KES CHETTY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

By Vera Rosenbluth

An annual scholarship for a young immigrant or refugee had been established by MOSAIC, and nominations for the first award are currently being solicited. The money comes from a special fund that was set up by friends and colleagues of the late Dr. Kes Chetty, who served for several years on the board of directors of MOSAIC. His unexpected death last November saddened all who knew and worked with him.

A retired doctor, Kes spent most of the last five or six years in volunteer activities, and used to say that his participation on the board of directors of MOSAIC was among the most satisfying involvements that he had. He took his responsibility as a Board member very seriously, and was a familiar and welcome presence at MOSAIC, spending many hours chatting informally in the halls as well as attending board meetings and sitting on committees.

It's not hard to understand why Kes felt such a strong commitment to the mission and goals of MOSAIC. As an immigrant to Canada, he understood the challenges that newcomers face when trying to establish a new life in an unknown city. As a person of Indian heritage, he understood the struggle to cherish and preserve meaningful aspects of one's cultural background, while at the same time adapting to a different cultural environment.

But it is Kes' identity as a South African that is the key to understanding his lifelong passion for democracy and human rights. Coming from a country where democracy did not exist for the majority of citizens, Kes was tireless in his efforts to change the political system in South Africa, and to participate in the political life of his adopted country. He believed that involvement in one's community was not only a right, but an obligation. Consequently, he was active in several organizations whose values he shared, ones that were working to combat racism, poverty and illiteracy, ones that were working for social change.

Anyone who knew Kes knows that he loved to talk and debate issues. At dinner parties, in telephone conversations, committee meetings, he always heard his distinctive low voice, his chuckle, as he asked questions, probed issues, forced people to state and examine their ideas, and sometimes played the devil's advocate as he pushed them to the logical end of their arguments. It didn't matter whether the person he was talking with was a child, teenager or an adult, he would treat that person with unfailing respect and courtesy. He was a person of infinite integrity and compassion who believed profoundly that people could find creative, honourable and just solutions to problems in their lives.

In the days immediately following Kes' death, there was discussion among his friends as to how best to honour this remarkable man. It was decided to establish a scholarship in his name, to be administered by MOSAIC, and given annually to a young adult or refugee who plans to continue with his or her formal education. The criteria are financial need, academic standing and a commitment to enriching the Canadian Community. It is a tribute to the high regard which his friends and colleagues hold for him that to date the Kes Chetty Scholarship Fund has received donations totalling over $7,000, which enables MOSAIC to award approximately $500 this year.

Do you know anyone who should be nominated for this award?

Do you want to make a donation to the scholarship fund?
Or do you know anyone who might want to make a donation?

If so, please write to the Dr. Kes Chetty Scholarship Fund, c/o MOSAIC, 1522 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, B.C., V5L 3Y2. Donations are tax-deductible.
President's Message

By Ken Derby

We are over half way through this MOSAIC year, with the AGM slated for Sept. 29th at Heritage Hall. The Board of Directors has undergone considerable change since this time last year with new members joining as a result of the last election and by appointment to fill vacancies in the past several months. I am pleased that we are able to find such able and willing volunteers to join our team. In the months and years to come, MOSAIC will be facing many challenges in both service areas and organizational structure and a strong board of directors is essential.

This issue of the MOSAIC newsletter will, I hope, herald a rebirth of this important publication. We have adopted, as an organization, the objective of raising our public image. It helps MOSAIC, and the people we serve, if we are well known in all the communities of Greater Vancouver. We want immigrants and refugees to be referred to us when they have need. And, we want the public to know not only that we exist, but that through the efforts of staff and volunteers many hundreds of newcomers to Canada are assisted in their struggle to become participating citizens of Vancouver and Canada. This newsletter can do a lot in that direction.

I want to thank all the funders and donors who make it possible for MOSAIC to function as well as it does. Without this partnership with federal, provincial and local governments, plus the money raised by our Fundraising Committee, we would not be such an influential force in this community.

When our ‘new Executive Director’ comes on board, I know staff and volunteers, friends and colleagues will wish that person well; he or she will be following a superb executive director. On behalf of the board of directors, I wish this ‘new kid on the block’ lots of luck. And, to Vera, our very best wishes in your new career with United Way.

MOVING ON...

United Way awaits.

Vera Radyo was someone we knew not only as our boss but also as our friend. I remember the day she appeared at MOSAIC’s tiny Commercial Drive office, to be interviewed as our future Executive Director. Slight and charmingly youthful, dressed in a colorful Ukrainian blouse and skirt (tailored suits came later), she personified the warm, family atmosphere that would become - and continues to be - a large part of MOSAIC. It’s hard to believe that 10 years have passed.

Over the years, Vera's determination and patience has brought about many significant changes to our organization: a new office providing better working conditions, improved salaries and benefits and expansion of our programs and services, notably a new Language Centre. She immediately took the lead as part of our committed, hard-working team, and with us, she has seen MOSAIC survive tough and trying times. We admired and respected her ability to come through smiling, in spite of the continual ups and downs, internal and external changes and the uncertainty of funding. She fostered a working philosophy that ensured community involvement in our work; her door always remained open.

We, the staff at MOSAIC, know that she will continue to provide the same dedication and leadership where ever she goes.

Good-bye Vera... we'll miss you.

By Rosalina Moniz

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2 Vancouver's MOSAIC Summer 1992
MOSAIC Interpretation Services was developed out of an earlier volunteer program that was initiated in 1978 to meet interpretation needs in the Lower Mainland. Since then, it has grown tremendously in both volume of request and number of bilingual-speaking individuals who provide interpretation services in over 85 languages.

Angela Sasso, Department Coordinator, provides a profile of this effective and model service.

VM: How are interpreters recruited and trained?
AS: CIS recruits interpreters from within cultural organizations in the community and through resources at MOSAIC. Recruitment is done on an as-needed basis, trying not to overload particular groups at any one time. Once a need has been established, approximately 15 individuals from a variety of language groups attend an orientation session which is followed by two 3-hour workshops. We do not assign any interpretations until the first workshop has been completed. Our workshops address many topics, but primarily focus on the role of the interpreter, issues of confidentiality and impartiality, professional conduct and ethical behavior of the interpreter. Use of correct terminology and developing good resource skills are also explored.

VM: How many interpreters are registered with the service and how many languages do they represent?
AS: We have over 200 interpreters, representing over 85 languages, which many of whom work at least 20 hrs. per week.

VM: Which agencies and organizations most often request assistance?
AS: CIS responds to two types of requests for interpreters, from individuals and from agencies. We provide services to all non-English speaking immigrants, refugees and citizens. Agencies that request services include the Ministries of Social Services (our largest client), Attorney General, Labour and Consumer Services, Canada Employment & Immigration, ICBC, WCB, Vancouver City Police, the RCMP, lawyers, doctors, hospitals, health units, schools and many other government offices and non-profit agencies.

VM: Over the years the service has grown tremendously. How is this growth demonstrated?
AS: In the last three years alone, we have gone from 400 intake requests a month to over 700 a month, doubling the number of people that we serve.

VM: How does one go about obtaining the services of an interpreter through CIS?
AS: CIS operates during regular MOSAIC hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm. Requests for interpreters should allow for at least two days advanced notice. The procedure is to call our main desk, #254-9626, ask for interpretations, and have readily available the name and telephone of the agency; the name, telephone number and language of the client; and the time, date and location of the meeting. We also provide a 24-hour emergency service that is available through the 911 operator, the police station, the ambulance service, and the fire department.

VM: How does your emergency service work, or what kind of situation does your interpreters respond to in emergency?
AS: Our 911 emergency service is open 24 hrs. a day. A large percentage of calls for emergency interpretation are from the local police, the RCMP and hospitals. Our interpreters are asked to assist in cases involving, for instance, hospital-room emergencies, breaking and entering and shoplifting. Other types of requests may be for very involved and sensitive cases requiring experienced interpreters to assist in sexual abuse situations, murders and family assaults. Our department receives approximately 70 emergency requests per month.

L to r: Kim Nguyen, Volunteer and Chava Glouberman, staff member.

CIS staff, l to r: Amy Yu, Angela Sasso, Markus Meisl and Phung Ho.

An interview.
Where Is MOSAIC Going In The Next Decade?

By Michael Murphy

MOSAIC has been providing services to immigrants and refugees for about 20 years, and has grown from a small voluntary organization into a sophisticated, professional organization with over 70 employees.

MOSAIC has never existed in a vacuum and this is even more true in 1992. The shifting winds of change throughout the world continue to challenge MOSAIC. The new world order has not diminished the international movement of people seeking a better life elsewhere. For political and economic reasons Canada is a favoured nation for the 250,000 annual arrivals, and the 50,000 inland refugee claimants.

What does MOSAIC do?

For a long time most people thought that our staff were interpreters and translators, and that we provided information about Vancouver and Canada to new immigrants. While those were certainly important services that have benefited thousands of newcomers over the years, we have always done more.

Through our bilingual counselling staff we have had direct contact with the immigrant, ethnic and visible minority communities of Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. This has provided us with some intelligence about the needs of the communities that go beyond immediate settlement pressures experienced by immigrants. It has helped us to consult with these communities on an on-going basis, and has enabled us to create services and programs that are more properly called community development.

We have developed a partnership of collaboration with funders and other settlement agencies to provide a more professional kind of service. This has given us the opportunity to ask questions about which communities we should be serving, what services we should be providing, and how long we should be providing those services. Right now we are developing a proposal which will recommend an organizational restructuring to allow us to shape our services around issues of significance to the immigrant, ethnic and visible minority public.

The next decade will bring many more thousands of newcomers to British Columbia. MOSAIC will respond with a long-term strategic plan to meet the challenges that are created by this dynamic migration of immigrants and refugees.
Initiative Provides Treatment And Hope For Troubled Indo-Canadian Families

By Mel Buenaventura

On the evening of Thursday, September 5th of last year, an Indo-Canadian woman became the victim of an increasing phenomenon in Canada - wife assault. In this case, her husband poured oil on her and lit her into flames.

In the wake of this frightening act, she sought aid from support groups, and in doing so, her network of Indo-Canadian families ostracized her for going public.

Traditionally, people in India handled cases of wife assault within the family's network. For instance, a community leader can obtain positive results by simply ordering the abusive husband to stop beating his wife. However, for some Indo-Canadians, this highly regarded network had, at times, become ineffective in Canada. A lack of an extended family and problems adjusting to a new life in a new country compound the frustrations experienced by the immigrant male. No longer in control and power, he must face a life that demands him to treat men and women equally. According to a study conducted by the Vancouver Family Court in 1988, 36% (16 out of 44 cases) of wife assaults involved husbands and wives of Indian or Pakistani origin.

In hopes of addressing this problem (which is a problem for other cultures as well), MOSAIC has tackled this issue by piloting a three-year family violence initiative project. The Hon. Kim Campbell, Justice Minister, officially announced on December 5, 1991 that MOSAIC would be funded $196,360 by the federal government to undertake the

Assaultive Husbands Program. The Women's Equality Minister made a commitment to the complimentary Women's Support Group for a one-year pilot phase of this initiative. Both programs attempt to work together and fulfill the objective of strengthening the family.

The program mirrors existing programs - the Vancouver Assaultive Husbands Project and the Women's Support Group from the Battered Women's Support Services. The otherwise occidental bias of these programs have been modified to incorporate an Indo-Canadian's cultural perspective with respect to, for example, religious affiliation, client-therapist relationship, cultural assimilation and extended-family involvement, as explained by Ninu Kang, Program Coordinator.

In order to enter the program, the men must have been referred by the Vancouver Family Court Office at Yale St. Probation on the basis of conviction of wife assault. The wives are encouraged to attend the Women's Support Group. Approaching the program through clinical practice, Dr. Rajpal Singh, the men's group facilitator, informs the husbands to initially accept and not deny their abusive act, then they begin to take responsibility for their act and finally, they are in the learning process to demonstrate self-control and restraint. Also, Dr. Singh feels the rehabilitative services offered in the mainstream programs are not useful for immigrant men because of language and cultural barriers and the fact that these men may not fully understand the justice system in Canada.

The Women's Support Group allows the victim to adjust along with her male counterpart, giving her a deeper understanding of the cycle of violence and how it has affected her and her husband. This way, both will better be enabled to accept what is expected of them in this society, and eventually, when they can hopefully start a new life, they will have been empowered to make significant changes in their lives together.

Presentation and promotion of the family violence initiatives has been well accepted by the Indo-Canadian community. A number of activities, which proved to be highly successful, were held to promote the group's awareness, such as a presentation of a one-day workshop organized by the Indo-Canadian Women's Organization and another presentation, at the New Westminster Sikh Temple, to the presidents and community leaders of the Lower Mainland Sikh Temples. In addition, "Evening In India", a fundraising event, was organized to raise partial funds for the Women's Support Group.

According to Dr. Rajpal Singh, the program is going well and the participants are moving towards a positive direction in life.

Hon. Kim Campbell and Hemi Dhanoa, Bilingual Counsellor. Hemi's initiative provided the basis for the development of the project.

Ninu Kang, Program Coordinator and Dr. Rajpal Singh, Men's Group Facilitator.
Language Centre Update

By Bruce Bjornson

It has been an exciting year for the staff and students of MOSAIC's Language Centre. The Centre's new premises at 40 Powell Street, just on the edge of Gastown, in a beautiful turn-of-the-century building, has provided students and staff alike with comfortable classrooms and a bright, cheerful child-minding space.

In the spring term the Centre enrolled 316 students in full-time and part-time classes. As well, the Centre offered, for the first time, evening and Saturday morning classes. These moves were undertaken to provide opportunities to those who work or who, for other reasons, are unable to attend language classes during the day. MOSAIC's two out-reach classes at the YMCA building in North Vancouver were a great success with over forty students attending two part-time classes.

The Centre is now gearing up for the June 29 - August 22 summer session. This will be the first time that MOSAIC has offered summer English classes. Three full-time classes and four part-time classes will be offered. Registration day for new students for the summer term will be June 16, 1992. The Centre will accept both men and women into the program although MOSAIC's language training continues to focus primarily on immigrant women and particularly on those not destined for the work force.

This September will see the start-up of the new, federally funded English language training program, LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada). LINC will replace the previous Settlement Language, and the English Language Training for the Work Place language programs which MOSAIC has offered for the past six years.

LINC will offer landed immigrants beginner's level English classes. MOSAIC expects to be a LINC presenter and has planned a range of classes including full- and part-time, evenings, weekends, and lunch hours.

Individuals wishing to enrol in the LINC program need to apply to the A-LINC office directly by calling 443-9470. Applicants will be assessed and placed at institutions and agencies that suit their needs.
The Family Daycare Training For Latin American Women

By Pilar Riaño

On Saturday, April 25, 1992, twenty-eight Latin American women, ranging from teenagers to grandmothers, celebrated the completion of their "Introduction To Family Daycare" course. After the completion of the program, the group experienced a learning process that familiarized them with the work of family daycare givers in a domestic Canadian setting, which also reaffirmed many of their parenting issues and values.

This pilot project was developed by MOSAIC and the Vancouver Family Daycare Support program in response to the concerns of many Latin American mothers who are not provided with flexible, low-cost and culturally appropriate daycare facilities.

Along with the program's informative nature, it also offered them meaningful experiences. According to one of the mothers: "There I learnt a lot, that children want your respect and also that you should provide them with trust."

Socorro, another participant, claimed: "I'm a mother of five and with this course I gained experience. Now, I am thinking to become a licensed family daycare, and then, I can work at home, take care of my daughter and look for other children, because I like taking care of children."

Many of the other participants are now planning to make their home a licensed family daycare, and parents from the community are excited to hear of this news. Because for such parents, having care givers who share the same cultural background as the family's, provides them with a sense that their values are respected.

To motivate integration and to create full use of existing services, there is the need to build bridges, and this program offered that. Also, the women were encouraged to join the network of family daycare givers run by the Family Daycare Support program. The course provided the participants with enough ESL skills to respond to emergency situations. In addition, for those pursuing a license, the program immersed them in a complete ESL First Aid.

Julia is a Guatemalan grandmother of three who feels that although she is not going to pursue licensing, the course had been helpful to her: "I am now working with the Latin American Mothers program and baby sitting, and I am sure that if people knew I took this course, they are going to feel more trust in leaving the children with me for babysitting."

Polish New Immigrant Women's Group

By Marie Roche & Dr. Grazyna Pawlikowska

Maintaining one's identity is an essential ingredient to a self-fulfilling life for most people. The objective of MOSAIC's Young Mothers' program is to bring women out of isolation to a state where they are motivated to become part of a socially fulfilling and healthy family life.

Among the most common problems that create barriers for new immigrants towards achieving "the good life" include the lack of stabilization and feelings of security, no extended-family support or close friends, poor financial resources and the inability to communicate freely.

These frustrations are even more frequently a part of single women's lives, especially young mothers. They react to stress by withdrawing and, unfortunately, compounding their sense of loneliness. Blaming herself, or other family members, for being incapable of meeting the demands and responsibilities of immigrant life, creates the most serious family conflicts; resulting in the family

Bilingual Counsellor Maria Roche is the organizer of the group.

"paying the price" for personal failure. This inevitably leads to lowered self-esteem and often to depression.

Young mothers work both in groups and in individual counselling. Through this, we will be teaching them practical ways of coping with the stresses of everyday life, such as emotional tension and unreal expectations. Also, this approach will better develop their perceptions of typical and temporarily difficult situations that may include planning tasks gradually, differentiating between temporary and life-long goals and encouraging satisfaction of one's self at each stage of a mother's accomplishments. It is important that these women realize that no matter how uncomfortable they feel about their present lives, they should not think of themselves as being abandoned; they will find understanding and support from others with similar experiences who have adjusted and have created a rewarding and life-affirming existance.

Fundraising:
Our Plans for 1992 - 1993

In early March, MOSAIC's board of directors approved a multi-level initiative designed to broaden our fundraising base through both short- and long-term strategies. This initiative is designed to provide funding for programs and services not supported by our present funders. A new full-time Fundraising Coordinator will be hired to work closely with the Executive Director to ensure the successful implementation of these strategies.

The Fundraising Committee, chaired by board member Trevor Peach, plans to continue building on its Friends Campaign (direct mail, newsletter and public relations), finding ways of serving more delicious, gourmet meals at more homes during the 1992 Night of 100 Dinners, and increasing volunteer support for casino and bingo evenings. We are very excited to be able to launch a major special event next spring - our first Human Rights Dinner where we will present our annual Human Rights Award.

We look forward to your continued support and anticipate great successes ahead.

MOSAIC

☑ Yes! I will support services for refugees and immigrants.

Enclosed is my cheque payable to MOSAIC for
$25 $35 $50 $100 Other $_____

Name_____________________________
Address__________________________
City/Province_____________________
Postal Code_______________________

☐ I would like to volunteer.

All donations of $10.00 or more will be receipted for income tax purposes. Other donations will be receipted upon request.
Cheques should be payable to:

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