



May 2005

Newsletter

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www.vcahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011-0806

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Greetings from the President

According to Patrick Lencioni, a top leadership consultant and author,
“A team that commits:

1. Creates clarity around direction and priorities
2. Aligns the entire team around common objectives
3. Develops an ability to learn from mistakes
4. Takes advantage of opportunities before competitors do
5. Moves forward without hesitation
6. Changes direction without hesitation or guilt”



Ventura County Chinese American Association is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that provides an important service to the Chinese community in Ventura County on the Gold Coast. Our Board officers and directors have diligently participated in various activities and events during the year. They ensure that we fulfill our vision and mission for our members. They had assumed great roles and responsibilities in supporting the 2005 Cultural Night in Oxnard.

I want to show case three key members of the VCCAA during these recent years. As treasurer, Judy Schechter has the important task to maintain our fiscal books and write checks to vendors. Judy provides a great knowledge in accounting and tracking details. Dr. George Yu has successfully chaired the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. The “Courage and Contribution – The Chinese in Ventura County” documentary and the San Buenaventura China Alley Memorial Mural were vital community projects. Lloyd Ho has done a wonderful job as our newsletter editor. He has spent countless hours editing articles and shooting photos at our activities and events. Lloyd has developed a first-class newsletter for the benefit of the members.

I encourage you, as a member, to serve the VCCAA as an important volunteer of our team. Volunteers are the lifeblood of VCCAA. We value your help and camaraderie.

As the current fiscal year winds down I would like to acknowledge and thank our major generous supporters: Al and Petra Lowe of Al Lowe Construction, Inc. of Oxnard; Keith and Cindy Kwan of Chester’s Asia Restaurant of Camarillo; Regional Manager George Leong and Branch Manager Dr. Lawrence Lee of DCH Lexus of Oxnard; Paul and Hsiu-Ling Lu of Camarillo Inn of The Best Western Inn. Of course we are very thankful for the contributions made by all our other many more business and professional advertisers in our website, newsletter, and cultural night program throughout the year.

Also many thanks to the people who helped make the major events possible: Dr. George Yu and the Historical Society; Judge Kee Choo Ling and the Camarillo Kung Fu Club; Yu-Ling Lu and the Classical & Folk Dance Troupe; Lee-May Little and Irene Sy of the Chinese Language School and Kevin Hai of the Youth Group; Tony Chen, Barbara Chieu, Tim Fu, Alice Ginn, Rob Heilman, Leslie Jue and family, LaRaine Kang, Dolly and Leon Lee, Lesley Ling, Sharon MacPolin, George Ng, Edna Tanita and Wei Li Young.

Raymond D. Chong, P.E., PTOE
President 2004-2005

Easter Egg Hunt



Due to rains, this eggstravaganza event was cancelled. Phone calls were made to all members listed in the directory. Unfortunately, some of the phone numbers were not valid. Please confirm that your phone number as-listed in the directory is correct. Update your phone number by sending an email to lesleyling@aol.com.

Edna Tanita
Chairperson

Memorial Day Picnic

When: **Monday, May 30, 2005**
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: **Pleasant Valley Park**
Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd., Camarillo

Menu: **Grilled beef or chicken**

Cost: **\$8 Adults, \$5 Children 10 years old and under**

Lunch: **Served at 12 noon**

Program: **1:00 PM**

Contact: **Leslie Jue, (805) 525-9562**
George Ng, (805) 482-2054



If you have not submitted your membership renewal form and/or ballot, please bring them to the picnic!

* * * * *

Due to rising costs the Board reluctantly authorized a modest ticket price increase as-stated above.

To All VCCAA Members

We need your active participation in all association events and especially in taking an active role as an officer or member of our board of directors. We want to hear suggestions on events for the association and what your vision is for the organization in the coming years. Please attend our board meetings that are held at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of the month at the Camarillo Inn (295 Daily Drive, Camarillo, Calif., (805) 987-4991). You may also send in your suggestions to the VCCAA (P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806).

Remember, our association can only be as successful as you want it to be. We need your active participation! Looking forward to seeing and hearing from you all!

Sincerely,

The 2004-2005 Officers and
Board of Directors of the VCCAA

Board Installation & Award BBQ

When: **Saturday, June 11, 2005**
11:00 AM

Where: **Edna Tanita's Residence**

Cost: **No Charge**

The installation event is to install and welcome the incoming officers and board of directors and to give a well-

deserved appreciation of thanks to the out-going officers and board of directors.

This event is open to all the VCCAA members and their families. We are looking forward to seeing you there. If you plan to attend, please call Edna Tanita, (805) 482-3356, so she can get a headcount. Thank you.

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee consisting of Lesley Ling, Edna Tanita and Barbara Chieu met on April 28th. Sixteen applications were evaluated. Two of the 16 applications were from students of association members that applied by the April 15th deadline.

The committee using a previously established point system rendered the following successful applicants. Susan

Duan of Thousand Oaks High School is the recipient of the William Soo Hoo Scholarship. Nancy Wang of Thousand Oaks High School is the recipient of the Tony Chen Scholarship. Michelle Jue is the recipient of the Ventura County Chinese American Association Scholarship. Michael Jue is the recipient of the Ventura County Chinese American Association Youth Scholarship.

Congratulation to all our scholarship recipients. They will be receiving a letter from the scholarship chairman, notifying them of their award. I would like to thank my

committee members for all their time and effort.

Barbara Chieu, Chairwoman
Scholarship Committee

Chinese Language School

On April 15 the Chinese Language School held one of our big events, our speech contest. Everyone did a great job of preparing. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated. Thank you to the teachers for their hard work preparing for this event. Also special thanks to Auntie Marie for her famous cookies for the teachers.

Pin Yin I: First Place - Emily Xue-Ming Meschke;
Second Place - Carolyn Tu Chapat; Third Place - Matthew Tong.

Pin Yin II: First Place - Timothy Chung;
Second Place - Steven Chung; Third Place - Peter Tong.

Pin Yin III: First Place - Simon Lee;
Second Place - Monika Holser; Third Place - Janilia Wu.

Pin Yin IV: First Place - Simon Sha;
Second Place - Angeleo Chu; Third Place - Jany Wu.

Also all K1, K2, and Conversation Class participants received a medal.

At our Memorial Day Picnic some of the winners will recite their speeches. Many thanks also to all who helped rearrange furniture and do the other work needed to make this a success.

If you know anyone who might be interested in taking Chinese classes next year, especially the High School Credit Class, please encourage them to contact me (484-5222) or Irene Sy (482-4765).

Lee-May Little
Principal



Pin Yin I



Pin Yin II



Pin Yin III



Conversation Class



Kindergarten 1 & 2

Membership

Dues Increase. It has been over seven years since membership dues were increased to \$20 per family per year. During this seven-year period the VCCAA operating expenses have dramatically increased. The board of directors reluctantly raise the annual dues per family per year to \$25.

Renewal. A personalized renewal form is included in this issue. Please renew on time. To ensure the accuracy of the upcoming 2005-2006 Membership Directory, provide us with your fully completed membership renewal form and dues no later than September 1, 2005.

Bring your renewal form with a check (payable to the VCCAA) to the Memorial Day Picnic on Monday, May 30th, or mail to the VCCAA (P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA

93011-0806).

Email Address. The February 2005 issue of the VCCAA newsletter was electronically distributed to all members who provided an email address. The email addresses listed below were not valid.

- Connor, Thomas franconnor@adelphia.net
- Kong, Patrick jkoolcat@aol.com
- Leong, Christine crissyleong@hotmail.com
- Maxim, Frank maxim@compuserve.com
- Shiue, Andy andyesterz@yahoo.com
- Tor, Sam Tone jabaster@iccas.com
- Whittaker, Lilli bkent@west.net
- Wueste, Jou Ming jmwuesteinv@juno.com
- Xu, Phoebe pxh.18@worldnet.att.net
- Yim, William wyim@worldnet.att.net

We always welcome your comments and suggestions.
 For membership information or suggestions, send an email to me at LesleyLing@aol.com.

Lesley Ling
 Membership

VCCA Historical Society

The VCCAHS is Writing a Book

The mission of the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society is to preserve and present the stories of the Chinese in Ventura County. So far, we have successfully completed the making of the documentary: *Courage and Contributions: The Chinese in Ventura County*, which captures the history of the Chinese in Ventura from 1865-1970, and the dedication of the China Alley Memorial mural commemorating Chinese American history in Ventura.

We are now planning to write a book entitled: *The Chinese in Ventura County*. The book will include historical information gleaned from documents found in the National Archives, census records, newspaper accounts, letters, vital statistics, and photographs. The most important part of the book will be oral histories conducted with members of Ventura County's Chinese community. These are stories that are not written in history books. These are the stories that only you can tell.

We are seeking interviewees who will share their stories with us. We need individuals who will tell us about their families, their traditions, their experiences, their occupations, their successes, and their struggles in Ventura County. Please join us and become a part of the process of recording and understanding our history. By preserving and presenting the evidence of the past, and by actively connecting past, present, and future through the publication of this book, we will pass on the gift of history to future generations.

We need individuals who will tell us about their families, their traditions, their experiences, their occupations, their successes, and their struggles in Ventura County.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved with our book, please contact us at:
www.vccaahs.org.

* * * * *

“Branching Out the Banyan Tree: A Changing Chinese America”

Chinese American Studies Conference

The VCCAHS has been invited to present the film, *Courage and Contributions: The Chinese in Ventura County*, at a conference in San Francisco sponsored by The Chinese Historical Society of America with Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University on October 7-9, 2005. There will be 50 panel sessions, 10 new Chinese American book talks, and 6 new Chinese American documentaries presented at the conference. It is anticipated that 400-600 people will attend the event. During the conference a caucus consisting of Historical Societies, will meet and discuss their organizations, projects, successes, and funding sources. We are extremely proud to be included as presenters at the conference and we look forward to sharing and learning more about Chinese American history.

Linda Bentz, Historian
 George Yu, Chair
 Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society

When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleets of the 15th Century

This year is the six-hundredth anniversary of the era when China, under the Ming Emperors [1368-1644], was the world's most dominant power on land and sea.

In 1405 the first of seven voyages of the Treasure Fleets under Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) set sail on trade and scientific research missions from South China to as far away as East Africa, the Middle East, India, South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand. There is even speculation by some that the fleet circumnavigated and mapped the world, including America, a century before Magellan.

This December, the Ventura County Maritime Museum

[2731 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard] will host a display, “When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleets of the 15th Century,” on this long neglected but fascinating era. Linda Bentz, S.K. Leong and I are heading up the exhibit committee.

In order to help visitors understand the size, scope and sophistication of the Treasure Fleets, the museum has commissioned the local Modelers Guild to build ship replicas. The largest vessels in these armadas were at 480 feet, nearly the size of World



War aircraft carriers. By comparison Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria, was little more than a rowboat. On each voyage of the fleet some 200 to 300 ships and 20- to 30-thousand seamen, soldiers, scientists and scholars set sail. These were the largest navies the world had even seen and were not surpassed by any other nation until the battle fleets and convoys of the First World War.

The ships were technological marvels. With construction mimicking the segments of bamboo, they had separate water tight compartments that could be flooded or emptied at will to carry water, live fish, cargo, horses or to increase stability in storms.

The Emperor, Zhu Di, who commissioned the fleet, had a grand vision for his nation. Not only did he strip bare the forest of China and Vietnam to build his ships, he also moved his capital from Nanjing to Beijing where he created the Forbidden City. He ordered the rebuilding of some three-thousand miles of the Great Wall. To feed the armies of peasant workers he also dug the thousand mile long Grand Canal to transport food from the south to the north.

All of this construction came at great cost to the nation. For every treasure ship that returned filled with a wealth of

trade goods, three were lost at sea. For every five sailors who left port, four never returned. For every mile of the Great Wall, hundreds of workers died. Political infighting amongst different factions of the government increased dramatically and grew bitter, particularly after the Zhu Di died and was succeeded by his son.

A single simple decision was made by the new rulers of China that altered the course of world history. To save the economy, balance the budget and preserve the cultural integrity of the nation, the next emperor ordered the [Treasure] fleets home, he banned overseas trade and eventually had all official records destroyed.

That decision saved China in the short-run, its long term effect initiated six-hundred years of disorder, poverty and turmoil. It also opened up the door for the Europeans to begin their own age of exploration that culminated with the birth of America. We can only wonder what the world might look like today if the fleets had continued to sail on.

About the Author: In addition to being member of the VCCAA, Howard Smith is the Chairman of the Board of the Ventura County Economic Development Association and a Vice President and Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley in Oxnard.

A Look at Chinese Sculpture

Sculpture of the Shang (c.1600-c.1027 BC) and Zhou (c.1027-256 BC) periods is generally small in scale, carved in marble and other materials, and depicts human or animal forms. Such sculpture was presumably intended for ritual use.

Burial Sculpture

During the Han dynasty (202 BC - AD 220) sculptures associated with the veneration of the dead were produced in great quantities. These burial sculptures were of three types. The first category is the low-relief sculpture used to decorate the walls of the burial chamber, mostly representing scenes of daily life.

The second category consists of small fired-clay sculptures that were placed inside the tomb. These objects reproduce in small scale an amazing spectrum of the everyday world of the Han period, from fortified palaces and other architectural forms to barnyard pets. This tradition reached its apogee during the Tang (618-906). Although the subject matter became more limited than in the Han, the sculptural quality of Tang mortuary ware is unsurpassed in its mastery of naturalistic modeling. Figures of dancers, polo players, and horses were imbued with an extraordinary sense of life and movement. The cosmopolitan culture of Chang'an, the Tang capital, with its camels and western merchants, also was depicted in these tomb models.

The third category of burial sculpture is the monumental carved statuary of animals and guardian figures that line

the processional ways leading to important tombs. Much more small mortuary sculpture has survived from the Han and the Tang than has monumental statuary of the same periods. Although the relationship between the two traditions is not yet clearly understood, mortuary ware was possibly the earliest source for works of monumental sculpture. Excavations at the tumulus of the Qin emperor Shi Huangdi (Shih Huang-ti, d. 210 BC), near Xi'an (Sian) in Shaanxi (Shensi) province, have revealed a vast field of life-size earthenware statues depicting soldiers, servants, and horses, estimated to total 6,000 pieces. A small number of bronze sculptures were also found. These are smaller in scale than the clay figures but probably were considered to be finer. Apparently they represent court members of high rank. A sense of great realism is conveyed in the figures with remarkable simplicity. Their size and style is very different from the mortuary sculpture of the succeeding Han period.

Buddhist Sculpture

By far the largest body of Chinese sculptural art is associated with Buddhism, which reached China from India some time in the 3rd century AD. From then through the Tang period, Buddhism flourished in China, combining with indigenous traditions in thought and art. Sites such as the cave temples of Dunhuang (Tun-huang), an oasis town at the gateway between China and Central Asia, vividly preserve in murals, monumental stone sculpture, bronze Buddha images, and even silk banners the development of

Chinese Buddhism between the 5th and 9th centuries.

The first mature phase of Chinese Buddhist sculpture dates from the early 6th century and is characterized by highly spiritualized images of the Buddha, such as the Shakyamuni and Prabhutaratna at the Musée Guimet, Paris. In the later 6th and the 7th centuries Chinese sculpture underwent many chronological and regional variations, relating to both external and internal influences. Early in the 8th century these culminated in the flowering of an international style, which spread from India across to China, through Korea and into Japan. In this family of styles, the body is endowed with a tightly structured, muscular presence, articulated with graceful ease, and lightly clothed in garments which may both cling to its

form and swirl loosely free. The confident grandeur of the limestone *Seated Buddha* from Tianlongshan (Tien-lungshan; 8th century; now in the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Mass.), still imbued with a spiritual idealization, is superbly expressive of the golden age of Tang. In addition to stone, such statues were also made of clay, wood, bronze, and lacquer, although few examples survive. In 845 a nationwide persecution of Buddhism destroyed the majority of Buddhist temples and their contents. Fine Buddhist sculpture was again made in the Song (960-1279), Yuan (1279-1368), and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties, although it never again reached its former stature.

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia®

Quotes

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said. *Unknown*

If you treat a man as he is, he will remain as he is; if you treat him as if he were what he could be, he will become what he could be. *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

The purpose of life is a life of purpose. *Robert Byrne*

They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world. Someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for. *Tom Bodett*

My initial response was to sue her for defamation of character, but then I realized that I had no character. *Charles Barkley on hearing Tonya Harding proclaim herself the Charles Barkley of figure skating*

We are all of us stars and we all deserve to twinkle. *Marilyn Monroe*

If you're going through hell, keep going. *Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)*

Courage, sacrifice, determination, commitment, toughness, heart, talent, guts. That's what little girls are made of; the hell with sugar and spice. *Unknown*

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world. *Unknown*

We enjoy warmth because we have been cold. We also appreciate light because we have been in darkness. By the same token, we can experience joy because we have known sorrow. *David L. Weatherford*

Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you. *William Arthur Ward*

Never tell your mom her diet's not working. *Joel, 14, Advice from Kids*

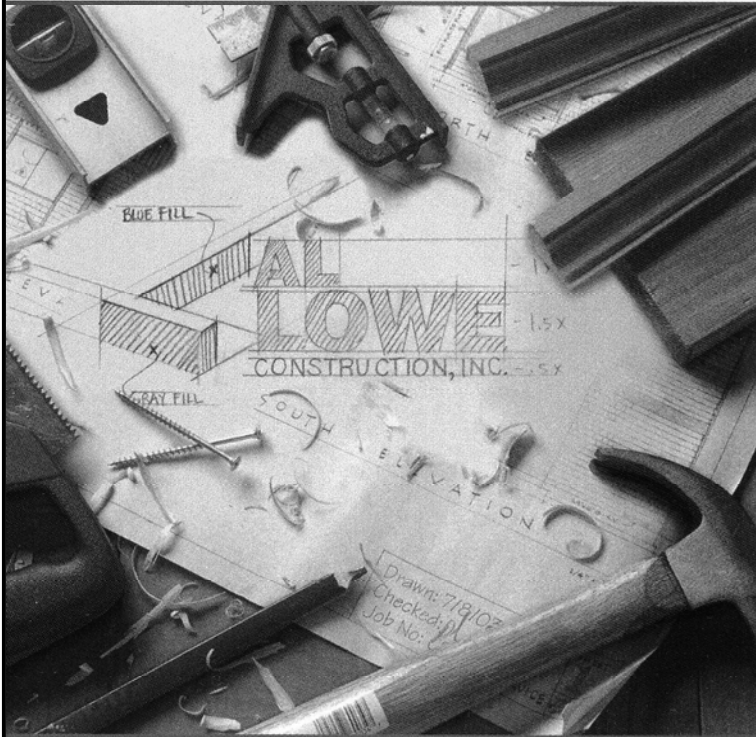
Yep . . . Newsletter still needs your help!

Again, this newsletter did not include any translation to Chinese. We have a need for volunteers to assist in translating the English written articles to traditional Chinese. If you or if you know someone who may be able to spare a few hours four times a year (May, Aug., Nov., Feb.), please send an email to me at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

Lloyd Ho
Newsletter Editor

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James W. Lin, M.D., A.B.F.P.

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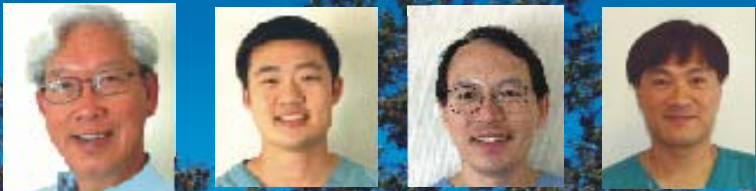
Panda Express.
Chinese for: Yummy.

CAMARILLO

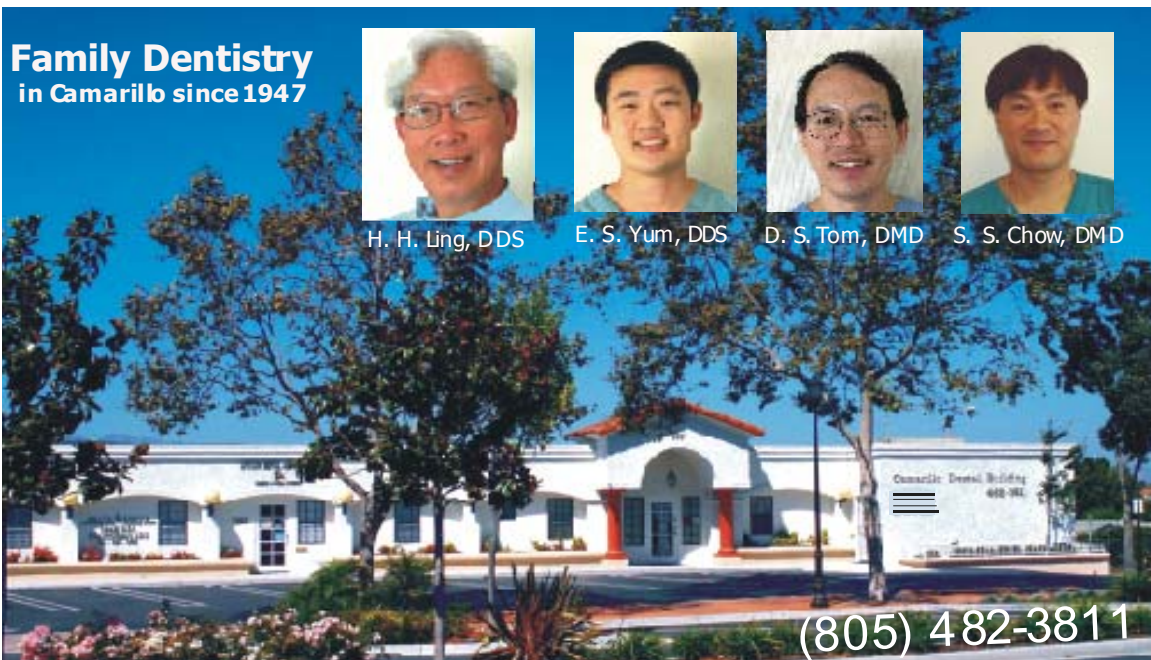
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Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Memorial Day Picnic	May 30, 2005 Monday, 11:00 AM	Pleasant Valley Park Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd., Camarillo
Board Installation and Award BBQ	June 11, 2005 Saturday, 11:00 AM	Edna Tanita's Residence Camarillo



YEAR OF THE ROOSTER
4703