



# Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

## Countering the Colonial Gaze and Gentrification

*SAY: Vanessa Shanti Fernando, Sidara Ahmad, Nailasada Alidina,  
Nadia Sheikh and Farha Najah Hussain*

Inside this issue:	
Centre Update	2
Status for All	2
Articles Cont'd	3, 4
SAY	5
New Member	5
Spring Salad Recipe	5
Yomay Walda	6
Calendar	7

Following in the footsteps of a long tradition of predatory colonialist writing, food critic Adam Leith Gollner writes on an “ungentrified food paradise”, reducing a complex area in Montreal (Globe and Mail, April 2nd). As he writes, Parc-Ex is not a neighbourhood but a “habitat” and those that frequent a given restaurant are not customers but “wildlife”. Gollner goes beyond offering insight into Parc-Ex’s gastronomical landscape; rather, he echoes colonialist tropes in presenting this neighbourhood and its inhabitants as commodities.

Amongst the transphobic and sexist observations he makes are that of a “sixty-something transsexual with a cubist face” and a “woman with Cleopatra eyes”. For those of us yearning for a description of people that extends beyond the superficial,

he goes out of his way to provide us the insightful observation that the “transsexual” has “painted fingernails and long, blond, Pantene-perfect hair”. Gollner chooses a dehumanizing narrative, rather than identifying the people he observes as three dimensional human beings with aspirations. He commodifies Parc-Ex’s residents by presenting them as sensationalized Others. For Gollner, Parc-Ex is the home of “cultural communities” and “new arrivals” who run “weird driving schools”, sell “exoticisms”, and give the impression of living “on an altogether different planet”. In contrast, the “creative class” of “encroaching bohemians”, who live in the

*Response to Globe and Mail Article, “Why you should eat in Parc-Ex, Montreal’s ungentrified ethnic food paradise” by Adam Leith Gollner continued on page 3*

### Qu’en pensez-vous?

#### What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to: [say.jsa@resist.ca](mailto:say.jsa@resist.ca)
- Écrivez -nous à [say.jsa@resist.ca](mailto:say.jsa@resist.ca)

### Health Matters: Informing and Empowering Ourselves when it comes to Paps (Anonymous)

I have been discussing the health care system (a.k.a a medical industrial complex) with peers. Although not a surprise, we have been frustrated when it comes to talking about our health with professionals, including getting Pap-tests. People—particularly those who are marginalized based on their gender—can find it challenging to navigate through the system when dealing with professionals who provide inadequate, inaccurate information, do not provide sensitive care, and judge/disrespect us because of our sexual orientation and/or the ways we choose to have sex (or not have sex). (Continued on p.4)



Image retrieved from (April 30, 2013): [www.check-it-out.ca](http://www.check-it-out.ca)

## Centre Update

### Centre Hours

Monday and Thursdays: 9 a.m.—9 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9 a.m.—5p.m.

### Executive Council

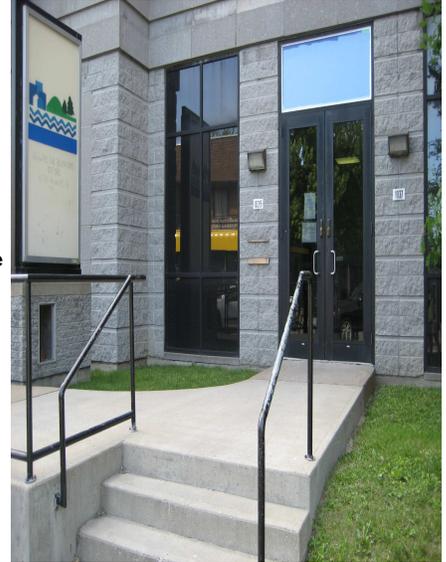
The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, 2013 at 6PM

EC meetings are open to all members. Agenda items should be sent at least one week prior to a meeting to: [dolchew@hotmail.com](mailto:dolchew@hotmail.com)

### Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or [homa@bellnet.ca](mailto:homa@bellnet.ca)) to coordinate a meeting!

SAWCC is forming a fund-raising committee to raise funds to permit us to be more effective in what we do. If you are interested in getting involved please **send an email to:** [sawcc@bellnet.ca](mailto:sawcc@bellnet.ca)



# STATUS FOR ALL!

MARCH FOR JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR ALL MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

**SATURDAY MAY 18 2013**

We support Indigenous struggles and movements for self-determination. We also march together to demand an end to deportations and detentions, and we denounce the double punishment of migrants with criminal records. We demand Status for All, and organize for a "Solidarity City" for all residents of Montreal.

A child-friendly march.  
Bring your kids!



1pm: Join ONE of FOUR Contingents:

\*SOUTH-WEST (Little Burgundy, Pointe-Saint-Charles, Saint-Henri and Verdun)  
1pm at métro de l'Église (corner Galt & Wellington)

\* NORTH-WEST (Côte-des-Neiges, Ville St-Laurent, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)  
1pm at Parc Kent (corner Côte-des-Neiges & Kent)

\* NORTH-EAST (Villeray, Parc-Extension, St-Michel, Ahuntsic, Rosemont-Petite-Patrie, Mile End)  
1pm at métro Jarry; 2pm at métro Parc; 3pm at métro Rosemont

\* EAST (Centre-Sud, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)  
1pm at Place Simon-Valois (corner Valois & Ontario)

4pm: CONVERGENCE, DEMONSTRATION AND PICNIC  
Philips Square (Union & Ste-Catherine, métro McGill)

no one is illegal



DIGNIDAD  
MIGRANTE

INFO:  
438-933-7654  
[www.solidarityacrossborders.org](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org)

Join the Parc-Extension contingent at noon  
(12 pm) for a picnic at Parc Gare Jean-  
Talon, near Parc metro!



More information:

[www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/may-18-status-for-all-march/downloads](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/may-18-status-for-all-march/downloads)



## Countering the Colonial Gaze and Gentrification (cont'd from p. 1)

Mile End and elsewhere, are granted full humanity: they are “[a]rtists, activists, documentary filmmakers, and musicians”. Gollner places us in their vintage wingtip shoes by explaining the rise of real estate prices and interviewing people who are thinking about moving to or opening boutiques in the neighbourhood. Why aren't Parc-Ex's residents granted the same nuanced portrayal? Instead, Gollner brushes aside residents' discomfort with “gentry” outsiders and encourages readers to venture into this mysterious place, to uncover this “hidden gem” and enjoy a “pre-gentrified frontier”.

Furthermore, in attempting to “other” the residents of this area, Gollner wistfully remarks that Parc-Ex is “raw, gritty, almost un-capitalist”. Except that this neighbourhood is not un-capitalist in the slightest. Life in Parc-Extension is deeply embedded within, and affected by, a capitalist system that pushes racialized communities to the margins and forces them to face layers of systemic and state violence – including poverty, racial profiling and police violence by the SPVM, and the brutality of Canadian Border Service Agents (CBSA). To qualify this area as “un-capitalist” only adds insult to injury with respect to the harsh realities people face.

We question why the article's headline quickly changed from its original title, “Montreal's Park Ex, an edgy hidden gem ripe for gentrification”? Was the original title too blunt about the piece's ideological positioning? For Gollner, Parc-Ex is “a candidate for gentrification” because of its “cheap rents and central location”. Because Parc-Ex has “always been a landing spot for new arrivals”, Gollner frames increased gentrification as simply “a significant new wave”. His failure to understand the process and impact of gentrification, and ultimately support it by stating that it happens in the “best of places,” is promoting an act of systemic aggression.

Gentrification is a dynamic and violent economic process in which inhabitants of poor and working class neighborhoods are displaced from their homes and neighborhoods. This is primarily due to the fact that developers – with support of

municipal politicians and governments as is the case with Parc-Extension - seek profit from relatively cheap property by constructing or converting real-estate in that area (e.g condominiums).

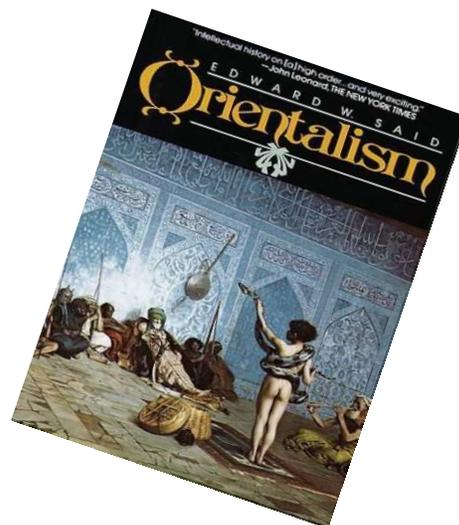
Gollner's call-out to hipsters and others outside of Parc-Ex is not a harmless rallying cry. Gentrification is a very real process in Parc-Extension, as can be seen by *le Projet d'aménagement d'un nouveau campus universitaire sur le site de la gare de triage d'Outremont*. As stated in the “Rapport de consultation publique (2007)” by the Office de Consultation Publique de Montreal, the plan is to construct student residents, teaching and research buildings for l'Université de Montréal. A private development of 800 units will be built, in which only 30% will be for social housing. As Fred Burrill states in his response to Gollner's piece (Maisonneuve, April 6) Parc-Ex is “. . . a neighbourhood where almost 20 percent of the population pays 50 percent of its monthly income in rent, and where 81 percent of the total population are tenants, facing a high risk of displacement with the encroachment of condo projects and university residences”. The displacement that Parc-Ex residents face is very real, and no laughing matter.

Gollner's piece on food is no a harmless folly. It is one that is embroiled in racist ideology and at the very least ignores the pernicious impacts of gentrification on human beings.

As individuals who are committed to the communities within which we organise, and from which we draw inspiration in our quest for social justice, we acknowledge with great humility the creativity, strength and determination of communities and neighbourhoods who have and continue to fight against racism and gentrification.

*The authors are part of the South Asian Youth (SAY) collective, in Montreal occupied Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) Territory.*

Hmmm....  
An interesting read:  
Edward Said's *Orientalism* (1978)

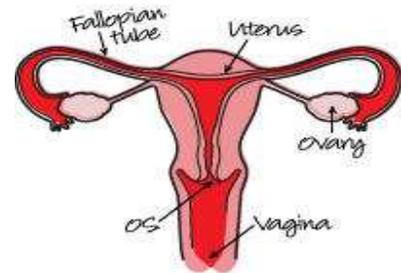


## Informing and Empowering Ourselves when it comes to Paps (cont'd from p.1)

The person who is ultimately in the best position to make decisions over our health and body, is ourselves. Empowerment happens when we feel we can make informed decisions. This is true when it comes to making decisions concerning our health. Making informed decisions can entail accessing and understanding health guidelines (recognising that these guidelines *should* be based on sound (and objective) scientific methodology and evidence. Unfortunately, though, this isn't always the case).

### What is a Pap Test?

As stated by the Queer's Women's Health Initiative (2009), a Pap test is a microscopic examination of cells taken from the cervix in a doctor's office or health clinic. This test is often included as a part of an overall pelvic exam, which is a complete examination of the pelvic organs (uterus, ovaries, cervix, etc.). This test serves as a screening tool for cervical cancer, which is preventable through Pap tests and treatment, where necessary. It should be noted that the Pap test does not screen for any other forms of cancer, nor is it a screening test for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). While the Pap test may show that cells of the cervix have been affected by human papillomavirus (HPV), the STI that can cause the cells of the cervix to become abnormal, the Pap test does not actually test specifically for HPV or any other STIs.



The cervix is the narrow end of the uterus which has a small opening (called the os) that connects the uterus with the vagina.

### Who should get a Pap Test?

When it comes to pap tests, it seems as though some physicians are mis-informed when it comes to people who are Trans, Queer and/or people who engage (or have engaged) in sexual activity that does not include penile-vaginal penetration. Pap tests are in fact recommended for people with a cervix—irrespective of their gender identity, are 21 years and older, and are/have been sexually active with another person (including sex that is oral, with fingers, toys) (Queer Women's Health Initiative, 2009; Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec, 2011)

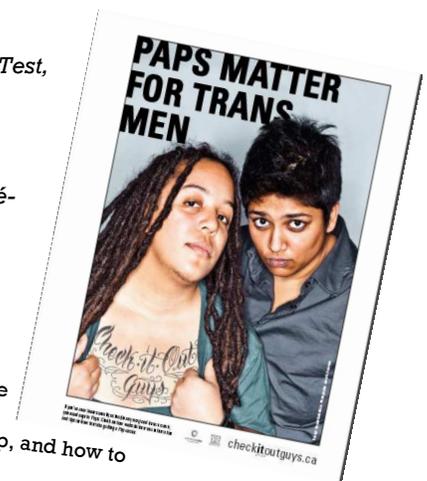
Current guidelines do not recommend Pap tests for individuals with a cervix who have never been sexually active with another person (i.e. have had no form of genital contact with another). There are, however, exceptions: people who are immunodeficient maybe recommended to get a test done, including if they are less than 21 (Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec, 2011) . The role of the healthcare professional should be to listen and provide medical opinion in a respectful and non-judgmental manner.

For detailed information on Pap tests, Frequently Asked Questions, What happens in a Pap Test, How to Get Through a Pap test, please visit the Queer Women's Health Initiative website:

**Check it out!** (link below).

Pour l'information sur les Lignes directrices sur le dépistage du cancer du col utérin au Québec, veuillez consulter le lien ci-dessous.

Paps matter for trans men, regardless of who we have sex with, how we have sex, or where we're at in transition. If you have a cervix, you need a Pap. This site, developed by and for trans men and our healthcare providers, is here to provide more information about why you may need a Pap, and how to make the experience of getting one better. Paps are worth it! [www.checkitoutguys.ca](http://www.checkitoutguys.ca)



-Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (2011). Lignes directrices sur le dépistage du cancer du col utérin au Québec. Retrieved from: <http://www.espaceitss.ca/56-manchettes/les-nouvelles-lignes-directrices-sur-le-depistage-du-cancer-du-col-uterin.html>

-Queer Women's Health Initiative (2009). About the Pap-test. *Check it Out*. Retrieved April 30, 2013. From: <http://www.check-it-out.ca/?q=about-the-pap-test>

## South Asian Youth (SAY) / Jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA)

SAY's weekly activities continued this month at La Voie and Jeunesse Unie.

A second Girls' Dinner is planned for May 1st at the community centre. We look forward to a great night!

In April, SAY met with EC members in efforts to discussing membership differences between the collective and the centre at large. We are happy to report that conversations will continue in the coming weeks.



Spring is here! Interested in joining us during a SAY meeting? We meet every Friday from 5:30—7:30PM. For more information, or if you just want to say *hi* drop us a line at: [say.jsa@resist.ca](mailto:say.jsa@resist.ca)

**Check out SAY's Opinion Piece, "Countering the Colonial Gaze and Gentrification" in this Bulletin!**

## Welcoming a new member to the SAWCC community!

We would like to extend our warm wishes to Anjali Abraham and her newborn daughter. We hope to meet Zara soon!

### The wonderfully delicious avocado.

**Fun facts:** The avocado is also known as the alligator pear.

**Did ya know?** Avocados will not ripen on the tree. They must be picked from the tree to initiate the ripening process. The leaves of the tree supply a substance to the fruit that prevents it from ripening. Avocados can be left on a tree for up to 7 months and will not ripen!

This fruit (yes, it's a fruit) is cholesterol and sodium-free and packed with all sorts of nutrients (fibre for example). It is rich in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats (ex. omega-3 fatty acids), vitamins A, C, D, E, K and all kinds of B vitamins as well as potassium.

### Spring Salad & Homemade Balsamic Salad Dressing (Courtesy of Monika Szpak)

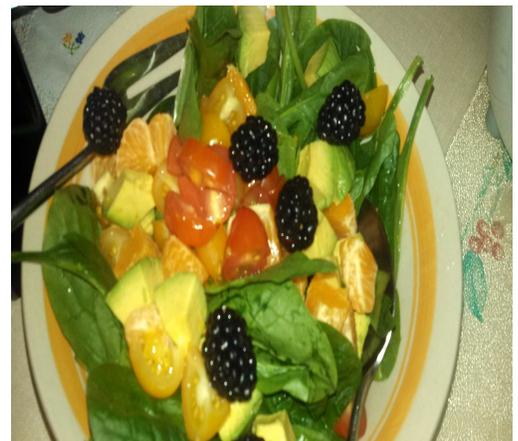
#### Dressing

- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
  - 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
  - 1 clove of garlic crushed or finely chopped
  - 2 teaspoons of blackberry juice (or crushed)
  - a pinch of oregano to taste
- a pinch of salt and pepper to taste

#### Salad

- Baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 avocado, chopped
- 1/2 package of cherry tomatoes
- 1 mandarin orange, chopped
- 1/2 package of blackberries

Throw all of the ingredients for the dressing into a jar and shake. Pour over your salad and enjoy! Be sure to refrigerate the leftover dressing.



Yomay Walda (Written by Nighat, a SAWCC Member)

## یوم والدہ "مڈرز ڈے" Mothers Day

پرسال مئی کے مہینے میں دوسرے اوار کو یوم والدہ عالمی طور پر ماں کی محبت کو منانے کے لیے مخصوص کیا گیا ہے۔ عام طور پر یوم والدہ منانے کے لیے ماں کو کارڈ، ٹکڑے پھول اور باہر کھانا کھلانے لے جاتے ہیں۔ مہینہ اپنا ہے کہ ہر دن ماں کا دن ہے۔ صرف مخصوص دن ہی کیوں؟

ماں کا محبت سے بھرا ہوا دل چاہتا ہے کہ بچے والدین کے ساتھ زیادہ سے زیادہ وقت گزاریں کیونکہ وقت تیزی سے گزرتا ہے وقت ٹھہرتا نہیں ہے۔

موجودہ زمانے کا "مڈرز ڈے" یوم والدہ سب سے پہلے 1908 (1909) میں منایا گیا۔ اس دن کو جارجس (JARVIS) اسی بیٹی "اننا" (ANNA) نے والدہ کے انتقال کے بعد اپنی ماں کی شان میں منایا۔ اس کو اس بات کا افسوس تھا کہ "مڈرز ڈے" یوم والدہ کو تجارتی حیثیت دے دی گئی ہے اور اس کو منانے کا طریقہ نہ رکھا گیا۔ ماں کو کارڈ اور ٹکڑے دینے کا دن سمجھا گیا۔

**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

South Asian Women's Community Centre  
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.  
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812  
Fax: 514-528-0896  
E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

31 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2013

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

May 3—SAY meeting at 5:30PM  
May 7—Information session, Stress Relief  
May 10th—SAY meeting at 5:30PM  
May 14—Information Session—Family Budget  
May 17th—SAY meeting at 5:30PM  
May 18—Status for All Picnic @ noon, Parc Metro followed by a march!  
May 21—Information session, CLSC services  
May 23—Executive Council Meeting 6pm  
May 24th—SAY meeting at 5:30PM  
May 31—Potluck Lunch and Recipe Exchange (noon)  
SAY meeting at 5:30PM

May 3- Réunion des JSA à 17h30  
7 mai— Session d'information, le stress  
10 mai—Réunion des JSA à 17h30  
14 mai—Session d'information, budget familial  
17 mai—Réunion des JSA à 17h30  
18 mai—un statut pour toutes et tous: pique-nique à midi au métro Parc, suivi d'une manifestation  
21 mai— Session d'information, services des CLSCs  
23 mai—Réunion du conseil administratif 18h  
24 mai—Réunion des JSA à 17h30  
31 mai—Dîner communautaire à midi Réunion des JSA à 17h30

# mai 2013

Dim.	Lun.	Mar.	Mer.	Jeu.	Ven.	Sam.
			1	2	<b>SAY</b> 3	4
5	6	 7	8	9	<b>SAY</b> 10	11
12	13	 14	15	16	<b>SAY</b> 17	 18
19	20	 21	22	 23	<b>SAY</b> 24	25
26	27	28	29	30	 31	