



# 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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### Board of Directors

President	Edmond Lee
Past-President	Allen Wong
Vice-President	Pamella Fearon
Treasurer	Ka-Yee Wong
Secretary	Sharon To
Communications	Sandy Kwong
Director	Peter Fung
Director Emeritus	Ray Lee
Fundraising	Philip Slen
Legal Counsel	Allen Wong
	Kevin Wong
Membership/Volunteers	Wendy Kit Tsui
New Year Banquet	Cori Louis-Smith
Projects	Robert Jim
	Thomas To
Parks	Jason Luan
Social Club	Lisa Woo
Webmaster	Kevin Wong

### President’s Message

by Edmond Lee, President

On behalf of the Sien Lok Board of Directors, we extend greetings to our Past President and director, Allen Wong; and Sylvia Fong on their newborn baby girl, Sabrina.

After our exciting Chinese New Year Gala Dinner held on Saturday, February 19, 2005, our Sien Lok Society of Calgary’s Board of Directors is already moving into high gear for many events in the forthcoming months as followings:

May 29—Member’s Reunion /Volunteer Appreciation

June 26 – Senior’s Visitations

October 26—Annual General Meeting

Fall 2005—Casino

February 11, 2006—Chinese New Year Banquet

Please pay special attention to the upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2005.

I have no doubt that by looking forward and working together, we can create a greater and more interesting Society.

Thanks once again for your help and we look forward to meeting and talking to all of you.

## 2005 Calgary Chinese Orchestra Music Night

by Edmond Lee

On Sunday, August 21, 2005, the B.C. Chinese Orchestra will be performing at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Tickets are \$20/person. If interested in purchasing tickets, please call Edmond Lee or Sandy Kwong @ 255-9668.

The B.C. Chinese Orchestra is the largest Chinese orchestra in North America:

- With full sections (bow, pluck, wind, percussion).
- With all section leaders being renowned soloists.
- With a professional conductor and over 50 members.

The event will be a special concert for traditional and modern Chinese music. Both the general public and local musicians will benefit from this concert.

## AGM and Call for Directors

by Kevin Wong

On October 26, 2005, we will be holding another Annual General Meeting (AGM). Please stay tuned for time/location details.

If you have attended our last few AGM's, you'll know that like virtually everything Sien Lok does, our AGM's are actually enjoyable: a rarity among such events.

Expect another evening of enjoyable socializing and another presentation of the Year in Review.

This year marks the end of another two-year Director's term. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in becoming part of the next slate of Directors please let us know by e-mail at: [info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org).

As any Sien Lok Director can tell you, a term as Director is a fantastic and fun chance to engage,

promote, and preserve Canadian Chinese culture. Volunteering with Sien Lok is also a wonderful networking opportunity filled with remarkable social and business avenues.

Perhaps, most importantly, Sien Lok also boasts another rarity among non-profit organizations: at our Director's meetings, and at every event we host/organize, we laugh, constantly.

If you think being an attendee at a Sien Lok function is enjoyable, words cannot describe how much fun we have as Directors planning and organizing our events.

We hope to see you at our AGM, and moreover, we hope you'll choose to join us as a Director.

And please, feel free to spread the word about the AGM and our call for Directors.

## Members' Reunion and Volunteer Appreciation

by Lisa Woo

You are invited to brunch at the Canada Olympic Park – ATCO Centre, Sunday, May 29, 2005, at 11:00 A.M. Come and meet our volunteers and re-unite with former members and share your stories with the new and former members.

The cost is \$10 for members and non-members aged 65+, and \$20 for other non-members. Please call me at 714-3953, if you would like to attend the event.

Hope to see you all there.

**Seating is limited.**

**Visa is accepted.**

**We would like to thank all our volunteers who make our events a great success.**

**RSVP by May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Wendy Kit Tsui 266-9604 Sharon To 254-0118

Lisa Woo 714-3953 Ray Lee 288-3903

## Senior's Visitation

by Lisa Woo

Sien Lok's annual visit to seniors is set for Sunday, June 26, 2005. If you would like to volunteer for preparing the food baskets or visiting with the Chinese Elderly (need to speak Chinese), please send an e-mail to me at woola@shaw.ca to sign up.

The preparation of the food baskets will begin at 9:00 a.m.

## Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada – Historical Photo Exhibit

by Robert Jim

The Sien Lok Society will be hosting a historical photo exhibit in the fall called "Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada" at the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre. This Multicultural Society of Ontario exhibit chronicles the achievements of Chinese women settlers to Canada and spans several decades. Topics covered include the arrival of the first female Chinese immigrants from China, adapting to a new culture, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the war effort, women in the workforce, the repeal of the Exclusion Act and the reunification of families in 1957.

The exhibit consists of 29 panels of 66 photographs covering 9 main themes. It has recently toured several cities in Asia including Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chongqing, Beijing and Shanghai. The display is set to run from September 21, 2005, to October 4, 2005. If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting project, please contact Robert Jim. In the meantime, stay tuned to this newsletter for more exciting information on this highly acclaimed exhibit.

## Picnic in Our Park

by Pamela Fearon

Due to the timing of the Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada – Historical Photo Exhibit, Sien Lok Society will not be holding a Picnic in Our Park this fall.

Please be assured that the Picnic in Our Park will be back in 2006.

## Chinese New Year Banquet

by Cori Louis-Smith

Our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual fundraising banquet was held on Saturday, February 19, 2005, at the Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant with an attendance of 580 people.



The participation of His Honour, the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor, and Her Honour, Mary Kwong, was the highlight of this year's event. I recall the Lieutenant Governor saying in his speech "Why does everyone stand up for me now and not when I was playing football?"

Other special guests included Representatives of all three levels of Government, and His Excellency, Consul General Song, and Mrs. Song of the People's Republic of China.

The guests enjoyed traditional Chinese and various other entertainments, scholarship presentations, free photo taking, and a silent auction.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who helped to make our banquet a great success. Also, we would like to thank all our sponsors to make our silent auction a great hit! You have made a difference!

The Banquet Committee was Cori Louis-Smith (Chairperson), Pamela Fearon, Sandy Kwong, Philip Slen, Sharon To, Wendy Kit Tsui, Ka-Yee Wong, and Lisa Woo.

It is truly a team effort to put on such an event and raise funds for the good work of Sien Lok Society of Calgary.

We hope to see you all at next year's banquet to celebrate the Year of the Dog on Saturday, February 11, 2006.

## Oops—Silent Auction

One of the bid sheets went missing at the New Year Banquet when wrapping up the Silent Auction. We do not have the bid sheet for the Country Hills Golf & Country Club package. We still have the certificate for the round of golf for four, on the Ridge course, complete with carts. If you believe you were the successful bidder, or if you think you know the identity of the successful bidder, please call Philip Slen @ Sien Lok (403) 874-7674.

## Student Awards

by Thomas To

This year, the Student Awards presentation was held at our Chinese New Year Banquet on February 15, 2005m at Regency Palace Restaurant.

The recipient from Mount Royal College was Krista Taldorf, and Jennifer Chan from Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

We had two recipients from the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth. They were Charles Ndumbi and Ali Haqyar. The speeches from

Charles and Ali were quite moving as they talked about their upbringing in a foreign country to their new life in Canada.

On behalf of Sien Lok Society, we congratulate the recipients and wish them all the best in the future.

Following speeches that were delivered by Ali Haqyar and Charles Ndumbi at the banquet.

Get out your Kleenex as these are touching stories.



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“Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ali Haqyar. I am a grade nine student of Dr. Gordon Higgins junior high school. I have been here since June 26, 2002. My goal of today is to come here and thank all the member of the Sien Lok Society, and Bridge Club who has given me an opportunity to express my thoughts and feelings about my life, and beside that they have given me an honorable scholarship of \$500 Canadian dollars. I am proud of myself that I have achieved this scholarship. This scholarship means a lot to me because it is my first time in my life that I have achieved a scholarship from my education. I earned this scholarship because of my knowledge, hard work and with the help of my Bridge Club leaders.

I have faced many challenges through my life to gain this education and knowledge, when I use to live in Afghanistan there was a war going on and I use to go to school but with a huge fear, not fear of schoolwork, but fear of dying

because every day when I use to go to school rockets were launching all around, but still I had to because that is how life is in Afghanistan. With our precious luck of mine and my family we lived until we moved to Pakistan because of the war and our economic problems. I joined a private schooling from my religion in Pakistan, it was better than Afghanistan but still going to school was a bit difficult for me because of the transportation, weather and people. I use to walk to school for two hours to go to school and come back with a temperature of 35 degree Celsius beside the weather and transportation some teenagers use to bother me because I was an outsider and couldn't speak their language very well. I still went to school with those problems that finally I came here with the help of our spiritual leader of Ismaili. I start going to school and then going to Bridge Club in grade seven until now in grade 9.

Bridge club has helped and is still helping me with my life. We have done many interesting things, which have totally changed my lifestyle, we have traveled to many great places that I have never been to before. There are a lot of things that Bridge Club has done for me. I have made a lot of friends in Bridge Club I have met people from different countries with different backgrounds who are also immigrants. Bridge Club has introduced me to new places and people. It has helped me with my studies in school especially with my homework.

Once again I thank the Sien Lok Society and Bridge Club member and all the audience who has given their time to lesson about my feelings and educational life. Thank you very much."

by Ali Haqyar

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"Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Charles Ndumbi. First of all, I would like to thank the Sien Lok Society for giving me the opportunity to win the \$500 Scholarship award. To be honest, this is my first time in my life to participate in such a contest.

I come from a family of 13; my other brother and I are twins. Our elder sister just gave birth to a baby girl two months ago. So

I am an uncle. We immigrated to Canada from Zambia our first host country on April 27, 2004. But I was originated in Congo DR. English is an official language in Zambia, but is spoken by few people, especially in schools and government offices. At first, I was shy to speak to the people I did not know. However, when I started school in grade eight at Ernest Morrow junior high school, I heard friends talking about Bridge Club and most comment was negative. But when I met Erica, Sam and Duff their explanations were interesting. From that time I developed a special interest in it and registered immediately. Five month later, Bridge Club changed my life; They taught me how to interact with other people from different countries. They also taught me about Canada, its cultural diversity and many more. When I heard about Chinese New Year, I was astonished because it sounded strange to me, but it made sense after the Bridge Club and Mrs. Chan had plainly explained to me.

Now that Bridge Club has made me become somebody, my ambitions are to pursue higher studies, starting with Forest lawn high school. At College or university I will decide to take art and design. I hope the Bridge Club will help me bridge up these goals. My twin brother and I are in 80 Club. Some people may not know what it means, [but it is a category for student with an average of 80% and more].

In conclusion, let me tell you a story about what happened to my mom before my twin brother and I came into being. As she was almost due, she dreamt about two men dressed in black suit who kept knocking at the door. When they entered the house and opened their briefcases. They took out some papers and started writing. When she told the church ministers, it was reveals that she would give birth to twins and they will perform many wonders in the future. My brother and I have feeling that our mom's dream will come true. We are many in our family, but we live as one. We will do our best to keep the traditional values of the family. Respect for one another, sense of responsibility, and self-motivation are a few of our main focus in this new world. In order to accomplish my goals, I do not only plan and act, but I dream and believe.

"May god bless you and happy Chinese New Year".

Yours sincerely  
Charles Ndumbi

## Digitization Project

by Ray Lee

The Sien Lok Society of Calgary is championing and has partially funded a project to interview Immigrant Alberta Chinese and digitize and provide access to these interviews and associated artifacts such as photos, newspapers, and memorabilia. This project will form a component of *Multicultural Alberta* to be created by the University of Calgary Press and, in turn, be represented in *Multicultural Canada*, a related national initiative of partners the Sien Lok Society of Calgary, University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University Library, the University of Victoria, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, and others. The purpose of these projects is to ensure that ethnic Canadians are represented on the Internet, where so much of Canada's learning, research, communication, and commerce take place. The partnership is committed to providing all Canadians with digital records of their ethnic heritage in a timely manner, before records and materials are lost, destroyed, or made inaccessible in private collections.

## Our Newest Members (Birth announcements)

by Sharon To

Name: Sabrina Suet Yee Wong  
Date: January 27, 2005  
Time: 7:01 a.m.  
Weight: 8 lbs. 14 oz.  
Proud Parents: Allen Wong (Past President)/  
Director) and Sylvia Fong

Name: Julian Maddox Mah  
Date: October 26, 2004  
Time: 12:39 pm

Weight: 7 lbs. 13 oz.  
Proud Parents: William Mah and Windchill Ha  
(Life-long members)

## Sien Lok Casino Night

by Philip Slen

Sien Lok casino night (actually two nights) is an important fundraising event for the Society. It is also a lot of fun for our volunteers who enjoy the atmosphere and excitement that is a casino. It is held once every 18 months. This year Sien Lok will hold its 6th fundraising casino night sometime in the fall of 2005. More details are to follow once we have date confirmation. A call for volunteers will be sent at that time.

## 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. Please contact us by phone, email, or regular post.

Sien Lok Society of Calgary  
PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley  
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Telephone: (403) 874-SLSC (7672)  
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 is able to maintain communication with its members.

## A Little Humour

from [www.ahajokes.com](http://www.ahajokes.com)

### Question and answer

Q: Why do hummingbirds hum?  
A: Because they don't know the words.