

華聯會

**Ventura County Chinese
American Association
VCCAA**



February 2014

Newsletter

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Web Sites

VCCAA

www.vccaa.org

Language School
<https://vccls.wikispaces.com/>

Historical Society
www.vccahs.org

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* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011
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Greetings from the President



On behalf of the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) board, I would like to extend a New Year greeting to all our VCCAA members and their families. In Southern California, we are blessed with balmy weather while the Midwest and East Coast are struggling through one of the harshest winters in history. I am hopeful that milder climate will prevail come Chinese New Year.

Once again, the VCCAA is proud to co-sponsor a Chinese New Year celebration with the Camarillo Public Library (CPL). It will take place on February 8th from 1 to 4 PM on the side lawn of the CPL. Ms. Irene Sy, our Chinese School principal, has assembled a group of stellar performers for this festivity. In addition to the Camarillo Kung Fu association lion dancers and the VCCAA Chinese dance troupe, we shall be entertained by an orchestra featuring traditional Chinese musical instruments, students from the VCCAA Chinese School as well as artisans touting kite making, origami, Chinese calligraphy and brush painting. Asian food trucks will be on hand to provide nourishment for our hungry audience. We have also invited local Boy Scouts and young people from the YMCA to help with the activities. This truly will be a community event. I hope all of you will bring your family and friends to welcome the Year of the Horse with us.

Our Chinese school is thriving in its second year at the Camarillo Community Center. The school is starting the second semester with beginning and intermediate Chinese classes as well as adult conversation classes. Oxnard Union high school students can enroll in our credit class for enrichment in both Chinese language and culture. Further information is available at the VCCAA website at www.vccaa.org.

George Yu, MD
President, 2013-2014

VCCAA Annual Scholarship Program *by Louise Dilger, Chairperson*

Each year VCCAA awards scholarships to students who have high academic standards and have been involved in extra-curricular activities such as community service, or after-school enrichment programs. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate how he/she has been involved in perpetuating the Chinese culture and customs. This year two \$750 and one \$500 scholarship will be awarded.

The VCCAA Scholarship Application for children of VCCAA members is available on-line at www.vccaa.org. The applicant should download an application, fill out and include all necessary supporting documentation such as official transcript, extra-curricular activities and submit the application by the due date of March 31, 2014.

Students whose families are not VCCAA members must attend a West Ventura County high school. Applications are available in their respective high school scholarship offices.

Good luck to all applicants.

VCCAA would like to increase the number of scholarships to be awarded. We encourage families, friends and community members to donate generously toward this goal. We would also like to thank Dr. Fu-Kuen Lin for donating to the VCCAA scholarship fund, making an additional scholarship available this year!

Dr. Fu-Kuen Lin VCCAA Scholarship for \$750

Tony Chen VCCAA Scholarship for \$750

VCCAA Scholarship for \$500



Christmas Party *by Brian Nomi*

The 2013 VCCAA Christmas Party took place on Dec. 14 at Rancho Rosal School in Camarillo. Approximately 120 people were in attendance. The Emcees were Phillip Chang and Austin Swanson. The group enjoyed dinner, and the performances by Yu-Ling Lu's Dance Group (Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, Lesley Smarinsky, Grace Coulter among the older girls // Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, Jayme Smarinsky, Jackie Zhao among the younger girls). We had a sing-a-long of some Christmas music. Finally, Santa Claus came on stage and gave bags of toys to all the good girls and boys.

Many photos by Lloyd Ho may be viewed online at www.vccaa.org (<http://vccaa.org/pictures/xmas13/index.html>). Thanks to all who attended, performed, or helped with the setup beforehand and cleaning afterwards!!



Upcoming Events!

Chinese New Year Celebration 2014 – in collaboration with the Camarillo Library

by Irene Sy



When: Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 1:00-4:00 pm

Where: Camarillo Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010

Contact: Irene Sy, (805)482-4765

The Year of the Horse 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. Five Asian food trucks will be brought in and more stage programs have been added. It will be a wonderful and spectacular celebration for everyone this year.

There will be two display cases in the foyer of the Camarillo library introducing Chinese calligraphy, porcelain, and traditional medicine. The display also includes the Hidden Lives book plus the VCCAA DVD, "Courage and Contribution: The Chinese in Ventura County".



Please join us to welcome the Year of the Horse, the year 4712, at the Camarillo Library on Saturday February 8, 2014, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

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 Chinese stories read by our students, make a kite, join Mr. BiJian Fan for origami, and stay to watch 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 8!

祝你马年行大运! 马到功成! 马上有钱!



Easter Egg Hunt by Lesley Sule



When: Saturday, April 19, 2014, 12:30pm

Where: Ling Ranch, Somis

Contact: Lesley Sule, (805) 407-7765, Hillary Ling, (805) 386-4188

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on! Join us at the Ling Ranch for food, games and the hunt. For each child participating, please bring:

- 1 Easter basket and
- 2 dozen filled plastic Easter eggs.

When you arrive, please bring your filled eggs to Lesley so the Easter Bunny will have time to hide everything well before the hunt starts. We will be providing a simple lunch for all and games for the kids. We look forward to seeing all of you then!



Chinese Lantern Festival *by Louise Dilger*



The Lantern Festival or Yuanxiao Jie is a traditional Chinese festival celebrated on the 15th of the first month of the lunar year, marking the end of the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese people started to celebrate the Lantern Festival from the Han Dynasty (206 BC-221 AD). Like most other Chinese festivals, there is also a story behind the Festival. It is believed that Yuanxiao is named after a palace maid, Yuanxiao, of Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty. It is also believed that the festival has Taoist origins.

This is a fun festival for the young and old. On festival night, people go out onto the streets with a variety of lanterns under the full moon, watching lions or dragons dancing, playing Chinese riddles and games, and lighting up firecrackers. The festival is not well celebrated in the U.S., though you may find celebrations in some



Chinese communities, such as Hsi Lai Temple, in Hacienda Heights, California.

Yuanxiao, or Tangyuan (Cantonese), is the special food for the Lantern Festival for which it is named. It is a round sweet dumpling made with sticky rice flour filled with sweet stuffing. The round shape symbolizes family unity, completeness, and happiness.

Yuanxiao Recipe

Ingredients: 4 ½ cups sticky rice flour; 7 oz butter; 7 oz black sesame powder; 8 oz sugar; 1 tsp wine *Mix together the softened butter with sesame powder, sugar and wine.*

1. Roll into small balls, about 0.3-0.4 oz each.
2. Using ½ cup of sticky rice flour, add enough water to make a flatten dough.
3. Cook it in boiling water; remove when done, let cool.
4. Add the rest of the sticky rice flour to this.
5. Add enough water to knead into a smooth dough.
6. Roll the dough and into medium size balls.
7. Make a hole in the ball.
8. Insert the sesame ball and seal.
9. Cook the finished dumpling in boiling water.
10. Keep stirring in one direction while cooking.
11. When the balls float to the top of the water, lower the heat and continue cooking for one more minute.



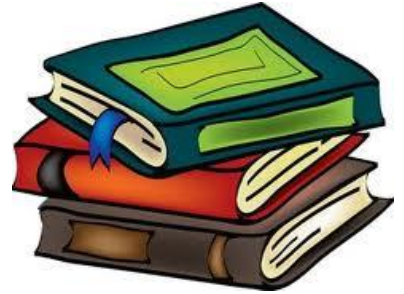
Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy*

The year of the Horse will bring us good luck, energy and happiness. We wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous Year of the Horse, 2014.

Our students will be participating in the Chinese New Year celebration held at the Camarillo Library. We will have our very own celebration on Feb 7th in school. You are welcome to join us at our school site at 7:00pm to share our joy and to celebrate and welcome the New Year. We are looking forward to a year of overwhelming enrollment.

Please help us spread the words and invite more people interested in learning the Chinese language to enroll in our Chinese school program. All children and adults are welcome. Feel free to contact me anytime (805)482-4765. Our new semester will begin on February 7, 2014.

Our silent auction held last Christmas added a small amount to our school's educational supplies funds. We will continue our efforts to help sustain the budget and expenditure so we can offer more opportunities to those interested in learning the Chinese language a place to fulfill their goal. We would appreciate all your help and support in keeping our goal and mission to educate and propagate Chinese language flowing. Thank you!



马年快乐!

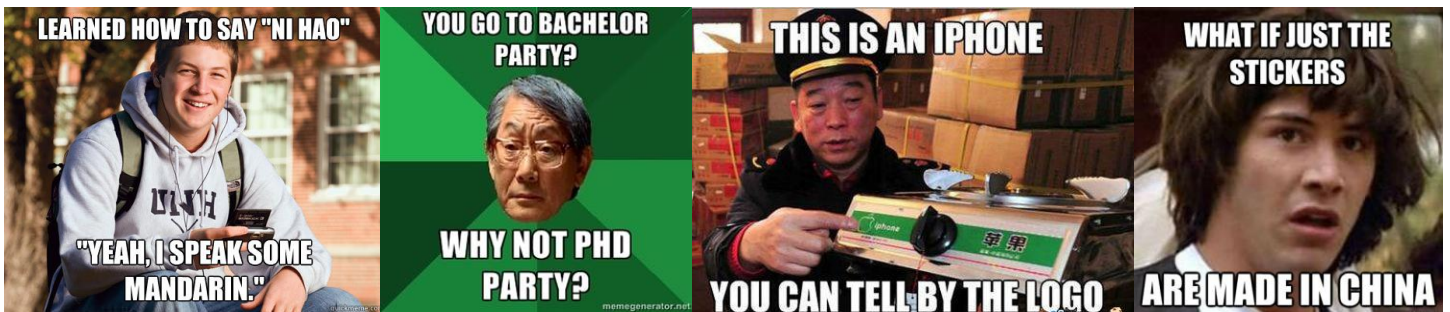
More Pictures from the Christmas Party, December 2013 - Thank you all for participating!





We are encouraging the members to submit pictures or even articles to be included in upcoming newsletters. If you would like to advertise an upcoming issue and help support the VCCAA in spreading and promoting Chinese Culture activities, please feel free to send an email to:

VCCAAnewsletter@gmail.com





2014

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S YEAR OF THE HORSE

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February 8, 2014
1:00-4:00pm**

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- Chinese Folk Dances
- Chinese Origami Paper Art with Bijian Fan
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- Erhu (classical string) music
- Crafts & Demonstrations – Dragon lanterns, kites, calligraphy, and more!

Bring your lawn chairs.

For more information, please visit our websites:
www.vccaa.org or call (805)-482-6074
www.CamarilloLibrary.org or call (805)388-5222



In partnership with the Ventura County Chinese American Association & Chinese Language School



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Support the businesses that support the VCCAA

The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



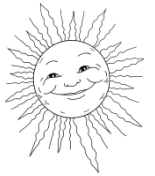
All classes are currently open

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.

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
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 1:00-4:00 pm	Camarillo Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy, 805.482.4765
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 12:30pm	Ling Ranch, Somis	Lesley Sule, 805.407.7765 Hillary Ling, 805.386.4188



Year of the Horse
4712