



November 2010

Newsletter

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* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter
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Greetings from the President

It's great to be back home. For the past few weeks my wife and I traveled the northern area of the People's Republic of China near Mongolia and the Gobi Desert. We toured the route that Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled in year 1269 who introduced Europeans to China and where the cities have over 2,000 years of recorded history. In northwest China in Urumqi, 9,252 miles from Los Angeles, I spoke with a co-traveler who said she was acquainted with Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu, our Classical Dance Troupe instructor. What a small world!



The first event of the fiscal year, Mid-Autumn Festival, was held in late Sept. The evening's program was emceed by Kenny Wang, Youth Group president and assisted by Jenny Xu. Many of our members with their families and friends enjoyed the delicious food and watched performances by talented Chinese classical dancers and students from our Chinese Language School.

The Halloween Party event was attended by many of our young members along with their families. Members were treated to games and food. Many of the children and a coterie of adults donned elaborate costumes in the true spirit of Halloween. It was a wonderful family event.

Our next event is the annual Christmas Season Celebration. It is scheduled for early December at Pleasant Valley Instructional Center, 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo. Come one! Come all! Enjoy an inspiring program by our Chinese classical dancers, our Chinese Language School students, and, especially, a visit by Olde Saint Nicolas. Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant Gift Certificates for \$25 each will be available for sale at this event. Support the association by bringing your check book or cash to buy these wonderful gift certificates. Vivian Goo may also be contacted at (805) 482-6074 to purchase the gift certificates.

The VCCAA Board and Directors, and I wish all members and their families a joyous holiday season and a

Happy New Year!

Lloyd Ho
President 2010-2011

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

Mid-Autumn Festival

by Louise Dilger



Continuing with the tradition of sharing with friends and family, we all sampled moon cakes, which were purchased through Stella Ling's brother Ullin Ho from Monterey Park.

Our membership enjoyed presentations by Chinese Language School's Kindergarten and Credit classes as well as a solo by young Naomi Zhang. Also, students Serena Chow, siblings Sarah and John Eldridge shared their summer China experiences.

Once again, Yu-Ling Lu demonstrated her choreographic talents with her dancers Lucy Curtis, Monica Lin, Emily Meschke, Laurel Mooney, Kelly Tebbe, and Amanda Shue, who gracefully and charmingly entertained us in their beautiful Chinese ensembles.

The evening's program concluded with five of the Oxnard Buddhist Temple Togen Daiko members (Mary Ann, Ron, Chris, Rhea, and Diane) who mesmerized us all with selections from their taiko drumming repertoire.

Thanks to Andy Little for setting up the speaker system, to Lee-May Little for securing the multipurpose room and coordinating with McDonald's for the drinks, and to the Youth Group for setting up tables, making drinks and cleaning up. Youth Group president Kenny Wang and his assistant Jenny Xu did fantastic jobs as emcees. A special thanks to the ten members of the Asian Club from Adolfo Camarillo High School, who volunteered their services, and to our VCCAA family who made this festival a resounding success.

Halloween Party

by Edna Tanita

The Halloween party was enjoyed by the young and old and even those in between. We had a good turn out to enjoy the hot dogs wrapped with bacon, fried rice, chips, cookies and popcorn. The children had fun with games that were supervised by the

Youth Group.

Many thanks to the VCCAA youth group and the Camarillo Culture Club. They did a great job setting up and cleaning afterwards.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Party

When: **Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, 6:00 PM**

Where: **Pleasant Valley Instructional Center
2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo**

Contact: **Brian Nomi** – (805) 484-9970
Xiaoming Chen – (805) 388-0119



The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In the 17th century the Puritans did not celebrate Christmas. December 25th was a workday. Then in the late 1700s, Christmas was a happy holiday. Colonists decorated their fireplaces with greenery, sung carols, and feasted. No one, however, had a Christmas tree.

In 1823 Clement Moore wrote the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus began to play a big part in the celebration of Christmas. Then in the 1840s, German immigrants introduced the Christmas tree. This decoration became a major part of the Christmas

tradition.

During the 1890s, Victorians decorated their trees and homes with lots of lace, flowers, and glass ornaments. Sending Christmas cards became popular during this time.

Today, we combine old and new traditions to celebrate Christmas in a way that is meaningful to our family and friends.

Join us for a gathering of family and friends. Enjoy the warm camaraderie and partaking of food and drink. Enjoy the evening's program and visit from Santa!

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

There will be some entertainment after dinner, and Santa Clause will be giving gifts to the children. See you all for a fun packed family event.

NEW LOCATION

Chinese New Year Event

When: **Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, 1:00 PM**

Where: **Camarillo Constitution Park
Carmen Dr. & Paseo Camarillo**

Contact: **Zeak Simmons, (805) 660-6451**



According to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with the fight against a mythical beast called the Nian or “Year” in Chinese. The Nian would come on the first day of New Year to devour livestock, crops, and even villagers, especially children. To protect themselves, the villagers would put food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year. It was believed that after the Nian ate the food they prepared, it wouldn't attack any more people.

One time, people saw that the Nian was scared away by

a little child wearing red. The villagers then understood that the Nian was afraid of the color red. Hence, every time when the New Year was about to come, the villagers would hang red lanterns and red spring scrolls on windows and doors. People also used firecrackers to frighten away the Nian. From then on, the Nian never came to the village again.

Join us at Camarillo Constitution Park for an afternoon of family fun of crafts and entertainment.

Chinese Language School

by Irene Sy, Principal



The Chinese Language School started on Sept. 10, 2010. We have about 60 students enrolled in 6 language classes and 16 high school students in credit class. We welcome two new teachers, Ms. Na Lin, 林娜老师, who is teaching Level 4 class and Ms. Jenny Tu, 屠泽老师 for Level 3 class. Our resourceful 郭慧洁老师, Ms. Jennifer Guo, will continue working with our cutest and energetic kindergarten students. Our talented 舒平平老师, Ms. Ping Ping Shu is our Level 1 laoshi/teacher and our kindest 李蔚红老师, Ms. Lily Wei-Hong Li, is having our biggest returning group of students in Level 2. 赵淑琴老师 will continue leading our adult conversational class to advance to the next peak while I will lead the credit class students in their Chinese cultural enrichment and language usage.

We have had many interesting events. The students had performed in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration. A new PTA was formed chaired by Vice-Principal, Mr. Xiaoming Chen. The goal of our PTA is to help with school fund raising for basic academic needs of our students, activities, cultural resources and enrichment, field trips, and supplementary teaching materials. The first successful pizza fund-raiser was conducted on Oct. 8; another upcoming Rice-Bowl Chinese Dinner event will be held on Friday, Nov. 12. I would like to thank all parents who helped to make this possible.



We are currently in the process of setting up a new library. Students will be able and encouraged to check out books to enhance their language proficiencies and cultural awareness. They will be rewarded for the number of books read. Please contact me or Xiaoming Chen if you can contribute any books or media to help our new library grow.

Our school participated in the first World Book Fest at Monte Vista Middle School on Saturday, Nov. 6. The



credit class students were in charge of the Asian reading tent. They read to many children that attended the event and taught them how to write Chinese characters. It was a great opportunity for them to share what

they have learned in the Chinese language and culture with the community.

Students will be making fund raiser gift baskets for opportunity drawings in the upcoming VCCAA Christmas Party on Dec. 11. Your kind donations of merchandise for drawings are much appreciated. Please contact me or Xiaoming for any items pickup, if necessary.

We will be having many fun filled activities ahead, including a talent show to welcome the year of the Rabbit, a Chinese knowledge competition and our annual speech contest; and all of you will be invited !

Thank you! 谢谢 !

Scholarships

by Vivian Goo



Scholarship applications for children of VCCAA members will be on our website at vccaa.org after Jan. 10, 2011. Applications for all West Ventura County schools will be in the respective school scholarship offices after Jan. 10, 2011.

Don't miss an opportunity to secure scholarship funds. Go to the website, download an application, fill out the application, submit the application most expediently.

Best of luck to all you applicants.

Youth Group

by Kenny Wang, President



The Youth Group actively supported the Mid-Autumn Festival and Halloween Party since the last newsletter.

At both events we helped set up the activity area as appropriate for use. I would like to thank all those that participated to make these events a success.



From left: Megan Wong, Christina Molitor, Kim Wang, Karina Wang, Sarah Eldridge, Serena Chow, Jooyong Kachaset



Standing, from left: Jonathan Ong, David Li, Len Kim, Nathan Yang, Chen-yu Sun, Justin Ong, Neal Papat
Sitting, from left: Sean Tsukayama, Tex Taylor, Freddy Yang, Kenneth Wang

Membership

The 2010-2011 Directory is now available. It will be distributed to all current members during the Christmas Party event in Dec. If you want a copy prior to this event, please contact Irene Sy, (805) 482-4765.

Total members in the association is now at about 170

families.

For membership information or suggestions, please send an email to Lloyd Ho at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

A Pioneer Amongst Us

In a recent publication by California Lutheran University, *Summer 2010 CLU Magazine*, entitled "First Ladies" authored by Fred Alvarez, identified several women as "Groundbreakers. Trailblazers. Official demolishers of glass ceilings. The first women to earn MBAs from CLU..." in the early 1970s.

Included was the VCCAA long-time member and active board member Vivian Goo. Excerpts from the article follows.

Camarillo resident Vivian Goo was a true pioneer. She was one of two women in Cal Lutheran's 1975 class of MBA [Master Business Administration] graduates, the first to deliver advanced business degrees to women.

Cal Lutheran began offering the MBA at the Naval Air Station at Point Mugu in 1973. It was there, where Goo worked as a civilian planner, that she began taking graduate courses in an effort to pursue a management career.

"I wanted to set myself in a position where there might be better opportunities in the future and where I could be valuable to this government," she said. "I would get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to study for my classes. But I liked it because it was a natural fit for me."

Goo said the male members of her MBA class were generally accepting of their female counterparts, largely because they all worked together at the Navy base. But she said her educational and career pursuits weren't always met with the same enthusiasm.

Discrimination Starts Early

Dating back to her co-ed Catholic high school in Hawaii, Goo remembers as a junior being prohibited from taking pre-engineering electives because school officials didn't want her joining what at the time were all-male classes. That summer, she went across the street to another school to take mechanical drawing and engineering courses, and then remained at that school for her senior year.

Later, Goo would become one of the first female engineering students at the University of Hawaii and was elected president of the university's Engineering Club. She said upon her election, half the male students threatened to quit and form their own club.

Even at Point Mugu, Goo said she at times came face-to-face with the kind of discrimination that was all too common for progressive women of her era.

She was ultimately named the Navy base's first deputy public works director, but only after overcoming concerns that she wouldn't be able to supervise or give directions to military

officers.

Her forte was organizational management, and she got the opportunity to put those skills to the test when she was chosen to help oversee the 2000 consolidation of Point Mugu's Naval Air Station and Port Hueneme's Naval Construction Battalion Center into a single command called Naval Base Ventura County.

Goo retired in 2002, but remains busy as a volunteer for a variety of clubs and charities, including serving as president of

the Oxnard chapter of Altrusa International, a grassroots organization dedicated to community service.

She has three grown, professional daughters who, Goo says, have little idea what a trailblazer their mother was or how hard she fought to achieve success.

"Getting my MBA was definitely significant," she said. "It opened up doors for me and helped me progress throughout my career."

A Glimpse on the History of China

The Taiping Rebellion, 1851-64

During the mid-nineteenth century, China's problems were compounded by natural calamities of unprecedented proportions, including droughts, famines, and floods. Government neglect of public works was in part responsible for this and other disasters, and the Qing administration did little to relieve the widespread misery caused by them. Economic tensions, military defeats at Western hands, and anti-Manchu sentiments all combined to produce widespread unrest, especially in the south. South China had been the last area to yield to the Qing conquerors and the first to be exposed to Western influence. It provided a likely setting for the largest uprising in modern Chinese history – the Taiping Rebellion.

The Taiping rebels were led by Hong Xiuquan (洪秀全 1814-64), a village teacher and unsuccessful imperial examination candidate. Hong formulated an eclectic ideology combining the ideals of pre-Confucian utopianism with Protestant beliefs. He soon had a following in the thousands who were heavily anti-Manchu and anti-establishment. Hong's followers formed a military organization to protect against bandits and recruited troops not only among believers but also from among other armed peasant groups and secret societies. In 1851 Hong Xiuquan and others launched an uprising in Guizhou (貴州) Province. Hong proclaimed the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace (太平天國 or Taiping Tianguo) with himself as king. The new order was to reconstitute a legendary ancient state in which the peasantry owned and tilled the land in common; slavery, concubinage, arranged marriage, opium smoking, footbinding, judicial torture, and the worship of idols were all to be eliminated. The Taiping tolerance of the esoteric rituals and quasi-religious societies of south China—themselves a threat to Qing stability—and their relentless attacks on Confucianism—still widely

accepted as the moral foundation of Chinese behavior – contributed to the ultimate defeat of the rebellion. Its advocacy of radical social reforms alienated the Han Chinese scholar-gentry class. The Taiping army, although it had captured Nanjing and driven as far north as Tianjin (天津), failed to establish stable base areas. The movement's leaders found themselves in a net of internal feuds, defections, and corruption. Additionally, British and French forces, being more willing to deal with the weak Qing administration than contend with the uncertainties of a Taiping regime, came to the assistance of the imperial army. Before the Chinese army succeeded in crushing the revolt, however, 14 years had passed, and well over 30 million people were reported killed.

To defeat the rebellion, the Qing court needed, besides Western help, an army stronger and more popular than the demoralized imperial forces. In 1860, scholar-official Zeng Guofan (曾國藩 1811-72), from Hunan (湖南) Province, was appointed imperial commissioner and governor-general of the Taiping-controlled territories and placed in command of the war against the rebels. Zeng's Hunan army, created and paid for by local taxes, became a powerful new fighting force under the command of eminent scholar-generals. Zeng's success gave new power to an emerging Han Chinese elite and eroded Qing authority. Simultaneous uprisings in north China (the Nian 捻 Rebellion) and southwest China (the Muslim Rebellion) further demonstrated Qing weakness.


Source: <http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/modern.html>

Quotable Quotes

You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. *Clay P. Bedford (-)*

Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway. *Mary Kay Ash (1908-2001); Entrepreneur*

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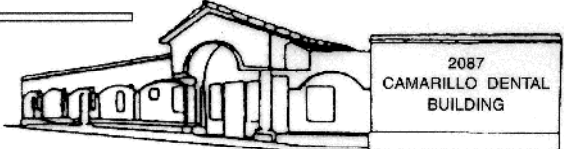
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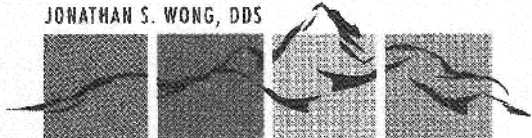
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The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Monday	5:30 pm - 5:50 pm (Intermediate)
Wednesday	4:30 pm - 5:50 pm (Beginner)
Friday	7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Advanced)

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

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2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036.

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

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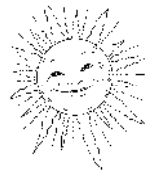
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Upcoming Events



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Christmas Party	Dec. 11, 2010 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Pleasant Valley Instructional Ctr. 2222 Ventura Blvd. Camarillo	Brian Nomi Xiaoming Chen
Chinese New Year Celebration	Feb. 5, 2011 Saturday, 1:00 PM	Camarillo Constitution Park Carmen Dr. & Paseo Camarillo	Zeak Simmons
Easter Egg Hunt	April 23, 2011 Saturday, 12:30 PM	Ling Ranch Somis	Lesley Ling-Sule



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