



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

Dear VCCAA members and friends,

Time has flown by so quickly, serving my first year as VCCAA President has been a challenging experience for me. As president, I have learned the importance of the association's by-laws and other guidelines and the need to understanding the past history of our great association in order to effectively lead us into the future. I know that our association was founded by a group of wonderful people who cared deeply about our Chinese community. My greatest joys have come from visiting some of them and hearing their stories about the evolution of the VCCAA. Their passion and willingness to serve with the best interests of our association in mind is still evident today. As I conduct business on behalf of the VCCAA, I have to remind myself that each decision I make with the board of directors must work toward one common goal: to serve the interests of our organization and its members. These decisions must be made within the restrictions of the by-laws in order to protect and benefit our members at all times. We must always ask ourselves if we are being fair to all concerned. Sometimes making the right choice is not necessarily the most popular one, but we must always maintain our honesty and integrity and continue to strive for excellence.

I appreciate all of the board members and their commitment to serve our members and our community. They sacrifice their time and offer their talents so that others can benefit from it. Please join me in recognizing them and congratulating them for their hard work.

Along this journey as your president, the experiences and opportunities I have had in serving VCCAA will be forever etched in sweet memories for me and my family. Everyone that I have had the pleasure of talking to or working with has taught me many valuable lessons. I treasure every moment.

One of these encounters I will cherish was a visit with Arnold and Pansy Jue and their family. I was so delighted to hear his story about how he served during World War II and how he was involved in the formation for our association. I had the honor of interviewing Arnold so that we can preserve the history of someone who did so much for our country and our Chinese community.



Visit with Arnold and Pansy Jue

Greetings from the President (continued)

He is very humble about the invaluable service he has provided. Arnold and Pansy have strong family values and continue to have many family gatherings. I am glad that the U.S. government is finally recognizing and honoring the Chinese veterans who served in WWII by presenting them with a Congressional Gold Medal. Please let me know if you know any other Chinese veterans who served in WWII. I will gladly assist them in registering for the medal.

I was fortunate to have an opportunity to attend a lecture given by Sue Fawn Chung, professor emerita at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas at the Huntington Library on April 17. She presented a very well attended talk about the Chinese railroad workers of the late 19th century. I was able to meet some descendants of labor contractor Lim Lip Hong: Andrea Yee, Nani Grenell, Linn Lee and Casey Lee. I found out that Casey actually resides in Ventura County. It was an exciting event!



From left to right, Alan Solomon, Andrea Yee, Nani Grenell, Sue Fawn Chung, Linn Lee, Casey Lee and me

I look forward to an upcoming trip to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah. The Chinese workers on the Central Pacific railroad are finally getting the recognition they so richly deserve. I had the good fortune of meeting Judge Michael Kwan at a Lee Association dinner in Los Angeles Chinatown. He is president of the Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association and sponsor of the Golden Spike Conference. We met Wilson and Esther Lee, members of the Chinese American Heritage Foundation and Chinese American Citizens Alliance when we volunteered to help decorate the Harmony Through Union float in this year's Rose parade.

Hope to see you at the Memorial Day celebration!

Best wishes,
Grace



From left to right, my husband Ricky, Wilson Lee, me, Esther Lee, Judge Michael Kwan

Reports from Past Events!

Chinese New Year Celebration *by Grace Leo*

VCCAA in partnership with the Camarillo Public library, celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Pig, on Saturday, February 24. The festival provided a fabulous day of cultural enrichment, education and entertainment for members of our community. Before the celebration, we were fortunate to have Eugene Moy and other members of Southern California Historical Society come to the Camarillo Library. Eugene gave a lecture about how the early Chinese not only help build the railroads, but how they helped to build America. Thanks to everyone who came to support us. There was full house with over sixty-five attendees that night. The library staff was very pleased with the wonderful turnout.



Some attendees of Eugene Moy's lecture, *Early Chinese: Building the Transcontinental, Building America*

On the day of the festival, it was a perfect sunny California day, with over a thousand people coming to celebrate with us. I was very proud that this free public event had activities for all ages. It brought together people and performers from many different areas. Inside the library, there was a display of Chinese New Year customs and information about the Chinese who worked on building the Transcontinental railroad that united the country. A Chinese kite and Chinese knots also greeted visitors to the library. An exhibit with Chinese wedding dresses and the stories behind them was a special treat.

All the performances on the outdoor stage were exciting to watch. The ancient Chinese costume fashion pre-show, the traditional Chinese dances, and Amy Song's sword dance were all performed by our local students. The fashion pre-show participants were especially kind to all the kids in the audience who were excited to take photos with them. The performances began with an energetic dance routine by the California Dance Group. Andy Le's singing and Charlie Zhou's tango and cha-cha dancers were enjoyable to hear and watch. The Oak Park Tai Chi Group did a great job with the Tai Chi fan and Tai Chi Chuan demonstration. Richard Lu did a gorgeous Calligraphy demonstration during the intermission. There was a very special magic show by the magician Migz from the Magic Castle. I enjoyed the part when he made it snow on a warm spring day. Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu's dance troupe was able to pull off a daring ribbon dance even though there was a mild breeze blowing. The dancers appeared so graceful when they performed. The Beauty Women's Club's Qi Pao dance looked so enchanting in their blue and white porcelain dresses.



Emcees Dr. Shiuman & Bette Lee



Announcer John Clay Jr with Richard Lu



Ancient Chinese Costume Fashion Pre-Show



Amy Song's Sword Dance



Beauty Women's Club Blue & White Porcelain QiPao



Ventura County Classical Dance Troupe

Of course, there were also many other activities to keep everyone entertained. The library staff provided so many fun games for the kids and even the adults to play. Everyone could have their name written in Chinese by Richard Lu, shop for Chinese souvenirs at Lee May Little's boutique, or buy a Year of the Pig T-shirt at Lixin Durborow's booth. Attendees could visit one of the craft booths supervised by Jenny Fung and even make their own kite that could really fly. Dozens of kites could be seen flying around on a perfect, breezy day. The grand finale was a crowd favorite lion dance performed by Sifu Kee Choo Ling's Camarillo Kung Fu Club. They mesmerized the crowd with their Kung Fu skills and acrobatic performances. Our wonderful emcees, Dr. Shiuman and Bette Lee, and announcer John Clay Jr., put a smile on our faces with their light-hearted commentary.



Craft booth



Game booth



Migz the Magician



Library Director Antonio Apodaca & me with the Chinese Lions

I could sense that everyone had an enjoyable time from all the laughter and chatter I heard. The children who crowded around the stage and the activity booths were fascinated and engaged. I am lucky that I can cherish the spirit of serving the VCCAA. If you missed the performances or would like to see them again, please let me know because I have posted some videos of the celebration on YouTube (see below). It was truly a memorable day you will never forget. I would like to send out a special thank you to the sponsors and volunteers who made it all possible.

Link to 2019 CNY Celebration at Camarillo Library (Full): https://youtu.be/sZ2_GXqjcpY

Link to 2019 CNY Celebration (Overview): https://youtu.be/hdN_tU7PtW8

To view more color photos from this event, please visit <http://www.vccaa.org/>

Easter Egg Hunt! *by Lesley Ling*



Another successful event this year! About 100 people attended the annual Easter Egg hunt on a gorgeous day at the Ling Ranch in Somis. This is one of our favorite events, bringing together brand new member families, friends, and some families who are 3-4 generations in the organization. A delicious taco cart and fresh and fun picnic foods. Piñata, Egg Hunt and games. Families with kids who are “too old” to enjoy the egg hunt, this is a perfect opportunity for them to get involved and help with the event.

We schedule the event on the Saturday of the weekend BEFORE Easter weekend so “Save the Date” for next year. In case your friends ask, please share that this is not a religiously affiliated celebration and that everyone is welcome. A BIG thank you to the VCCAA and the Ling Family for their continued generous sponsorship. Happy Spring!

To view more color photos from this event, please visit <http://www.vccaa.org/>

Chinese Language School *by Shi Qin and Angus*

It is hard to believe but we are already more than half way through the VCCAA Chinese School’s spring semester. We are very fortunate to have the Boys & Girls Club as our wonderful location. They have been great partners, and the space has been ideal for the classes we want to offer (see picture below of our school team joining the Boys & Girls Club open house).

The adult class continues to be popular, with between five and ten students on any given Sunday. Master Richard Lu will be expanding his calligraphy and painting offerings for next semester, to include classes for non-language students. Adult student Donna Yap has graciously donated a traditional gu Zheng musical instrument to the school. Thank you Donna for contributing to our school’s cultural richness.





Our amazing teachers are the enthusiastic heart and soul of our school. We enjoyed a teachers' appreciation potluck dinner at Angus and Yong Ping's house at the beginning of the semester, which was attended by six VCCAA Board members showing their strong support (see picture below). People may not be aware that we are very fortunate to have a credentialed AP class teacher, Renee Chang, offering an AP prep course — which can be a real boost to students facing the competitive college entrance process. I want also to thank Li Jing and Zhou

Hongyan for their extra administrative support over the last semester during Shuqin's absence.

Now that we have settled in with a stable situation at the Boys & Girls Club, we have room to grow the school's attendance. The school is reaching out to the community to increase awareness of our programs. I am pleased that we will be participating in the Moorpark multicultural Festival in May, and the Camarillo Fiesta in July.

We look forward to seeing more students of all ages joining the fun on Sunday afternoon at our school!

Chinese Culture For All by Hillary Ling and Louise Dilger

Chinese culture is of interest to all, regardless of race or ability. Hillary and Louise were happy to share some Chinese New Year traditions and culture with a small group of children at Lighthouse Institute in Ojai. The school is focused on teaching children with special learning needs.

We were pleasantly surprised at how much the three children that we worked with had accomplished before we arrived on February 5, Chinese New Year day. We were delightfully entertained with performances which included singing in Mandarin.

Some activities that we shared were showing various New Year ornaments and lanterns, reading a short Chinese story and teaching calligraphy with students using actual Chinese brush and ink. Of course, the miniature lion was the hit, where everyone got to be the head as well as the tail.

It was indeed a pleasant afternoon spent with enthusiastic children and teacher. Ojai is a long way from Camarillo/Oxnard, but distance should not be a deterrent in spreading our Chinese culture.

Yes, we bridged a small gap.



Fan song in Mandarin



Children loved the little lion



Teacher and student with print presented

Upcoming Events!

2019 Scholarship Recipients *by Louise Dilger, chair*

The scholarship committee selected the recipients for the various scholarships that VCCAA offers. Our thanks to all applicants for their superb academic achievements and community service. They definitely made the selection process a challenge. Also a huge thank you for the individual club members for their donations. Without them the scholarship program would be non-existent.

2019 Scholarship Recipients

\$750 Tony Chen	Rachel Chang	Foothill Technology
\$750 Dr. Fu Kuen Lin	Jaimie Wu	Adolfo Camarillo
\$750 Lu Family	Trinity Durborow	Foothill Technology
\$750 Yu Family	Richard Qiu	Newbury Park
\$500 Little Family	Alyson Lucas	Adolfo Camarillo
\$500 VCCAA Scholarship	Mason King	Foothill Technology



Recipients will receive an Achievement Certificate at their Senior Awards Night. The monetary award will be presented to them at the annual Memorial Day picnic. Make sure you attend the picnic so you can give the recipients a big round of applause!

Memorial Day Picnic by Lee-May Little

When: Monday, May 27, 2019 at 11:00am - 3:00 pm
Where: Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1
Corner of Temple and Ponderosa, in
Camarillo (by Boys and Girls Club)
Contact: Lee-May Little, (805) 484-5222



Our VCCAA Memorial Day Picnic will be held on Monday, May 27th, 2019 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1 (the picnic table area) located at the corner of Temple Ave. and Ponderosa Dr., Camarillo, CA. (next to the Boys and Girls Club). The cost will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 years old and under. Lunch will be served from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. There will be drawings for door prizes. We will be introducing our scholarship recipients and their parents at this event, and we will hear them share their future education plans.

This is a very important event as we will also be recognizing our sponsors and life members for the year, electing and installing our new officers and officers for the youth group for the club. Members will be able to renew their memberships or others may join our club at the picnic. We would like everyone who is renewing their membership to give us a separate check or cash payment for the membership for the year which is \$25/family. Cash payments will receive a receipt for their dues renewal payment.

Hope many of you can attend our Memorial Day Picnic as it is a time to relax and get to see and meet many of our club members and their families and friends.



More pictures from Chinese New Year Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt!





To view more color photos from these events, please visit www.vccaa.org

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Dance Troupe

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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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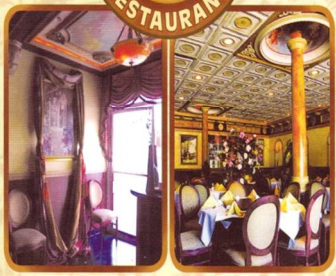
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Memorial Day Picnic	Monday, May 27, 2019 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 Pig
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