



CULTURE CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010



CULTURE & CONVERSATION

Art Gallery Outing 7:00-9:00 pm

Tuesday, January 5th at the V.A.G. 750 Hornby St. Vancouver



Culture & Conversation will be having another Outing. This time Culture Connections will be meeting at the Vancouver Art Gallery to learn a little about the visual arts in Vancouver and Canada.

tice English and enjoy learning more about Canadian culture.

We will be meeting inside the Vancouver Art building at 750 Hornby St. at 7:00. The event is by donation and everyone is welcome to attend.



The V.A.G has a permanent collection of Emily Carr and Jack Shadbolt paintings.

Both these painters are from British Columbia and are well known internationally.

Please let us know you are coming by sending us an email: volunteerassistant@mosaicbc.com



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So grab your umbrellas and boots and head out into the rainy night to meet with other Newcomers to prac-

Photos from December's C&C Mid-Winter Outing



CULTURE@
MOSAICBC.COM

JANUARY HOLIDAYS



Jan 1st - New Year's Day begins at the stroke of midnight on the first day of the new year. The day is spent remembering events from the past year. Radio, television,

newspapers, and publications often have year-end articles that review the changes during the previous year. Common topics include politics, disasters, music and the arts the listing of famous people who died. Often there are also articles on planned or expected changes in the coming year, such as the description of new laws that often take effect on January 1st.

It is also customary to make New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions are usually promises to improve oneself or to become a better person. Some common resolutions are to quit smoking, eat more healthfully, exercise more, spend more time with loved ones or to volunteer or help others.

Jan 7- Orthodox Christmas is not as commercialized as the December 25th Christmas day. Orthodox Christmas is a time to heal the soul. It is also a time of peace and unity.



Jan 14 - Orthodox New Years or the "Old" New Years. Many Orthodox Christians spend the day reflecting on the previous year and think about meaningful resolutions for the

New Year. Many people celebrate the day with family or friends to welcome the New Year. Activities may include fireworks, large meals and music entertainment.

The Orthodox New Year is widely known as the "Old" New Year. It is celebrated on January 14th which is January 1st in the Julian calendar (Julius Caesar's calendar which was used before the Gregorian calendar).

Caesar's calendar, which has eleven months of 30 or 31 days and a 28-day February was quite accurate but lost 11½ minutes each solar year. After centuries these 11 ½ minutes added up to full 10 days. In 1582, Pope Gregory adjusted the calendar to make up for these lost days. Country by country throughout Europe, people went to bed one night and woke up ten days later. The new Gregorian calendar is more accurate but we lose 36 seconds each year. The Orthodox Churches still follow the Julian Calendar for Christmas and New Years and that is why these holidays fall ten days later.

Jan 25th - Robbie Burns Day

The birthday of Scotland's most famous poet, (1759-1796) is celebrated worldwide with a traditional dinner of haggis*, turnips, potatoes and whiskey with good friends and reciting some of Burn's more famous poems and songs. He is best known for Auld Lang Syne the song sung on the stroke of midnight on New Years Eve. *To hear Auld Lang Syne go to:*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acxnmaVTIZA&feature=PlayList&p=56FBD00FD199DB65&playnext=1&playnext_from=P&index=5



*Haggis is a specialty dish made from sheep's heart, liver, and lungs mixed with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices and boiled in the animals stomach for about three hours.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

& PROGRAMS AT MOSAIC



Tax Clinic Volunteers Needed for March and April 2010

MOSAIC is looking for volunteers to assist newcomers file taxes at MOSAIC Burnaby 2nd fl, 7297 Kingsway, Burnaby (Edmonds Skytrain Stn). The Tax Clinic will begin Tues and Weds 1-4:00 pm in March and April.

Requirements:

- 1) Must have filed 2008 personal income tax in order to create an on-line E-file account.
- 2) Good command of English. 2nd language is preferred but not necessary
- 3) Good command of computer skills.
- 4) Comfortable working with numbers. Accounting/taxation experience is an asset.
- 5) Must undergo a Criminal Record Check

Training

One day training from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will be provided. Training days: weekdays or Saturdays during January or February at CRA Vancouver or Surrey.

Benefits from volunteering:

1. Gain taxation experience.
2. Reference and CRA volunteer recognition.
3. Make friends and help people who are in need in the community.

Contact: Angel Tse

Bilingual Counsellor, Settlement Services

Mondays and Thursdays at CCM Burnaby
604-877-8606

Tuesdays and Fridays at MOSAIC Burnaby
604-636-4712 ext 118

Wednesdays MOSAIC North at Vancouver:
604-254-9626 ext 317

ENGLISH CORNER CLUB

- Practice speaking English.
- Improve your Vocabulary
- Meet New People

Join our drop-in sessions on Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 pm in the MOSAIC Community Room. Ground Floor—1720 Grant Street.

Contact: 604-250-9626 ext 295 or

Volunteerassistant@mosaicbc.com

ENGLISH CORNER CLUB BEGINS JANUARY 14TH 2010

3:00—4:30 pm Thursday
Community Room, MOSAIC

Would you like to practice your English
Conversation and meet new people?

To Join: volunteerassistant@mosaicbc.com

CULTURE CONNECTIONS

Matches Newcomers with Canadian Hosts who will help them:

- Practice English
- Meet new people
- Learn about Canadian Services
- Learn about Canadian Culture
- Learn about Leisure and Recreation
- Learn about Volunteering in Canada

Newcomers must meet with their Host once a week for two hours over a 12 week period. Must be 18 years old or more and able to speak at ELSA level 3 or better to join.

Contact: 604 254 9626 or

culture@mosaicbc.com

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

OR BY DONATION

Jan 1st - **Vancouver Polar Bear Swim** 2:30pm The largest and oldest *Polar Bear Club* in the world. Costumes and the Peter Panthe Memorial 100 yard swim race are the highlights of this event. To join you must register before the swim. Register at the English Bay Bathhouse from 12:30pm - 2:30pm on New Year's Day. Info: [Glenn Schultz](mailto:Glenn_Schultz@vancouver.ca) at glenn.schultz@vancouver.ca.



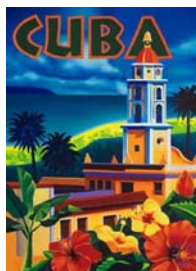
Jan 11, Jan 14 - **Songweavers Studio Hip Hop Week 2009**, 5:30-9:30pm 90 First Nations, Inuit and Metis artists are featured at the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion. Info: Tiffany Moses/Nikky Ermineskin 604-254-5513, <http://vangogreen.com/2009/12/05/jan-11-14-songweavers-studio-hip-hop-week/>

JOB FAIR



Jan 12 - **Education & Career Fairs / Job Fairs**, 9am-3pm, BC's Largest Career Planning Events, brings the top employer with BC job seekers (students, adult learners and career changers). Info: http://www.educationcareerfairs.com/fairs_events/default.htm

Jan 12 - **Viva Cuba**, 7:30-9pm, A candid look at the island nation famous for its rum, rumba, cigars, communism, Buicks and beaches. Alice MacKay Rm, Central Library, 350 West Georgia St. Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>



Jan 13 - **Olympic Pantheon: Canada's Nationally Commemorated Athletes**, 7pm, Illustrated lecture detailing the dramatic stories of the athletes who inspired the country and the world. Alice MacKay Rm, Central Library 350 West Georgia St. Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>

Jan 13 - **Career Explorer**, 8:30-3:30pm, How do I find the right career? What should I be paid? What are the best jobs in BC's future? Central Library, 350 West Georgia St, Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>



Jan 20 - **Bozo Sapiens: How Successful a Species Are We?** 12pm, A strong case can be made that, to err is, indeed, all-too-human. Alice MacKay Rm. Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>

Jan 20 - **Resumes That Work!**, 11am. Create an effective, easy-to-read resume that connects you with employers. , Central Library, 350 West Georgia St. Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>

Jan 27 - **Success in Song: 3 1/2 Minute Miracles**, 12pm, Learn how a simple song can empower, motivate and inspire. Alice MacKay Rm, Central Library, 350 West Georgia St. Info: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/api/calendar.cgi>

On-Going Events Throughout January

Dec - **Public Ice Skating at Robson Square**, 12am – 9pm, GE Plaza will be open for free public skating. Rentals are \$3 and include helmets for those 12 and under. 800 Robson St. Info: www.hellobc.com/en-CA/.../BritishColumbia.htm?

