



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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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,



Happy Holidays everyone! Hope everyone has been doing well during the past year and have been staying healthy and safe.

It has almost been a year since our last association event where we could gather with our members and the community. The Chinese New Year Celebration at the Camarillo Public Library was a very memorable one that I will never forget. We chose to honor our local Chinese American WWII veterans and their families. We worked hard to locate most of the families that used to live in Ventura County and collect the stories of their family hero. I don't think we ever had the mayors from three different cities come together to present awards to these families and the only surviving Chinese American WWII veteran Arnold Jue who made a special effort to

be in attendance.

These mayors were Tony Trembley from Camarillo, Tim Flynn from Oxnard, and Rick Araiza from Santa Paula. Other dignitaries included Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez from Oxnard, County Supervisor Kelly Long, Rick Eng, Past President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and Michael Kwan, representing Congresswoman Judy Chu. The veterans recognized were: Arnold Jue, Loren I. Low, Edwin O. Lowe, Lui Gain Thyn (Sonny Leo), Yit Sang Jew, Donald F.G. Jue, Ed S. Wong, George O. Soo Hoo, William D. Soo Hoo, Ben Soo Hoo, Edwin L. Soo Hoo, and Edmond Lew.



We started this special ceremony with the national anthem sung by Colleen Gonzalez and Stacy Flores.

The following pages have some highlight pictures from the Chinese New Year Celebration.



Continued on next page →

President's Message continued...



In-Harmony Chorus



Ribbon Dance – Jennifer Leo, Leslie Smarinsky, Jaime Smarinsky, Judy Nomi



Brooklyn Peterson and Evie Potter



Olivia Brahas, Kiyah Cordona, Isabella Grijalva, Alexis Clay, Lilly Pizza

President's Message continued...



Mrs. Yuling Lu with the Ventura County Chinese Classical Dance Troupe



Butterfly Dance



Yao Dance

President's Message continued...



Hulusi – Jun Yu



Erhu – Amy Chow



Thousand Oaks Tai Chi Group

President's Message continued...



Charlotte Weymer, Megan Campbell Smith, Talia Walsh



Sword Dance - Amy Song

President's Message continued...



Lion Dance – Camarillo Kung Fu Club



Dr. Russell Low, Grace, Dr. George Yu

Additional pictures of the Chinese New Year Celebration are available on our vcaa.org website. Thank you Lloyd Ho and my husband Ricky for providing these pictures.

A special thank you to our announcer John Clay Jr and emcees Shiu Man & Betty Lee. and for all the performers and volunteers who made this event so special.

I would also like to recognize Dr. Russell Low for his presentation “Chinese Americans in WWII” before the Chinese New Year Celebration. Dr. Low is an excellent speaker, researcher and author that I met at the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in Utah last year. His father is also a Chinese American WWII veteran who was awarded a Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action just like my father-in-law.

President's Message continued...

Local Chinese American WWII Veteran Displays



Arnold Jue



Yit Sang Jew (aka Dick Jew)



Donald Fong Gee Jue



Lui Gain Thyn (aka Sonny Leo)



Edwin O. Lowe



Edward L. Soo Hoo

President's Message continued...

Local Chinese American WWII Veteran Displays



William D. Soo Hoo



Ed S. Wong

On February 11, Richard Lu and I participated in a Lunar New Year Celebration and Festival of Cultures hosted by CSU Channel Islands. This was their inaugural event open to students and the general public. There were close to 300 attendees. Feedback from several guests was that the activities were engaging and fun and the demonstrations and performances were the icing on the cake.



Thanks to Richard who taught Chinese Calligraphy.

I was contacted by the Shaoxing Delegation in September thanking us for our hospitality when they visited last year. They were planning on hosting an online conference for their friendship cities in November and asked us to provide a short congratulatory video from the City of Camarillo that would be shown at the beginning of the conference. I made arrangements with Mayor Tony Trembley and Dr. George Yu to provide short messages from the City of Camarillo and the VCCAHS. I provided one on behalf of VCCAA. They said the quality of our video was perfect.

President's Message continued...

In September, I was contacted by Winston & Joanne Young with Miss Chinatown Los Angeles Pageant. Because of COVID-19, their annual trip to China for the women of the court was not possible and they wanted to bring them to Ventura County to learn about the Chinese American history here. They inquired about what Chinese Cultural Demonstrations could be provided by our Historical Society at the Ventura County Museum. I was able to make arrangements for a Tai Chi demonstration and Chinese Calligraphy. Linda Bentz provided artifacts excavated from Old Los Angeles Chinatown which were almost identical to the ones found near the San Buenaventura Mission and a walking tour of the China Alley in Ventura. Mabel Chow graciously taught Tai Chi to the group and I showed them how to do Chinese calligraphy.



L to R: Grace Leo, Eliza Tsui (L.A. Chinese Chamber Bd Member), Chester Chong (L.A. Chinese Chamber Bd Chairman), Linda Bentz, Joanne Young (Sponsor), Winston Young (Sponsor), Queen Corrie Chan, Fourth Princess Victoria Cua, Second Princess Catherine Hang, Miss Friendship Nicole Moc, Third Princess Yiwa Lau



Artifact displays provided Linda Bentz



Lui Gain Thyn (aka Sonny Leo)



Mayor William D. Soo Hoo

President's Message continued...



Tai Chi Demonstration led by Mabel Chow



Chinese Calligraphy led by Grace



Walking Tour of China Alley led by Linda Bentz



President's Message continued...

I would like to recognize Irene Sy and the scholarship committee for reviewing all of the applications for scholarships this year. Although we weren't able to announce the winners at the Memorial Day Picnic, I would like to congratulate the following scholarship winners: Huy Nguyen, Tony Chen Academic Scholarship; Rachel Sing, Lu Family Scholarship; Jennifer Leo, Lena Ho Scholarship.

I look forward to the time when we can resume our normal association activities. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

GōngXǐ FāCái 恭喜发财

Grace 廖陳淑芬

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The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Sunday 9:30am - 11:00am
(Intermediate & Advanced)

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

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

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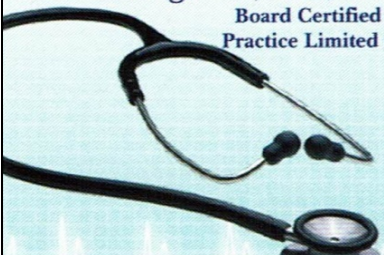
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Upcoming Events



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Membership Renewal Reminder

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Please include your physical address, email address, and contact phone number so we can update the directory.