

Staff celebrate the holiday season with food, dance and Capoeira



ISSofBC's board members learn Capoeira during the staff Christmas party.
From left: Nicolas Lozovsky, Manchan Sonachansingh and Sandro Do Nascimento.

It was a Capoeira Christmas for the approximately 160 staff who attended the annual ISSofBC Xmas celebration on December 7. The evening festivities, at the Holiday Inn downtown Vancouver, included a delectable buffet, an interactive Capoeira performance and a pumping dance party.

Capoeira is a form of martial arts that combines self-defense with music and acrobatics. The performers, part of Vancouver based Indio, wowed the audience with a variety of flips, kicks and spins. In addition to the show, instructor Sandro Do Nascimento taught the audience a basic lesson with the assistance of ISSofBC board members Manchan Sonachansingh and Nicolas Lozovsky.

While the number of guests thinned after dinner, those that stayed hit the dance floor to work off their meals. The eclectic taste in music provided by the DJ included classic rock, disco, electronic and of course the hit from South Korea, Gangnam Style.

A special thanks goes out to Veronica Lee for organizing the wonderful event.

Mayors officially welcome ISSofBC to Maple Ridge



December 2012

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With scissors in hand, (from left) Pitt Meadows Mayor Deb Walters, ISSofBC's Manchan Sonachansingh and Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin prepare to officially open the Maple Ridge site.

The ribbon was finally cut at ISSofBC Maple Ridge. The official opening, on November 21, marks approximately one year of successful service to the immigrant community in the area.

During the celebration, Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin spoke of the partnership between the city and ISSofBC in building a better future for immigrants in the area. Pitt Meadows Mayor Deb Walters commented on the success of the ISSofBC programs to newcomers at the Maple Ridge site.

In addition, the official opening included a spiritual First Nations ceremony. Eugene Harry, a spiritual leader for Squamish and Musqueam people, welcomed everyone to the land of the First Nations and blessed the ISSofBC staff and site for a successful future.

Symposium tackles the past, present and future of immigration



Guest speakers (from left) Kathy Sherrrel, Daniel Hiebert, Geoff Meggs and Gregory Henriquez at the ISSofBC symposium titled *Evolving Geographies of Immigration in Vancouver: History and Horizons*.

People from many cultures, religions and languages enjoy the Christmas holidays around the world. Learn how to say Merry Christmas in 10 different languages.

Chinese - (Mandarin) Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan

Farsi - Cristmas-e-shoma mobarak bashad

Hindi - Shub Naya Baras

Indonesian - Selamat Hari Natal

Korean - Sung Tan Chuk Ha

Russian - Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom

Spanish - Feliz Navidad

Tagalog - Maligayamg Pasko. Masaganang Bagong Taon

Turkish - Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Vietnamese - Chung Mung Giang Sinh

December Celebrations



December is typically known as the holiday season in Canada. However, Christmas is not the only cause for celebration. Here are a few significant December celebrations from around the world.

A well-known academic, an immigration and refugee expert, a renowned architect and a city politician tackled the topic of evolving geographies of immigration in Vancouver at last month's ISSofBC sponsored symposium.

The event, at the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) on November 28, brought the four prominent speakers to the table to discuss the past, present and future of immigration in Vancouver and how it has shaped the city.

The topics of discussion ranged from architecture as social activism to Vancouver's ethno-cultural landscape projected to 2031.

The speakers included Division Manager of Settlement Services Kathy Sherrell, Vancouver City Councilor Geoff Meggs, Professor of Geography at UBC Daniel Hiebert and Architect Gregory Henriquez.

Approximately 100 guests attended this intriguing and informative dialogue including ISSofBC staff members.

Spot, snap and ride with the winners of the staff photo contest



Esther Jung and Nicole Zou from Job Options took home first prize and most creative photo.

From left: Chris Stephenson, Nicole Zou and Esther Jung

Esther Jung and Nicole Zou snapped the winning photo on a rainy December morning before their commute to ISSofBC at East Broadway and Rupert Street. With party hats on and a poster in hand, they asked a fellow transit user at the bus shelter take the picture. This creative genius won the pair first prize and most creative photo.

Hanukkah

The Jewish festival of lights is celebrated over eight days. This year it begins on December 8 and ends on December 16. Every evening a menorah candle is lit to honour the story of the Maccabees who stayed committed to their faith when their temple was destroyed. Small gifts are exchanged and traditional foods include, brisket and doughnuts.

Paskong Pinoy

Also known as Filipino Christmas, Paskong Pinoy is a combination of Catholic influences and an ancient festival of thanksgiving that begins in September with festivities until early January. The elaborate celebrations include lantern making, Catholic mass, feasts and a nativity play.

Lucia Day

Lucia Day is a Swedish custom that honours the light of faith and the promise of the sun's return. Celebrated on December 13, Lucia Day is a secular holiday featuring carols and a candle-lit procession led by a young woman dressed as Saint Lucia.

Yalda Night

Yalda Night is an ancient Persian winter solstice celebration of the triumph of the sun god, Mithra, over the darkness. Held on the longest night of the year, December 20 or 21, Yalda is a joyful evening with poetry, music and traditional foods, including watermelon, pomegranate and nuts.

Las Posadas

Las Posadas (Spanish for "the inn") is a traditional Mexican festival which re-enacts Joseph's search for room at the inn. Each Christmas season, a processional carrying a doll representing the Christ Child and images of Joseph and Mary riding a burro walks through the community streets. The processional stops at a previously selected home and



Sandra Carignan from International Studies snapped up second place for this evening family photo.

From left: Annwyn Murray, Sandra Carignan and Griffin Murray

Sandra Carignan and her kids posed for this photo, at Commerical and 14th Avenue, on the way to soccer practice. Despite her son's observation that the flash would cause significant glare they managed to convince a kind stranger to snap this photo. They took home second prize.

Holiday eats from ISSofBC staff



If you're looking for a dish to warm your body and heart over the holiday, this soup won't disappoint.

Garlic Soup (we usually make 1/2 or 1/3 recipe; this serves 8)

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup butter
- 3 heads garlic
- 4 large ripe tomatoes, pureed and strained

asks for lodging for the night. The people are invited in to read scriptures and sing Christmas carols called villancicos.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States (and more recently, Canada) but also celebrated in the Western African Diaspora. The celebration honours African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. It is ideological, with seven core principles (Nguzo Saba): Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. It was first celebrated in 1966-67.

Other News and Events

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14 cups chicken stock
8 sprigs cilantro or epazote
2 beaten eggs
1 cup crumbled feta cheese
3 fresh serrano or 1-2 jalapeno chilis, finely chopped

Heat oil and butter in large pot. Saute garlic till light brown. Add tomatoes and cook till it forms a thick sauce. Add broth (salt to taste) and continue to cook for 20 minutes. Add cilantro and bring to roiling boil. Add beaten eggs in thin stream, stirring constantly. Add cheese and chilis just before serving. Serve with sourdough rolls.

Thanks to Camilla Dietrich from the International Studies Divison for sharing your family recipe.

