

華聯會

Ventura County Chinese
American Association
VCCAA



November 2014

Newsletter

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VCCAA

www.vccaa.org

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

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www.vccaahs.org

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* * * *

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

November typically brings rain and a chill in the evening air. We are grateful for the recent first significant rainfall of the year. The parched landscape and agricultural fields in Ventura County certainly welcome a temporary relief from the prolonged drought.

Another perennial feature heralding the arrival of winter is the start of the influenza season. Every year thousands of Americans succumb to influenza with a disproportionate number being elderly patients. Influenza is transmitted by airborne particles and via both symptomatic and asymptomatic infected individuals. Prevention of influenza is the best approach from a public health perspective. There are effective influenza vaccines but the percentage of the vaccinated adult population annually is still suboptimal. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends influenza vaccination for all persons over six months of age. The vaccine is widely available through doctor offices, hospitals, public health clinics, pharmacies, and senior centers. Good hygiene including hand washing and covering one's mouth when coughing also help prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses.

Our VCCAA board members took part in the annual Oxnard Multicultural Festival at the Collection Park on October 4th. Lee May Little and Lixin Durborow spearheaded the project with characteristic efficiency. It was a rousing success and our group was voted the most popular International booth. Dr. Hillary Ling, Dr. Yong Ping Chen and her husband, Mr. Angus Simmons, were crowd pleasers with their English to Chinese name translations. The Camarillo Kung Fu and Lion Dance group delighted the audience with their martial arts and athletic prowess. Kudos to all of you!

The Camarillo Kung Fu Club was founded by Sifu Kee Ling in 1982. Sifu Ling teaches the Northern Shaolin kung fu system of Mi Zong Lo Han. In addition to kung fu, the group also practices Chinese traditional southern lion dancing. The club meets twice weekly and welcomes new students. For more information, please visit <http://www.lohan.8k.com>

Our next big event is the Christmas Party organized by Mr. Brian Nomi. The party will feature Chinese dances, a Christmas choir, a silent auction, potluck dinner, and more fun activities for the whole family. I hope to see everyone at Rancho Rosal School on December 13th.

George Yu, MD
President, 2014-2015

Mid-Autumn Festival

by George Yu

The celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival is a custom that dates back to 1600 BC in ancient China. The festival is based on a fairy tale love story of Chang'e, the lunar deity, and her consort Houyi. These lovers were ultimately separated by the distance between the earth and the moon. Once a year on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, Houyi can visit Chang'e via the Milky Way. On that auspicious day, Chinese families will gather to celebrate the moon and their harvest. At the end of their feast, mooncake made of lotus paste and salted egg yolk will be consumed by all the participants.

On September 6th, the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) hosted their Mid-Autumn Festival at the Rancho Rosal School gymnasium. There were over one hundred attendees. Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous potluck Chinese buffet followed by delicious mooncakes. The lead off of the night's program was a slide show presentation of the legend of the Chang'e and Houyi by Dr. Hillary Ling. This was followed by dance performances from the award-winning VCCAA dance troupe under the tutelage of Ms. Yuling Lu. These beautiful young dancers don ethnic as well as ancient costumes to highlight the characteristics of various folk dances from China.



The audience also was treated to performances by members of the Thousand Oaks Chinese choir and musical group. A violin solo as well as a vocal solo and duet by Mr. Jianxin Zhang, Ms. Jin Wang, and Mr. Dong Liu respectively were followed by thunderous applause. The highlight was undoubtedly the aria, *Nessun Dorma*, of Giacomo Puccini's opera *Turandot* by Mr. Liu. This favorite tenor solo was written by an Italian composer based on a story that took place in the Chinese imperial court. This was a wonderful way to enjoy the multiculturalism that is VCCAA.

Multi-Cultural Festival by Lee-May Little

Dear VCCAA members,

In the middle of September we received an e-mail invitation to join the city of Oxnard in celebrating its diverse heritage by participating in the 19th annual Multicultural Festival. The event date was October 4th. We only had a few weeks to organize and prepare, but we thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce VCCAA to our tri-county friends and share our great Chinese heritage and culture. So with Lixin Durborow's enthusiastic support and President George Yu's approval we proceeded.

Luckily that day we had Dr. Hillary Ling, Dr. Yong Ping Chen, and Dolly Lee doing calligraphy for visitors' names in Chinese, which resulted in \$102 in donations. We also



displayed some Chinese medicines and acupuncture tools from Dr. Chen with help from Angus Simmons, which attracted a lot of curious visitors. We also shared sweet fortune cookies. The organizer gave each child a passport to stamp when they visited the individual country's booth. Our colorful booth really attracted everyone. We signed our Chinese characters 中国 on every passport. The visitors also learned about our Chinese Language School, Dance Troupe, and Kung Fu activities. We put out our Historical Society books and DVDs. We were awarded a prize by the organizers for The Most Enthusiastic Country.

With our club's great team work, I consider our participation in this Multicultural event a very successful diplomatic affair. We appreciated everyone's help. To finish it off our Camarillo Lion Dance Troupe did the closing celebration performance. What a honor!

Chester's Asia Gift Certificates *by Hillary Ling*

Heartfelt thanks to everyone! WHOA!! YOU ARE GOOD!!

SO MANY GENEROUS SUPPORTERS TO VCCAA!!

240 GIFT CERTIFICATES @25 EACH (\$6,000 VALUE) SOLD IN THREE DAYS!

From this sale VCCAA receives 30% from owners of Chester's Restaurant, Keith & Li Kwan and Darrin Ching. So, generous!

We would like to thank our donors, the Chester's Restaurant, and the following purchasers of gift certificates for this year:



Yong Ping Chen & Angus Simmons, Barbara Chieu, Simon Chow, Alice Ginn, Donna Jue, SK & Caroline Leong, Katherine Ling, Stella Ling, Lee-May Little, Chris & Ingrid Loh, Kelvin Loh, John Lu, George & Bonnie Ng, Brian & Xiao Meng Nomi, Jackie & David Sittinger, Irene Sy, John and Joan Tang, George & Mary Kay Yu.

Next time while enjoying the good food with your family and friends at Chester's, please also share the peace and comfort in supporting community services of our cultural association--"WE BUILD CULTURAL BRIDGES".

Upcoming Events!

Christmas Party *By Brian Nomi*



WHAT: VCCAA Christmas Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 13th, 2014, 6:00 pm
WHERE: Rancho Rosal School
 3535 Village at the Park Drive
 Camarillo, CA 93012
CONTACT: Brian Nomi, [805.444.5960](tel:805.444.5960)



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The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many people rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In the 17th century the Puritans did not celebrate Christmas. December 25th was a workday. Then in the late 1700s, Christmas was a happy holiday. Colonists decorated their fireplaces with greenery, sung carols, and feasted. No one, however, had a Christmas tree.

In 1823 Clement Moore wrote the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus began to play a big part in the celebration of Christmas. Then in the 1840s, German immigrants introduced the Christmas tree. This decoration became a major part of the Christmas tradition. During the 1890s, Victorians decorated their trees and homes with lots of lace, flowers, and glass ornaments. Sending Christmas cards became popular during this time.

Today, we combine old and new traditions to celebrate Christmas in a way that is meaningful to our family and friends. Join us for a gathering of family and friends. Enjoy the warm camaraderie and partaking of food and drink. Enjoy the evening's program and visit from Santa!

* * * * *

Please bring a dish to be shared sufficient for your family and ten plus extra people. Beverages and some Chinese dishes will be provided by the VCCAA. There will be some entertainment after dinner, and Santa Claus will be giving gifts to the children. See you all for a fun packed family event.



Welcome Committee 歡迎小委！ *by Lixin Durborow 邵立新*

Dear members,

We are very pleased to welcome and introduce the following new members who have joined our VCCAA family this year at the Easter Egg Hunt, Mid-Autumn festival, and Chinese New Year celebration.

We invite you to share the good times and celebrate the holidays with us! Please give any board member a call if you need help. Welcome again; we are looking forward to seeing you and your family at our association's activities.

Andrew Cheng 鄭言凱
 Andrew Chiew 周俊強
 Tom Coulter
 Su Ling Ding 丁蘇玲
 Stephen Hipskind
 Mary (MeiYa) Liao 廖美雅
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Louise Choi 蔡東寧
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 Hillary Martinez
 Kandice Marshall
 Steve Suen 孫會如
 Edward Tsai 蔡孟豪
 Jozi Scholl 小文
 Hui Zhao



Scholarships *by Louise Dilger*



I am happy to report that in addition to Mr. Tony Chen and Dr. F. K. Ling, we have the George Yu and Andy Little families who generously donated funds toward our scholarship program. This year we will be awarding three (3) \$750 and two (2) \$500 academic scholarships. In addition, there is a \$500 Youth Services award. Scholarships are based on: academic excellence; formally learning Chinese or contributing toward

enhancing Chinese culture in the community; and having an overall well-rounded student curriculum.

Academic scholarships are open to any public or private high school senior living in West Ventura County. Check with your High School Career/Scholarship Counselor for an application at the start of the Spring Semester.

Once again, I appeal to our club members to make donations, small or large, toward our program to support the future generation.



Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy*

A new academic year was ushered in on September 5, 2014 for our Chinese Language School. It was an encouraging and exciting year to welcome many new students in kindergarten and level 1. Our enrollment has almost doubled compared to last year. All these energetic young learners are anxious and enthusiastic to learn a new language. They are welcomed by our teachers, Ms. Li Luo (罗莉老师), Ms. Jessie Chen (陈杰老师), Ms. Zhang Ping Du (杜张平老师), Mrs. Xiaoli King (张小丽老师), returning teacher Ms. Yang Yang (杨阳老师), and our new teacher, Ms. Hongyu Liu. Mrs. Jenny Fung has agreed to be our associate principal again this year. I am sure we will have a great year with all these new energetic young learners and their supporting parents.

We will be planning some fundraising and recreational activities again this year. Our first fundraiser will be the silent auction in the VCCAA Christmas Party on December 13. We are requesting donations in terms of new items or preferably gift cards to help with our silent auction at the VCCAA Christmas party held at Rancho Rosal School, 3535 Village at the Park Drive, Camarillo. Kindly contact me at vcchineseschool@aol.com or Irenecsy@aol.com; or Mrs. Jenny Fung at rabbit8@msn.com to arrange for a pickup of your donation or simply call 482-4765 and leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can. We thank you for your generosity and support. A receipt for your donation will be provided for tax deduction where applicable. The Chinese school will be having its very own Christmas gift exchange party on December 12.

Our students, together with students from the Rio Mesa and Camarillo High School Chinese classes, participated in the 5th Annual Multicultural BookFest organized by the Camarillo Library in collaboration with PVSD, and the Recreational Park District at the Community Center last Saturday, November 1st. Our students read many Chinese culture stories to children who visited the event. Students had also helped out in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration on September 6. We are grateful to have these opportunities for our students to share their knowledge and what they have learned with the community.

Thank you for your continual support and we look forward to your generous donation for our Silent Auction on December 13! 谢谢!

Pictures from the Camarillo BookFest on November 1, 2014



More Pictures from the Mid-Autumn Festival 2014 and Multi-Cultural Festival 2014 - Thank you all for participating!





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The Ventura County
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Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Sunday	9:30am - 11:00am (Intermediate)
Monday	4:30pm - 6:00pm (Advanced)
Wednesday	4:30pm - 6:00pm (Beginner)

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

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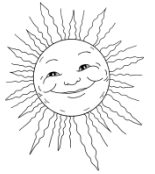
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Christmas Party	Saturday, Dec 13, 2014 at 6:00 pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Brian Nomi: 805-444-5960
Chinese Language School	Friday, January 30, 2015, at 7:00 pm	1605 E. Burnley Street, Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy: (805) 482-4765



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