



August 2009

Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org
Historical Society
www.vccahs.org

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Lena Ho

* * * *

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

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Greetings from the President

For limited time only – those lazy days of summer!

Most of us are taking time off from school, house chores, and work. Summer is a rejuvenating time to recover from the stresses of the ever changing dynamic world around us. This is when we travel to visit family, friends, or just to see other interesting sites in the good old USA or around the world. Welcome home!

The VCCAA is continuing to provide educational programs to enhance our proud ancient Chinese heritage of culture and tradition that dates back to 2200 BC. The new Board brings forth fresh energy and ideas for an ambitious year in the planning.

We ask your support and active participation in all the events of fiscal year 2009-2010:

Mid-Autumn Festival
Halloween Party
Christmas Party
Chinese New Year

Easter Egg Hunt
Memorial Day Picnic
Board Installation & Award Luncheon



The association is grateful to the honorable Superior Court Judge Kee Choo Ling who installed the Board Officers on Sat., June 20, 2009. We appreciate the continued support that Judge Ling has provided over the years.

Execution of all our programs requires funds. We ask for financial support of our members and sponsor businesses. Please renew your membership in a timely manner. Don't be shy, ask other family members and friends to join our association ... they are indeed most welcome!

In a service organization of volunteers, we need and appreciate your help and participation as no contribution is too small. We welcome everyone to pitch in to instill and propagate our proud culture and heritage.

Lloyd Ho

Lloyd Ho
President 2009-2010

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.

Lena Ho
Editor

Memorial Day Picnic

by Lloyd Ho

Our annual Memorial Day Picnic was held on a bright, sunny, day on Monday, May 25, at Pleasant Valley Park in Camarillo. Chief chef Leslie Jue, assistant chef George Ng, and their crew cooked up a mighty tasty and hardy lunch.

After lunch, President Juliet Sun emceed the program. Dr. Angela Soo Hoo presented the William Soo Hoo Memorial Scholarship (\$750) to Liesel Plambeck. Tony Chen presented the Tony Chen Scholarship (\$750) to Michelle Lu. Dr. Zeak Simmons presented the VCCAA Scholarship (\$500) to Amy Nguyen. And Dr. Youfong

Hsieh presented the VCCAA Youth Group Service Scholarship (\$500) to Justin Sy.

Incoming officers and directors for 2009-2010 fiscal year were announced and presented to the membership.

I wish to thank all of you who have made this picnic and this organization a success.

The VCCAA is a voluntary organization. Its lifeblood depends on your helping hand. So please freely support the association with your time and participation.

Awards and Installation Luncheon

by Vivian Goo

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, the annual VCCAA Awards and Installation Luncheon was held at City Buffet, 1600 Ives Ave. Oxnard. The new officers and board members for the VCCAA for 2009-2010 were installed by Judge Kee Choo Ling. The Club thanked Juliet Sun for being our past president and presented her a VCCAA Plaque honoring her service. Juliet thanked the members of her Board and gave them movie tickets.

We were honored by the attendance of one of our *Life Members*, Julie Hiraishi, our sponsors, and Lee-May Little (Principal of the Chinese Language School) and Dr. George Yu (Chairperson of the Historical Society).

We appreciate the continuous support of everyone in our association, especially our sponsors, in helping to make our Club events and scholarship and other programs a success.

A Look at Upcoming Events

Mid-Autumn Festival

When: **Saturday, September 26, 2009, 6:00 PM**

Where: **Camarillo Heights Elementary School
35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo**

Contact: **Gordon and Louise Dilger, (805) 981-7747**

The VCCAA would like to include a musical or other kind of performance at this upcoming Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Students are encouraged to participate. A piano is available. Contact Louise at the above phone number.

It is now the eighth month in the lunar calendar, the time for the Chinese to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival. It is so called because it is in the middle of the eighth month, which is a full moon. We used to celebrate the full moon by fruit, moon cake, and children played their lanterns with neighbors. Why should people celebrate the moon in mid-Autumn? It's because of a story happened long long time ago in China.

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar (Oct. 2 this year), the moon is full and it is time for the Chinese people to mark their Moon Festival, or the Mid-Autumn Festival. The round shape symbolizes family reunion. Therefore the day is a holiday for family members to get together and enjoy the full moon – an auspicious



token of abundance, harmony and luck.

There is this story about the moon-cake. During the Yuan dynasty (A.D. 1280-1368) China was ruled by the Mongolian people. Leaders from the preceding Sung dynasty (A.D. 960-1280)

were unhappy at submitting to the foreign rule, and set out to coordinate the rebellion without being discovered. The leaders of the rebellion, knowing that the Moon Festival was drawing near, ordered the making of special cakes. Imbedded in each moon caked was a message with the outline of the attack. On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels successfully attacked and overthrew the government. Today, moon cakes are eaten to commemorate this legend and was called the Moon Cake.

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

PERFORMER WANTED



Halloween Party

When: **Saturday, October 24, 2009, 5:30 PM**
 Where: **Camarillo Heights Elementary School**
35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo
 Contact: **Irene Sy, (805) 482-4765**



During the eighth century Halloween was first celebrated by the ancient Celts. It was a festival to celebrate that year's harvest that marked the end of summer and the start of winter. It was believed that on October 31st the souls of the dead come back to earth, trying to return to the homes where they formerly lived. Halloween came to America with early Irish and Scottish immigrants.

It is believed that if the children wear scary costumes and visit their neighbors' houses, then evil spirits will be scared and they won't come to their houses. As thanks to the children, the neighbors are supposed to give candy to the children. If their neighbors don't give them any candy, the children will play a trick on them.

Come one, come all, in costume for sheer fun, games, contests, and complimentary snacks.

Chinese Language School

by Lee-May Little, Principal

I hope everyone enjoyed doing some cool things this sizzling hot summer and had fun during your summer break.

In a couple more weeks our students will be headed back to school. Our Chinese Language School will start on Friday, Sept. 11th at the same location as last year (2222 Ventura Blvd. at Elm St., Camarillo). Classes will be held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and the high school credit class will continue until 10:00 PM.

Due to California schools budget cuts, facility fees have significantly increased. Because of this, we have had to increase tuition by \$10.00 per student. We also closed two classes to balance the budget. I sincerely apologize for the changes.

On July 11th and 12th the Chinese Language School had a booth in the annual Camarillo Fiesta.

We sold many Chinese crafts, silk items, fans and games. The exciting part was that we had about 30 people who indicating an interest in our language program and signed up for information. Thank you very much to Alice Ginn and our youth group members who volunteered to help.

We have placed the Autumn class information and registration forms on the VCCAA website, www.vccaa.org. You can download them from there.

Looking forward to seeing more new faces as well as the returning students on Fridays at 7:00 PM.



StarTalk

by Irene Sy

The Chinese Language School of Ventura County is much honored to be selected as one of the "StarTalk Good Will Program" site for the second year in a row. This federal government subsidized language program provides a vigorous but fun *Chinese Language Immersion Program* for students at the high school level to learn Chinese as a foreign/second language and earn foreign language credit at the same time.

We have expanded from one to three classes this summer, and have a total of 48 students for the three classes held successfully at Rio Mesa High School from June 22nd to August 5th. Students learned the basic

principles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Chinese language based on the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning and the richness of Chinese Culture through cultural activities such as Lion Dancing, Taichi, Chinese Diabolo (Chinese Yoyo), Calligraphy and Painting, Chinese Crafts, and others.

My special thanks to our Taichi teacher, Ms. Rosy Shaw; Calligraphy teacher, Mr. Herbert Yen; Chinese



Brush Painting teacher, Mr. Richard Lu; and our teachers, Ms. Michelle Liang, Ms. Shuqin Zhao, Ms. Dolly Cheng, and Mr. Leon Lee; our Special Lion Dance teacher and teachers' aid from Taiwan. All of you have helped make this program possible and contributed to its success.

I hope more students, children and grandchildren of our Association will take advantage of this program next year to further explore our cultural heritage and enhance our Chinese linguistics skills.



Scholarships

The following speech was presented at Buena High School Awards Night and submitted by Angela Soo Hoo, PhD, for publication.

"Teachers, parents and graduates:"

"William D. Soo Hoo Memorial Scholarship is in honor of Bill Soo Hoo, who was the first Chinese American mayor in California, and perhaps even the United States. He was born in Oxnard and is its first native to be mayor in 1966. This scholarship is given by the Ventura County Chinese American Association."

"[The] VCCAA was started in 1970 with a language school. It now has classes that are accredited by our high school education board. Its instructors are mostly from our close-by colleges. The association has expanded to include a Kung Fu Club teaching kung fu as well as lion dance. It is run by Master Kee C. Ling, who is also a [Calif. Superior Court] judge in our U.S. court system. A dance troupe headed by director Yu-Ling Lu, who is a graduate of the prestige dance school in Taiwan, has won many awards in Southern California."

"We also have an historical society headed by Dr. George Yu who is on the medical staff of St. John's [Regional Medical Center]. A DVD, the *Courage and Contribution of the Chinese in Ventura County* was given

to all the high schools as well as all the libraries in Ventura County."

"With the cooperation of Ventura City Council and our historical society, a mural has been painted of China Alley across from the Mission in downtown Ventura. The historical society is now working on a book on the Chinese in Ventura County."

"Our club is open to anyone who is interested in promoting understanding, tolerance, and harmony in our society. Today I am honored to recognize one of your graduate parents who demonstrated through hard work and effort to guide our youths to a better society. Mr. Eric Plambeck who was our Club President in 1997, 2000 and 2001, promoted our club's ideal. His efforts has guide[d] our youths. He bridged and enlightened the understanding of our dual culture and betters our society. Today I am delighted to present to Eric Plambeck's daughter Liesel Plambeck the William D. Soo Hoo Scholarship."

"Liesel Plambeck has won our highest scholarship and we wish her well in all her endeavors."

Angela Soo Hoo
Buena Awards Night
June 3, 2009, 7 PM

Membership

by Lesley Ling Sule

We're beginning a new VCCAA year once again! The membership drive for the 2009-2010 year has begun.

Currently, we are up to 176 families, however, not everyone is current on their dues. Remember, membership

dues must be received no later than **September 18**, in order to be included in the new directory. Dues are \$25/ year/ family (valid through June 30, 2010) or \$500 for a lifetime membership. Please mail all renewals to:

VCCAA

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

The association wishes to recognize *Life Members* for their dedicated support. They are Julie Hiraishi, John Hsu,

Harry Lee, Al Lowe, Patricia Lowe, Howard Smith, and Dr. W. Lee Wan.

We have recently lost two long-time members of the VCCAA family. Donald Fong Gee Jue, age 86, passed on July 5, 2009. And Denis G. Smith, age 81, also passed on July 5, after a fall in his home. They will be missed. We wish to extend heartfelt condolences to their families.

Since our last Newsletter, we have five new members who have joined our organization. Please help us welcome the new members as we all look forward to seeing them at our future events. Make pen-and-pencil changes to your directory.

Barone, Eric & Ruth
Hannah, Ruby
245 Los Vientos Dr.
Newbury Park, CA 91320
(805) 906-0383
ruthbarone@gmail.com

Duplat, Xochitl
4405 Anchorage St.
Oxnard, CA 93033
(805) 986-2320
xduplat@oxnardsd.org

Guan, Chi & Weir Zhang
4603 Rice Ct.
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 658-8754
cguan@yahoo.com

Jones, David & Fanny
Jennifer
1311 Leisure Village 13
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 827-7659

Lin, Lee & Yu Ying (Lucy)
Tsai, Stella
12120 Stockton Rd.
Moorpark, CA 93021
(805) 517-1189
lucy@taiwanplant.com

Stephens, Daniel
P.O. Box 612
Ventura, CA 93002
(805) 616-4439
d.stephens@sbcsocialserv.org

Historical Society News

by George Yu, MD

We encourage members and their families to submit contents to expand the historic knowledge base of Chinese in Ventura County. No content is too small or too little to publish. Please be part of our written heritage.

Our website, www.vccahs.org, has been updated with a new look. Its directory is inviting. Here's an abbreviated listing of the directory:

- About VCCAHS
- China Alley
- DVD – *Courage and Contribution*
- Wall Mural
- Chinese Fire Brigade
- Pioneer History
- Zheng He

- Photo Gallery
- Photos from the Past
- Articles by Linda Bentz [Historian]
- Books

Please visit. Read about the many pioneering journeys of our Chinese forebears to the United States, to the state of California, and specifically to Ventura County. See through their eyes of their life's experience and the impact to their children and their children's children.

Visit the website. And visit often.

The Historical Society regularly meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Mrs. Marie Louie's home. All members are welcomed to attend.

Quotable Quotes

People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success.

Norman Vincent Peale

Cherish all your happy moments. They make a fine cushion for old age.

Booth Trakington

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

Lily Tomlin

Keep away from small people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great. *Mark Twain*

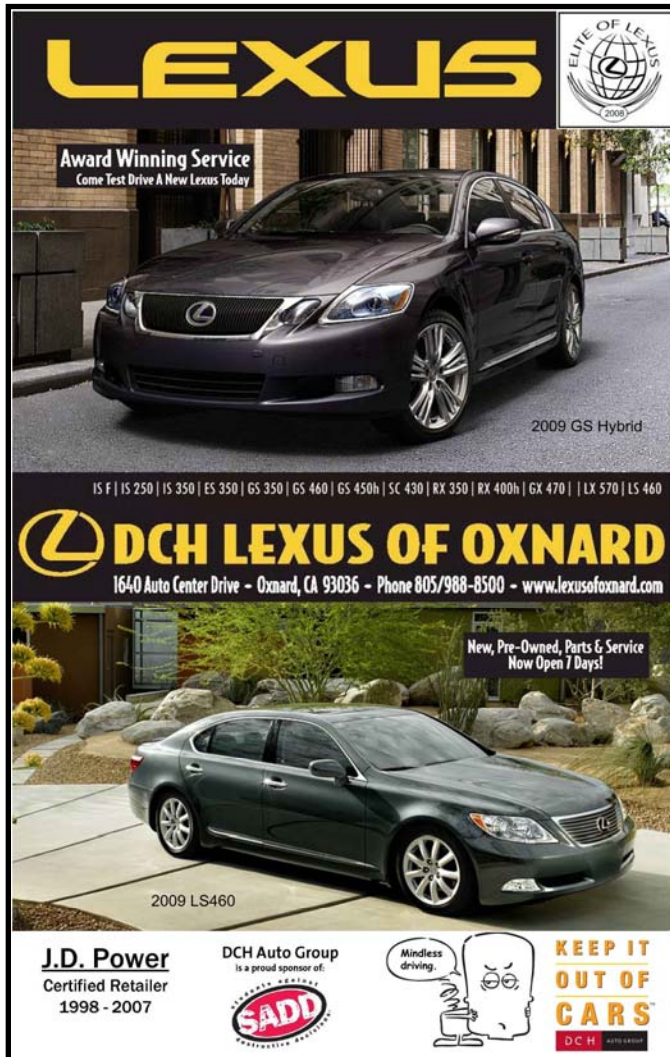
Have no fear of perfection — you'll never reach it.

Salvador Dali

The past always looks better that it was because it isn't here.

Finley Peter Dunne

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Ventura County Chinese American Association Dance Troupe

Welcomes new dancers!



All classes are currently open:

Monday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Intermediate - Group A
Wednesday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Beginner
Wednesday	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Intermediate - Group B
Saturday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Advanced

Dancers must be at least 5 years of age. No experience is needed. All dancers welcome.

Class location: 2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036

For more information, please contact Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu, (805) 983-6082 or (805) 990-3866

Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Mid-Autumn Moon Festival	September 26, 2009 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Camarillo Hts Elementary School 35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo	Gordon Dilger Louise Dilger
Halloween Party	October 24, 2009 Saturday, 5:30 PM	Camarillo Hts Elementary School 35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo	Irene Sy
Christmas Party	December 12, 2009 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Camarillo Hts Elementary School 35 Catalina Dr., Camarillo	Jackie Sittinger Shaun Sittinger



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