their forebearers.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S is a non-partisan, multi-service agency in British Columbia that was established by the Chinese diaspora, but has expanded its support services to all citizens and communities. The organization's 2009 strategic plan boldly announced its intention to foster a vision of "A World of Multicultural Harmony." It proposes to accomplish this by building bridges, encouraging diversity and fostering integration through service and advocacy.

Eileen Lao, the agency's public affairs manager, said, "We are one of the social service providers in several key areas including the employment area and also settlement, health, housing, business and economic development and family and youth."

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has more than 20 years of experience in the employment services sector. From its beginnings in providing job finding club services in Vancouver, it now offers services in Metro Vancouver and Northern B.C., and overseas in Seoul, South Korea and Taipei, Taiwan.

"We have been providing services for the community here but



Photo courtesy of Eileen Lao, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

we also have the overseas offices in Taipei and Shanghai," said Lao. "Even before they get here people can get to know our services, information about Canada and help them integrate; from a service perspective, we are helping them not only here but also in their home country."

Born in Guangzhou, one of the five central cities in China, where she worked with the government for eight years, Lao moved to Vancouver four years ago.

"S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is my first full-time job, and definitely this is a job that can keep me closely con-

nected with the community, not only the Chinese community here but also the community back in my country as well," she said.

"[Due to] my previous experience, I always love to share my background to help people because China is a growing country and the whole world is interested in [its] market [potential]. For that purpose, I have been sitting on some...boards to help people [who are] interested in my knowledge and background...to help them connect with China."

Lao helps establish connec-

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Verbatim

Confessions of a Hyphenated Canadian

by PHOEBE YU

Few questions are as problematic as, Where are you from? For me, this question would immediately be met with a dart of the eye or a notable pause in the conversation. Regardless of what answer I give, more questions would invariably surface about my background - not that I have anything against being interrogated like a racially-profiled passenger in a customs line-up. It's just that my ethnic roots are a bit more complex than most people are used to and it simply takes more time to explain.

As a Philippine-born Chinese immigrant to Canada, when I'm asked the question, "Where are you from?" there

seems to be an assumption on the part of the inquirer as to what my response ought to be. Being ethnically Chinese with East Asian features, the expectation would be that I came from China, Taiwan or Hong Kong. Though my ancestors did come from China, it wouldn't be true to say that I'm from China. And if I were to say that I'm from the Philippines, the reaction I usually get would be something along the lines of, "Oh, I thought you were Chinese" - which is not exactly false either.

Even more problematic is if I were to say that I'm from Canada. Having grown up here - the place I have lived, worked, and spent my formative years in for the past decade - it is

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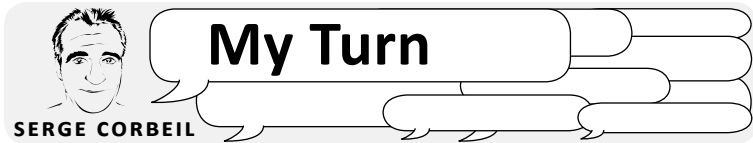
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My Turn

SERGE CORBEIL

A Scorching Winter in Perspective

The year 2011 will be fertile ground for political buffs in Canada. We should look forward to no less than seven – that’s correct, seven – general provincial elections across the country, including Ontario. Let’s not forget the two leadership races here in B.C. and the looming prospect of a federal election. Wow! I’m already out of breath.

Here at home, now that the holidays are over, campaigns are underway. In fact, B.C.’s two major parties, the Liberal Party and the NDP, are already making headlines. Time is quickly becoming a pressing matter for candidates on both sides of the electoral battlefield.

One thing to bear in mind is that a leadership race is namely a contest that rewards the challenger who is able to bring in the greatest number of new recruits. Current Liberal and NDP members obviously have an important role to play, but this is no time to be taking chances. There is far too much at stake. This is why the battle has to be fought on the front lines where the sole aim is to bring in as many people as possible – people who, in turn, will vote for you.

This is the reason why it is important for us to remain fixated on the big electoral picture and not be distracted by promises, as those merely reflect one particular phase of the political cycle. The only thing that matters



Ida Chong faces HST recall campaign.

for candidates is to be elected by their members. Everything else becomes secondary. For the time being, promises are pitched directly to the voting members of the respective parties. After all, only members in good standing will be able to decide the fate of those who put their trust in them.

This is also why leadership races must be run simultaneously on two levels. The first objective is to recoup as many members

as possible and do all you can to keep their trust. It’s the only way to win. Polls can carry candidates to lofty heights in public opinion, but without the support of party members, nothing happens. That’s why candidates must criss-cross the province and meet with current and potential members. It’s a game of seduction.

Candidates must also pay enough attention to the electorate itself. Public polls matter, though only marginally at this point. Would-be leaders need to impress the general public, if only to convince their party colleagues that they have enough clout to win over the electorate. Public opinion may also help convince supporters among the populace to become party members and help put candidates into power. The fact of the matter is that candidates are there to win. Obtaining the good graces of the general public is as good a place to start as any in the race to scramble up the political greasy pole.

The coming weeks will be exciting for political enthusiasts. The NDP will announce the name of its interim leader, we’ll know the consequence of Victoria MLA Ida Chong’s recall campaign, the Liberal Party will be electing a new leader who will become acting Premier until the next election, and after all that excitement, we’ll then be treated to a cabinet shuffle. Further down the road we will see the new face of the NDP who will become the next party head and Official Opposition leader.

And all this before the end of spring. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

of making out a plan, going for something individually, matching their values, the whole thing is new to them.”

In terms of employment and social programs, Gao said that Chinese officials have been paying many visits to Canada, trying to learn about Canadian public funding and seeking ways to save resources and deliver services efficiently back home.

Gao moved to Canada 10 years ago. “When I came to realize all the services and the dollars invested in helping immigrants and other populations as well, I was so amazed, fascinated by the whole system,” she said. “I think S.U.C.C.E.S.S definitely improved me and has helped me improve tremendously as a person.”

Both Lao and Gao recognize that challenges were faced in the collaborative process between the Chinese diaspora in Vancouver and their partners back in China and that many more lie ahead.

“China is developing so fast, they need to take care of everything,” Lao said. “While you may see some achievements, [what you don’t see are] a lot of problems. I can see they are learning and are catching up but [there are still problems].”

“There is no easy solution despite all the charity work, the government funding and a lot of non-profits like S.U.C.C.E.S.S,” said Gao. “I think [that] individually, we have to reach [a] point of accepting both cultures, without discrimination, and being to... new experiences.” ✍



S.U.C.C.E.S.S staff prepare for the 2010 Sun Run.

“S.U.C.C.E.S.S” from page 1 tions with areas in Southern China. She is active in many Vancouver-based organizations like the Chinese Canadian Science and Technology Association. “I am one of the members of the advisory boards to provide expertise and information for the board,” said Lao. “This is something I can do to help connect [Canada with China].”

Echo Gao, the agency’s project co-ordinator, touted S.U.C.C.E.S.S’s pre-landing services, one offering among a host of many designed to help new immigrants transition into their new lives with as little hassle as possible.

“I had a chance when I was working at the Burnaby office to see some of these action plans developed by these counsellors working at the office in Beijing and they were quite detailed and very good work,” she said. “They

give people a lot of information about things like settling down here, finding a job, sending children to school. They even lay out a career plan for people that got their landed immigrant status, which is quite impressive.”

Gao recognizes previous challenges, “People do need a little bit more of a realistic perspective. Coming to a new country, they have to go through the transition. That has been quite a gap for all these pre-landing services. Now with the Internet and everything else I noticed that people are more and more aware.” In addition, in terms of employment services, Gao finds that it is still an area that needs to be explored.

“Again, it is the cultural differences too; back in China specifically, there is no constant employment guidance from high school,” she said. “The whole concept about even thinking

Spencie’s View



“Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes.”

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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Gang violence in South Asian community sparks debate

by **OLENA MOROZOVA**

The gang-related homicide rate in Metro Vancouver is preceded only by Calgary's numbers, and is almost twice as high as in Toronto and Montreal, says a new report from Statistics Canada.

While immigrant communities such as Italians, Latinos, and Vietnamese have historically been linked to gang-related activities in the United States, no formally-published statistics of a similar nature can be found in Canada.

The rash of drive-by shootings, murders, and home invasions covered by the Lower Mainland press – with an apparent focus on the South Asian community – has created an unnerving correlation between race and violence. It may seem to the casual reader that immigrants are behind the reportedly high levels of gang violence in Vancouver and outlying cities.

The Vancouver South Asian community has lost over 100 young men and women to gang-related crimes over the past two decades. The community and its residents have since found themselves caught in a unsavoury limelight cast by escalating violence involving notorious figures like Vancouver gangster Bindy Johal, who himself was

murdered in 1998.

Jagdeesh Mann, the executive editor of Vancouver-based Asian Pacific Post and South Asian Post, believes that, for unclear reasons, Indo-Canadian violence seems to be higher in Vancouver when compared to other cities with a large South Asian population like Toronto. However, Mann opposes the way the trend is often portrayed in mainstream media. "The adjective 'Indo-Canadian' is over-used," he said, adding that the hyphenated term has become inadvertently linked with words like "violence", "gangs", and "crime".

Mani Amar, a 28-year-old filmmaker from Surrey, conducted extensive research into the



Photo courtesy of Mani Amar
Filmmaker Mani Amar.

causes of gang violence in Vancouver's South Asian community. He produced an award-winning documentary, *A Warrior's Religion*, that immediately received media attention and became the subject of controversy among South Asian community leaders.

"I was surprised to hear some of the ignorance I heard [when conducting interviews for the film]. Some people believed Indian culture itself was to blame," said Amar during his interview with *The Source*.

Both Mann and Amar believe that part of the reasons behind youth getting involved in gang violence is the materialistic nature of Western societies. "Society measures success with the ruler of wealth. In the eyes of many people, I am not a successful person," said Amar, who had to cover most of the film-related expenses from out of his own pocket.

Similarly, Mann regards gang activities as a career choice of dubious distinction. "Youths become involved in gangs to make money. They are not necessarily there for the drugs. They are there for the business."

According to studies conducted in the U.S.A., recent immigrants tend to be poor and are often prone to getting involved in gangs at entry levels because they want to "fit in" their new country and make easy money.



Photo courtesy of Mani Amar
A Warrior's Religion explores violent crime in the South Asian community.

However, the trend is very different in Vancouver's South Asian community as Amar discovered. According to him, many young men who become involved in gangs are second or third generation Canadians and a number come from well-to-do upper-middle-class families.

Given this demographic, the usage of the term "Indo-Canadian" may seem obsolete, as the alleged "Indo-Canadian" men are mostly Canadian-born and raised, and have been through the local education system.

Even so, Amar believes that gang violence in Vancouver's immigrant communities follows the waves of immigration from different parts of the world. "In the 1980s we saw a lot of Chinese-Canadian gangs, before that it was the Irish-Canadians and the Italian-Canadians," he said. Amar also notes that as a community becomes more established, its members disappear from the streets and the torch of street-level crime is passed on to the next unfortunate community.

"My goal is to raise enough

awareness and save future communities [from problems similar to those currently experienced by the South Asian community]," said Amar.

Having successfully produced *A Warrior's Religion*, Amar is currently on the final stages of working on his new fiction film, *Footsteps into Gangland* that, he hopes, will accurately portray the gangster lifestyle and send the message that no matter how high you climb on the gangland career ladder, your past will inevitably follow you. Amar strongly believes that much of the gang violence can be prevented through acceptance and awareness, more so than through intervention and enforcement. "If we do not believe that the world can be made a better place, what are we doing here as a human race?"

A Warrior's Religion DVDs are available for purchases at www.warriorsreligion.com. Follow the progress on Amar's *Footsteps into Gangland* at www.footstepsintogangland.com to be released in early 2011.

Growing Fun for Foodies

by **DANIELLE MARCOTTE**

For those of us still looking for a New Year resolution that will outlast January 2011, there is still hope. To help the planet, to eat better or maybe even just to relax, you should grow your own food – or at least some of it – on your balcony. Vancouverite and condo-dweller Andrea Bellamy, 34, is just the person to consult for your balcony gardening needs. If getting a hold of her in person proves to be too strenuous, do not fret. Bellamy's new book will be an invaluable resource for aspiring green-thumbed terrace farmers.

In *Sugar Snaps and Strawberries: Simple Solutions for creating your own small-space edible garden*, published this past December, the BC born author explains in detail how to grow food in an urban setting. Bellamy is an active participant in a community garden and manages her balcony and patio containers in order to have both beauty and food as an end result.

"My target audience is the foodie looking for the freshest produce, heirloom plants or specific foods," said Bellamy. "It is about maximizing your space. It is about the local food movement and eating sustainably and organically. It's about just eating better in fact."

The making of this book is, in a sense, a modern story. Bellamy works as a marketing and communications strategist at BCIT where she keeps track of the educational institution's blog and some of its social media. In 2004, as a personal endeavour,

she created a gardening blog in order to blend her two passions, horticulture and writing. At the time, few of these Internet diaries on gardening existed. She chose the name Heavy Petal for this new venture, in reference to heavy metal music. "I wanted a name that suggested the exact opposite of the stereotypical middle-aged suburban gardener. Metal, the music genre, is about as far from that stereotype as you can get. Plus, I just liked the word play," said Bellamy.

The site's look was created by her designer husband, Ben Garkinkel of Industrial Design. Garkinkel, a confirmed foodie, also writes on the net about gastronomy. With her writing talents, his design, and their combined passions, the blog was recognized by *Sunset* magazine in 2008 and then *Timber Press*, a gardening authority in the publishing world. Less than three years after *Timber Press* asked Bellamy to propose a book idea, *Sugar Snaps and Strawberries* hit the shelves.

Bellamy is currently preparing a book tour in Canada and the U.S. "I wrote the book on gardening from a west coast, urban, organic perspective," she said. "Everybody can garden. Everybody should garden. You can do it in the smallest of spaces. Herbs such as parsley, mint and thyme

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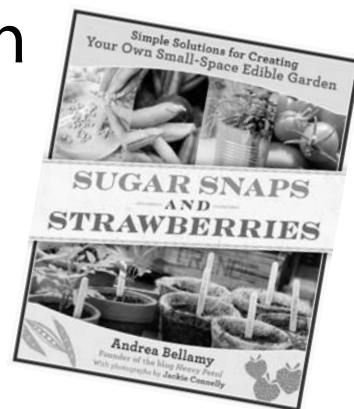


Photo courtesy of Andrea Bellamy

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Maryam Fashion

When Culture meets Design



Photo courtesy of Maryam Asgari

Asgari's unique designs have a flair for the unusual.

by ANAHITA MATLOUBI

Vancouver is a place where art strives to meld with the multicultural soul of the city in a creative embrace. Maryam Asgari, a local fashion designer, seeks to make her mark on Vancouver's *haute couture* scene by combining her unique multicultural outlook with bold and visually-distinct designs. To showcase her latest line, Asgari will be hosting a fashion show next month named, "One Hundred Models for One Hundred Designs".

Iranian-born Asgari began sewing and designing clothing when she was 13 years old and received her first taste of commercial success when she sold her first design at that age. She eventually went on to pursue post-secondary studies in fashion and worked briefly in Iran's film industry.

"From a very young age, I would look to my mom or my grandmother to watch how they

sewed," said Asgari, reflecting on her early years as an aspiring designer. "Eventually I started sewing classes and began working [in fashion]. I was very comfortable with different patterns and cuts."

Asgari's unique works have been showcased in a number of private Lower Mainland fashion events. She uses traditional Iranian materials, shapes and logos to create contemporary, yet unmistakably retro, dresses, jackets, jewellery and accessories. The end results are wildly eclectic designs that are incredibly bold, eye-catching, and appropriately avant garde in terms of unconventionality.

The spark that ignited Asgari's passion for fashion design was Iran's Islamic regime and its restrictive female dress code.

"I always wanted to bring colourful patterns to women's clothing in Iran," Asgari said in reference to the country's conservative approach to women's

apparel. "I felt like including colour within the Iranian conservative dress code would have a bigger impact on the wellness of the soul of Iranian women wearing them."

Asgari and her family immigrated to Canada in 1997 and she believes that her subsequent immersion into a new society and Canada's multicultural nature have had an impact on her designs. She admits, for instance, to being inspired to combine both eastern and western influences into her works.

"One of the most important colours that I truly got to know after moving to Vancouver was green," said Asgari. "[Green] in Iran is mostly associated with religious figures and is not very popular with the general public. That is why I found myself unable to use green in my early works. In Canada, I've come to appreciate green and, surprisingly, most of my designs that incorporate different shades of it were the first ones to be sold."

Asgari calls her designs "easy fashion" and she feels that by observing colours she can fire her imagination and ignite her creative impulses. "I use my own standards and try to stay away from a regulated 'pattern' within my designs. This is why I really like putting different colours within my work by sewing various fabric cuts." ✍

Tickets will go on sale on Jan. 28 of 2011. For more information contact Maryam Asgari at 604-738-9191 or visit her shop "Maryam Fashion" at 1871 W. Broadway Vancouver. You can also check out her latest designs on Facebook, keyword "Maryam Fashion".

Vancouver's Multicultural New Year

by MIKE LEE

The rapturous New Year festivities that marked the beginning of 2011 and the end of the first decade of this new millennium have come and gone. While many Canadians across the country slip back into their regular routines, some communities have yet to officially celebrate the passing of 2010.

The first day of January traditionally heralds the start of a new year for large numbers of people around the world. Though the Gregorian calendar – introduced by Pope Gregory XIII, after whom it was named – has become the internationally recognized civil calendar, some cultures nevertheless observe special holidays (including New Year) on a non-Gregorian time scale.

Chinese New Year (and by extension Korean and Vietnamese – all three cultures observe the new year based on the Chinese Lunar calendar) is one of Vancouver's biggest cultural draws. This year marks the start of the Year of the Rabbit (or Hare) and the city's vibrant Chinese community has ensured that there will never be a dull moment in the upcoming raft of events.

The Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver will be hosting its annual New Year parade this year on Feb. 6. A two hour affair, the parade will feature troupes of lion dancers,

traditional costumes, marching bands, and will also involve participants from other cultural communities and groups.

Vancouver's Iranian community will welcome the New Year this March with the 4th Annual Spring Festival that is being organized by the Canadian Iranian Foundation and the North Vancouver Recreation Commission. The event, which will take place on Mar. 13, includes traditional food, drinks, and live entertainment.

In April, the Sikh community in Surrey will be celebrating Vaisakhi to mark the founding of the Sikh Khalsa order in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh and the start of the new solar year in the Sikh Nanakshahi calendar. Surrey's annual Vaisakhi Parade will take place this year on April 16. With an estimated 80,000 to 200,000 attendees, the parade is considered one of the largest outside of India. ✍

For more information about the Chinese New Year parade, the Norouz Spring Festival, and the Vaisakhi parade, readers may contact the appropriate organizers below:

The Chinese Benevolent Association:
www.cbavancouver.ca

The Canadian Iranian Foundation:
604-990-1117, info@cif-bc.com
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Annual Vaisakhi parade:
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Dramatic works showcase diversity

by **KERRY HALL**

Local audiences can encounter a different side of the city by taking in two original plays created especially for this year's Push International Performing Arts Festival. The annual festival aims to bring innovative work from near and far into the spotlight to stimulate artists and their fans alike. Each play encourages the playgoer to explore new aspects of our urban environment and its citizens.

A co-production called *100% Vancouver*, by Berlin's Rimini Protokoll and Vancouver's Theatre Replacement, involves 100 everyday people from around the Lower Mainland in a stage play that seeks to embody city demographics which are usually seen only on paper.

Tim Carlson is the casting director and dramatic consultant for Theatre Replacement. He is also the artistic director for Theatre Conspiracy which co-

produces Club Push, the festival cabaret.

"[People] probably have never seen anything quite like it," he said about the play. "We might go through our day in the city rubbing shoulders with a 100 people but rarely get to stop and think what that mix is about. The show should give some real insight to where our city is at right now. Where the sample population has come from, how they feel about it."

People were selected using the statistics describing the city choose representative sample. For example, there are 23 neighbourhoods in the city and they tried to find a person from each. The youngest participant is about 3 years old and the oldest 88 years with most people between 30–50 years (like the bulk of the population). They are 49 per cent male and 51 per cent female. In terms of mother tongue, they are 49 per cent English, 25 per cent Mandarin/Cantonese/Tawainese, three per cent Punjabi/Hindi, about three per cent Korean, and about one per cent for each European language.

"We get to have a peek at how this sample population [on stage] represents Vancouver," said Carlson. "It is like an ongoing choreography of statistics as people move around the stage."

The script is based on responses these people make to a number of questions, such as where they are from, what are they obsessed with and what makes them unique. "There's potential for great comedy in some places and some of the stories are very heartfelt," Carlson said.

PodPlays – The Quartet takes audience members out of their seats and onto the city streets. Newworld Theatre, along with PTC (Playwrights Theatre Centre), commissioned four audio pieces that lead the person on a specific route downtown while listening to the story unfold. The production includes elements of voice, music and sound environment effects. It begins in the atrium at the new SFU Woodward's site and ends at a secret location, lasting for about 65 minutes.

Playgoers will be sent the audio file by email after advance ticket purchase so they can download it to their personal media player. Alternately, they can borrow a media player on site at the start of the program. A hard-copy map of the route will also be distributed on site. Dispatch times to leave on the route are booked at five minute intervals and playgoers are sent off two at a time.

Adrienne Wong, who graduated from SFU's School for Contemporary Arts, has been an artistic producer for Newworld Theatre for six years.

"*PodPlays* gives an opportunity to...literally walk in someone else's footsteps," Wong said. "You are seeing a street that maybe you've walked a million times but because of the story and the perspective that's being discussed inside of the play, suddenly it throws it into a different contrast."

She believes the ability to see things in a different way is integral to a person's ability to encounter another person who is different from oneself. This opens a person's mind to seeing



One hundred people take to the stage during *100% Vancouver*.

Photo courtesy of the Push Festival

the world without being afraid or threatened by it and allows those different perspectives to sit side by side.

"Striving for that, is really important for our communities, for understanding between different cultures," she said, adding on a global scale those abilities are important for creating peace, discussion, and exchange. "Ultimately, this piece is a way for me

to make steps towards the kind of world I want to live in. Where people can listen to each other, hear each other and express themselves and be heard." ✍

The Push Festival runs Jan. 18 to Feb. 6 with more than 15 major theatre productions plus a number of other events. For details, see pushfestival.ca or pick up a program at your local library.



Artistic producer Adrienne Wong.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

not too much of a stretch if I were to declare that I'm from Canada. This is where I live now, where I've built my life and where I feel a certain sense of attachment. And yet there it is – am I from Canada? From being the operative word, Dictionary.com defines it as: used to specify a starting point in spatial movement or used to indicate source or origin. Clearly from this definition, I don't particular-

ly qualify to say that I'm from Canada, unless I ignore the earlier part of my life, erase my origins and start from when I first moved to Canada. Isn't that what immigrants do? They come to Canada for a new beginning – to reboot from zero base and start anew.

Deleting the earlier part of my life, however, would be like denying my very own existence. We are who we become because of our past. Though many immigrants come here

with the mindset of starting life anew, there is still that lingering desire to go back to the place we left, to who we once were. The attempt to mimic the lifestyle from "back home" is evident by the scores of ethnic grocery stores, restaurants and cultural centres found throughout the city.

To reconcile the problematic question of spatial origins, I usually end up introducing myself as Filipino-Chinese-Canadian. That sums up "where I'm from"

in three short words. Although these three words do not define me as a person, it's evident in our society that where we come from is an important, if not integral, part of our identity.

My story may not be unique to other Canadian immigrants. It's entirely conceivable that there are people out there who have an even more complicated story than I do, with more hyphens. On the other hand, some may argue that the need for the hyphenation is unnecessary for Canadians.

With Canada being a multicultural society, it is assumed that there will be Canadians who have diverse backgrounds. But it is the individual stories of our origins that come together to make up our society, which shapes and defines what it means to be Canadian. To me, the hyphenation is as unique to the individual as it is to the Canadian identity.

And this is coming from a self-confessed hyphenated individual. ✍



Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

WRAP UP

The wrap up of the Terry Fox Memorial we see here is not in preparation for reconstruction but rather its permanent dismantlement. Apparently, cranes need to be located on the memorial's current site to construct the new roof on BC Place. The decision to permanently dismantle the memorial, erected 27 years ago, is itself wrapped up in a bit of controversy. Some would like to see the memorial preserved and moved elsewhere. As well, there has been no serious public debate on the dismantlement, just consultation between PavCo (BC provincial owner) and the Fox family. They both seem happy to have local artist and writer Douglas Coupland design what is felt by them will be a more representative memorial. Coupland wrote a 2005 fundraiser book in tribute to Terry Fox and has designed a Fox Memorial in Toronto.

The original designer and architect, Franklin Allen, is not happy with his work's demolition. He realizes that his design (supported by the late Arthur Erickson) was never very popular but felt people

never really understood it either. It did have a projection system showing images of BC, and which was to serve as a tribute to Fox. However, this only worked for a few months. According to Allen, the money ran out and PavCo, who never supported the project, had no will to finish it properly. He felt it was then doomed to be a static project instead of being dynamic as he had intended.

What will be preserved and given to the Fox family are two 5 by 18 foot steel etchings on the inside walls by Ian Bateson. One is based on the iconic photo of Terry Fox running and the other is a map of Canada showing his cross country route. These panels were added over the objection of Allen because of general controversy over the memorial not being representative enough of Fox's achievement.

Eventually we will have a new Fox Memorial and hopefully Coupland will have less controversy with his design.

Don Richardson

Cultural Calendar

January 11–25, 2011

by **PHOEBE YU**

Give a fresh start to a new year by checking out some cultural events, lectures and exhibitions happening throughout the city.

* * *

Patricia O'Callaghan Trio

Jan. 11–Jan. 14,
Coffee 10 a.m., concert 10:30 a.m.
Vancouver Academy of Music
1270 Chestnut St., Vancouver
604-873-4612
www.musicinthemorning.org

O'Callaghan is a contemporary opera and cabaret music singer. Along with Andrew Downing, who plays the double bass and Les Dala on piano, this trio comes together to give you a musical treat with their wide-ranging repertoire. Tickets: adults \$34, seniors \$32, students \$16.

* * *

The Art of Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani

National Nikkei Museum
& Heritage Centre
Jan. 15–March 26
Tue to Sat, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Jan. 15, 4–6 p.m., Opening reception
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby
604-777-7000, www.jcnm.ca

Mirikitani is a 90-year-old Japanese American artist who lost his family and friends to the United States internment camps during World War II and Hiroshima's atomic bombing. He survived the trauma of those two significant events and subsequent homelessness on the streets of New York by creating art every day. This exhibition explores the art and life of Mirikitani and the healing power of creativity. The award-winning film, *The Cats of Mirikitani*, will be screened during the course of the exhibit, see the website for dates and times.

* * *

Global Islam, Garbled Impressions: Fostering Understanding in a Divided World

Saturday, Jan. 15, 7–9 p.m.
UBC Old Auditorium
6344 Memorial Rd., Vancouver
604-822-1444, www.cstudies.ubc.ca

Professor Shafique Virani discusses how the values of pluralism, education, and dialogue can be harnessed as powerful tools for stability, development and a peaceful, productive co-existence with others. Part of the lecture series "Global Islam: Past, Present and Future." Free admission.



Photo courtesy of SCU Public Affairs and Media Relations
Anne Giardini will read from her novel *Advice for Italian Boys*.

► "Gardening" from page 3

are all very easy to grow in containers and make a great beginner crop."

Nor is balcony gardening an endeavour that can only be undertaken in warm months. "Believe it or not, you can harvest food from your garden all winter long," Bellamy said. The secret to

Song Dong Waste Not Exhibit

Ends Jan. 16
Daily 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Tuesdays until 9 p.m.
Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby St., Vancouver
604-662-4719
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

An exhibit by Song Dong, one of the eminent figures in Chinese contemporary art. *Waste Not* is a tribute to his parents, who both grew up during the Cultural Revolution. A compilation of his mother's objects throughout her lifetime, the exhibit shows the philosophy of life for the "lost generation." Admission by donation on Tuesdays, 5–9 p.m.

* * *

Listen! Laugh! Enjoy! Stories for you

Sunday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
1805 Larch and W. 2nd Ave.,
Vancouver
604-683-1575 (Mary)
www.vancouverstorytellers.ca

This month's storytelling event features stories about vampires and rowan trees. Keeping with the Scottish tradition of stories that are told "eye to eye, mind to mind and heart to heart," the art of oral storytelling comes alive as stories about these mythical creatures are narrated out loud. Tickets \$7 at door, \$5 for members.

* * *

Agokwe

Jan. 17–Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
The Cultch
1895 Venables St., Vancouver
604-251-1363, www.thecultch.com

Agokwe comes to life in an intimate venue for contemporary theatre, dance and music. This award-winning one-man show tells the queer love story of two young men coming to terms with their sexuality. The tender love story is told through music, dance and eloquent monologues. Tickets, \$28, Subscriber Tickets, \$24.

* * *

Anne Giardini

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
350 West Georgia St., Vancouver
604-331-3603, www.vpl.ca

Join Anne Giardini as she reads from her novel, *Advice for Italian Boys*. Told through the eyes of an Italian-Canadian, the novel explores the dichotomy of ourselves—balancing our own choices versus

what others want from us. Free admission.

* * *

Scandinavian Centre Club Night

Friday, Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas St., Burnaby
604-294-5932
www.scandinaviancentre.org

Enjoy a fun-filled Scandinavian cultural night with music, food and Zumba lessons with Maggie. Purchase tickets by Jan. 19 for \$10.

* * *

A Taste of Burns

Saturday, Jan. 22
Bar opens 6:30 p.m.,
program starts 7:30 p.m.
Moray Nairn & Banff Association/
Scottish Cultural Centre
8886 Hudson St., Vancouver
604-940-9260 (Cathy)
www.mnbsociety.com

An event for the whole family to get acquainted with Robert Burns and Robbie Burns day. There will be food, music and dancing for everyone. Joe MacDonald & the Mad Celts will be the entertainers. Tickets \$25 adults, \$12 children (5–12).

* * *

Gung Haggis Fat Choy World Poetry Night

Monday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
350 West Georgia St., Vancouver
604-331-3603, www.vpl.ca

Head on to VPL for a celebration of Chinese and Scottish traditions: Chinese New Year and Robbie Burns Day. There will be poetry readings and a bagpipe performance as well as Ariadne's Dream Dragon Dance performance. Free admission.

* * *

Time Warp: Contemporary Textiles of the Northwest Coast

Until Feb. 27
Wednesdays through Sundays,
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Bill Reid Gallery
of Northwest Coast Art
639 Hornby St., Vancouver
604-682-3455
www.billreidgallery.ca

This exhibition of contemporary textile art features work from emerging and established Aboriginal artists. The exhibition underlines the importance of textile art to the Northwest Coast civilization. Admission (not including HST), \$10 adults, \$7 seniors/students, \$5 students.

* * *

Ebb Flow and Tide Exhibit

Until Feb. 2011
Tuesdays–Saturdays,
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sundays 12–5 p.m.
Vancouver Maritime Museum
1905 Ogden Ave., Vancouver
604-257-8300
www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com

The exhibit features a West Coast theme by the Canadian Artists Society. See the place we call home transformed into works of beauty in water and nature-inspired artwork. Adults \$11, seniors/youth \$8.50 plus HST.

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successful winter gardening is to plant cold-hardy crops in late summer or early fall for harvest throughout the fall, winter, and early spring. The book walks you through all the techniques behind winter gardening, including season extension tactics such as using cold frames and row covers." Bellamy noted that growing

food can be a political act, though the book was not written from this perspective. "Think of land use issues, greening the land, food uses, creating awareness of under-used spaces," she said. "Look at what Michelle Obama did in planting a garden at the White House. There is a political act if there ever was one." ✍