

Winter Newsletter

2019/2020

Clubhouse Updates



In early December, Connections Place hosted a Christmas Open House to our business neighbors. We hand delivered our invitations to Uptown and surrounding areas. We enjoyed hot beverages, home-baked goodies, and made wonderful connections that day. Thank you to Boston Pizza Saanich Plaza for donating appetizers!

Members enjoyed Christmas Eve and New Years Eve lunches at the clubhouse. Members also organized Christmas carol songbooks and went singing at Uptown Mall.

Boston Pizza Saanich has been very supportive to the clubhouse and has organized a Valentine's fundraising event for the benefit of the Connections Place. We are very thankful for their support.

Special thanks to Colin from Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond, for working at Connections Place for a week in February. Thank you for your support and guidance Colin!

Meet One of Our Members: Owen

Name: Owen David Charles Jones

Member Since: June 2019

Hobbies: Watching hockey games and dramas based on true stories, playing soccer and baseball, and attending his weekly walking group.

Dreams & Goals: Learn to fly a plane, visit Whales, and be a current events and sports correspondent.

Favourite Food: Spaghetti and meatballs.

Favourite thing about the clubhouse: The people – we're members, not clients. I care about a lot of people. There's a lot of people who care here. Louise is a really good cook.



Things You Never Noticed in *A Christmas Story*

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By Mike P.

In 2009, a musical based on *A Christmas Story* premiered at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Missouri. Noted songwriting team Pasek and Paul did the music and lyrics for the show, while Joseph Robinette wrote the book. *A Christmas Story: The Musical* eventually made its way to Broadway in New York City in 2012.

A Christmas Story is based on a novel from Jean Shepherd called "In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash." While the story takes place in the fictional town of Hohman,

Indiana, the movie was filmed in two locations: Cleveland, Ohio and Toronto, Canada. All of *A Christmas Story's* exteriors were filmed in Cleveland, while all of its interiors were shot in Toronto. Fun Fact: *A Christmas Story* was filmed during the winter, but there was not enough snow in Cleveland during production. A majority of the snow used in the film was trucked in from area ski resorts, or substituted with potato flakes and firefighter's foam.



Chicken Curry Recipe

By Mike P.

PREP TIME 10 minutes

COOK TIME 25 minutes

TOTAL TIME 35 minutes

SERVINGS 4

Instructions

Heat the oil in large pot over medium low heat. Add the onions and minced garlic and cook for a few minutes until the onions are fragrant and softened.

Add the chicken and cook for 2-3 minutes, browning it a little. Add curry powder and paste; cook for 3-5 minutes.

Add the coconut milk, and let simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the chicken is fully cooked.

Add water or chicken stock depending on the consistency you want for the sauce, or let simmer longer to thicken if needed.

Stir in the brown sugar, fish sauce, and lime juice.

Top with fresh cilantro, serve over cooked rice.

Ingredients

1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast chopped into bite sized pieces

1 Tablespoon vegetable oil

1 Tablespoon minced garlic

1 small yellow or white onion chopped

2 Tablespoons yellow curry powder

1 Tablespoon Thai red curry paste

15- ounce coconut milk canned, full fat

½ cup water or chicken stock optional

1 Tablespoon brown sugar

1 teaspoon fish sauce

2 Tablespoons lime juice

salt to taste handful of fresh cilantro roughly chopped

4 cups cooked white rice for serving

Ever Small, Ever Tall

By Bill B.

How about a dance tonight?

It has been so long

It has been so long

You came crying from a lonely shore

Wouldn't it be nice

To share some time together?

Let's go out to explore

I'll show you a different life

Hold my hand

Hold my hand

I will show you to understand

What love is meant to be.

Ever tall, ever small

Love is meant for one and all

All us tired and lonely people

Love is meant for one and all

How about some brand new
friends?

Our friendship seemed to drift apart

In all our work we neglect each other

We need some rain to satisfy

The thirst of our tender roots.

Can you afford some time alone?

Love will meet you there

I will meet you in the quiet

I will meet you in the splendor of creation

With you never apart.

Simplicity

By Bill B.

I have said goodbye to many friends

And hello to many more

God's gift to us in human flesh

Was a story long ago

Now we live by the Spirit's breath

And the council of His word

This gift of life which I celebrate

Leaves me wondering even more

Of all the deeds which I have seen

Nothing can compare

To a life laid down in simplicity

In this fast paced changing world

We are flooded with messages

That choke the gift of life

To enjoy each moment of life's gifts

As seasons come and go

Nature has its way of life

Trees know how to stand

The seagull's joy is in the air

Since long ago man has wished to fly

Why do things seem so confusing now

In the hustling on the street

I throw it all like chaff into the wind

For a life of simplicity



Questions to Ponder This Season

What do I need to let go of in my life?

How have I been gifted during the past year?

How can I be a gift to my family and friends?

What new activity can I try out this year?

What can I do to pay it forward?



Connecting with the World

Hello Bill and Members of Connections Place!

My name is Masha. I am 33. I am a linguist and have been a member of Russia House since 2011. Since then I have also been teaching English in the Club. Let me tell you about the activities we participate in.

Our day in Russia House begins with morning briefings and planning what we are going to do within a day and a week. Our activities include going to the shop, cooking dinner, doing the washing up, travelling around Moscow as a courier, meeting guests at the reception, answering the phone calls, having snack bar duty or answering the phone calls. After dinner we have our English, psychological seminars or creative workshop where my club members are crafting exquisite things with their own hands. We also celebrate birthdays, go to barbecues, and have charity parties where we meet the friends of Russia House, invite our relatives, and report on our achievements.

I think I am very lucky because in the Club I have found people who support each other through work-mediated relationship. This principle helps us to forget about our problems and difficulties in life.

Bill, thank you for sending us photo albums about Vancouver Island. They are so colourful and contain so many picturesque views and interesting information. Turning over the pages it becomes clear that Vancouver [Island] is magnificent in all seasons. But what makes it so special is the variety of people. There are so many activities for you to take up: sailing, yachting, diving, fishing, kayaking, whale watching. We would like to know what do you and your club members like doing most of all?

We also read about your life story, and we are happy for you that in spite of all difficulties and tragedies, you have experienced a springtime, met new friends, and found Love.

We are sending our best wishes,
Please tell us about your life in the Club,
Masha and Members of Russia House

Joke of the Day

Why do ants not get sick?

Because they have antibodies!



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