



SIEN LOK NEWSLETTER

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“Through a legacy of co-operation, advancing and preserving Chinese Canadian heritage by creating bridges between generations and cultures.”

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Elected Sien Lok Society of Calgary

Executive for 2002 / 2003

President & Legal	Allen Wong
Vice President	Edmond Lee
Past President	Ray Lee
Secretary	Pam Fearon
Treasurer	Philip Slen
Membership	Wendy Kit Tsui
Social Club	William Mah
New Years Banquet	Cori Louis-Smith
Parks	Windchill Ha
Directors	Jerry Chong
	Jan Mah
	Lisa Woo
	Kevin Wong
	Peter Fung
	Sharon To
	Rosina Ye

Message From The President

by Allen Wong, President

Gung Hei Fat Choi and Sun Ning Jun Bow!
We ushered in the year of the goat on the

Chinese lunar calendar with another sold out Sien Lok New Year's banquet which took place on February 8, 2003. The banquet headed by Cori Louis-Smith, our banquet committee chairperson and was another smashing success. We were privileged to have Premier Ralph Kein and his lovely wife Dr. Colleen Klein join us this year.

It was also again a pleasure to have our past director, Minister of Health for Alberta, Gary Mar, his wife Nancy and family attend the banquet. We also had our M.L.A. for Calgary Buffalo Harvey Cenaiko and his lovely wife Sherry in attendance again along with M.L.A. Wayne Cao, Member of Parliament, Art Hanger and our Alderman, Druh Farrell.

Further, many thanks to all the sponsors, Royal Bank of Canada and ATB Financial and all the donors for the silent auction and the supporters and friends of the Sien Lok Society of Calgary in attendance that joyful night. Now that the New Year has been properly brought in, the board of directors will move forward with many new functions, such as a Death by Sushi night on March 21, 2003 and a Seniors Visitation in May this year. We will have our annual "Picnic in the Park" which will be held in conjunction with the "Wing Kei Walkathon" this year. Finally, look forward to further updates of our general meeting of members, which will be held in October of this year.

“It is said the goat is characterized by harmony, understanding and peacefulness. Let us truly hope this that these all prevail to heal the differences that divide us in this, the Year of the Goat.”¹

New Year's Banquet & Dance!!

by Wendy Tsui, Membership Director



It'll be one of those parties you hear about for years to come. Every year, we outdo ourselves. Great big thanks to the volunteers and the banquet committee, especially Cori Louis-Smith who chaired it.

There's tons of pictures on the website; www.sienlok.org. See if you can find yourselves in it along with many of our dignitaries. Please feel free to pull up and print the pictures. The digital cameras were a smashing success this year.

Our entertainment included a Tai Chi demonstration, the lion dance, the Chinese Opera, a Kung Fu demonstration, a Gu Jong

¹ Excerpt from letter to Sien Lok Society from former Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre Right Hon. Joe Clark.

(string instrument) performance and a traditional Chinese dance.

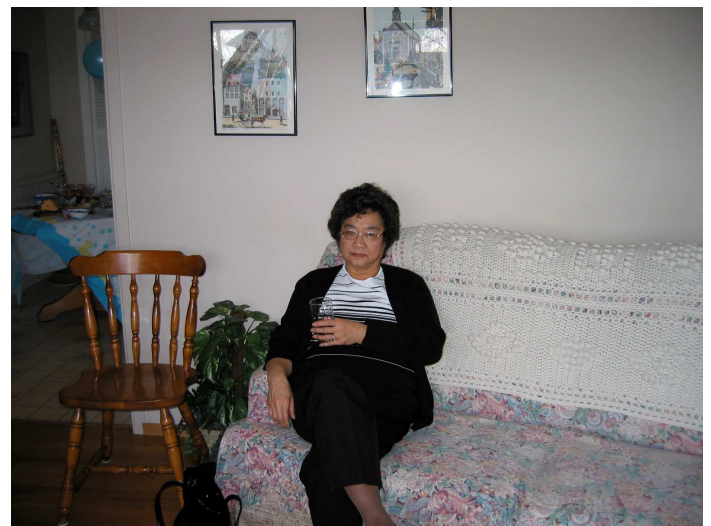
We had numerous free gifts and draws throughout the evening, which included Nevada tickets, year of the Ram stamps, centerpieces and a valuable piece of art from ATB Financial. The centerpieces from Royal Bank Financial Group were a big hit.

As usual, Fine Line did a wonderful job and dancing went on and on till the end of the night. So please mark your calendars for next year – January 31, 2004 and make sure you get your tickets.

Interview with Annie Louis

by Jan Mah, Director

As Sien Lok celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2003, we thought it would be fitting to showcase several of the people who have helped Sien Lok gain such prominence in the Calgary community.



The first honor goes to Annie, who served on the Board of Directors for at least 25 - 28 years, (but then again who's counting) and

four of those years (1994 -1998) as Board President.

Annie first saw the light of day in Youbou, B.C. a small Sawmill town on the island, as one of seven children, born to Joe Jung (whose job was to liaise as the Sawmill's Chinese foreman) & Mary (who came to Canada at the age of 11 to be a nanny.) By the time Annie reached 10 years old, the family moved and settled in Vancouver, B.C.

With a bit of wanderlust in her soul and wanting to explore Canada, Annie and a friend decided to travel across Canada. They stopped in Calgary (presumably to earn some monies so they could continue their travel eastward) and as the story goes, Annie met Hughie. (Annie relates fondly that her landlady asked her to take a unit to be repaired at Commercial Radio and Sound.) And, of course the rest is history. Annie and Hughie were married in 1958 and promptly started to raise a family of four - Les, Cori (currently on the Board of Directors,) Deanna and Stewart.

Annie's life seemed pretty hectic and full with raising her rambunctious and energetic brood; working alongside Hughie; devoting copious amounts of volunteer time to the Chinese United Church; but still decided to spare whatever time she could to the Sien Lok Society and because of her dedication, became a very integral part of the Society.

Annie reminisces that one of the most memorable periods in the history of the Society comes from the early fund raising events (namely, the Chinese New Year's banquet) sponsored by the Society. Annie fondly recalls, the first banquet, held in 1969 at Penley's ballroom downtown with tickets at \$25.00 each. Even at that price, the banquet oversold with a maximum attendance of 200 people. In those early

years, unlike today, when the restaurants handle most of the physical labor, Sien Lok members were conscripted (or railroaded as the case may be) to assist at these banquets.

The success of these banquets (manual labor required) depended solely on the cooperation and the camaraderie that existed between the volunteers. But also at the same time that was when the forging of a lot of longtime friendships were started that still exist today. It's like the early years of a marriage when finances are tight and you pull together for a common goal. In those early years, the members had to act as wait staff, so the gals, (wearing traditional Chinese cheongsam) acted as hostesses, also carried around plates of Chinese hors d'oeuvres, waited on tables and conversed with the guests. The guys on the other hand, as well played a dual role of hobnobbing with dignitaries and honoured guests and had to put their muscles to work carrying heavy dinner dishes. It took anywhere from 50-75 volunteers to work at these early banquets. On top of this backbreaking work, the very next day after the banquet, with sore and aching muscles (arms and feet,) volunteers were asked to come back and wash dishes by hand, (which had to be returned to the restaurant in time for the supper rush.) Annie also recalls that one of the most labor intensive fundraising banquets was held at the Jubilee Auditorium where the food was prepared downstairs and the volunteers had to trudge up and down countless stairs from the basement to the lobby area to bring up hot dishes, laden with food and then returning dirty dishes to the basement area.

One of Annie's biggest accomplishments is when the society created the original Sien Lok Park in Chinatown. In the years from 1969 – 1982, the society fundraised more than \$50,000.00. Annie says it was a very

proud moment when the park finally came to fruition in 1982, and the money raised was used to build the Pagoda and tot lot.

Other proud moments that followed: the sponsorships of: annual scholarships to post secondary education; yearly visits to seniors in nursing homes and the fundraising efforts for the Wing Kei Nursing Home.

As to the future of the Sien Lok Society, Annie's hopes that the legacy is continued sponsorships to; a) scholarships for post secondary education and (would like to see Sien Lok put a perpetual scholarship trust in place; b) greater emphasis on assisting fundraising activities for Wing Kei and last but not least c) planned social events that will attract new members to the society as well as rewarding the loyalty and friendship of long time members.

Besides those legacies, Annie thinks it would be fitting to see Sien Lok promote the organization so other Calgarians and the rest of the world would know why the society exists today. Annie added, "For thirty five years, we kept a low profile, but it is way past time to toot our own horn!"

Even though Annie is not serving on the Board of Directors, she continues to play an active role by organizing the Sien Lok casino fundraiser and with Hughie, supports all of the events sponsored by Sien Lok. Annie also generously donates her time and the cost to monitor Sien Lok's information phone line on a regular basis.

Today, you can find Annie at her desk 24/7 at Commercial Radio and Sound (or maybe it just seems like 24/7;) spends long weekends going south to Duck Lake, Montana and takes the time to stop and smell the roses by spoiling her seven precious grandsons,

Jason, Derek, Ryan, Spencer, Conner, Ben and Matthew.

Our hats go off to a very enthusiastic, hardworking and dependable, Sien Lok volunteer, Annie Louis!

Sien Lok Death By Sushi Event

by William Mah, Social Club Director



Thanks everyone who attended the first annual Death by Sushi event! Food always seems to draw people closer together and this event was no exception. 50 persons showed up to mingle with friends and colleagues, drink lots of sake and eat a large assortment of wonderfully prepared sushi, sashimi and other hot food items. I had the opportunity to talk to almost everyone who attended and a large majority of them commented that they were experiencing severe hunger pains throughout the day, as they had starved themselves just so they could eat more at this event! Laughter could be heard emanating from all corners of the restaurant where we sat, and in the end I observed a lot of plump tummies and pants that seemed to fit a little tighter on the way

out than on the way in. Death by Sushi II?
Always a possibility.

Other pictures of the event and news of future Sien Lok social events will be available on the website at www.sienlok.org.

Jokes Of The Month

Marketing faux pas...

Electrolux, a Scandinavian vacuum manufacturer, used this ad in the U.S.:
“Nothing sucks like an Electrolux.”

A hair products company, Clairol, introduced the “Mist Stick”, a curling iron, into Germany only to find out that mist is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for the manure stick.

When Kentucky Fried Chicken entered the Chinese market, to their horror, they discovered that their slogan “finger lickin’ good” came out as “eat your fingers off”.

When Pepsi started marketing its products in China a few years back, they translated their slogan, “Pepsi Brings You Back to Life” pretty literally. The slogan in Chinese really meant, “Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave.”

We want your feedback

What would you like to see in the newsletters? Our goal is to make this an effective communication tool. You can let us know by writing to or calling Wendy Kit Tsui at 266-9604 kit.tsui@rbc.com. Also we can be reached through our e-mail sienlok@yahoo.com.