by Joanne Dahl

A heightened awareness of youth gangs in Vancouver has sparked an initiative to explore service alternatives for Asian teens and young adults. MOSAIC staff have long recognized the needs of these families and the difficulties they face trying to ease into their new culture.

Dominic Fung, MOSAIC’s Chinese counsellor, voices the concerns of these young Asian people. Through volunteer work as President of the Strathcona Community Centre Association and Co-Chair of the Asian Youth Task Force, he along with other Task Force executives, secured funding for a six month research project from Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) and the Secretary of State. They expect that the project will identify youth needs and give a definitive outline of services that will fulfil the needs of these struggling youths and their families. "It’s our hope that the project will come up with some recommendations for a more comprehensive plan of programs and services that allow the youth more easily accessible options which lead to becoming positive and involved members of our community.”, explains Dominic.

This is not, however, an easily

continued on page 7 - see Youth

Grade 10 students at Britannia High
President's Message

by Ken Derby

1991 presents a year of challenge for MOSAIC. We are in the process of developing a strategic plan, of expanding our programs, and improving our operations.

We are examining the mix of programs and services, aiming at increasing the services we can provide. Right now we can only help about 15 percent of the people who come to us looking for job training - which means we have to turn away 85 percent! Our bilingual counsellors are also facing increasing work loads as more and more people depend on their help. Requests for written translation and oral interpretation are growing. Mainstream agencies often ask MOSAIC's advice on how they can become more sensitive to BC's changing population.

In our Strategic Plan, we are looking at ways we can deal with these issues. We are also developing strategies for increasing our public profile, diversifying and increasing our funding base, and intensifying our impact on government policy making.

I know that our human resources - staff, volunteers and board - are our most important asset. It is this team that has made this organization effective; has earned MOSAIC its solid reputation; and will see us successfully meet the challenging years ahead. It is impossible not to feel a great deal of pride in the past and anticipation in MOSAIC's future.

Translation Services

by John Doyle

Translation ... since you asked.

What are the most often asked queries of MOSAIC's translation service? "I'd say that about three-quarters of our phone calls are variations of the following six questions," reports John Doyle, a co-ordinator for the office.

Q. Do you speak Chinese (or Vietnamese, Korean, Hebrew, etc.)?

A. No - the section's two co-ordinators can do over-the-phone enquiries in 4 or 5 languages, no more. However, through a network of couriers, faxes, machines, modems, etc. they have access to 150 translators, and can meet document requests in over 55 languages. The office also handles typesetting in 38 scripts. "We don't, however, offer rush service in every language (48 hour return), nor do we translate in any of the native languages."

Q. Do you also do interpretation?

A. No - the translation section is kept extremely busy doing just translation requests. MOSAIC's interpretation section, just down the hall, does handle interpretation requests - in over 70 languages or dialects.

Q. Translation, interpretation - what's the difference?

A. When a meeting is set up, for example, between an English-speaking doctor and a Cantonese-speaking patient, they'll need an interpreter - i.e. someone whose skill is in the oral conveyance of information between two languages. When it's a question of writing from one language to another - a written medical report must be rendered from German to English, for example - then the task falls to a translator.

Q. Who do you do translations for, only immigrants?

A. No, we continue to primarily serve immigrant and refugee clients, but more and more translation, typesetting and paste-up requests are handled for institutions, divisions of government, and business concerns.

Q. Are your translations "legal" translations?

A. Yes, they are certified true translations and can be filed in courts, or submitted to registrars, accreditation boards, etc.

Q. Are your translators volunteers?

A. No. Translation is a demanding, professional field, requiring far more than simply a knowledge of two languages. With ever-broadening demands, translators need to be trained in both general and specialized fields, must be hyper-alert to cultural concerns, specially equipped with computers, faxes, electronic dictionaries, etc. and available for work on a continuous basis.

Q. Is translation a free service?

A. No. All translation work is charged. Work done for new immigrants or refugees is subsidized. Costs are approximately 60% of full market prices.

Q. How long does translation take?

A. Ordinarily, one week. Rush service (48 hour return) is available, but costs 150% of regularly priced service. Naturally, if the job is large or more complex - i.e. if it also involves proofreading, typesetting or paste-up - then the turn-around time is significantly longer.

The Vancouver MOSAIC is a non-profit newsletter published by MOSAIC, the Multilingual Orientation Services Association for Immigrant Communities. Although the Vancouver MOSAIC is distributed for free, donations to help cover production and mailing costs will be gratefully accepted. Organizations and individuals will be put on our mailing list upon request. Submissions are welcome and will be reviewed before publication. We are not responsible for returning submissions. Views expressed in the Vancouver MOSAIC are not necessarily those of MOSAIC. The Vancouver MOSAIC material may be reproduced with acknowledgement. Send submissions c/o MOSAIC, 1522 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, BC, V5L 3Y2, 254-0244 (phone), 254-2321 (fax).

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**MOSAIC**

**Childminding**

Peter Leung is a happy toddler, who enjoys the many activities offered at MOSAIC’s child minding. For his parents, Kwong and Susanna Leung, it has been a long road from their native China to a new home in Vancouver, but MOSAIC’s Job Corps and ESL programs have helped them along their way.

*(photo Frank Colbourne)*

**Settlement Worker Recognition**

At a "Welcoming Ceremony" during Immigration Week, the BC/Yukon Region of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission awarded Certificates of Appreciation to 12 community workers who have provided years of valuable service in the settlement of new immigrants. Seven of these certificates were awarded to MOSAIC staff. The MOSAIC Board of Directors are proud of their achievement and value their continued standard of excellence in community service.

Back row left to right: Ilona Saramo (Hungarian), Dominic Fung (Chinese), Rosalina Moniz (Portuguese).

Front row left to right: Miriam Maurer (Spanish), Marina Yelchinko (Russian/Ukrainian) Hemi Dhanoa (Hindi/Punjabi), Maria Roche (Polish).

*(photo Starlet Lum)*

**Statistics Report**

Every eight minutes of every working day, someone comes into MOSAIC, and says, "Help me!" We don’t just help them with a smile and a nod. In 1989 we assisted 15,000 people through 92,000 client contacts. That means that on average we worked with a person six times. We helped women learn English. We helped people find jobs. We translated documents as different as engineering papers and birth certificates. We helped in medical emergencies and immigration problems; in bridging generation gaps between immigrant parents and their children; and in cases of family violence. We made the difference between a woman isolated in her home and unable to communicate with those around her; to a woman who gained a new sense of self-confidence and comfort by participating in a young mothers support group. The needs were great and we were there!

As immigration increases to British Columbia in the next few years, the demand for our services will increase even more. Our ability to keep pace will depend upon increasing support from government and individuals.

**Service Statistics**

![Graph showing service statistics over years.]
Graduation

By Nancy Knickerbocker

"They tell me: 'Laszlo, we'd love to hire you, but you have to have a Canadian licence.' Laszlo Bona shrugged, adding: 'And of course, to get the licence you have to first have work. It's tricky.' His classmates in the Job Corps smiled and nodded understanding.

With Hungarian credentials and no Canadian experience, Laszlo was caught in a classic Catch 22 familiar to many immigrants. But not for long; by the time he'd completed his MOSAIC training program Laszlo had a job in his field and a fresh start in his new homeland.

Laszlo and 35 other graduates of MOSAIC's Job Corps and Women's Training Programs celebrated with friends, family and agency staff, board and supporters. Sharing their joy of accomplishment is all part of graduation day at MOSAIC, which brings together different people from all over the world who have worked hard, supported one another and overcome shared obstacles. As always, it was inspiring and moving: the uplifting energy of hope, the proud grins, the hugs, the sturdy sense of determination.

Determination was one of the main themes of the keynote speech offered by The Honourable Howard Dirks looks on as Ivana is congratulated by MOSAIC's Coordinator of Women's Programs, Anne Francis. (photo Maralyn Gellblum)

Commitment and Leadership

MOSAIC Executive Director Vera Radyo was one of 225 Canadians invited by his Excellency, the Right Hon. R.J. Hnatyshyn to participate in the 3rd Governor General's Study Conference. The theme of this year's 18 day study was "Commitment and Leadership: taking responsibility in our national community". Members of the Conference are selected because it is believed that they will be instrumental in making decisions affecting the future of the country.

Through lectures, workshops and real life experiences the study tours expose and sensitize participants to a wide range of subjects aimed at developing skills for effective decision-making. Learning to understand different communities from a new perspective will enable them to successfully interact with future leaders from diverse regions across Canada.

The Governor General of Canada believes "This conference offers future leaders in all sectors of Canadian life a unique opportunity to explore together diverse issues and attitudes, which they must address as they take leadership responsibility in our national community".
Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the United States. He was elected to the B.C. legislature in 1986.

Mr. Dirks spoke of how persistence and determination have helped him to succeed over the years. As well, he encouraged graduates to help others along the way. "You've got to bring somebody up behind you," he said. "Then you are only limited by your imagination and your determination. If you are determined, you can succeed against all sorts of odds."

Certainly the stories shared by the valedictorians elected by the classes of '90 amply illustrated Mr. Dirks' points.

Determined to find work in his field as an aviation technician, Laszlo applied to every airline, large and small, throughout the Lower Fraser Valley. With the support of Job Corps staff and classmates, Laszlo didn't give up. He kept going back to every potential employer, twice and even three times. Without a car it was hard work, hitchhiking back and forth to Pitt Meadows and Abbotsford, Richmond and Langley. Pilots would often offer him a lift, and they too encouraged Laszlo to keep trying. In the end his persistence paid off and he got a job with a Richmond aviation firm. "I'm very happy I can work in my field," he said.

Valedictorian for the Women's Program was Ivana Schleinbofer, who spoke of some of her struggles to re-build her life after coming to Canada from her native Czechoslovakia.

"I had problems with English and I got very depressed. I feared I would be chronically underemployed," she said. "I had two small babies, and I couldn't afford to go to college and pay a babysitter at the same time."

Ivana described MOSAIC's Women's Program as "exactly what I needed," and added that she was "very impressed by the support of the federal government for this program." This is MOSAIC's eighth class of women graduates at the lower advanced level in English.

Ivana spoke of the warm friendships that grew between classmates - 14 women from nine different countries with so much to share. "We became friends, and we made the time to help and support each other." On behalf of the women, Ivana thanked the teachers and coordinators. With their help, she said, "we achieved our goals, improved our self-confidence and now we can contribute to our new country - Canada."

Program coordinator Anne Francis thanked the students for their spirit of sharing and cooperation, and wished them all luck and success. She urged them to remember "faith, courage and a good sense of humour."

As well, Mary Huitson brought greeting from Canada Employment. She commended Vera and the project staff "for the excellent work they have done consistently in this field." Joy Miller offered graduates warm congratulations from the members of MOSAIC's board.
Mosaic Human Rights Awards

by Nancy Knickerbocker

For the past nine years MOSAIC has presented annual Human Rights Awards to distinguished British Columbians who have made significant contributions to human rights in Canada and abroad. From our work with refugees and immigrants, MOSAIC is all too aware of the prevalence of human rights abuses. We see their tragic consequences in the lives of clients from around the world.

MOSAIC was honoured to present the 1990 awards to Mildred Fahmi and Marta Torres. Here are excerpts from the awards presentation, which took place at our annual general meeting:

Mrs. Fahmi was born Mildred Osterhout in Rapid City, Manitoba in 1900, the daughter of a Methodist preacher. She received her master's degree in English and philosophy at UBC, and later went on to Bryn Mawr to study social economy. In 1931 Mildred went to England, where she met Mahatma Gandhi. His pacifist teachings changed her life.

Mildred was also a founding member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), the forerunner of the New Democratic Party.

opportunities for personal fulfilment."

As the Second World War broke out, British Columbians began mobilizing for combat. Not Mildred; she took to the airwaves of CJOR radio and spoke of peace. In a time of virulent racism, she spoke out against the incarceration of

"If you let fear run your life you are not free anymore."

Japanese Canadians. She later followed the internees to New Denver, where she served as a volunteer teacher.

Mildred never backed off from her principles, even when they demanded support for unpopular causes. She dedicated herself to the peace movement long before it was acceptable, let alone fashionable. In 1956, she travelled to Alabama, where she participated in the civil right movement that was then sweeping the American South. She walked with Martin Luther King. For many years during the Vietnam War she helped maintain weekly peace vigils here in Vancouver. She remains active in the peace movement today.

Like Mildred, Marta possesses that rare gift of forgiveness. Despite the atrocities she has seen committed upon her people, Marta does not condemn the perpetrators. She says that "the people who oppress others, who torture, those who are powerful and greedy, who don't care about others -- something inside them is not alive, and we need to help them too."

She was born Marta Gloria de la Vega in 1948 in Guatemala City and was educated in law at the Rafael Landivas Jesuit University there. In 1968, she married Enrique Torres, also a labour lawyer. They have five children. Marta and Enrique used their legal skills to fight for justice. Despite the danger, they acted on behalf of trade unions, workers and the poor.

In 1977, the government made its

first attempt against their lives. Although seriously injured, Marta and Enrique survived after months in hospital. However, two of their closest colleagues were assassinated within months. In 1978 Guatemala's most feared death squad published a hit list: Marta and Enrique's names were on it. Increasingly terrified as those named on the list were systematically murdered, the family fled their homeland.

Since coming to Canada in 1982, Marta has worked with the local community and on the international stage to alert the world to the gross and persistent violations of human rights in Central America. Despite the enormous risks to her personal safety, Marta has returned to Guatemala twice.

She points out that "people here in Canada don't know fear here the way it is known in Central America." And she freely admits that, of course, she was afraid. But, she says, "if you let fear run your life you are not free anymore."

Neither Mildred Fahmi nor Marta Torres has allowed fear to rob them of their freedom. Instead, they are eloquent defenders of the freedoms of us all. And, by their fine example, they remind each

Mildred Fahmi

As a CCFer, she was "committed to the basic principle that all human beings have equal value. No individual had the right to a life of luxury and ease while another was deprived of the basic necessities of life and hand no

Marta Torres

one of us that we, too, share the responsibility of working towards a world in which the rights of everyone are respected.
How has MOSAIC helped you today?

Jose Tlago

"A minha conselheira, Rosalina Moniz, (conselheira Portuguesa) me ajudou a pedir a o Ministerio de Servicos Sociais e Habitação (M.S.S.H) para me auxiliar com um pouco de dinheiro extra, para uma dieta especial recomendado pelo meu médico."

"My counsellor, Rosalina Moniz (Portuguese counsellor) helped me to apply to the Ministry of Social Services and Housing (M.S.S.H.) for some extra money for a special diet which had been recommended by my doctor."

Angela Durigon

"Nila, l'assistente sociale a MOSAIC mi ha aiutato a compilare il modulo del G.I.S. (Supplemento per garantire il reddito), da molti anni che ricevo la loro assistenza con molta gratitudine."

"Nila, (Italian counsellor) at MOSAIC has helped me to apply for the G.I.S. (Guaranteed Income Supplement). I have received assistance from MOSAIC for several years and I am very grateful."

Thành Trần Nguyễn

"Nhân viên tư vấn MOSAIC (Chị Kim) giúp tôi điền đơn xin du lịch Mỹ Quốc"

"The counsellor at MOSAIC (Kim Ton) helped me to fill out my travel document to go to the United States."

Dianne Friedman

"Я бесконечно благодарна MOSAIC координаторам, Марина Еличенко, Карен, Бренда и Памела за помощь в адаптации, за теплое участие в нашей жизни, за устройство на работу меня, моего мужа, моей дочери. Большое спасибо!"

"We're really grateful to (coordinators) Marina, Karen, Brenda and Pamela for their thoughtful involvement in helping getting settled in and in finding jobs for our family. Thanks ever so much!"

Vancouver’s MOSAIC Summer 1991
Night of 100 Dinners
a Great Success

By Nancy McCreary

The Night of 100 Dinners fundraising campaign was a great success. Over $17,000 was raised from all dinners and sponsor contributions. The final net figure for the campaign of $14,402 represents a 55% increase in net profit from the previous year’s event.

Over 400 dinners have been consumed at homes and restaurants throughout the Vancouver area. Most guests came from the Lower Mainland, but there were some from other parts of Canada as well.

Home hosts went all out to prepare many tempting dishes, and provide a memorable evening filled with friends food and fun.

One of the more notable dinners was hosted by the staff of MOSAIC’s Employment Programs. Guests were invited to sample over 20 different items from a truly exotic international menu. Included in the menu were Chicken Angar from East Africa, Norwegian meatballs, curries, chow mein, mid-Eastern dishes and an array of tempting desserts from Mexico, the Bahamas, Africa and Palestine.

Another dinner that was both delicious and entertaining was held by board member Vera Rosenbluth. Together with her guest host Annick Goodwin a truly unique dinner was created with crepes using authentic Brittany recipes. Crepes were prepared on the spot by Ms. Goodwin, and filled with both savory and sweet fillings. Guests could indulge themselves to their limit.

Halloween provided a theme for one of the dinner parties. Dressed like a ripe orange pumpkin, host Dove Hendron, greeted guests in a true party mood. Special chef Ron Suzuki created a delectable sushi selection for guests to enjoy.

We still have a great weekend package for Whistler. This is for two and includes an elegant dinner in one of Umberto’s fine restaurants, deluxe accommodations, breakfast and all day ski passes. Call us at MOSAIC if you are interested in this deluxe weekend holiday for two.

Last but not least is a big thank you for all those host, restaurants and guests who helped to make this year’s event successful. In particular we would like to thank our sponsors:

- Van City Savings Credit Union
- Canada Safeway
- Heritage Press and Stationers
- Purdy’s Chocolates
- David Hunter Florists
- Profile Business Supplies

for their generous contributions. Thank’s to everyone for supporting the 1990 Night of 100 Dinners.

MOSAIC DONATION FORM

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