



November 2008

Newsletter

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VCCAA
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www.vccaahs.org

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* * * *

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

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Greetings from the President

Thank you for your active participation in the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival and the Halloween Party. These are good times when old friends and new friends meet. This year, more than 200 members, families, and friends attended our Mid-Autumn Moon Festival event. They brought delicious food to share. Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu's Classical Dance Troupe and the Chinese Language School students did a lovely performance. Special thanks to the talented musical instrument performers who traveled all the way from L.A. County to Camarillo. They presented a wonderful performance! Kudos to Louise and Gordon Dilger for their great event coordination!



The Halloween Party was attended by 70-80 children and adults. Food and games were provided for everyone. A costume contest by age group was held and judged by the VCCAA Youth Group. All winners and participants received prizes. It was a pleasure to see people dressed up in Halloween costumes having so much fun. Thank you Zeak Simmons and Lee-May Little for putting everything together!

Our next event is the Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 13, 2008. We look forward to you and your family members joining us. There will be performances at the party, which will include dancing, Santa Clause and music.

Vivian Goo has done a terrific job in selling Chester's gift certificates. We will continue to sell the remainder of the certificates. All profit goes to support the execution of our programs and scholarships.

The VCCAA is always looking to welcome new members to join our big family. We wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Juliet Sun
President 2008-2009

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

by Louise Dilger

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar, the moon is farthest from the earth and at its brightest. Celebration of this event is a significant part of Chinese culture. To cultivate an appreciation of this heritage, the VCCAA held its annual Moon Festival at Camarillo Heights Elementary School on Sat., Sept. 20.

The event was a pot luck dinner followed by a welcoming presentation by President Juliet Sun and entertainment by various groups. The VCCAA Youth Group emceed the program.

The entertainment started with the Chinese Language School Kindergarten class welcoming the crowd of over 200 with traditional Moon Festival greetings, and the Chinese Language School Credit Class presenting a skit of a typical home celebration. This was followed by a demonstration of *Tai Chi*, hopefully to evoke interest in taking up the art by the VCCAA members. Students from

North Hollywood Highly Gifted Magnet School presented a flute duet and a piece by a three piece string ensemble. The entertainment concluded with three beautiful and colorful dances from the dance troupe led by Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu.

The evening concluded with a raffle drawing. The prize was donated by Lixin Durborow of Troop Real Estate, a sponsor of the VCCAA. The VCCAA Board would like other sponsors to follow in Mrs. Lixin's footsteps, to make themselves known to the community and to increase its sponsorship.

Many thanks to all those who made this event a success: the Youth Group who set up the tables, drinks, and clean up; Lee-May Little for her help in coordinating the students; Judy Schechter and Zeak Simmons for helping with the food distribution; and the tai chi, music, and dance entertainers.

A Look at Upcoming Events

Christmas Party

When: **Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, 6:00 PM**
 Where: **Camarillo Heights Elementary School**
35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo
 Contact: **Lee-May Little, (805) 484-5222**
Louise Dilger, (805) 981-7747



Our chairwomen Lee-May Little and Louise Dilger have planned a program that includes performances by our VCCAA classical dancers and students from our Chinese Language School.

A visit by Santa with gifts for our young members will

* * * * *

Chinese New Year Event

When: **Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, 1-4 PM**
 Where: **Constitution Park**
1287 Paseo Camarillo/Carmen Dr.
Camarillo
 Contact: **Juliet Sun, (805) 482-5835**



Gung Hay Fat Choy

The VCCAA will be celebrating the Year of the Ox, 4707, by presenting a free program that is open to all in the community at Constitution Park in Camarillo.

The program will include lion dancing, Chinese classical dancing and demonstrations, and a Chinese souvenir booth.

conclude our Christmas Celebration.

Please bring a dish to be shared sufficient for your family plus ten extra people. Beverages will be provided by the VCCAA.

We ask that anyone wanting to sit for the performances, to bring their own chairs. Any member able to help in this celebration, please contact Juliet, (805) 482-5835.

Historically the Lunar New Year dates from 2600 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the Chinese Zodiac.

Because of cyclical lunar dating, the first day of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of

February. On the Chinese calendar, 2009 is Lunar Year 4706-4707.

On the Western calendar, the start of the New Year falls on Monday, January 26, 2009) the Year of the Ox. If you were born in 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985 or 1997, you were born under the sign of the ox.

Like the ox, you are one of the most patient signs in Chinese Zodiac, but when opposed your fierce temper comes to the fore and woe to anyone who crosses you!

For the ox in 2009, any recent setbacks or obstacles can be overcome, so look forward to a year in which to really shine, either personally or professionally.

Chinese Language School

By Lee-May Little, Principal

Our Chinese School started September 5th. We now have a new location, 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo.

It is always exciting to see new faces when school starts. We have 33 new students and 11 high school students registered to earn credit in their high schools toward their language requirement. Thank you, Irene Sy, for your excellent work with this class.

We also want to welcome two wonderful new teachers.

They are K-1 teacher Ms. Hsu 許, and Grade-1 teacher Ms. Shu 舒. Thank you for joining our team.

I couldn't be more proud of our K-1 and K-2 students who presented a lovely program for the VCCAA's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. You guys are fantastic.

We are looking forward to having another productive and exciting year.

Scholarships

By Vivian Goo

All children and grandchildren of VCCAA members are encouraged to apply for our 2009 scholarships. Enclosed is a scholarship application form. Scholarship application forms can also be downloaded from our web site (www.vccaa.org) or from your scholarship counselors in the West Ventura County High Schools.

Children and grandchildren of VCCAA members can apply for VCCAA scholarships that attend high schools in

West and East Ventura County.

Only West Ventura County students of non-members can apply for VCCAA scholarships. There will be a minimum of one \$500 and two \$750 scholarships.

All applications must be postmarked by March 14, 2009 and mailed to our VCCAA P.O. Box.

Good Luck to all our applicants.

Membership

By Lesley Ling Sule

It's time, again, for the VCCAA membership renewal. Download a renewal form at our web site (www.vccaa.org). Provide us with your fully completed membership renewal form and dues, \$25 per family. Bring your renewal form with a check (payable to the VCCAA)

to the Christmas Party event on Sat., Dec. 13, or mail to the VCCAA (P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806).

The upcoming *2008-2009 Membership Directory* will be distributed at the Christmas Party event.

As always we welcome any suggestions.

Historical Society News

By Dr. George Yu

Upcoming Book about the Chinese in Ventura County

The story of Chinese American History will be told in an upcoming book titled, *Hidden Voices: 100 Years of Chinese American History in Ventura County* will be published by the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society in 2009. For the last decade, we have searched archives, City and County Records, census enumerations, photographs and immigration files to gather the very important history and contributions of Chinese

residents of Ventura County. Members of our society have been graciously welcomed into the homes of several Chinese families in the county to record their oral histories, and we are grateful for their participation in this project.

Topics presented in the forthcoming book span the years between 1870-1970 and include the settlement of Ventura and Oxnard, Chinese participation in the nascent agricultural industry, Chinese merchants and grocers, anti-Chinese movement, Chinese women and children, Chinese schools, and an account of Bill Soo Hoo – the first Chinese American Mayor in California.

Our research is not complete. If you would like to share information with us, please write to Linda Bentz at lindabentz@gmail.com. We would be very happy to hear

from you, and we are particularly looking for information about Santa Paula and Saticoy's Chinese communities. Join us in looking forward to *Hidden Voices*.

Volunteers

by VCCAA Board

Annually the association plans seven events – Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, Halloween Party, Christmas Party, Chinese New Year Celebration, Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Picnic, and end-of-year Installation & Award Event.

Volunteers are the backbone of any non-profit

organization ... we are not an exception. We ask each and every member to take action to offer their time and skill to enable a successful event conclusion.

At the Christmas Party event, be sure to sign up as a volunteer for upcoming events.

Support the VCCAA

by Gordon Dilger

The number of ads renewed for this fiscal year has been challenging due to an economic downturn. Ad revenue helps us, your association, to finance the VCCAA and its activities. Your support in purchasing gift certificates sponsored by *Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant* at a

nominal \$25 each, would be of great benefit to the association.

Gift certificates make great presents and Christmas presents. Show your support and contact Gordon Dilger at (805) 981-7747.

A Glimpse on the History of China

The History of China, as documented in ancient writings, dates back some 3,300 years. Modern archaeological studies provide evidence of still more ancient origins in a culture that flourished between 2500 and 2000 B.C. in what is now central China and the lower Huang He (Yellow River) Valley of north China. Centuries of migration, amalgamation, and development brought about a distinctive system of writing, philosophy, art, and political organization that came to be recognizable as Chinese civilization. What makes the civilization unique in world history is its continuity through over 4,000 years to the present century.

The Chinese have developed a strong sense of their real and mythological origins and have kept voluminous records since very early times. It is largely as a result of these records that knowledge concerning the ancient past, not only of China but also of its neighbors, has survived.

Chinese history, until the twentieth century, was written mostly by members of the ruling scholar-official class and was meant to provide the ruler with precedents to guide or justify his policies. These accounts focused on dynastic politics and colorful court histories and included developments among the commoners only as backdrops. The historians described a Chinese political pattern of dynasties, one following another in a cycle of ascent, achievement, decay, and rebirth under a new family.

The Mongols from the northern steppes became the first alien people to conquer all of China

Of the consistent traits identified by independent historians, a salient one has been the capacity of the Chinese to absorb the people of surrounding areas into their own civilization. Their success can be attributed to the superiority of their ideographic written language, their technology, and their political institutions; the refinement of their artistic and intellectual creativity; and the sheer weight of their numbers. The process of assimilation continued over the centuries through conquest and colonization until what is now known as China Proper was brought under unified rule. The Chinese also left an enduring mark on people beyond their borders, especially the Koreans, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Another recurrent historical theme has been the unceasing struggle of the sedentary Chinese against the threat posed to their safety and way of life by non-Chinese peoples on the margins of their territory in the north, northeast, and northwest. In the thirteenth century, the Mongols from the northern steppes became the first alien people to conquer all China. Although not as culturally developed as the Chinese, they left some imprint on Chinese civilization while heightening Chinese perceptions of threat from the north. China came under alien rule for the second time in the mid-seventeenth century; the conquerors—the Manchus—came again from the north and northeast.

For centuries virtually all the foreigners that Chinese

rulers saw came from the less developed societies along their land borders. This circumstance conditioned the Chinese view of the outside world. The Chinese saw their domain as the self-sufficient center of the universe and derived from this image the traditional (and still used) Chinese name for their country—Zhongguo, literally, Middle Kingdom or Central Nation. China saw itself surrounded on all sides by so-called barbarian peoples whose cultures were demonstrably inferior by Chinese standards. This China-centered (“sinocentric”) view of the world was still undisturbed in the nineteenth century, at the time of the first serious confrontation with the West. China had taken it for granted that its relations with Europeans would be conducted according to the tributary system that had evolved over the centuries between the emperor and representatives of the lesser states on China's borders as well as between the emperor and some earlier European visitors. But by the mid-nineteenth century, humiliated militarily by superior Western weaponry and technology and faced with imminent territorial dismemberment, China began to reassess its position with respect to Western civilization. By 1911 the two-millennia-old dynastic system of imperial government was brought down by its inability to make this adjustment successfully.

Because of its length and complexity, the history of the Middle Kingdom lends itself to varied interpretation. After the communist takeover in 1949, historians in mainland China wrote their own version of the past—a history of China built on a Marxist model of progression from primitive communism to slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and finally socialism. The events of history came to be presented as a function of the class struggle. Historiography became subordinated to proletarian politics

fashioned and directed by the Chinese Communist Party. A series of thought-reform and antirightist campaigns were directed against intellectuals in the arts, sciences, and academic community. The Cultural Revolution (1966-76) further altered the objectivity of historians. In the years after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, however, interest grew within the party, and outside it as well, in restoring the integrity of historical inquiry. This trend was consistent with the party's commitment to “seeking truth from facts.” As a result, historians and social scientists raised probing questions concerning the state of historiography in China. Their investigations included not only historical study of traditional China but penetrating inquiries into modern Chinese history and the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

In post-Mao China, the discipline of historiography has not been separated from politics, although a much greater range of historical topics has been discussed. Figures from Confucius—who was bitterly excoriated for his “feudal” outlook by Cultural Revolution-era historians—to Mao himself have been evaluated with increasing flexibility. Among the criticisms made by Chinese social scientists is that Maoist-era historiography distorted Marxist and Leninist interpretations. This meant that considerable revision of historical texts was in order in the 1980s, although no substantive change away from the conventional Marxist approach was likely. Historical institutes were restored within the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and a growing corps of trained historians, in institutes and academia alike, returned to their work with the blessing of the Chinese Communist Party. This in itself was a potentially significant development.

Source: www-chaos.umd.edu

Quotable Quotes

Recall it as often as you wish. A happy memory never wears out.

Libbie Fudim

Dogs ... They never talk about themselves, but listen to you while you talk about yourself and keep up an appearance of being interested in the conversation.

Jerome K. Jerome

What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.

Confucius, “Analects,” circa 500 BC

We are not what we think we are, but, what we think, we are.

Norman Vincent Peale

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother, she started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today and we don't know where the hell she is.

Ellen DeGeneres

An honest man's word is as good as his bond.

Source: *Anonymous*

Newsletter Inputs Are Welcome!

The *VCCAA Newsletter* welcomes the submission of articles, constructive comments, suggestions, or personal experiences that you want to share with the other members. Please write to *VCCAA Newsletter*, P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806; e-mail to me at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

Lloyd Ho
Acting Editor

Ventura County Chinese-American Association (VCCAA)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

High School Attending _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GPA _____ Highest SAT I Score _____

Is your GPA based on a 4-point or a 5-point system? (check one) 4 or 5

SAT II Subject & Scores _____

ACT (if applicable) Score _____

AP Subject & Scores _____

Name of VCCAA Family Member _____

College/University major that you plan to claim _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Requirements for applying for Scholarships:

College bound and senior on February 1, 2009 at high schools within Ventura County.

One essay on "What I am doing now and what I am going to do seven years from now."

One essay describing what kind of role you have played in promoting the understanding of Chinese cultural heritage and/or suggestion to VCCAA that it can play to improve the harmony between ethnic groups in a multicultural community.

Complete this application, attach your two essays, official sealed school transcript, and copy of SAT I, SAT II, ACT (if applicable) and AP score sheet.

List of varsity sport, other extra curricula activities and any special honours.

All applications must be postmarked on or before March 14, 2009, mail to:

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

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Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Christmas Party	Dec. 13, 2008 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Camarillo Hts. Elementary School 35 Catalina Dr. Camarillo	Lee-May Little (805) 484-5222
Chinese New Year Event	Jan. 24, 2009 Saturday, 1-4 PM	Constitution Park 1287 Paseo Camarillo/Carmen Dr. Camarillo	Juliet Sun (805) 482-5835
Easter Egg Hunt	April 11, 2009 Saturday, 12:30 PM	Ling Ranch	Lesley Ling Sule (805) 445-9425



Year of the Rat
4706