



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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Web Sites

VCCAA

www.vccaa.org

Language School

<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society

www.vccaahs.org

Newsletter Editor

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

Dear VCCAA members and friends,

新年快乐！Happy New Year! 2018 was an eventful year for me.

I was given an opportunity to travel to Shaoxing as part of delegation representing the City of Camarillo. I was fascinated by the rich culture I encountered in the region. I enjoyed the scenery in Hangzhou, especially West Lake, where I always dreamed of visiting since I was a child. Learning about the local way of life, riding on the fast trains, using WeChat wallet, and seeing people ballroom dancing and singing in the streets of Shanghai were all wonderful experiences. In Shaoxing, I was able to make many new friends from all around the world. When I came back to the United States, the shooting at the Borderline and the fires made me appreciate life, family, and friends. I feel blessed. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by these disasters.

Lee-May did an awesome job on our Christmas party. The highlight of the evening for me was the amazing music and performances that made me feel warm inside. I was also fortunate to attend the Chinese School Christmas party. Richard Lu's calligraphy lesson and the performance by the students really got me in the Christmas spirit. I would like to thank all the people who planned these events and volunteered their time. A special thank you to Santa Claus who found time to attend both parties.

Prior to the New Year, Ricky and I spent many hours helping to decorate the "Harmony Through Union" float that was in the Rose Parade. This float was special because it honored the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad and the major contribution that the Chinese workers made in building it. We worked with members of the Chinese American Heritage Foundation who came from all parts of the United States. We are all very proud of our ancestors and our heritage. I am looking forward to working with them on future projects.

Our Chinese New Year celebration is approaching quickly. We are continuing our partnership with the Camarillo Public Library. Please reserve February 23 on your calendar. Tell your family and friends to come and celebrate with us. Come and see the cultural display at the library which honors the 150th anniversary of the Chinese railroad workers as well as the Chinese New Year traditions.

I am looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year.



Grace Leo and Karen Kwan (Utah House of Representatives)

恭喜发财 gōngxǐ fācái!

Shuk Fun Grace Leo
President, VCCAA



Reports from Past Events!

Christmas Party *by Lee-May Little*

The 2018 VCCAA Christmas Party took place on Saturday, December 15th, 2018 at Rancho Rosal School's multi-purpose room in Camarillo.

We were very happy to see more than 120 members, their families and friends in attendance. Our new President, Grace Leo, welcomed everyone and introduced her new officers at the party. The new Chinese Language School Principal Angus Simmons also announced that the school is now open, with a new location, new staff, and new excitement. We all expect a great future for the school.

Then our young and promising emcee, Sarah Lu, opened the program for us.

First we had Dr. Ling's big screen presentation and colorful photos explaining the story of the birth of Jesus, which added more meaning to this Christmas Party.

Many, many delicious pot luck dishes warmed up everyone's tummy. We watched Yu-Ling Lu's dance group perform three beautiful dances, the Lotus Fairy Dance, 荷花仙子, The Flag Dance, 大旗舞, and The Ribbon Dance, 巾舞. Besides the dances, we had the In-Harmony Chorus, 韻聲合唱團, from Thousand Oaks perform three songs. Their solo singer, Lola Sandoval, sang a very beautiful opera song, I Love You China, which was phenomenal and moving.

This year we had the Jingle Bell Entertainers: Kimmy Kavanagh and her two daughters helping.

They led the audience in singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Jingle Bells to welcome Santa Claus to the stage to give bags of toys to all the girls and boys.

For many years VCCAA has been very fortunate to have Dr. Frank Chieu and Barbara Chieu helping to provide Santa Bags for our association's children. We appreciate their kindness and generous hearts and applaud their dedication.

Approximately 150 photos taken by Lloyd Ho may be viewed online at <http://www.vccaa.org>. Click on Christmas Party pictures.



A very big thanks to emcee Sarah Lu. Thanks to the dance performers, Lesley Smarinsky, Jayme Smarinsky, Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, and Jennifer Leo. Thanks to all the youth volunteers for helping on the stage and serving the food.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday!

Upcoming Events!

Scholarship Program *by Louise Dilger*

Greetings High School Seniors! We have three \$750 and two \$500 scholarships to award this year. It's time to get your scholarship application ready. Don't forget that you need Official transcripts of your SAT, ACT, and AP test scores included in the application.

The **deadline for applications is April 1, 2019.**

In the past, students waited until the last minute, thinking that they could work on the application during Spring Break. This school year, Easter isn't

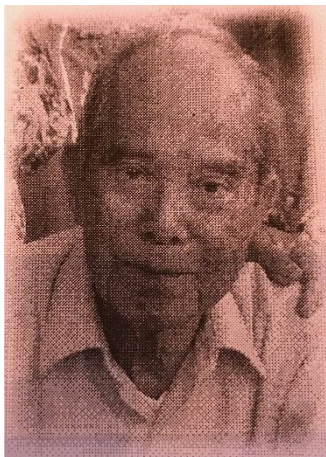
until April 21 so Spring Break is **AFTER** the April 1st deadline. Students have been disqualified because they missed the deadline. Don't wait! Send for those transcripts as soon as grades are in for the Fall semester.

Applications may be downloaded from our club website <http://www.vccaa.org> under Scholarship.

You may also pick up a copy of the application from your school career counselor (not regular academic counselor). Good luck to you!

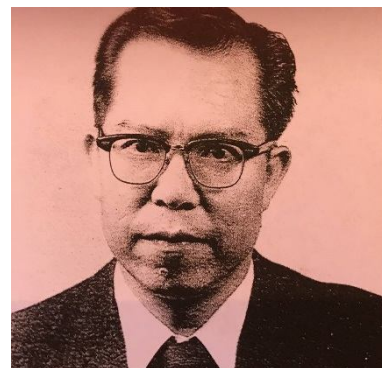


In Memoriam *by VCCAA Board*



It is with great sadness that the VCCAA board announce the passing of a long-time member Harry Chin two months ago. Harry was an active member who participated in many club activities. He fried many egg rolls to help the club fundraisers in Ventura. When the Kung Fu and Lion Dance troupe was established, Harry was its first drummer. For many years, Harry also helped in the preparation of food for the annual Memorial Day Picnic.

The family mourns the loss of Harry Chin. He was more of an uncle than a brother-in-law to Ona's family.



VCCAA sends our condolences to the family.

Chinese New Year Celebration



Happy Chinese New Year

Year of the Pig



Presented by the
City of Camarillo Public Library
 and the
Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Saturday, February 23, 11am—4pm

Rain or shine!

Bring the entire family to enjoy this **FREE** celebration

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Mon - Thurs: 10am - 9pm
 Fri - Sun: 10am - 5pm



We Build Cultural Bridges!
VCCAA.org

Easter Egg Hunt! *by Lesley Ling*

When: Saturday, April 13th 2019, 12pm - 3pm

Where: Ling Ranch, Somis

Contact: Lesley Ling, (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 Language School *by Angus Simmons*

Our new location at the Boys and Girls Club has turned out very well, and we have two more sessions of the fall semester to go. It appears that a good time is being had by students and teachers alike. Like the public schools, we were affected by the fires and had to cancel a session. Fortunately, we were easily able to re-schedule the session on February 3, thanks to the flexibility of our Boys & Girls Club landlords. We had a very lively Christmas Party with President Grace,



a special calligraphy session by Master

Richard Lu, as well as wonderful choral performances by our students, and a surprise visit by a jolly bearded individual from the North Pole who had a hard time convincing his reindeer to stay on the roof.

Dean Shuqin Zhao has been in the hospital recently, and we eagerly await her return. In the meantime, our ten teachers and substitutes have all been wonderfully supportive in helping us manage the school teaching schedule while Shuqin has been away. Thank you all so much!



We now have over thirty students and have already received a number of early checks for the next semester from students hoping to take advantage of early registration discounts. The school is very fortunate to have Chang laoshi, who is a certified Advanced Placement (AP) preparation teacher, offering an AP prep class next semester for those high school students who may be interested. We are also receiving expressions of interest from adult students, so the adult conversation class may continue to expand next semester. We look forward to the Spring Semester beginning on February 10.



I would like to thank the VCCAA Board and parents for your support.

More Pictures from the Christmas Party!



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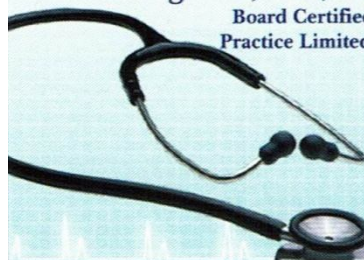
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Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



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(Intermediate & Advanced)

Monday 4:30pm - 6:00pm
(Beginner)

Dancers must be at least 5 years of age.
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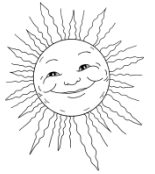
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, Feb 23, 2019. 11am-4pm	Camarillo Public Library 4101 Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010	Grace Leo: (805) 304-5466
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 13, 2019. 12pm-3pm	Ling Ranch, Somis	Lesley Ling, (805) 407-7765 Hillary Ling, (805) 386-4188



Year of the Pig
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