



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

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www.vccaahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends:

Hou Nian Da Ji! Your VCCAA Board and I all wish you a Happy and Prosperous Year of the Monkey!

We also hope to see you at the February 13th Chinese New Year Celebration at the Camarillo Library. As usual, Irene Sy has put together an excellent cultural performance program. Yun-seng Chao has again graciously lent her dragon kite for display, this year joined by a phoenix, and in the Children's Section of the Library by some auspicious bats (all of our Chinese Language School students will know that the word "bat", or "bian fu" in Chinese, has the same sound as "become fortunate"), a goldfish, and a frog kite. These magnificent kites are true folk art treasures and were winning entries in the 1983 Smithsonian International Kite Exhibition and contest. Our celebration will also include calligraphy, photo, and arts and craft booths. Thanks to Suqin Zhao and Yongping Chen, we also adding a new performance by the Westlake Village Symphony Orchestra under Conductor Michael Armstrong with some Chinese musical instruments, playing spring festival music. This year's celebration should be a wonderful time!

We are moving forward with plans to hold an appropriate commemoration for the 50th Anniversary of Bill Soo Hoo's selection as Mayor of Oxnard, the first person of Chinese ancestry to become a Mayor in California. We are planning to hold the event on the evening of May 21 at the Oxnard Convention and Performing Arts Center – a building that Mayor Soo Hoo was instrumental in establishing. The Historical Society is already deeply involved in the planning for this event, but would welcome additional volunteers. Please contact George Yu and Grace Leo if you are interested in helping out. I hope that many VCCAA members will attend and support the commemoration evening.

During the New Year Celebration at the Library, I hope you will have time to view, under the kites in the Camarillo Library, the fascinating exhibit of Mayor Soo Hoo's life and achievements. Grace Leo, working with Angela Soo Hoo, put the exhibition together, and it makes great reading for those interested in history. Mayor Soo Hoo's selection in 1966, only twenty-three years after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Acts, was a major step in recognizing the diversity of our state and opening up access to participation in political life for people from all backgrounds.

The City of Camarillo has been invited to send a delegation to attend the 2016 Shaoxing International Friendship City Conference May 24-26. Camarillo Mayor Mike Morgan has passed the invitation on to VCCAA. Lixin Duborow, Richard Lu, and I are forming a group to look into whether we can respond positively to this invitation, so please contact us if you have an interest in travelling to Shaoxing this May. Shaoxing welcomes delegations to participate in a "Friendship City Commodity Exhibition," so clearly the organizers would be pleased to have visiting business people bring samples of local products.

I hope everyone has now received their copy of the VCCAA Directory. Thank you again Hillary, Lee-May and Alvin Little. It is great to have the latest version so we can all be in touch with each other in the New Year!

Best wishes to all in the Year of the Monkey,

Angus Simmons
President 2015-16

Christmas Party *by Brian Nomi*

The 2015 VCCAA Christmas Party took place on Dec. 12 at Rancho Rosal School's auditorium in Camarillo. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. The Emcees were Ethan Chen and Sandra Sosa. The group enjoyed a potluck dinner, and the performances by Yu-Ling Lu's Dance Group (Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, Laurel Mooney, Lucy Curtis, Grace Coutter, Lesley Smarinsky, and Samantha Eiken among the older girls // Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, Jayme Smarinsky, and Jackie Zhao among the younger girls).



Shuqin Zhao led the Thousand Oaks Chinese Music Ensemble // The Voice of Thousand Oaks to perform several pieces of Christmas and Chinese music. The group performed instrumental and vocal musical pieces.

Finally, Santa Claus came on stage and gave bags of toys to all the girls and boys.

Approximately 200 photos by Lloyd Ho may be viewed online at www.vccaa.org (click on "our pictures," and then "Christmas Party 2015"). The specific link is:

<http://vccaa.org/pictures/xmas15/index.html>.

Thanks to all who attended, performed, or helped with the setup beforehand and cleaning afterwards!!!



Scholarship Program for 2016 *by Louise Dilger*

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Don't forget that there are three **(3) \$750** academic scholarships waiting to be awarded to three special seniors. In addition, a **\$500** scholarship is available to a Chinese learner if the spoken home language is NOT Chinese. Check out the qualifications by downloading the application from our website: www.vccaa.org. Our scholarships are open to all college bound high school seniors in West Ventura County public and private schools. It would be fantastic if our own club members earn these scholarships. Don't get left out of the competition. The deadline for the application is **March 31, 2016**. Questions may be sent to scholarship@vccaa.org.



Upcoming Events!

Chinese New Year Celebration 2016 – in collaboration with Camarillo Library *by Irene Sy*

WHAT: Chinese New Year Celebration!

WHEN: Saturday, February 13th, 2016, 1:00-4:00 pm

WHERE: Camarillo Library

4101 East Las Posas Road

Camarillo, CA 93010

CONTACT: Irene Sy, (805)482-4765

This year marks the 7th year which we are celebrating the Chinese New Year in collaboration with the Camarillo Library. It will be on Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. Our stage performances will begin at 1:30PM.

The Year of the Monkey celebration will be bigger-and-better-than ever this year. Our CNY committee has met with city librarians and city representatives to bring a bigger celebration to the City of Camarillo. We will be having great musical performances from the Westlake Symphony group, Beijing Opera from the California Institute of Performing Arts, Taichi demonstration from Mr. David Chang, folk dances from our beloved dance teacher - Mrs. YuLing Lu, as well as food trucks to cater to those attending with hungry stomachs. It will be a wonderful and spectacular celebration for everyone this year. Our only concern will be potential WET weather during the El-Niño season! In case if the weather does not permit us to hold our performances outdoor, we will be relocating our stage performances to the Community Room



inside the Camarillo Library. Please look out for signs to find our new location if we did not escape EI-Niño that day. GO AWAY RAIN! Let's pray for a sunshine day on February 13.

As a prelude to our celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mayor Bill Soo Hoo's success in the month of May, there is a display on Mayor Bill Soo Hoo in the foyer of the Camarillo library. Please visit the display when you are at the library on or before our Chinese New Year performance on February 13.

There will be arts and crafts tables, Chinese calligraphy by Mr. Richard and Ruby Lu, as well as Dr. Yongping Chen, souvenirs and photo booth by Mrs. Lee-May Little, origami by Mr. BiJian Fan, and others. We are looking for volunteers who can help setup the chairs at 9:00AM

on that day (Feb. 13) and taking them down at 4:00PM. If you can help with setup and take down, as well as with parking and managing the crafts tables, please kindly contact me at (805) 482-4765. We appreciate your help very much.

Please join us to welcome the Year of the Monkey, the year 4713, at the Camarillo Library on Saturday February 13, 2016, from 1:00PM – 4:00PM; and chase away the rain for a sunny beautiful day to enjoy our performances.

Come early and bring your appetite to enjoy delicious cuisine provided by the food trucks, bring your children to our arts and crafts tables, enjoy a Chinese story read by our students, join Mr. BiJian Fan for origami and

stay to watch for our spectacular stage show on the lawn outside the back door of the youth section of the Camarillo Library.

Mark your calendar and we shall see you there on February 13th!

祝你猴年行大运! 猴吉猴吉(福氣福氣)!



Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy, Principal*

First, I would like to express our gratitude to you all for your support and help in our silent auction held last Christmas. It added help to our school's educational supplies fund. We will continue our efforts to help sustain the budget and expenditure so we can offer an opportunity

to those interested to learn the Chinese language a place to fulfill their goal. Thank you for all your support. It is very much appreciated.

As we welcome the New Year, it is also the conclusion of another semester. Chinese Language School concluded the Fall 2015 semester last night. Next Friday will be the beginning of a new Spring 2016 semester, as well as a new Lunar Year. All students and staff will be celebrating the



New Lunar Year with activities and making Jiaozi (dumplings) to usher in the year of the Monkey. You are welcome to join us for the fun of making jiaozi next Friday at the Pleasant Valley Recreation Park District at 7:00pm in room 7. It will be a potluck dinner as well so everyone can bring their favorite New Year dish to share. Students will be making Chinese New Year crafts after dinner.

Last semester was a great one with the support from the VCCAA and our wonderful parents. Students were enriched with culture and took a big leap forward towards their Chinese language proficiency. Thanks to all the hard work of our teachers to make that possible.

We will be having our school wide Speech Competition on April 22. Please come by and see how well our students do on that evening. We are looking for a panel of judges for our Speech Competition, please contact me if you are interested in being one of our judges. We are delighted and welcome you to



be on our panel of judges.

Our students will be helping out in the Chinese New Year celebration held at the Camarillo Library on February 13. I am sure they are excited to share what they have learned with the community. Please come and join us to welcome in the New Year on that day.



Have a Great and Prosperous year of the Red Monkey!

猴年行大运!

Zeak Simmons

We regret to report the passing of Dr. Isaiah "Zeak" Simmons on January 6, 2016.

Zeak was a stalwart of our association for many years, serving as Secretary and on the Board of Directors. An educator by profession, he was a counselor for many years with Oxnard Community College and Ventura Community College before retiring. He was also an avid tennis player and a professional tennis coach. He was always there to lend a helping hand. We will miss him.



More Pictures from the Christmas Party 2016 - Thank you all for participating!



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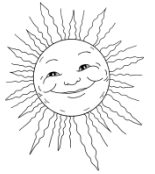
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 1:00 pm	Camarillo Public Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, 93010	Irene Sy, 805.482.4765
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 12:30 pm	Ling Ranch, Somis	Lesley Sule, 805.407.7765 Hillary Ling, 805.386.4188
Memorial Day Picnic	Monday, May 30, 2016 at 11:00 am	Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1, the Corner of Temple and Ponderosa, in Camarillo, (next to Boys and Girls club)	Lee-May Little, 805.484.5222



Year of the Monkey
4714