

華聯會

Ventura County Chinese
American Association
VCCAA



August 2012

Newsletter

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Lena Ho

* * * *

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

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Greetings from the President

This past July marks the 36th anniversary of the incorporation of the Ventura County Chinese American Club, the precursor to the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA). The objective of the VCCAA is “to promote and preserve knowledge of the Chinese cultural heritage, language and customs and to promote participation in education, business and government on the part of all Chinese Americans ...” It is fitting that the VCCAA is working closely with the Museum of Ventura County for their fall exhibit entitled “Hidden Voices – The Chinese in Ventura County” from September 1 through November 25, 2012. This unique presentation examines the history of the Chinese community in Ventura County from the 1860s to the present.



Most local residents, including those of Chinese descent, are unaware of the long presence of Chinese in this community. The current stereotype of the Chinese as a model minority certainly does not resemble the racial and economic discrimination endured by the early Chinese pioneers. Nonetheless, with perseverance, hard work and assimilation the Chinese community has become an integral part of this county. In many ways, the Chinese story is similar to other ethnic groups who came before and after them. Minority groups with little political clout are often targets of discrimination during economic hardships.

The Chinese exhibit at the Museum of Ventura County promises to both entertain and educate the audience. The history of the Chinese in the past 150 years will be told through the use of documentary, photographs, maps, personal items and narratives. The adversities faced by residents of the China Alley in Ventura and Oxnard in the 19th century will be heartfelt. The ethnic pride of the election of William Soo Hoo as the first Chinese mayor of Oxnard in 1966 will be palpable. We are the beneficiaries of the legacy left by these pioneers. I urge all of you to bring your family and friends to visit this exhibit at the Museum in the next few months.

No social organization can function without a dedicated group of volunteers. I am privileged to have the support of a tremendous group of officers and a board of directors which includes some founding VCCAA members and past presidents. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Lloyd and Lena Ho who served as co-editors of our newsletter for the past three years. They set a high level of professionalism and will enjoy a much deserved rest after this publication. The editorial task will be assumed by Alvin Little, son of Lee-May and Andy Little, current members of the VCCAA board of directors. We look forward to great ideas from the new generation.

On a personal note, I like to thank Lloyd Ho for his help in the transition to the presidency of the VCCAA. His advice and meticulous record-keeping have made my task much easier. His tireless work for three years as the president of VCCAA has set a high bar for all who follow him.

George Yu, MD

President 2012-2013

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.

I would like to welcome Alvin Little for stepping up as the incoming newsletter editor. The association appreciates his support and dedication to the continued success of the VCCAA over the years.

Lena Ho
Editor

Memorial Day Picnic

by Lloyd Ho



Our annual Memorial Day Picnic was held on a sunny Mon., late morning, May 28, at Mission Oaks Park in Camarillo. The new location afforded the VCCAA to have the entire park for its activities. This was a result of a failure to communicate between the park district to our representative Lee-May Little which resulted in no confirmed reservation! Lee-May immediately reserved a park again; of only two parks available, Mission Oaks Park and Freedom Park, the former was the better facility and location.

Concurrent to sending postcards notifying the change of venue to the membership by Lloyd Ho, Eric Plambeck, chairman of the Memorial Day Picnic, Leslie & Suzie Jue, Lesley Ling-Sule, George Ng, Hillary Ling, Vivian & Tyrus Goo, and Edna Tanita took action to ensure the facility was adequate and enough prepared food would be served. A generous debt of gratitude to all for helping to make the Memorial Day Picnic meal a success.

Menu included: Hawaiian BBQ Chicken with cabbage, Hawaiian BBQ Beef, Petite Brownies, potato salad, lettuce salad, baked beans, rice, various chips and beverages.

After lunch, President Lloyd Ho emceed the program, whereas, Vivian Goo emceed the scholarship

awards. Dr. Angela Soo Hoo presented the William Soo Hoo Memorial Scholarship (\$750) to Katherine Yu, which was accepted on her behalf by Dr. George Yu. Xiaoming Chen presented the Tony Chen Scholarship (\$750) to David Li. Brian Nomi's representative bestowed the VCCAA Scholarship (\$500) to Samantha David.

Lee-May [Little] immediately reserved a park again; of only two parks available, Mission Oaks Park and Freedom Park, the former was the better facility and location.

Incoming officers and directors for 2012-2013 fiscal year were announced and presented to the membership. Administrative Judge Kee Choo Ling swore them in.

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.



Upcoming Events

Mid-Autumn Festival

When: Saturday, October 6, 2012, 6:30 PM

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

Contact: Annie Wang, (805) 377-9005

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 ago in China.

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar (Sept. 30 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

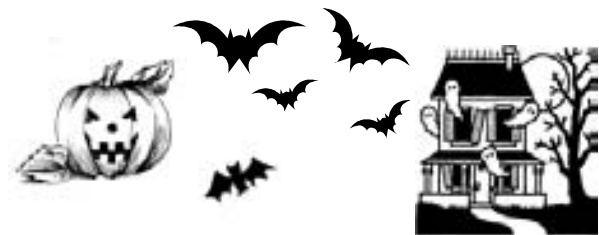
out to coordinate the rebellion without being discovered. The leaders of the rebellion, knowing that the Moon Festival was drawing near, ordered the making of special cakes. Imbedded in each moon caked was a message with the outline of the attack. On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels successfully 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.

Halloween Party

When: Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, 5:30 PM
Where: Pleasant Valley Instructional Center
 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo
Contact: Kim Wang, (805) 910-5768
 Jenny Fung, (805) 216-8060



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.

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.

* * * * *

Sooo, Ghoulish light food and drink will be served, followed by games and costume contests.

It is believed that if the children wear scary

Mark your calendar for this fun-filled event.

Chinese Language School

by Irene Sy, Principal



It seems summer has just started not too long ago, before you know it, now it is time to start another school year. Time really flies! Our Chinese school will begin on 7 Sept. 2012. Registration form for the 2012-2013 School Year can be downloaded from our website at:

<https://vccls.wikispaces.com/Download+Registration+Form>

Two weeks ago I was contacted by the Pleasant Valley School District on the non-availability of the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center for our classes this coming school year. I immediately took actions to request for facility use in the Oxnard Union High School District for the use of Adolfo Camarillo High School classrooms, as well as the

Camarillo Community Center. The requests were well received. It will take a few more days to finalize our school site for the upcoming year. I will notify all returning students and families via email on our new school site when it has been approved. Our new school site address will be announced and posted on our website as well. I am sure we will overcome this issue and have a wonderful and exciting school year.



This summer one of our students, Bria Huffstedtler, had the opportunity to visit the Peoples' Republic of China and learn more on Chinese

culture and language under the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp. This marks the third year that our students have taken the opportunity to visit China. Bria had a great time visiting Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou. I hope this program will continue for the upcoming years to benefit more students. Please contact me if you are interested to find out more about the program.

The Chinese school will be joining the Museum of Ventura County (100 East Main St., Ventura) to celebrate a Chinese Cultural Heritage Festival by providing an art and crafts table at the festival on Saturday, 8 Sept. 2012 from 1:00PM–4:00PM. Please contact me if you are available and can be a volunteer to share our Chinese arts and crafts with the public.

Youth Group

by Kim Wang, President

Hello, Everyone!



My name is Kim Wang, this year I am the president of the VCCAA's Youth Group. I am taking over for last year's wonderful president, David Li, who will be attending college this year. He was an amazing leader last year in organizing the Youth Group with helping at both the VCCAA and Chinese Language School events. This year, our leadership consists of Serena Chow, vice president; Jenny Xu, secretary; Julian Chow, treasurer; and Phillip Cheng, historian. The five of us will diligently work together to make the Youth Group a stronger and very dependable force in the VCCAA and the rest of the community.

Another upcoming event is the 3rd Annual World Book Fest organized by the Camarillo Library on Sunday, 4 Nov. 2012 from 10:00AM–3:00PM at the Camarillo Community Center (1605 E. Burnley St.). Our students will be participating in the reading program and share stories in the Chinese culture with children from the community. Please come by to help or bring your children and friends to share the experience.

I am positive that this will be another exciting year despite of our change in school site. I look forward to seeing our new and returning students on 7 Sept. at 7:00PM. Please look out for an email notification on our new school site or visit our website for the new location.

This year, the Youth Group will continue to support the VCCAA events, such as the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival (Oct.), Halloween Party (Oct.), and Christmas Party (Dec.). We also plan on creating other enrichment activities that can spread the Chinese language and culture to the rest of the community.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in the VCCAA who make the Youth Group's existence possible and for giving us this incredible opportunity to help out with the community. Thanks very much and we hope to see you all at the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival!

Sincerely,
Kim Wang

Chinese Cultural Heritage Festival

by Susan L. Gerrard, Director of Marketing, Museum of Ventura County



The largely unheard story of Chinese settlements in Ventura County is told in Hidden Voices: The Chinese of Ventura County, on exhibit at the Museum of Ventura County from 1 Sept. thru 25 Nov. 2012.

The beginnings and evolution of the first Chinese immigrant communities in Ventura and Oxnard are illuminated through photographs, maps, clothes, household items and the personal stories of community members such as merchants, employment agents, farm and day laborers, and their wives and children. A contemporary dragon costume carries the exhibit into the 21st century,

while an introductory gallery video gives an overview of Chinese immigration to California in the 19th century and examines the social and political adversities Chinese settlers faced.

* * * * *

Lion Dance, Performances,
Art Demonstrations,

Exhibits – Sat., 8 Sep 2012, 1-4 PM.

A spectacular Chinese Lion Dance by the Camarillo Kung Fu and Lion Dance Association



Soa Hoo Chong Ti & Minnie Soa Hoo
Photo: John C. Brawstler
MVC Research Library

highlights the Chinese Cultural Heritage Festival.

The family event celebrates the cultural contributions of Chinese Americans, with the Lion Dance at 2:00 PM. and additional Chinese dance performances, demonstrations of kinetic sculpture, calligraphy, brush painting, paper making, and silk painting throughout the afternoon.

Admission \$5 for the general public, free for members and children 12 years old and younger, and includes entry to all four new museum exhibits.

The Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) Dance Troupe, and Nan's Dance Studio present performances after the Lion Dance. Throughout the day, artist BiJian Fan demonstrates how he makes his kinetic sculptures;



artist Christine Leong paints with watercolor on paper and silk scarves; the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association demonstrates how to make paper, and the VCCAA applies the brush to the art of calligraphy and painting.

* * * * *

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100

East Main Street in downtown Ventura. Hours are 11 AM – 5 PM. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission to the exhibitions is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$1 children 6-17, members and children under 6 are

free. The first Sundays of every month are free general admission for the public. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org or call (805) 653-0323. Figueroa St., Ventura

A Glimpse on the History of China

The Hundred Days' Reform and the Aftermath

In the 103 days from Jun. 11 to Sep. 21, 1898, the Qing emperor, Guangxu (光緒 1875-1908), ordered a series of reforms aimed at making sweeping social and institutional changes. This effort reflected the thinking of a group of progressive scholar-reformers who had impressed the court with the urgency of making innovations for the nation's survival. Influenced by the Japanese success with modernization, the reformers declared that China needed more than "self-strengthening" and that innovation must be accompanied by institutional and ideological change.

The imperial edicts for reform covered a broad range of subjects, including stamping out corruption and remaking, among other things, the academic and civil-service examination systems, legal system, governmental structure, defense establishment, and postal services. The edicts attempted to modernize agriculture, medicine, and mining and to promote practical studies instead of Neo-Confucian orthodoxy. The court also planned to send students abroad for firsthand observation and technical studies. All these changes were to be brought about under a de facto constitutional monarchy.

Opposition to the reform was intense among the

conservative ruling elite, especially the Manchus, who, in condemning the announced reform as too radical, proposed instead a more moderate and gradualist course of change. Supported by ultra-conservatives and with the tacit support of the political opportunist Yuan Shikai (袁世凱 1859-1916), Empress Dowager Ci Xi (慈禧) engineered a coup d'etat on Sep. 21, 1898, forcing the young reform-minded Guangxu into seclusion. Ci Xi took over the government as regent. The Hundred Days' Reform (百日維新) ended with the rescindment of the new edicts and the execution of six of the reform's chief advocates. The two principal leaders, Kang Youwei (康有為 1858-1927) and Liang Qichao (梁啟超 1873-1929), fled abroad to found the Baohuang Hui (保皇會 or Protect the Emperor Society) and to work, unsuccessfully, for a constitutional monarchy in China.

The conservatives then gave clandestine backing to the anti-foreign and anti-Christian movement of secret societies known as Yihetuan (義和團 or Society of Righteousness and Harmony). The movement has been better known in the West as the Boxers (from an earlier name – Yihequan, 義和拳 or Righteousness and Harmony Boxers). In 1900 Boxer bands spread over the north China countryside, burning missionary facilities and killing Chinese Christians. Finally, in June 1900, the Boxers besieged the foreign concessions in

Beijing and Tianjin, an action that provoked an allied relief expedition by the offended nations. The Qing declared war against the invaders, who easily crushed their opposition and occupied north China. Under the Protocol of 1901, the court was made to consent to the execution of ten high officials and the punishment of hundreds of others, expansion of the Legation Quarter, payment of war reparations, stationing of foreign troops in China, and razing of some Chinese fortifications.

In the decade that followed, the court belatedly put into effect some reform measures. These included the abolition of the moribund Confucian-based examination, educational and military modernization patterned after the model of Japan,

and an experiment, if half-hearted, in constitutional and parliamentary government. The suddenness and ambitiousness of the reform effort actually hindered its success. One effect, to be felt for decades to come, was the establishment of new armies, which, in turn, gave rise to warlordism.

<http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/modern3.html#reform>

Previous published articles

- Nov. 2008 History of China
- Feb. 2009 Zhou Period
- Nov. 2009 Emergence of Modern China
- Feb. 2010 Opium War
- Nov. 2010 Taiping Rebellion
- Feb. 2011 Self-Strengthening Movement

Membership

This is a final reminder to those who allowed their membership to expire. You and your family have been a member in good standing and the association wishes to continue with this positive relationship. With an active status you will continue to receive the quarterly newsletter and be included in the annual directory.

Renew your membership no later than 15 Sep 2012 to be included in the annual directory.

Please kindly submit a check payable to the VCCAA in the amount of \$25 to extend your membership for another year to:

VCCAA
 Attn: Membership Renewal
 P.O. Box 806
 Camarillo, CA 93011-0806

Thank you all for your support over the years.

For membership information and/or suggestions, please contact any officer or board member.

Quotable Quotes

Those are my principles. If you don't like them I have others. <i>Groucho Marx</i>	If your parents never had children, chances are you won't either. <i>Dick Cavett</i>
A sense of humor... is needed armor. Joy in one's heart and some laughter on one's lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life. <i>Hugh Sidney</i>	There are really only three types of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who ask, what happened? <i>Ann Landers</i>
Everyone should have kids. They are the greatest joy in the world. But they are also terrorists. You'll realize this as soon as they are born, and they start using sleep deprivation to break you. <i>Ray Romano</i>	A little girl at the wedding afterwards asked her mother why the bride changed her mind. "What do you mean?" responded her mother. "Well, she went down the aisle with one man, and came back with another." <i>Unknown</i>
Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand. <i>Chinese Proverb</i>	Correction does much, but encouragement does more. <i>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</i>
Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former. <i>Albert Einstein</i>	There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves. <i>Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th U.S. president</i>
Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only ten of them. <i>H.L. Mencken</i>	I can get sad, I can get frustrated, I can get scared, but I never get depressed – because there's joy in my life. <i>Michael J. Fox</i>
The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.' <i>Ronald Reagan</i>	Life is about laughing and living, in good and bad times. Getting through whatever comes our way and looking back and smiling. <i>Unknown</i>

Memorial Day Picnic

5/28/2012



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The Ventura County
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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.

Classes held at
 2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036.
 For more information, please contact
 Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu at (805) 983-6082 or 990-3866

Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Mid-Autumn Festival	Oct. 6, 2012 Saturday, 6:30 PM	Pleasant Valley Instructional Ctr. 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo	Annie Wang
Halloween Party	Oct. 27, 2012 Saturday, 5:30 PM	Pleasant Valley Instructional Ctr. 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo	Kim Wang Jenny Fung
Christmas Party	Dec. 15, 2012 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Pleasant Valley Instructional Ctr. 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo	Brian Nomi



Year of the Dragon
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