



# SIEN LOK NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Kim Fung

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

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## New Board of Directors for 2007-2009

President	Robert Jim
Vice-President	Sharon To
Treasurer	Ka-Yee Wong/Katey Fok
Secretary	Mary Yuen-Sears
Executive Assistant	Sharon To
Past President	Thomas To
Past President	Edmond Lee
Director Emeritus	Ray Lee
Archives/Newsletter	Kim Fung
Communications/Website	Charles Cheun
Digitization Project	Lisa Woo/Pamella Simpson
Fundraising/Casino	Cori Louis-Smith
IT Management Systems	Carl Wu
Legal Counsel	Allen Wong/Kevin Wong
Membership/Volunteers	Carl Wu
New Year's Banquet	Cori Louis-Smith
Picnic in Our Park	Thomas To
Scholarships	Robert Jim
Sien Lok Park	Edmond Lee
Social Events	Lisa Woo
Builders & Patriots 2	Kim Fung

## President's Message

by Robert Jim, President

The new calendar year always signifies a new beginning in many respects because it recognizes that the only constant in life is change. As this is my first address to the membership, I would like to thank everyone for the honour and opportunity to serve as your President. I can only hope that I can continue the good work of all previous Presidents and Boards, for whom I have a great deal of respect and admiration.

In particular, I would like to sincerely thank Past-President Thomas To for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. It will be a hard act to follow, and I will be relying heavily on his advice and guidance as Sien Lok Society moves forward.

I would also like to thank the past Board, and in particular, those retiring Directors who have served with great passion and commitment, namely Vice-President, Sandy Kwong; Wendy Kit-Tsui; and Eileen Tam. We wish all of them well in their future endeavors and hope to see them at upcoming Sien Lok events, because as the saying goes "once in the Sien Lok Family, always in the Sien Lok Family".

Since our last newsletter, the Sien Lok Society held its Annual General Meeting, where the new Board was elected. I would like to welcome

Charles Cheun to the Board. Charles has worked tirelessly on several Sien Lok events in the past, including the annual Chinese New Year's Banquet. He brings a nice combination of knowledge, enthusiasm and organization to the Board. His "can do" attitude is refreshing and infectious.

I would also like to welcome back, past Director, Pam (Fearon) Simpson. Pam brings an incredible boost of energy to the Board, through her actions and her vibrant personality. Her wealth of experience, obtained while working at various private companies and boards, combined with her excellent communication skills, will prove to be invaluable. Pam's ability to navigate through complex issues in an orderly and logical fashion, and then communicate a resolution is another great asset. We are all very happy with her return.

I am also excited to be serving with Vice President Sharon To and the Board. The Board has a nice blend of youth and experience, with expertise that spans many disciplines. Some of these fields include: Accounting, Archival Records, Architecture and Planning, Business, Citizenship Judge, Civil Engineering, Emergency Medical Services, Financial Services, Financial Management, Fundraising, Land Development, Land Surveying, Law, Museum Curation, Nursing, Property Management and Real Estate. This is truly an excellent example of a multi-disciplinary team working together to benefit the community.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sien Lok Society of Calgary. It is an exciting time for the Society and we, as a Board, are making preparations to mark this historic milestone. If you would like to assist in these preparations, we would like to direct you to our general email address ([info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org)) for any suggestions or comments that you may have, regarding what sort of format these celebrations should take.

We would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming Annual Chinese New Years Banquet to be held at the Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant on Saturday, February 16, 2008. We are pleased to announce that the Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta, will be in attendance at this event.

Please see the following report by Cori Louis-Smith for more information. There are tickets available for this event, but they are sold on a first come, first serve basis.

## **Chinese New Year Banquet**

by Cori Louis-Smith

Just a reminder:

### **The Sien Lok Society's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Chinese New Year's Gala**

**Year of the Rat**

**Saturday, February 16, 2008**

**Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant  
328 Centre Street S.E.**

**\$88.00/person**

**Cocktails at 6:00 pm**

**Dinner at 7:15 pm**

**Dress Code: Formal**

For tickets, please contact Cori Louis-Smith at (403) 256-5687 or, you can fill out the ticket order form (on page 9) and fax it to 259-6393 or send it via regular post to the address below. Please note that if you are choosing to book your tickets this way, order forms must be submitted by **February 1, 2008**.

The Sien Lok Society of Calgary  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley  
Calgary, AB, T2P 4K3

The Chinese New Year Banquet is the major annual fundraising event for Sien Lok. Suitably, we are welcoming sponsorships and donations. The following opportunities exist for you to support the event:

- Donate an item for a door prize or the raffle.
- Purchase a table of ten for \$880 and host your staff/clients/family/friends.
- Purchase individual tickets and meet new friends at the banquet (\$88/person).

- Sponsor the event.

In return for a donation, Sien Lok Society will provide the following benefits:

- Recognition in the Event Program.
- Donated items will be displayed with the donor's name acknowledged.
- Charitable tax receipts are issued for cash donations and gifts-in-kind with required documentation.
- Recognition in the Sien Lok Society newsletter.

In addition to donations, there are several sponsorship opportunities available. If you are interested in exploring a sponsorship opportunity, please contact Robert Jim at (403) 541-5548.

The goal is to raise \$50,000 through this event. The actual cost to raise these funds is 45% of this goal which includes the cost of the meals.

Should you have any questions regarding the event, please do not hesitate to call Charles Cheun at (403) 995-3849.

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

by Thomas To

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 24, 2007 at the Central Grand Restaurant. Approximately 130 people attended this year, and everyone had a great time visiting with old and new friends.

Mary Yuen-Sears and Robert Jim were our wonderful Emcees for the event. Robert Jim also did a fabulous job on putting together a PowerPoint presentation of snapshots highlighting Sien Lok's various events for this past year. There were great door prizes and centerpieces for lucky winners. The business portion of the AGM was very brief which allowed more time for socializing.

We had a farewell presentation for three of our Directors to honour their invaluable contributions to Sien Lok. Sandy Kwong (Vice President),

Wendy Kit-Tsui (Director, Volunteers) and Eileen Tam (Director, Memberships) stepped down from the Board of Directors, and are moving on to pursue other endeavors. Wendy was a Director for six years, Sandy for four years and Eileen for two years. They were awarded a special Sien Lok lapel pin to thank them for their dedication, time and support. Everyone at Sien Lok wishes them happiness, success and all the best for their future.

We then welcomed the return of Pamela Simpson (nee Fearon) to our Board, and a new member, Charles Cheun. Although Pamela has been away from Sien Lok for two years, we knew that she could not stay away for too long, and we are so very happy to have her back with us. Many of you may know Charles, who has been a Sien Lok volunteer for many years. He also coordinated the Silent Auction at last year's Chinese New Year Banquet. The Board of Directors looks forward to an exciting new term with the addition of Pamela and Charles.

To end the evening, everyone wished Cori Louis-Smith, one of our longstanding Directors, a very happy birthday in song.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their tremendous help at this event. As always, we are very grateful to have you!

The AGM is usually the time for new members to join the Sien Lok Society and for existing ones to renew their membership. If you were unable to attend the AGM, and would like to either join or renew, you can still complete the attached form on page 8 of this newsletter, and send it to us with your cheque payment. As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter to keep you informed of our many exciting activities and events.

## **Sien Lok is Powered by Volunteers**

by Carl Wu

The Sien Lok Society could not be what it is today without our incredible volunteers. We are always on the look-out for new members to join

our extended family. Our next event is the ever-popular **Chinese New Year's Banquet** on **February 16, 2008** at the Regency Palace Restaurant. If you're over the age of 14, and interested in being part of an annual tradition, then become a volunteer! Various duties for this event include set up, coat check, ushering, stage assistance, photography, and others.

Other upcoming events that are not possible without a team of volunteers include the **Seniors Visitation** (June 8, 2008), and the **Picnic In Our Park** (September 13, 2008). Volunteering at these events offers a great opportunity to meet new people and have some fun along the way. The more the merrier, so bring a friend!

Aside from our annual events, this year, Sien Lok has two additional special projects that are also welcoming volunteers. They are the **Sien Lok 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** (date yet to be determined) and **Builders and Patriots: Portraits of Chinese Canadians, Part 2** (to take place in 2009). More details for both of these will be announced in later newsletters, so please stay tuned.

If you are interested in helping out any of these events or would like more information, please contact our Volunteer Committee at [sienlok\\_volunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:sienlok_volunteers@hotmail.com)

## Sien Lok Website

by Kim Fung

Have you had a chance to visit Sien Lok's website lately? If not, then check it out! Thanks to Charles Cheun, our new Web Communications Director, the site has been updated, and is now sporting some snazzy new colours and pictures from the AGM.

We welcome your input as Sien Lok members on what you would like to see on your site. If you have any new ideas, suggestions, or comments, please do not hesitate to send them to us at [info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org).

## Sien Lok Spotlight

by Kim Fung and Sharon To

The Sien Lok Society has had many dedicated members, past directors and volunteers who have supported us for years in countless ways and have become our dearest friends. Their invaluable contributions have guided, built, and shaped Sien Lok into what it is today – a well respected organization that cares deeply about its community and actively shows it through its special projects (such as the Digitization project and the ongoing development of Sien Lok Park), financial contributions for scholarships and to various organizations, and annual events such as the Senior's Visitation, and the Picnic In Our Park. These individuals still continue to loyally support Sien Lok today, and the purpose of this new section of our newsletter is to recognize and appreciate them for their past contributions and their presence in our community. For this edition of Sien Lok Spotlight, Past President Hugh Louis and Past Director Joanne Woo are featured.

### Hugh Louis, Past President

#### How did you learn about Sien Lok?

I was actually one of the founding members when it was first established in 1968.

#### When did you become a Director?

As a founding member, I was active with the Sien Lok Society from day one.

#### What motivated you to get involved?

The Sien Lok Society was created in response to a threat by the City of Calgary to eliminate Chinatown from its current location, and relocate it somewhere else. Like many of my fellow founding members at the time, saving Chinatown, the heart of Calgary's Chinese community, was my sole motivation.

#### What motivated you to become the President of Sien Lok Society?

Well, like anyone who chooses to step into a role of leadership, I wanted to help steer its path. I wanted to help Sien Lok to continue its legacy to promote and preserve Chinese Canadian Heritage.

**In which events/projects have you been involved?**

I have been involved with the Chinese New Year's Banquet, Sien Lok Park redevelopment, and the annual Casino.

**Have you noticed any changes in Sien Lok since you were last a member of the board?**

Yes. When we first formed Sien Lok, our focus to save Chinatown was also our way of trying to preserve Chinese Canadian Heritage. Now that our original mission has been achieved, the endeavors that Sien Lok takes now to continue that preservation is different.

**What would you like to see in Sien Lok's future?**

I would like to see Sien Lok increase its involvement with the Chinese community at large.

**What have you been doing since you left the Sien Lok Board?**

I have been quite active with the Chinatown Development Foundation.

## **Joanne Woo, Past Director**

**How did you learn about Sien Lok?**

An idea of a 'society' was yet to be born when I recorded minutes at a meeting of Chinese businessmen and community leaders. They had been called to gather in the gymnasium of the Chinese United Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW by Rev. David Wen and his friend, Mr. Ron Con (Government of Canada), to discuss what to do about the City's (rumored) proposed plan to build a so-called east-west penetrator thoroughfare that would destroy Calgary Chinatown. Several meetings later, the Sien Lok Society of Calgary was founded in 1968.

**When did you become a Director?**

I became a Director in 1968 as Secretary on the first Sien Lok Board of Directors, and then again the mid 90s.

**What motivated you to get involved?**

The cause and challenge -- save Chinatown. I believe Sien Lok was the first Calgary Chinese Community Service organization formed by Canadian-born Chinese citizens. There was an opportunity to work with a group of Chinese Canadian peers that I could relate to; plus, it pleased my parents. In the mid 90s, the timing was right for me to become an active member again.

**In which events/projects have you been involved?**

The beginning was uncharted territory, and fun and exciting as ideas/strategies turned into reality and success. Everything was a first -- the founding of the Sien Lok Society, the National Conference on Urban Renewal and its affects on Chinatown, the Chinese New Year Gala fundraiser, a community picnic, a Stampede Parade float.

I took a long break from Sien Lok when Wayne and I started our family. In the late 80s through then President, Jan Mah, I volunteered a little. In the mid 90s I was re-elected to the Board. I

chaired the Banquet Committee for about 5 years, and worked on other committees for North Sien Lok Park and its Grand Opening; Sien Lok/Wing Kei CPO Gala Concert, AGM, Asian Heritage Month, Wall of Names Project, Picnic in the Park, Volunteer Appreciation Events, Casino, Scholarship programs, Sien Lok Visioning project, and Builders and Patriots Photograph Exhibit.

**Have you noticed any changes in Sien Lok since you were last a member of the board?**

1960s – The electric typewriter and photocopier were a new technology. My how times have changed!

Sien Lok was born because a very committed and spirited group wanted to ‘save Chinatown’. It faced opposition from others in the Calgary Chinese Community who viewed Sien Lok as not being Chinese in their sense of cultural identity, and definitely not the voice of, or for Calgary’s Chinese community. When the application was made to register the Society, the police came to my home to ‘interview’ me as to ‘what this new organization was about and what it proposed to do in the community’. Today Sien Lok is a highly accomplished and well-respected organization.

The Chinese population ratio then was far less than now, but we definitely impacted Calgary’s culture. Women’s lib was just gaining momentum, and I remember being asked if I could foresee a possibility of a ‘Woman’ President for Sien Lok—my how times did change!

The scale of funding and of finances is also different. The vision and purpose is much broader. Now, the Board is into its second generation of members, so to speak, and consists of younger business professionals.

My experiences on the Board of Directors were +/- 20 years apart; but the phrase “the more things change, the more they stay the same” is somewhat befitting, in terms of passion, commitment, humor and camaraderie within the Board. From the beginning, it was like a group of good friends getting together to work for a cause, and in my view, that has not changed.

**What would you like to see in Sien Lok’s future?**

I would like for Sien Lok keep on as ‘Builders and Patriots’ and to never lose its enthusiasm. I would also like to see the upkeep/enhancement of current projects; and more use of electronic technology to network and educate; to continue encouraging/mentoring upcoming generations, and to expand the scope of its mission to promote and bridge Chinese Culture. And finally, to support and participate in keeping Calgary’s Chinatown a vibrant, welcoming and growing community.

**What have you been doing since you left the Sien Lok Board?**

Relaxing and taking life a little easier. I’ve been into creative crafts, doing more traveling, enjoying our empty nest and encouraging Kari, Kristi and Lyndi as they weave their own futures. Wedding plans are in the works for Kari and fiancé Corey Stevens for August 2008! I’ve also been working at my ‘retirement job’ with a medical research clinic (3-6 hour days, 4 day weekends). Wayne has also slowed down his realty work pace, and we moved this past July from our home of 32 years in NW Calgary. We’re still getting settled and used to the SW sector of the City – but thoroughly enjoying it. I like to volunteer at one Sien Lok event each year – usually the Picnic, just to keep in touch and have some fun.

**Additional Comments?**

Those 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generations of Chinese immigrants in Canada faced great discrimination and hardships that we today cannot even imagine, in order to be accepted into the Canadian society.

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Chinese Canadian, born in Calgary and I grew up learning more western culture than Chinese. Sien Lok brought me a sense of my heritage, giving me a cultural pride and identity. It taught me how fulfilling it is to give of oneself and enriched my life. It opened doors to meeting a whole lot of special people and many ongoing friendships.

Little did I know the gift of experiences to come when Ray Lee asked me to attend that meeting almost 40 years ago. It's a testament to Sien Lok to look at its list of long-standing members and supporters.

## Special Announcements

by Sharon To

Congratulations to **Philip and Pansy Slen** on the arrival of their second child. Their baby girl, **Portia** (pronounced Porsha) was born on November 13, 2007, weighing in at 6 lbs and 14 oz. Renee will now have someone else to play with other than her parents!



Pansy, Renee, Portia and Philip Slen

## Upcoming Events

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the following Sien Lok events planned for 2008. More details for other events will be announced in later issues of the newsletter.

### Chinese New Year Banquet (Year of the Rat)

- Saturday, February 16, 2008
- Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant, 328 Centre Street S.E.
- Formal Dress
- Cocktails at 6:00 pm
- Dinner at 7:15 pm

### Volunteer Appreciation Event

- Sunday, May 4, 2008

### Seniors Visitation

- Sunday, June 8, 2008

### Picnic In Our Park

- Saturday, September 13, 2008

## Call for Suggestions

Please let us know if you would like something specific included in Sien Lok's quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is intended to keep the membership up-to-date on events and activities and provide opportunities for involvement. Contact us by phone, e-mail, or regular post.

Sien Lok Society of Calgary  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley  
Calgary, AB, T2P 4K3  
Telephone: (403) 874-SLSC (7572)  
Email: [info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org)  
Website: [www.sienlok.org](http://www.sienlok.org)

Please advise Sien Lok Society if you have a change of address, telephone number, cell phone number, or email address. This will ensure Sien Lok's ability to maintain communication with its members.

# Sien Lok Society



[info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org)

(403) 874-7572

## Volunteer/Membership Form

Send form and cheque to:

Sien Lok Society

PO Box 20150

RPO Bow Valley

Calgary, AB T2P 4K3

\$ 5.00 Annual Single Membership

\$15.00 Annual Family Membership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Bus) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of Payment:

Cash     VISA     Cheque

Single Membership

Family Membership

Names of Family members:

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I would like to volunteer for the following:

Casino

Chinese New Year Banquet

Communications

Creative Writer

Picnic In Our Park

Seniors Visitation

Sien Lok Park Beautification Project

Social Club

Special Projects

Comments:

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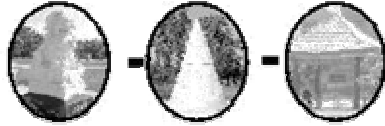
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Membership card # \_\_\_\_\_



[www.sienlok.org](http://www.sienlok.org)

**Sien Lok Society of Calgary**  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley, Calgary, AB T2P 4H3  
Tel: (403) 874-5133 (7672) email: info@sienlok.org

### NEW YEAR'S BANQUET TICKET ORDER / DONATION FORM

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$88 each      Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s) of 10 @ \$880      Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Visa       Mastercard

Card Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail an invoice to me at the above address.

I will mail or deliver a cheque to Sien Lok Society of Calgary  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley, Calgary, AB T2P 4H3

I am not able to attend, please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax receipt to be issued).

Please return to: Sien Lok Society, New Year Banquet Committee  
Attention: Cori Louis-Smith  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley, Calgary, AB T2P 4H3

Telephone: (403) 256-5687

Fax: (403) 259-6369

**DEADLINE: February 1, 2008**

The goal is to raise \$50,000 through this event. The cost to raise these funds is 45% of this total goal.

Business Number: 11914 9763 RR0001

GST Number: 11914 9763 RT0001