



Vol. 2—2012

Founded in 1990

CONTACT

Newsletter Autumn Edition

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Important Dates

Members-Meet-Members
Friday, September 7
7pm to Late
East Side Craft House
1445 East 41st Avenue
Vancouver BC

Kawan Kawan Night
Saturday, October 13
6:30pm to 10pm
Kaya Malay Bistro
1063 W. Broadway (at Oak)
Vancouver BC

RSVP:

Violet Chan - 604-616-8258
Michael Liu - 604-788-8963
Tim Chandra - 604-649-2250



A Message from President Violet Chan and Editor Michael Liu

CURRENT OFFICIALS

President: Violet Chan

Vice President: Michael Liu

Hon. Secretary: Mei Lam

Hon. Treasurer: Clement Yapp

Committee Members:

- ◆ Tim Chandra
- ◆ David Choy
- ◆ Alice Crestejo
- ◆ Rey Halim
- ◆ Phillip Lee
- ◆ Sunny Loo
- ◆ Michael Mok
- ◆ Shirley Wong

Immediate PP: Jim Foo

Internal Auditor: Michael Leong

Legal Advisor: James Reynolds

Hon. Advisor: Sing Lim Yeo

VSC Contact Newsletter

Editor:

Michael Liu

Email:

michael.lm.liu@gmail.com

Tel: 604-788-8963

How time flies! Since the publication of our last edition of *Contact* on July 2012, we have had two major club events: VSC's *Annual Picnic* at *South Arm Park* and our *Singapore's 47th National Day Dinner & Dance* at the filled-to-capacity *Continental Seafood Restaurant*. Both were extremely successful events with the fun-filled, family-oriented picnic attended by over 230 members and guests and the spectacular SND dinner enjoyed by well over 300 club participants and supporters! The excellent event turn-outs speak to the high level of support we have from the Vancouver – Singapore community as well as from those with an interest in all things Singapore and all things Vancouver! Our club events wouldn't be successful without the support of you, our members and indeed our club would not exist without you!

Aside from a healthy, growing membership base, we also need leadership at all levels within the club (both inside and outside of our executive committee). While we are developing strong leadership within Ex-Co, we invite all our members to exercise their leadership also...to continue being active in your participation and being proactive in bringing us your ideas and feedback on club events and management. We also invite you to help us grow our club by telling your friends and family about the benefits of VSC membership...a place to meet friends both old and new, to network, share ideas and most of all, to have fun! Often the best things come about in life when ideas and a sense of adventure and fun collide, and at VSC we aim to spark such moments of serendipity. On the topic of leadership, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of VSC's Honorary Advisor, Mr. Sing Lim Yeo. Sing Lim's in-depth experience in community work would be a great asset to VSC...welcome to the team Sing!

We hope you enjoy this, the *Autumn Edition* of *Contact*. Inside you'll find interesting articles contributed by club members. Our heart-felt thanks to everyone who contributes to our quarterly newsletter and we invite all of you to share articles, photos and ideas for future editions. Perhaps, you will like to exercise your creativity in writing by being a "guest" writer in our "Members' Column" or you can submit an artistic photo that you took during events and your travels. We welcome all your ideas! On behalf of VSC Ex-Co, we look forward to seeing you all in our next events.



Best wishes,

Violet *Michael*

Violet Chan, President (2012-2013)
Michael Liu, Vice President (2012-2013)

VSC's Singapore 47th National Day Dinner & Dance



Vancouver Singapore Club celebrated Singapore's 47th National Day on August 10 in style as over 300 members and guests gathered at Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond for an amazing sold-out event. "Singapore's 47th National Day Dinner & Dance" was jointly presented by Vancouver Singapore Club and Singapore Airlines. The evening, emceed by VSC Exco Director Tim Chandra and VSC Vice President Michael Liu, started with the singing of the National Anthems of Canada and Singapore followed by an eclectic line-up of first class acts including spectacular performances by award-winning, classically trained singer, Alice Crestejo (VSC Exco Director), enchanting dancers from Colours of Dance Academy and multi-talented popular vocal artists: Cecilia Chung, Francis Lau, Beatrice Chai and Wilson Wong. We were delighted to welcome many honourable guests, government officials as well as various corporate sponsors. (Continued on next page).



Celebrating Singapore's 47th National Birthday with (left to right) John Yap (Minister of State for Multiculturalism), Douglas A. Horne (MLA Coquitlam-Burke Mountain), Komgrit Varakamin (Consul General of Thailand), Jose Ampeso (Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines), Terry Salman (Consul General of the Republic of Singapore), Violet Chan (President, VSC), Michael Liu (Vice President, VSC), Sing Lim Yeo (VSC Hon. Advisor), Tim Chandra (VSC Ex-Co Director).

"The SND Event was absolutely amazing! It was very well organized, the food was great, entertainment spectacular and we got to meet lots of new friends and catch up with old friends!"



With Jose and Cecelia Ampeso



Left and above: Colours of Dance Academy - beautiful Chinese dance performances

L-R: Rob Howard (MLA Richmond Centre), Richard T. Lee (Parliamentary Secretary for Asia Pacific), Violet Chan (VSC President), John Yap (Minister of State for Multiculturalism), Douglas A. Horne (MLA Coquitlam-Burke Mountain)



VSC's Singapore 47th National Day Dinner & Dance...continued

Honorable guests included Consul General of People's Republic of China representatives, Mr. & Mrs. Li Yue, Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Jose Ampeso and his wife Cecelia, Consul General of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Terry Salman and his wife Christine, Consul General of Thailand, Mr. Komgrit Varakamin, Vancouver Singapore Club Honorary Legal Advisor, Mr. James Reynolds and his wife Pui Ah and Vancouver Singapore Club Honorary Advisor, Mr. Sing Lim Yeo and his wife Patricia. Government officials included Minister of State for Seniors, Mrs. Alice Wong and her husband, Enoch, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, Mr. John Yap and his wife Suzanne, Parliamentary Secretary for Asia Pacific, Mr. Richard T. Lee, MLA Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, Mr. Douglas A. Horne and his wife Larissa and MLA Richmond Centre, Mr. Rob Howard. Vancouver School Trustee Board members, Ken Denike and Sophia Woo also graced us with their attendance. To express the club's appreciation for their support, VSC President Violet Chan presented the Consul Generals with Singapore's national flower—the orchid. Many thanks to Singapore Airlines' Sales Manager for Western Canada, Mr. Michael Wraight for his continued support over the years! Singapore Airlines donated the top prize—a return airline ticket to Singapore! We look forward to next year's celebration of Singapore's 48th National Day! See you all there!



Violet warmly welcomes our new VSC Life Members and Hon. Advisor



L-R: Julie Liu, Doreen Lam, Patricia Yeo and Suzanne Yap enjoying the night!



A highly successful sold-out event...enjoyed by all!

More photos from SND Dinner & Dance...



Left: distinguished guests ...thank you for your continued support!

Below: Michael Liu, Violet Chan with Terry & Christine Salman



Above: 2012-13 VSC Executive Committee



Violet Chan and VSC Honorary Advisor, Sing Lim Yeo



Michael Wraight presenting Grand Prize—Return SIA Ticket to Michael Liu

Singapore celebrated its first National Day in 1966, one year after Singapore's separation from Malaysia on 9 August 1965.

The first National Day Parade started in the morning at 9:00 A.M. People came as early as 7:00 A.M. in order to get good vantage points. Singapore's first President, Mr. Yusof bin Ishak and Singapore's first Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, were seated with members of the government at the grandstand on the steps of City Hall. When the parade began, 6 military contingents (including the Singapore Infantry Regiment, SPDF and the Republic of Singapore Police), a mobile column from the SIR, and various schools and civil contingents marched past City Hall and then into the city streets. Three military bands accompanied the parade inspection and later the march past with military music. The Singapore Fire Brigade also took part in this first parade with its fire-trucks included in the mobile column. Rounding it all was a lion and dragon dance performance from drum and dragon troupes nationwide.

By next year, the contingents increased to 76, including those of the then established Singapore Armed Forces, the RSP and more cultural groups, with the addition of more civil marching groups. The reason is partly due to the introduction of the National Service program in the military and police forces, and later extended to the Fire Brigade, later called the Singapore Fire Services in the 1970s. Street performances by various groups also debuted in that year's parade. The 1968 edition, although held on a rainy morning that surprised even the marching contingents and the dignitaries, saw the first ground performances on the Padang as the weather improved - a prelude to today's show performances. 1969's parade commemorated the 150th year of the city's founding.

On the August 9, 1970 NDP edition, the Flypast of the State Flag and the Republic of Singapore Air Force Flypast debuted.

The 1971 NDP was the first to include the iconic mobile parade floats from various organizations. Choirs also debuted on that year's edition.

The 1973 parade was held from the afternoon to early evening for the first time to attract more attendance from the public. The next year, colour broadcasts of the parade on television began.

The 1975 parades, held to celebrate Singapore's 10th year, were for the first time decentralized into 13 parade venues for more public participation. Almost all of them lasted for an hour and all of them even had route marches on the streets.

By the time the NDP was held at the National Stadium (for the first time) in 1976, the NDP Guard of Honour, composed of officers and personnel of the SAF and the Singapore Police Force made its first appearance, followed after the parade proper by the very first evening presentations by various groups, a prelude to future evening NDPs in 1980 and from 1985 onward. 1977's parade were decentralized like two years before while 1978 would see the parade back at the Padang grounds.

1981's NDP was the very first parade appearance of the then SPF Civil Defense Command, presently the Singapore Civil Defense Force, later combined with the SFS in 1989.

(Continued on page 7)



(The SCDF of today showed itself for the first time in the 1982 NDP held in the Padang.) They were held in two de-centralised venues, Jurong and Queenstown Sports Stadiums to further increase public attendance and participation in the celebrations.

1983 would be the final year that the NDP was held in multiple venues.

The 1984 NDP edition celebrated Singapore's Silver Jubilee of self-governance and included a bigger Mobile Column while NDP 1985 celebrated the nation's 20th year with more participants in the parade segment and in the show proper. The 1986 edition was the first true evening edition of the parade, and the first to use flashlights for audience use.

The government set up the e-balloting ticketing system in 2003 in order to tackle the problem of overcrowding. The ticketing system enabled citizens to stand a chance at winning the tickets by registering their e-mail addresses or mobile numbers at the NDP website or phone-lines. (Submitted by VSC Hon. Advisor, Sing Lim Yeo)

Calling all VSC members for your ideas!

We would love to hear from you! Please share your ideas on how to make our club and this newsletter even better. VSC is all about fun times and fellowship; we are continually striving to be relevant and to be that club that brings people together.

We invite you to send your ideas for club events, suggestions for newsletter articles, Members' Column contributions to:

michael.lm.liu@gmail.com



We also welcome any VSC related photos from previous events.

Please be reminded that we are now on Facebook. Find us at www.facebook.com/VancouverSingaporeClub where you will find the latest photos and exciting event information. Remember to join us on Facebook, tell all your friends and "like" us!

Consul-General for Singapore in Vancouver

Mr. Terry Salman

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Members' Column

The Benjamin Sheares Legacy –

30 years on

by Jeannine Sheares

Dr. Benjamin Henry Sheares

August 12, 1907 – May 12, 1981

Best known for his role as the second president of Singapore, 2011 marked the 30th anniversary of Dr. Benjamin Henry Sheares' death. In honour of him, this article recalls his achievements as a doctor and statesman, as well as the fond memories that his family members have of him as a beloved father and uncle.



A Singapore-born Eurasian of English descent, Benjamin Henry Sheares had dreams of becoming a doctor at a tender young age. These early aspirations were nurtured as he excelled in his studies at some of the best schools in Singapore and won a scholarship to medical school, eventually soaring in his medical career later on in life.

Considered to be one of the founding fathers of Singapore Medicine, Dr. Sheares was the first Singaporean to specialize in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. He was also the first local to be appointed Professor of O&G at the University of Malaya in Singapore, a position usually held only by colonials at the time.

As a doctor, he was passionate about medicine and clinical research in obstetrics and gynaecology. He was known to have excellent bedside manners and always treated each of his patients equally no matter what their social standing was, be they royalty or the poor. His work as a doctor was of utmost importance to him, and he often treated those who were unable to pay the medical fees for free. (Continued on next page).

Club Membership

1. Annual Membership: \$25.00 per year
2. Life Membership: \$250.00 one time payment
3. Corporate Membership: \$180.00 per year
4. Student Membership: \$10.00 per year

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Objectives of Vancouver-Singapore Club

1. To promote opportunities for members to meet socially and organise cultural and recreational activities.
2. To serve as an informal source of information and advise on doing business, working and living in Vancouver to members and newly-arrived Singaporeans.
3. To organise informal meetings and exchange of views with eminent Singaporeans visiting Vancouver on subjects of general interest.
4. To carry out such other activities which promote the general welfare and interests of the members and the Club as determined by the Executive Committee in a manner which is consistent with the objectives stated above.



The Benjamin Sheares Legacy (continued from page 8)

His skills as a surgeon were outstanding, and he became internationally recognized for pioneering the revolutionary Lower Segment Caesarean Section, which significantly reduced mortality and morbidity rates for Singaporean mothers and babies. He also pioneered the surgical treatment of a developmental defect in female infants called vaginal agenesis, and the operation became known worldwide as the Sheares procedure. He was also a strong proponent of voluntary sterilization and family planning which, at the time, was not a widely-accepted ideology amongst his peers. His life policy was to help everyone, and if it wasn't possible to help, then one should never harm.

In addition to his successful medical career, he was bestowed the honourable appointment as the second president of Singapore on January 2nd, 1971. He held this position for three terms until his death in 1981.

As President, he was considered to be a 'man of the people' – kind, humble and respectful to all. He had a strong sense of duty and loyalty to the state, and had even refused the offer of a higher salary for this role. He was greatly admired and loved by the people of Singapore.

In his personal life, he was known to be shy and uncomfortable in crowds, but charming and entertaining in more intimate settings amongst friends. His eldest daughter Constance remembers him as someone who was kind and tolerant, with a sense of humour and the time for everyone, high or low. He valued his privacy and chose to live in his own family home instead of the Istana. Always making himself available to those in genuine need, he epitomized humility and integrity.

He was a responsible father who was concerned about the physical, mental and moral well-being of his children. As someone who was able to win a scholarship to medical school (which his family could not have afforded otherwise), he was a firm believer in the importance of education, and sent his children to private boarding schools in the UK. He often questioned his children regarding their studies during family meal times, and was happy to pay for tuition, school and university fees for anyone in the family, including extended family members.

As an uncle, he was a role model to my father Glenn, who remembers him as a soft spoken and gentle man, but with little time for small talk. At family dinners at his house, he would often excuse himself soon after dinner and go upstairs to do his work. Despite his busy schedule, he was always available if my father needed to talk with him. All he had to do was to call his office in the Istana and he'd ask him to come down to see him there.

Uncle Benny (as we called him) was very proud of the family name and would caution all of the kids not to sully their surname. My father recalls that although he was initially not keen to take on the post of President, Uncle Benny took the role very seriously and often mentioned that it was his job to protect the constitution and the law of the land. In other words, none of the family were at any advantage because of his position, and he would not bail them out if they ever got into trouble. The children respected him even more for that.

When asked to serve a third term as president, Uncle Benny was reluctant at first, but was eventually persuaded into agreement by the Prime Minister. He was unfortunately diagnosed with lung cancer in 1980, and the following year fell into a coma and passed away. At his state funeral, some 85,000 people flocked to the Istana to pay their last respects to the beloved President.

Several landmarks in Singapore have been named after him, including the Benjamin Sheares Bridge, Sheares Hall (a student residence hall at the National University of Singapore), and Benjamin Sheares College (part of Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School). In May 2011, the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School introduced a S\$2.5 million professorship to honour Dr. Benjamin Henry Sheares. Named after him, his legacy continues with this professorship that would recognize leadership in medical teaching and research.



New Life Members and Hon. Advisor

10

Congratulations and a warm welcome to:

Andrew & Josephine Wong, Rosemary Lai, Jim & Anita Foo, Teo Miew Leng & Mark Lim,
Stanley & Kaleen Low, Julie & Ben Chaki, Violet Chan and Sing Lim Yeo

New General Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to
the following new members (2012):

Mabel / Kam Chi Chan	Lye Wen Fong / Lynda	Pierre / Maria Imlat
Albert / Wendy Low	Paul / Elaine / Nancy Lam	Kevin Lam Ka Wah
Alex / Cindy Au Yeung	Goh Seng Huat / Yanny	Soh Hwa Huey
Ben / Doreen Wong	Karen Chong	Tony Cheng
Shella Keung	Tang Inn / Loo Cher Wei	Ong Soo Keok
Simon Yau	Estella Wong	Wei Jia Ching (Student)
Jennifer / Brian Danjou	Ronald Chia	
Consolacion Tanada	Vincent / Angela Tan	
Florence / John Kam	James / Grace Yeo	
Ken / Kim Morley	Deep Jesal	
Saleh / Berinda Tjandra	Sunny / Moon Ng	
Teresa Chue	Roland Chan	
Menjou / May Hui	Rey Halim	
Robert / Ming Kee Leong	Leonard Sibal	
George / Julie Lee	Ronald / Helen Wong	
Christina Ip	Glen Chua (Student)	
Jiloca / Marichelle Reinard	Maribel / Don Bergler	
Larry / Juliette Smeets	Sandeep Sharma	
Dennis / Michelle Tan	Robert / Lillian McCollom	
Willy / Andrew Wong	Lilian / Franz Ha	
Jon / Winnie Quah	Wai Ho Choy (Student)	
Michael / Helen Park	Christopher / Liza Yong	



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For New Membership Application Form, please download from www.singaporeclub.ca

Obituary

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Robert Leong Kim Meng (brother of Past VSC President Michael Leong) who passed away on August 16, 2012

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mrs. Tsui Wang Yu Man (mother-in-law of our Hon. Secretary, Mei Lam) who passed away on August 18, 2012


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