Where are the grads of ’84?

Job Corps celebrates four successful years

Text and photos by Ellen Saenger

A job, say MOSAIC employment counsellors, is often the ticket into a new culture. So the MOSAIC Job Corps program can be described as a ticket centre of sorts, doing a booming business since its pilot class in 1984.

In that first group was an unemployed Guatemalan refugee. Today, four years later, Juan Carlos Hernandez is head waiter at the Hotel Meridien’s posh Cafe Fleuri, eyeing the position of maitre-d’ and looking beyond that to food and beverage manager.

He has worked since he found his first job in Mulvaney’s restaurant while in the MOSAIC program.

“I learned how to talk to employers, how to shake their hand, (to know) when they want me to leave the interview, . . . how to be very positive and tell them what I know,” Hernandez says of the program.

“That’s what I learned best; to leave a good impression at an interview.”

During the three- or four-month Job Corps programs, trainees are taught Canadian job search strategies. Then, they set out to put those strategies into practice, not only to find their first jobs, but for any future job search.

Job Corps instructors don’t find jobs for trainees, stresses Celia Brookfield, the senior instructor with the program.

“We make it very clear that the expectation is that they (participants) all will look for jobs themselves,” she says.

In many of their home countries, Job Corps participants may get jobs through friends or family, a network they lack here. Or they may be accustomed to being placed in jobs by the state.

“The ideas of competition or selling oneself is often foreign to the trainees,” she says.

Trainees are paid minimum wage by MOSAIC. When they find an employer willing to hire them, they work for a trial period of 80 or 100 hours, still on the MOSAIC payroll. If all goes well, the trainee is then hired by the employer.

If a job requires more extensive training, a 4- to 6-month federal government subsidy may be arranged, whereby the government pays 60 percent of the salary if the employer provides a training plan.

Bill Vickery was director of building services at Shaughnessy Hospital four years ago when he hired Patrick Chen, another trainee from the first Job Corps.

“The trial job placement gave us an opportunity to see that Patrick was an excellent worker, worth having on our staff,” Vickery said.

Vickery has become director of building services at Vancouver General Hospital, while Chen still works at Shaughnessy.

The success enjoyed by Chen and Hernandez in the job market is common among Job Corps grads, according to a study in August of the MOSAIC Job Corps programs from 1984 to February 1988.

Over the past four years, 304 new Canadians have graduated from the 16 different MOSAIC Job Corps programs. The programs have boasted an average 97 percent success rate.

For the MOSAIC-commissioned survey, Karen McKellin interviewed 87 Job Corps grads (29.21 percent of the total) and found 66 were employed.

(continued on page 6)
Protecting refugees after Jan. 1

By Vera Radio

Besides being New Year’s Day, Jan. 1, 1989, is the day Canada’s new refugee determination laws take effect. For those who decry “bogus refugees,” the laws that restrict access to Canada are long overdue.

Gordon Fairweather, chairman of the Immigration and Refugee Board, has an impressive record as chairman of Canada’s Human Rights Commission. He believes the new system allows Canada to regain control of its borders while retaining a humanitarian response to genuine refugees. He points out that the Board of 115 (soon to be 135) government appointees is the largest tribunal of its kind in Canada.

A member of that Refugee Board and an immigration adjudicator hold a preliminary hearing with the claimant to determine eligibility (do they have a criminal record, have they applied within the last 90 days, have they come from a safe third country, etc.) If the claimant passes this stage, there is an examination to test the credibility of the claim. Then, the claimant meets with two members of the Refugee Board to tell his story. If either member of the Board feels the claimant has a genuine case, he or she can stay in Canada.

The Inter-Church Committee on Refugees and the Canada Council of Refugees strongly believe the new system is flawed because it doesn’t allow each claim to be heard and there is no appeal on the merits of the claim.

The Inter-Church Committee notes that Jesus was a refugee. The Holy Family heard of King Herod’s plan to kill all male children, so they fled to Egypt. Would they make it in our era?, the Churches ask. Would their story be believed? Would their papers be in order?

The new refugee determination system will restore order in a painfully inadequate system. But is it fair? Will it protect genuine refugees, while screening away the illegitimate? Will it turn away those who are too traumatized to tell their story immediately?

We must be vigilant over the coming months to see how the system works.

* Vera Radio is Executive Director of MOSAIC

It was a dark and stormy night . . .

By Ita Margalit

Dateline: Saturday, September 24, MOSAIC offices.
5:00 p.m.
A harried fundraiser sits watching the telephone panel hoping no lights flash.
5:30 p.m.
A light flashes. It’s May Woo, employment program administrative assistant extraordinaire. There seems to be a mix up with the reservations at the Kamei Robata. The fundraiser makes a call to Yami San. It’s all straightened out. The Woos prepare to chew down.
6:00 p.m.
A light flashes. A stranger’s voice asks, “Like, where are these dinners happening?” Holding back her laughter, the fundraiser explains that this year’s dinners are all booked, but she’ll take his name for next year’s event.
7:00 p.m., across town
Strapping his rubber booted foot to his bicycle pedal, John Doyle, factotum and paparazzo prepares for his photo vigil of this night. His mission — to snap Mayor Gordon Campbell wherever he goes. To seek out politicians from all levels of government: John Fraser, Kim Campbell, Darlene Marzari, Gordon Price, Sandra Wilking, Margaret Mitchell, Philip Owen and commit them to silver oxide.
7:30 p.m.
The parties begin. Three hundred and sixty hungry people descend on 54 hosts all over Vancouver; some in costumes, some in formal wear, others bearing forks. It’s a great success. People are having fun. At one party people are having their fortunes told. At another party people are dirty dancing.
MOSAIC raises more than $8,000 for services to new Canadians.
8:30 p.m., MOSAIC office
The fundraiser rises. The phones have been silent. Time for her to go to dinner. Her step is light tonight but she knows that The Night of 100 Dinners will be followed by The Months of 1,000,000 Details.

Thanks to all who participated!

* Ita Margalit is MOSAIC Financial Development Officer

Thanks!

Vancouver City Savings for your generous donation of $2,000 for MOSAIC’s seniors programs. Keith Tongue of VanCity really boosted our Annual Meeting when he presented us with the cheque.

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Newsletter Editor: Ellen Saenger
Desktop Publishing consultant: Peter Lincoln

Vancouver MOSAIC, Winter 1988
Province seeks review of immigration vows

By Ellen Saenger

John Jansen wants to transform B.C. from unwilling bride to active partner with the federal government in immigration matters.

As B.C.’s first-ever Minister of International Business and Immigration, he said he looks forward to negotiating with the federal government the province’s role in immigration.

“Immigration has always been a federal responsibility, and yet the province is brought into it as sort of an unwilling bride in terms of the problems we get; social costs, health costs, policing cost and justice costs,” Jansen said in an interview before addressing a graduating class of the MOSAIC Employment Programs.

Jansen has held his position since the ministry was created in a cabinet shuffle in July 1988. Yet his keynote speech in October to the new Canadian graduates at MOSAIC was his first function related to the immigration portion of his portfolio.

And until the federal government gives his ministry a mandate to deal with immigration, Jansen will continue to steer only half of his portfolio — promoting international business and trade, jetting around the globe to “sell the province.”

“We’re negotiating with the federal government to find where we can play some role in immigration in terms of jobs, economy, . . . in terms of perhaps pre-screening, (and) business immigration,” Jansen said.

The Meech Lake constitutional accord signed by the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers in 1987 gives the provinces the ability to enter into an agreement with Ottawa on immigration. Jansen brushes off criticism that the combination of international business and immigration means that the province is only interested in wealthy entrepreneurial immigrants.

“Anything to do with international relations deals with my ministry, so it’s logical immigration should come under that.”

“While (immigration) is more of a social side than a commercial side, it’s a side that nevertheless has to be dealt with on an international basis,” he said.

Like his boss, B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm, Jansen immigrated to Canada from Holland.

The five-year-old Jansen settled in Chilliwack with his parents and eight siblings. When he started school, he spoke only Dutch and he wore the short pants that were common in Holland but were laughed at in his new home.

He remembers when his mother didn’t know the word for the toilet paper she wanted to buy, and her description led the clerk to sell her a newspaper.

Jansen said his help in integrating into Canadian society was limited to the instructions: “There’s the school, go at it, boy.”

Now, as minister, Jansen said he wants the province “to spend more time on assisting integration, not in terms of immigrants losing their distinct cultures but in terms of assisting them in becoming productive in the workforce.

“If you do a good job on integration, you don’t face other problems downstream,” such as crime and increased health care costs, he said.

Jansen said he would like to see B.C.’s role in immigration somewhere between its current, non-existent role and the very active role taken by Quebec, which also has a provincial immigration ministry.

He said he was not familiar enough with the new federal immigration legislation to say whether it will solve the problems plaguing immigration.

Ethnic advisory committee named

Provincial Secretary Bill Reid announced the appointment of a long-awaited 24-member Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage Nov. 28.

Reid, who also chairs the Cabinet Committee on Cultural Heritage, said the committee has a range of more than 35 languages and its members are involved with more than 30 distinct cultural groups.


Did you know...?

There is no country today known as East Indies and there are no East Indian people.

East Indies is opposed to West Indies, the name given by early explorers to islands in the Atlantic that they believed to be off the coast of India. The term East Indies was later restricted to Malaya and Dutch East Indies which since 1948, have been officially known as Indonesia.

In North America, the term was likely first used to differentiate between the real Indians - people of the Indus Valley in India - and the Canadian Indians who themselves have been wrongly named by early explorers, who thought they had found a route to India when they discovered North America.

In Canada, it is correct to call people from India either Asians or Indo-Canadians.

*From a text by late Rai A.M. Sadaruddin
It's a long way from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa to a small and sparsely furnished apartment in East Vancouver.

Yet Almaz Ketema has brought her 17-year-old son Dereje, and eight-year-old daughter Firehiwot here. Little Firehiwot speaks fluent Greek, a hint that theirs has been a long journey from their strife-torn homeland to safe resettlement in Canada.

Sometimes, explains Almaz sitting in her first apartment in Canada, women refugees do not find shelter; they don't find the refugee camps, or any housing.

Sometimes, the United Nations allowance for refugees is kept from women by corrupt guards, she says. With a wide and gentle smile, Almaz apologizes that her English is limited. Dereje helps translate from his mother's native Amharic.

Almaz is one of the 31 women and their dependents who has been resettled in Canada so far this year under a new federal program "Women at Risk." About five of the women and their dependents have arrived in B.C.

Under the program, an estimated 50 refugee women and their children will be resettled in Canada this year, although the program has no quota or ceiling, said Trudy Kernighan, a project officer for Refugee Affairs, with Canada Immigration.

The program, launched in February, is aimed at helping those women, often with dependents, who are in danger in refugee camps or countries of asylum, and who need integration beyond what government sponsored refugees receive, Kernighan said in a November interview.

The women are sponsored by a private group or co-sponsored by local groups, such as Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral that sponsored Almaz, and the federal government. In co-sponsorship, the government covers financial needs, while the private groups are responsible for orientation.

But more than three quarters of the world's approximately 14 million refugees are women and children, estimates the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Yet in 1986, females made up only 40.5 percent of refugees accepted into Canada.

Around the world, millions of women and children fleeing violence or abuse at home encounter more of the same in flight, in camps and in countries of first asylum. From all corners of the globe come stories about women and children refugees who are homeless and starving, beaten, raped or murdered.

They face a bleak future with next to no resettlement opportunities. Eligibility for entry into first world countries is usually based on education or work experience -- denied many women in third-world countries, where men have much easier access to money and travel without the need of protection or the responsibility for children.

So considering the world-wide situation of women refugees, Canada's Women at Risk program seems like the proverbial drop in the bucket.

But CEIC's Kernighan said: "We're not saying this program is Canada's response to female refugees." Canada accepted 2,660 female refugee heads of family last year, she said, and will continue to admit women.

Women at Risk "is a very small initiative for a very needy group of people. We never anticipated it would grow beyond that," she said.

Frances MacQueen, of Amnesty International in Vancouver, said she hopes the government will meet the target of 50 women, because there are "numerous women desperately needing help."

But "I suspect the government will take those who are good for Canada," MacQueen said.

She pointed out that "there are thousands of women not even in a position to apply" to the program.

If the Women at Risk program "is done in good faith, it's a good step. But I'd like to see more" women refugees accepted into Canada, she says.

CEIC's Kernighan said Ottawa won't develop a bank of women needing sponsorship, because the women's situation is so desperate that they are processed as soon as they are identified by the UNHCR, visa officers, or any other means.

Dr. Jaimie Wallin, chair of the Christ Church Cathedral Sponsorship Committee, says Women at Risk is an urgently needed program. He is encouraged that "other refugee families are very quick to help in orientation." A family sponsored last year by the Cathedral, this year found Almaz an apartment.

(continued on page 7)
Tough lessons in multiculturalism

By Gosia Kawecki

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Government of Canada to . . . promote the understanding and creativity that arise from the interaction between individuals and communities of different origins; . . . (The Multicultural Policy of Canada)

- A mother is devastated and depressed because her daughter lives with a man of a different race. She says she cannot face her community because of the shame.
- A young man in an English-language course requests a transfer to another class where there are more people from his country of origin. He says that in his class, too many students are from "backward countries" and not very bright.
- A grandmother is upset because her granddaughter often plays with boys of various racial backgrounds. She says she worries that the little girl may get confused, and in the future marry "the wrong kind."

Much has been said and written about such all-too-familiar cases of racial prejudice and cultural intolerance. But often it is implied that cultural insensitivity is a problem of mainstream society. Yet the mother, the student and the grandmother in the above situations all belong to ethnic minorities.

Aren't we, new Canadians, often identified by the multicultural awareness as merely subjects of discrimination and prejudice and not given a forum to discuss our very own fears and misconceptions we all have about "these different" people we encounter after arriving in Canada?

Most of us immigrants came to Canada because of economic or political reasons. We came here to realize our dreams of making a better life without a fear of persecution. We did not choose Canada as our adopted country because of a strong desire to live in a multicultural society.

To many of us the concept of multiculturalism is quite foreign. The countries we come from are mainly homogeneous, or, there is one dominant culture that tries to impose its values on minority groups. So the reality of cross-cultural co-existence and interaction we all know is not the same as it is, or is meant to be, in Canada.

What we bring with us to Canada is the life experience of living in a cultural and social environment drastically different from what exists here.

Are we prepared to address the problem of intolerance in the broader context of cross-cultural interactions as opposed to the current tendency of narrowing it down to the dealings between the majority and minorities only?

For many years we have had a very simplified version of multiculturalism. Ethnic celebrations, focussing on food and the arts, were seen as an expression of cultural differences. Fortunately, we now also talk about our different beliefs, perceptions of the world and general attitudes which were shaped by the unique experiences indigenous to our cultural backgrounds.

(continued on page 6)

Democracy Revived

By Nancy Knickerbocker

September 22, 1988 -- the long-awaited day of redress for the 22,000 Canadians who were stripped of their rights, uprooted, interned and dispossessed because of their Japanese ancestry.

In Vancouver, the community gathered to share their joy and sorrow. People rushed into one another's arms, dancing and laughing and weeping. In Ottawa, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney offered Japanese Canadians "the formal and sincere apology of this Parliament for those past injustices against them, against their families and against their heritage."

"I am very happy," said 80-year-old Mrs. Masue Tagashira. "We have been waiting for this for so long. Our experience was a deep insult, an injustice . . . I have never been able to forget."

The celebration was muted by a sense of commemoration of the thousands of survivors who didn't live to see justice done. The old Japanese Language School -- the only building left of a once-thriving community -- seemed vivid, alive with their memories.

Mrs. Haruko Kobayakawa, 86, wept for her husband, Masao, one of the first Nisei (Japanese-born) born on Vancouver Island, "he loved Canada like a mother."

"When he was interned he felt as though his arms and legs had been cut off and he had been thrown out into the snow. Before he died (in 1979) he didn't see any sign of redress, but he was always talking about it," Mrs. Kobayakawa said.

Lily Yuriko Shinde was remembering her father, who died two years ago. She said his experience in the internment camp at Greenwood left him "a very bitter man," and she was deeply disappointed he didn't live to see redress achieved.

That it was achieved is testimony to the strength, unity and hard work of the whole community, said Tony Tamao, who spoke for the National Association of Japanese Canadians at a press conference. "And once we realized we were supported by the Canadian people as a whole, things really began to come together."

Tamao said that the redress movement has restored Japanese Canadians' pride in their heritage, and affirmed for them their place within the wider society. And it was the cultural values of the Issei (Japanese-born) -- especially that of "gaman," or patience and perseverance -- that kept the movement going despite long periods when it seemed no one in Ottawa was listening.

"We were able to persevere because of our upbringing," said Charles Kadota. "There isn't total justice anywhere but we have to seek it. That's what we did. We fought for democracy, for human rights, for citizenship."

Naomi Shimizu said it will take some time for the reality of redress to sink in. When it does, she believes it will free more people to tell the untold stories, to face buried feeling, to heal old wounds. "Then," she said, "it will be time for us all to get on with our lives, time for a fresh start."

- Nancy Knickerbocker is a Vancouver-based freelance journalist. She is also a member of MOSAIC's board.
Job Corps grads
(continued from front page)

Of the 21 unemployed graduates, two were out of work because of pregnancies. Four were recently laid off, including individuals who had worked one or three years and one graduate who had been working steady part-time since leaving the program.

Also, more than half of the unemployed Job Corp graduates interviewed had taken or were taking English upgrading and 6 had taken, or were currently taking vocational upgrading courses.

In an analysis of McKellin's report, MOSAIC computer consultant Peter Lincoln concluded that: "Very few (Job Corps grads) were chronically unemployed after leaving MOSAIC and if unemployment were defined according to the usual definition, the unemployment rate of the trainees would be no greater and perhaps even less than the regional unemployment rate."

But the high success rate is only a reflection of those who meet the criteria of, and are accepted into the program.

And behind the encouraging job-finding statistics are thousands of hours of hard work; at times discouraging and frightening work by the program participants. The hours may be riddled with set backs, and lay-offs are common among new entries into the work force.

Yet there is determination among trainees, such as shown by a Vietnamese single mother who contacted 300 employers before finding a job as a dental ceramics lab technician.

There are the trainees like Lucas Rodriguez who went to 10 or 12 interviews daily and made dozens more "cold calls" to potential employers during her job search.

An interior-exterior designer from Mexico City, Rodriguez landed a job as sandwich maker here. But because her hands were constantly wet on the job, a skin problem worsened and she had to quit her job after less than three months. Now unemployed, she concentrates on improving her English and caring for her five-year-old son. She refers to her Job Corp notes in her renewed search.

Rodriguez, visiting her former Job Corps classroom, sits under a sign that says "you are only one phone call away from a job."

She laughs as she tells of an employer who wanted five years Canadian work experience for a $5-an-hour sandwich maker job.

New immigrants looking for work must constantly face that monumental "Canadian work experience" requirement. They often take much lower paid and lower skilled jobs than they are used to, or, they are not able to use their specific skills here.

Job Corps graduate Mastora Walizada, like most grads, finds herself in new working surroundings, among tables, food and intricately-beautiful rugs in the Afghan restaurant she runs with her husband Khalil in Vancouver. As a broadcaster and television news anchor in Afghanistan, she was surrounded by microphones. But she says the language barrier makes it difficult for her to get into broadcasting here.

Walizada, a political refugee and now a landed immigrant, found Job Corps in a way many have -- through a presentation by Maro Paizakis, MOSAIC Employment Programs Manager, to ESL classes.

Job Corps is one of several MOSAIC employment programs for new immigrants.

Multicultural lessons
(continued from page 5)

What has recently been recognized officially by the federal multiculturalism policy has been known unofficially for many years - that multiculturalism is the basis of Canadian society and forms the common ground which allows us to identify ourselves as Canadians.

We are different but at the same time united in the name of equality, tolerance and appreciation of cultural diversity.

The importance of multicultural education has been acknowledged by community leaders, ethnic groups and schools. University courses in ethnic studies, sensitization of professionals through seminars and workshops and multicultural education in schools all assist Canadians in overcoming cultural biases and developing cultural understanding. This educational process is based on the premise that intolerance and prejudice are rooted in ignorance and that once we learn about each other's society of origin, cultural barriers will crumble.

But we newcomers do not have equal opportunities to learn about Canada's cultural diversity and multicultural identity.

There is limited discussion of our obligations as members of a society composed of people representing a variety of races, religions, customs and beliefs.

Isn't it time to start multicultural education among adult new Canadians, as it has been started in our schools, when they are still searching for cultural identity and a place in the new society?

The language training and basic cultural orientation the new Canadians receive now may help some get by. But it may not be enough for everyone to understand the nature of multicultural society at its best, wherein cultural intolerance and racial prejudice have no place.

We need a well-developed and profound educational program that would teach multiculturalism and its practical applications in everyday interaction with various cultures. A program from which we all can benefit, whether we have been in Canada for a week or for a lifetime. Are we ready for it?

* Gosia Kawaiecki is Coordinator of Volunteers at MOSAIC. She immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1974
MOSAIC hits benchmark year

Somewhat like a teenager taking on increased adult responsibilities, MOSAIC’s 16th year has been one of coming of age.

MOSAIC’s new premises on the corner of Commercial Drive and Grant Street was officially opened - a necessary move considering that client contact has doubled from what it was five years ago. Also this year, MOSAIC’s steadily-growing budget tipped the $1 million mark.

Describing MOSAIC’s move from the previous rabbit hutch office, President James Barber said: “We all walked a few inches taller, and we all looked a little further, beyond the boundaries somehow imposed upon us by our previous cramped facilities.”

Also over the past year, MOSAIC Employment Programs launched a new and very successful silviculture training program and an English language and childcare program.

The MOSAIC Translation Service has been aggressively improving itself and considering operating fully in the commercial field.

MOSAIC has even ventured into the theatre, with the play TRANSITIONS, about the refugee experience. TRANSITIONS was performed in 18 high schools and has sparked serious interest by television producers.

Ita Margaliti has spearheaded MOSAIC’s first annual fundraising campaign, and she organized two major events in the fall.

Also this year, MOSAIC launched its first newsletter.

All these new ventures are above and beyond the well-established counselling, orientation or job training services provided to thousands of clients by bilingual community workers and employment counsellors. MOSAIC’s coordinators of volunteers continue to provide interpreters for non-English speaking new comers who may have medical, legal or social services appointments, or perhaps a meeting with a school teacher.

But no matter how many new programs and initiatives were added to the MOSAIC roster during the past year, the organization continues to work towards its basic goal - helping new Canadians overcome language and cultural barriers so they can contribute effectively to Canadian society.

MOSAIC names new board

The following is the 1988-89 MOSAIC board of directors.

Executive:
President, James Barber
Vice-President, Dove Hendren
Treasurer, Rozmin Sayani
Secretary, Kathryn Ferrius

Member at Large, Haiderali Merchant

Directors:
Manjit Aujla
Shiraz Chatur
Ebb Goethals
Young Moon
Willa Strumberger
Noshir Balsara
Kenn Derby
Nancy Knickerbocker
Shelley Rivkin
Megan Murphy
Suja Srikaneswaran

Vancouver MOSAIC, Winter 1988
Profiles

Refugee Council honours MOSAIC worker

Roxana Aune, one of MOSAIC’s three Latin American community workers and herself an immigrant from Costa Rica, was honoured in October by the Vancouver Refugee Council for her committed volunteer work.

Aune has a high profile in Vancouver because of her work with MOSAIC. But the Refugee Council recognized the exemplary contributions she makes to refugee services in addition to her MOSAIC case load.

Aune devotes countless volunteer hours to her work as a board member of the Vancouver Society on Inland Refugee Rights, the Survivors of Torture, Latin American Research Centre and the Christian Association of Professional Hispanics.

A registered social worker who has been with MOSAIC since the organization started 17 years ago, Aune is in demand throughout Vancouver as a speaker on Latin American issues, immigration and refugees.

A surprised Aune received one of the five Community Services Awards presented at the third annual Refugee Services Day ceremony Oct. 27.

Also honoured by the Council with a special presentation was Stanley Knight. Knight is former president and long-time active member of MOSAIC. He was president of the Refugee Council until he had to resign his post this fall to accept a federal-government appointment to the Convention Refugee Determination Division, under the new federal immigration legislation.

Founder wins award

With great pride and humble appreciation MOSAIC presented Renate Shearer with the 1988 Human Rights Award, posthumously, at the Annual General Meeting in September.

Renate was a special friend to MOSAIC. She was a founder of the multilingual information service, and helped it grow from a storefront with a handful of staff to the MOSAIC of today.

She was involved in numerous immigrant, community, labour, native and women’s groups during her life in Canada.

She left a courageous battle with cancer in August.

Barbara Binns, Renate’s long-time friend who accepted the award on her behalf, said the principal of Renate’s life was a belief in the dignity of human beings.

Previous winners of the award include MOSAIC volunteer Sheila Shannon, Jill Weis, Bishop Remi de Roo, Chuan Gill of the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism, Justice Thomas Berger and the late Dr. Joseph Katz.

Veteran bookkeeper steps down

After 16 years in control of MOSAIC’s debts and credits, Dorothy Vogl has resigned her spot as bookkeeper.

In the time-span during which Dorothy kept careful track of each penny spent and earned, MOSAIC grew from a program administered by the YMCA to the organization of today.

MOSAIC President James Barber described Dorothy as the little voice whispering into the executive director’s ear, to ensure the organization’s books were in the black.

To MOSAIC staff, Dorothy was more than a friendly face who came into the office with an armload of ledgers. She was also responsible for their bi-weekly paycheques.

MOSAIC wishes Dorothy all the best in her future endeavours.

Accountant Dennis Cessa took over Dorothy’s duties as of November 1, 1988.

TAKE NOTICE!

- Information session, with lawyer Allison Sawyer, on new refugee laws for Latin American refugee applicants, Dec. 9, 2:30 p.m. at MOSAIC. Due to space limitations, only those likely to be affected by the laws are invited - recent arrivals, claimants who haven’t had an Examination Under Oath and haven’t worked here. Spanish interpretation provided.

- Vancouver Society on Immigrant Women, Jobs Skills Directory. Immigrant Women, do you want to work? What are you good at? Register your skills and hourly rate with our computerized Job Skills Directory. Phone 731-9108 after 4 p.m..

- “Behind Closed Doors,” a 30-minute video production by the Inland Refugee Society is now available. The video shows the lives of refugee claimants who fled their country and arrived in Vancouver without proper documentation. Through personal, on-camera interviews the refugees recount their experiences and express their concerns as newly arrived refugees. Organizations with a budget of $100,000 pay $5. Organizations with up to $100,000, $25. Rental charge is $5 per 24-hour period, pick up only. Please order by phone or write Inland Refugee Society, P.O. Box 46552, Vancouver, V6R 4G8. Tel. 251-3360.

- MOSAIC offices will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2 inclusive.

- MOSAIC has a FAX - 254-2321

- AMSSA presents a multicultural health symposium, “Achieving Health for all in a Multicultural Society,” Feb. 17 and 18, 1989 at the Airport Inn Resort in Richmond. For further info, call AMSSA at 738-7130 or 738-2724.

- B.C. Multicultural Week Feb. 20-24

- Canadian Council for Refugees, 1989 national conference June 1-3 in Vancouver, hosted by the Vancouver Refugee Council. Anyone interested in CCR or the conference, please contact Vera Radio at 254-9626.

- Congratulations MOSAIC employees May Woo and Taranjeet Dhillon. Both were recently married. We wish them all the very best in their married lives!