

**Newsletter  
of the  
Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia**

**Issue 4  
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**Vancouver, Canada  
[www.bcsbc.ca](http://www.bcsbc.ca)**

**Winter 2006-2007**

## A Bulgarian Woman Receives in Japan One of the Highest Degrees in the Teaching of Ikebana<sup>1</sup>

In the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia (BCSBC) we know her as Vania Ganacheva, President of BCSBC, but the Japanese call her Vania Kasui. Literally, *Kasui* means ‘a water flower’.



Names like this are given to selected members of the Japanese Ishida Ikebana Association when they reach a certain level in the hierarchy of the association. In 2001 when Vania receives a diploma for teaching of Ikebana from the association, she is also given the name *Kasui* as a special recognition of her abilities.

Vania Kasui and her Ikebana teacher  
Nagoya, Japan, January 2007<sup>2</sup>

There are many schools and styles of Ikebana in Japan organized in different associations, but Ishida Ikebana Association is one of the most active among them. It also has branches in a number of countries such as China, Spain, Germany, etc., and around 500,000<sup>3</sup> students in Japan and abroad. In the fall of 2005 it opens up a branch in North America with headquarters in Vancouver and President Vania Kasui.



Ikebana from the Bunjin Bana  
exhibition in Nagoya, Japan  
January 2007



Vania Kasui and Iemoto in Japan

In January 2007, Vania Kasui meets a number of times with the President of Ishida Ikebana Association in Japan, whose title is *Iemoto*<sup>4</sup> ‘headmaster’, and with other members of the board of directors. She receives an advanced degree from the Academy of Ishida Ikebana Association, *Kouto shihan*, which places her among the most distinguished teachers in the association and gives her the right to administer tests and exams to Ikebana students and, at her discretion, to issue diplomas on behalf of the association.

During the same visit in Japan in January 2007, Vania Kasui participates in the traditional exhibition of Ishida Ikebana Association, Bunjin Bana, in Nagoya. Only thirty of the most distinguished Ikebana teachers and some of their most talented students are invited to display their works there.



Ikebana from the Bunjin Bana exhibition in Nagoya, Japan  
January 2007

Ishida Ikebana Association for North America and its President Vania Kasui have interesting and inspiring plans for the future. For the Winter Olympics in Vancouver-Whistler in 2010, the management wants to invite directors and members of Ishida Ikebana Association in

Japan to help decorate with Ikebana some of the halls where the Olympic games will take place, and to set up an Ikebana exhibition in the Convention Centre at Canada Place in Vancouver. In the long term, Ishida Ikebana Association for North America has even more ambitious ideas – to inaugurate the first Ikebana Academy in North America. Judging by the enthusiasm and support for Ishida Ikebana Association from people in Japan and in Canada, this idea seems entirely feasible.



Ikebana from the Bunjin Bana exhibition in Nagoya, Japan  
January 2007

On behalf of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia and all Bulgarians in the area, we congratulate Vania for her accomplishment and extend our best wishes to her and Ishida Ikebana Association for fulfillment of their dreams! Vania, we wish you health, strength, and never-ending artistic inspiration, and we are proud of you and what you do to make Bulgaria famous around the world!

<sup>1</sup> Ikebana is a very ancient Japanese art whose basic materials, tree branches and flowers, are arranged in kenzans so that they highlight the aesthetics and beauty of nature, and create an emotional impact for the viewer; for a more detailed definition of the term, see, for example, <http://www.ikebana-art.ca/about.php>

<sup>2</sup> All photos in the article are courtesy of Vania Kasui.

<sup>3</sup> According to „*Ishida Ikebana*”, 1996, published by Ishida Ikebana Association.

<sup>4</sup> The title Iemoto is inherited and always remains in the family.



Ikebana from the Bunjin Bana  
exhibition in Nagoya, Japan  
January 2007

February 7, 2007

Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.

Director in BCSBC and editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter



**Highlights from the End of Last Year**



## Christmas for the Bulgarian Children in Vancouver

This Christmas again the Bulgarian children had a joyful time with a Bulgarian Santa Claus. On December 16, 2006, children and parents got together in the "Methodica" theatre, kindly provided by its hosts, for an already traditional meeting and a friendly chat.

Following an old Bulgarian custom and supported wholeheartedly by mothers and grandmothers, the children took part in a friendly competition for the most beautiful and strongest *survachka*<sup>1</sup>. Over an hour of talking and hanging out was followed by an exchange of recipes for vegetarian dishes for Christmas Eve and tasting of the modest treats made by the children.



Just when the children got impatient, Santa Claus arrived with a big bag of gifts. The bravest children dared to recite a poem or sing a Christmas song. These children, and the ones who were not as brave but had been nice during the year, all received special gifts from the good old man. After the emotional awaiting of the presents, there came the even more exciting moment of opening them...

And so, "*surva, surva*, happy year"<sup>2</sup> - and the *survachki* were tucked away in anticipation of the New Year!

<sup>1</sup> *Survachka/survachnitza* is a stick or a branch from a tree or a bush decorated with popcorn, dried fruits, ornaments, etc., used by children to gently tap others on the backs and wish them health and happiness all year round (translator's note).

<sup>2</sup> This is part of the rhyme that accompanies the custom described in note 1 (translator's note).

Vania Alexieva  
Bulgarian School in Vancouver



# 2007 New Year Celebration



The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia expresses heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the preparation of the wonderful New Year party:



Violeta Adeshalidze

Vania, Vesko & Pavel Alexiev

Veneta Vulcheva & Stefan Ivanov

Iva Vulcheva

Vania Ganacheva

Plamena Dimitrova

Manuela Lazarov

Dani Paskova

Youliana Stoyanov

Daniela & Todor Todorov



Photos courtesy of Manuela Lazarov



**Announcements from the Bulgarian-Canadian  
Society of British Columbia**



# Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

## Annual General Meeting

The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia will hold its Annual General Meeting on **March 3, 2007**

### Place:

The “Balkan House” Restaurant  
7530 Edmonds Street, Burnaby  
ph. (604)-524-0404

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=7530+Edmonds+Street,+Burnaby,+BC&hl=en&ie=UTF8&z=15&om=1&iwloc=addr>



### Time:

**5:00 – 5:30 p.m. – participant registration**  
**5:30 – 7:00 p.m. - meeting**

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of rules of order. Election of an officer to preside the meeting.
2. Report on participant registration and membership.
3. Proposal for changes in the bylaws regarding the types of membership.
4. Report for the activities in the past period.
5. Forthcoming activities.
6. Financial report.
7. Questions and speeches.
8. Election of new directors and President of the Society.
9. Adjournment.

For more details, go to [ [link](#) ]



# Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

The Bulgarian–Canadian Society of British Columbia  
invites you to celebrate

## The Bulgarian National Holiday March 3!!!



**When:** March 3, 2007, from 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Restaurant “BALKAN HOUSE”

7530 Edmonds Street, Burnaby,

ph. 604-524-0404

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=7530+Edmonds+Street,+Burnaby,+BC&hl=en&ie=UTF8&z=15&om=1&iwloc=addr>

**How:** Call in advance to make a reservation and pay the cover charges for yourself and your friends to:

**Veneta** 604 939 0347

**Frantz** 604 298 0646

**Daniela’s Cake Boutique** - 232 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, ph. 604 984 4141

**Blue Cafe** 140 - 6200 McKay Ave, Station Square, Burnaby (Metrotown - Future Shop)

**Vania** 604-318-5435

The restaurant has limited seating, so don’t delay – get your cover charges as early as you can!

The “BALKAN HOUSE” restaurant offers a buffet.

**Cover charges:** Adults: BCSBC members: \$ 20.00, Nonmembers: \$ 25.00  
Children 6-12 y. old: \$ 10.00, Children under 6: free

**Expect music and a prize drawing with many interesting rewards!!!**

All BCSBC members who attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society will get 10 free tickets for the drawing!!!

# Varna Chamber Choir

**invites**

**new members – all voices**



The Varna Chamber Choir is a diverse chorus comprised of committed singers who are dedicated to excellence and expressiveness in the study and performance of a variety of choral works of all periods.

Rehearsals are held most Fridays 7:00-9:00 pm at Douglas College, New Westminster.

Last season we celebrated Mozart's birthday performing "Requiem" with Kamloops Symphony Orchestra.

The choir is developing constantly and is looking for new singers. Join us if you wish to develop your talent and meet people with your interests!

For more information contact Music Director Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov at (604)-294-1212, e-mail: [nataliesong@hotmail.com](mailto:nataliesong@hotmail.com)

**The Bulgarian Soccer society of Lower Mainland & the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia** invite all who are addicted to the Big Game to join us at the “green carpet” and chase the “leather ball”...

**Day:** every Sunday from 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Hume Park (or Sapperton)

As usual, there won't be disappointed or turned down enthusiasts.

**For more information,** call or e-mail:

Plamen Velikov cell: (604)-992-3503,  
e-mail: plamvel@yahoo.com

Pepi Kiriakov cell: (604)-825-7565,  
e-mail: info@peter-homes.com

Deyan Dyakov cell: (778)-238-2929,  
e-mail: deyan.dyakov@gmail.com



**The soccer team “Bulgarian Lions” 2003**

Photo courtesy of Pepi Kiriakov

p.s. This is another opportunity to get away from ... Sunday household chores;)





## The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

[www.bcsbc.ca](http://www.bcsbc.ca)

**Seeks** two volunteers to work as assistant editors of the BCSBC Newsletter. Candidates should have an excellent command of Bulgarian and English, and the necessary skills to edit and translate written texts in both languages for the BCSBC Newsletter.



The job will allow you to set your own working hours and will give you an opportunity to gather useful Canadian experience, enhance your resume, and receive valuable references for work. For information, write to [ivelina@bcsbc.ca](mailto:ivelina@bcsbc.ca).

## Paid announcements and classified ads

**SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD**



**Peter  
Kiriakov**

**604-825-7565**



[www.peter-homes.com](http://www.peter-homes.com)  
[info@peter-homes.com](mailto:info@peter-homes.com)

### **STOP RENTING - OWN TODAY!**

As a professional realtor I understand the needs, time frame, and financial boundaries of my clients. This allows me to find the best property at the best location and for the best price, and do all that with minimum hassle for my clients.

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The Bulgarian-Canadian society of British Columbia is not responsible for the style, contents and design of the classified ads. Any mistakes, as well as the choice of language and audio-visuals are the sole responsibility of the authors.

**The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia accepts paid announcements and classified ads for posting in the BCSBC Newsletter! For more information, go to <http://www.bcsbc.ca/en/>**

**All BCSBC members are eligible for one free ad in one issue of the Newsletter per year, and get huge discounts for all other paid ads!**

**Don't miss this opportunity to make the information about your business and your skills reach more people!**

**Look here**





The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British  
Columbia [www.bcsbc.ca](http://www.bcsbc.ca)

**Would like to thank** Vania Ganacheva-Kasui, Jeli azko Andreev, Vania Alexieva, Manuela Lazarov, Mihail Mitov, Stan Stanchev, Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov, and the Bulgarian Soccer Society of Lower Mainland for their help in putting together this issue of the BCSBC Newsletter.

**You can download the BCSBC Newsletter in a pdf format in English and in Bulgarian here**

BCSBC Newsletter 4 - English language

[http://www.bcsbc.ca/bg/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=24&Itemid=15](http://www.bcsbc.ca/bg/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=24&Itemid=15)

BCSBC Newsletter 4 - Bulgarian language

[http://www.bcsbc.ca/bg/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=23&Itemid=15](http://www.bcsbc.ca/bg/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=23&Itemid=15)



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