



FEBRUARY 2006

## Newsletter

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### Newsletter Editor

Greg Chang

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

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### Greetings from the President

On January 29, 2006, we celebrated the arrival of the Year of the Dog 4704 in our community on the Central Coast. This 15-day celebration of Chinese New Year ended on February 12 on the full moon with a Lantern Festival. It is a period when we pay respects to our ancestors, hold a reunion with relatives, and start a new beginning. According to the 12-year animal cycle, a dog is loyal, honest, and trustworthy, but also is stubborn and selfish.



Dr Hillary & Stella Ling, Judge Kee Choo Ling, and I attended the grand opening of the state-of-art dealership of DCH Lexus of Oxnard, our Gold Sponsor, on Thursday evening, December 1. Their motto is "Your satisfaction is our mission." DCH Lexus offers new models, pre-owned vehicles, and scheduled service. President Shau-Wai Lam of DCH Auto Group, with dealerships in California, New Jersey, and New York, attended this gala event.

I am recognizing the good works of Dr. Andy Little, our Treasurer, on behalf of VCCAA. In 2004-2005, he served as our Secretary in recording minutes of Board meetings and organizing official correspondence. He has managed the audio and video equipment at our activities and special events. He is always supporting Lee-May Little in managing our Chinese Language School. I sincerely admire Dr. Andy Little for his servant leadership.



Past President Dr. Hillary & Past First Lady Stella Ling and President Ray Chong with Mr. Shau-Wai Lam, President DCH Auto Group at DCH Lexus of Oxnard.

Raymond D. Chong, P.E., PTOE  
President 2005-2006

## Chinese New Year Party

By Caroline Tsaw

We celebrated Chinese New Year with a wonderful evening of fine food and lively entertainment at Richard's Shanghai Restaurant in Camarillo on February 4. President Ray Chong gave background about the Year of Dog and the traditions of Chinese New Year. As Fortune Spirit, Past President Tyrus Goo distributed the Lucky Money. Executive Chef Huang Haiping prepared a delicious Shanghai-Style dinner of eight courses for 100 people.

In our program, Miss Juliet Sun sang classic and contemporary Chinese New Year songs. We gave away door prizes that reflect Chinese traditions. Dixieland JazzMen with Dr. Bruce Colell ended our program with traditional Dixie songs.

Thanks to Dr. Zeak Simmons and President Ray Chong for organizing this special event for Chinese New Year with me.



The Chinese New Year Party featured the singing of Juliet Sun

## When China Ruled the Seas – New Exhibition at Ventura County Maritime Museum

By Jacquelyn Cavish, Curator of Art

A Chinese Cultural Festival burst on Sunday afternoon, December 4th, to celebrate the grand opening of the exhibit "When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433," Drummers awaken the dancing lions and the masters of the martial arts did companion demonstrations. Artists reveal painting and calligraphy techniques developed from ancient Chinese traditions.

Celebration of the 600th Anniversary of the Chinese Treasure Fleet comes to Channel Islands Harbor. The Ventura County Maritime Museum presents the exhibit, "When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433," which continues through May 31st. The exhibit features artifacts of the early Ming Dynasty as well as, the Chinese navigational and shipbuilding technology of the 15th century. A portrait commissioned by the Los Angeles artist, Pang Qi, and a replica of the Admiral's formal uniform illustrate the colorful and larger-than-life admiral of the Treasure Fleets. The Treasure Ships, some 480 feet long, the size of a small WWII aircraft carrier, are represented by a four-foot long model specially built for the exhibit.

In 1405, Emperor Zhu Di ordered a massive "Treasure Fleet" of 200-300 ships with 28,000 men to sea on the "Western Ocean" to invite envoys of foreign states to return with the fleet as guests of his court. The great fleets of specialized ships carried their own supplies and support

crews, as well as diplomats and linguists. They also carried gifts of silks, patterned cottons, blue and white porcelain ceramics and gold and silver items to be presented on behalf of the Chinese emperor to heads of states.

Seven voyages between 1405 and 1433 took the fleet to the coast of Southeast Asia, Indonesia, India, Arabia and eastern Africa. They returned with rare woods, herbs and spices, fruit and plants, several giraffes and an Oryx, gems and minerals and charts of the tides and stars. Admiral Zheng He, himself, kept a logbook and made very accurate geographic maps.

In 1433, the Ming imperial policy was changed to one of isolationism. Foreign trade was banned, maps and charts destroyed and the fleet of ships left to deteriorate. China, the superpower of the 15th century, closed its doors on the world and was not successfully engaged for five centuries until President Nixon made his historic visit.

The following community organizations are participating in both the exhibit and the cultural festival grand opening activities: The Ventura County Chinese American Association, The Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society, and the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association.

The museum is open daily, 11-5 pm. Admission and all activities are free and open to the public. The Museum is located in Channel Islands Harbor at 2731 South Victoria Avenue in Oxnard, at the corner of S. Victoria and Channel Islands Boulevard.

**Zheng He Exhibit Grand Opening  
December 4, 2005**



Above: Irene Sy & S.K. Leong

Below: Lion Dancers celebrating the Grand Opening



Above Left: Sifu Kee Choo Ling

Above: Admiral Zheng He



Left: Model of the Treasure Fleet Ship

## Christmas Party

*By Lee-May Little*

On the evening of December 10, families and friends enjoyed the spirit of the Holiday Season at our Christmas Party. Over 150 people enjoyed the dinner of diverse potluck dishes at Los Primeros Structured School in Camarillo.

Emcees Sarah and Christine Yim managed our program throughout the evening. Colleen Bryan, our guest speaker, spoke on importance of planning for college education. She said that foreign language is good way to learn culture. The girls of Chinese Classical Dance Troupe, under the direction of Yu-Ling Lu, performed graceful dances. The students of Chinese Language school sung Christmas songs. We distributed door prizes to winners.

At the end, our Santa Claus (Wesley Holser) gave out

Christmas gifts to the children.



Charlotte Deering with Santa Claus

## A Special Letter of Appreciation to Our Generous Sponsors

*By Sharon Chiang, Barbara Chieu, Ray Chong, Alice Ginn and Hillary Ling*

Every organization needs financial support for viability. VCCAA is fortunate to have so many generous sponsors to make it possible for us to undertake various cultural events for the enjoyment and appreciation of our heritage in our community.

The team of President Ray Chong, Vice President Barbara Chieu, , Sharon Chiang, Alice Ginn and I successfully met our goal to raise \$8,000 in sponsorships. We are thankful the generosity of all sponsors. We duly recognize the Gold sponsorships (\$1,000) of Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant of Camarillo, DCH Lexus of Oxnard, and Al Lowe Construction of Oxnard.

The other generous sponsors contributed \$200 to

\$500 each are: Central Coast Property Management, Lakeview Garden Chinese Restaurant, Best Western Camarillo Inn, Jim's Fitness, Panda Express, Chinese Combo #1 Restaurant, Metro-Med, Inc. Dr. partrick Kong, Dr. Shang Liao, Dr. Ju-Sung Wu, Polyfet rf devices, Chen's Acupuncture, Dr. Stephen Hong, Oxnard Hueneme Ob/Gyn Medical Group of Dr. Lin, Dr. Huang and Dr. Chiang, Dr. Frank Chieu, Richard's Shanghai Restaurant, Dr. Lee Wan of Coastal Eye Specialists Medical Group, Dr. George Yu, Dr. Christopher Loh, Dr. K Seek Lau, Camarillo Dental Practice, Howard Smith of Morgan Stanley, Attorney Joseph E. Hohenwarter, Soo Hoo Customs Broker and Camarillo Kung Fu Club.

A big "Thank you" to our sponsors. We strongly encourage you to patronize and support our sponsors.

## Chinese Language School

*By Lee May Little, Principal*

The Chinese School began its spring (second) semester on February 3. Last semester all the classes did very well and everything went very smoothly. We are especially proud of our students' performances at the Moon Cake Festival and the Christmas party. Thank you to the teachers for all their hard work.

The school will have a field trip on February 18 to

the Lantern Festival at the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles. We expect to have a lot of fun while learning more about Chinese culture.

Our big event this semester is the Speech Contest, which will be held on April 28 at 7:00 PM at our school site, 700 Temple Ave., Camarillo. Everybody is welcome to come and show support for our contestants.

**Upcoming Event****Easter Egg Hunt****When: Saturday, April 8, 11:00 AM****Where: Ling Ranch****3748 Groves Place, Somis****Contact: Edna Tanita at (805) 482-3356**

Join VCCAA in celebrating Easter with our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year, the Easter Egg Hunt will be hosted at the Ranch of Dr. Hillary Ling in Somis.

Featured attractions include:

- Easter Egg Hunt which begins at 12:30 pm
- Hot Dogs will be served
- Fabulous Games
- Face Paintings
- Spectacular Crafts

Parents, please bring two dozen plastic eggs filled with treats for the easter egg hunt. Please provide a basket for each egg hunter.

**VCCAA Gold Sponsor – DCH Lexus of Oxnard**

Lexus of Oxnard is a member of DCH Auto Group, one of the top-ranking, privately held dealership groups in the country and owns numerous franchises in the United States. DCH is short for the Chinese words Dah, Chong, Hong, which means Great, Prosperous Company. DCH Lexus of Oxnard has been a part of this community for the past 15 years and has supported organizations such as the Oxnard Boys and Girls Club, the New West Symphony, the Oxnard College Foundation, St. John's Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Oxnard Strawberry Festival, the Camarillo Taste Of Luxury and many more local events and charities.

Today the dealership has grown to 75 employees and has recently moved into a new larger and more luxurious facility. DCH Lexus of Oxnard is an 8 time J.D. Power and Associates Certified Retailer award winner and is a Lexus Elite dealership. Lexus bestows Elite as the highest honor and is only given to the top dealerships in the nation who excel above their peers in sales, service, and customer satisfaction.

DCH Lexus of Oxnard has its own high standards for excellence and continues to raise the bar for itself. Employees are vigilant in maintaining certification in their areas of expertise and maintaining the highest level of customer service. Departments are always striving for up to date product and service knowledge

to remain competitive in the marketplace, and to be able to offer the best service possible to the community.

DCH Lexus of Oxnard is located in the Oxnard Auto Center. The new car, used car, parts and service departments are open 7 days a week for customer convenience. You can reach DCH Lexus of Oxnard at (805) 988-8500 or on the web at [www.lexusofoxnard.com](http://www.lexusofoxnard.com).

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## VCCAA Gold Sponsor – Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant

Since 1963, Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant in Camarillo offers fine dining with excellent service in their elegant decor. It brings class and sophistication to any meal. Regarded as Camarillo's premier Chinese restaurant, Chester's provides a colorful atmosphere. Keith Kwan and sister Cindy are the proprietors of Chester's

Chester's gourmet fare offers a culinary tour of authentic regional Chinese cuisine, Cantonese, Mandarin and Szechwan. The House specialties include Shrimp with Walnut, Sweet and Pungent Shrimp, Two Flavor Shrimp, Three Ingredient Tastes, Sweet and Pungent Chicken, Sesame Chicken, Chicken with Sweet Pepper Relish, Asia Chicken with Black Pepper Sauce, Chicken with Plum Sauce, General Tso's Chicken, Asia Crispy Beef, Beef with

Orange Flavor, Three Flavor with Garlic Sauce, Lemon Sliced Fish, Kung Pao Three Flavor, and Happy Family.

Chester's has a large banquet room with full bar service that is available for parties, special gatherings, or any large group desiring an exquisite experience. You will enjoy your favorite Chinese dishes at reasonable prices in an inviting and friendly environment.

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Al Lowe Construction of Oxnard, has been in Ventura County since 1979 and is a service-oriented general construction firm specializing in commercial, industrial and hospital renovation, including medical and dental suites. ALC also has extensive experience in custom home construction and residential remodeling. In addition, the company has become expert at seismic retrofitting of commercial buildings.

Al, President of Al Lowe Construction, and his senior staff are committed to be available and involved in every project we undertake. As a civil engineer with over 20 years experience, Al has the expertise and knowledge to handle most any project you might require.

Al is a 1971 graduate of Walla Walla College where he earned his B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. He received the honor of becoming a Certified Graduate Remodeler from the National Association of Home Builders, a distinction held by approximately 600

remodelers in the entire country, in which he continues to be a certified member.

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## Scholarship News

Scholarship applications have been sent to all the high schools. Please check with your college counselor or the VCCAA website if you need an application. Applications must be postmarked by April 17, 2006

Barbara Chieu  
Scholarship Chair





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# Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	April 8, 2006 Saturday, 11:00 AM	Ling Ranch 3748 Groves Place, Somis	Edna Tanita 805.482.3356
<b>Memorial Day Picnic</b>	May 29, 2006 Monday, 11:00 AM	Pleasant Valley Park 1030 Temple Ave, Camarillo	Leslie Jue 805.525.9562
<b>Installation and Awards Barbeque</b>	June 24, 2006 Saturday, 11:00 AM	Tanita Hacienda 1918 Via Veneto, Camarillo	Dr. Hillary Ling 805.386.4188



Year of the Rooster  
4704