

華聯會

Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



November 2012

Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor

Alvin Little

VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011

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Greetings from the President

The summer has passed quickly. With the arrival of autumn, the VCCAA is teeming with activities. Our artists, Chinese School, Chinese dancers and the kung fu and lion dance troupe were invited to participate in the Chinese Cultural Heritage Festival hosted by the Museum of Ventura County on September 8th. The celebration began in earnest with drum and cymbals accompanying the lion dancers under the tutelage of sifu Kee Choo Ling. They gave a rousing start to a festive day. This was followed by performances from the award-winning members of our dance troupe under the guidance of Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu. The graceful movements and beautiful costumes of the dancers were captivating. The Chinese school students hosted tables featuring Chinese arts and crafts. Visitors to the event were delighted by illustrations on Chinese calligraphy and painting by Dr. Hillary Ling and Mr. Richard Lu. Some were lucky to have as keepsakes a Chinese transliteration of their names on red paper. Artists BiJian Fan and Christine Leong showed off their talents and the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association volunteers demonstrated paper-making. This was one of the most successful events hosted by the Museum in recent memory with over five hundred attendees.



The Museum of Ventura County's Fall exhibit is titled "Hidden Voices – the Chinese of Ventura County" which runs from September 1st through November 25th. Our historical society worked closely with the Museum on this project. In fact, our historian, Ms. Linda Bentz is the co-curator of the exhibit. Several members of the VCCAA shared their heirlooms and family portraits with the Museum. Ms. Bentz and co-author William Gow recently completed a landmark book on the history of Chinese in Ventura County. On October 27th, the Museum hosted a talk and book signing by Mr. Gow on "Hidden Lives – a Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County". It was another well attended function.

Our Mid-Autumn Festival, chaired by Ms. Annie Wang, was on October 6th. Dr. Hillary Ling dazzled us with a slide show on the history of the Moon Festival and tickled our taste buds with moon cakes from Chinatown. We were also entertained by students from the Chinese school.

For our younger generation, the highlight of the fall season is undoubtedly Halloween. Our Halloween Party was hosted by Kim Wang, Serena Chow and Jenny Fung on October 27th. Costumed children of all ages were eager participants in games and refreshments at the auditorium of the Pleasant Valley School.

We are thankful to the chairpersons for our above events. Their effort and dedication have made all that we do possible.

This edition of our newsletter sees the inauguration of Mr. Alvin Little as our new editor. You may know Alvin as the son of Dr. Andy and Mrs. Lee-May Little, current members of the VCCAA board of directors. We are excited to see the next generation taking the reins in our organization. New ideas and youthful energy are the driving forces behind this country. We hope to see more Generation Y participation in VCCAA and its affiliates in the future.

George Yu, MD
President, 2012-2013

Newsletter Inputs Are Welcome!

The VCCAA *Newsletter* welcomes the submission of articles, constructive comments, suggestions, or personal experiences that you want to share with the other members. Please write to *VCCAA Newsletter*, P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806. If you have pictures of VCCAA events you've attended and would like them included in the next newsletter, please email them to VCCAAnewsletter@gmail.com!

I would like to thank the board as well as the VCCAA membership for giving me this opportunity to help the organization. I look forward to sharing the upcoming activities with all of you and supporting the spread of Chinese American culture in Ventura County!

Alvin Little
Editor

Mid-Autumn Festival

by Annie Wang

Approximately 200 people joined our VCCAA family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on Oct 6 at Pleasant Valley School. It was a joyous time and everyone had a great time. Ariane Karakalos from the Museum of Ventura County introduced the exhibition of the Hidden Voices, now currently showing until Nov. 25.



The program that night was amazing. The dancers from Yu-Ling's class did a great job again this year to put on a great show. The audience was overwhelmed by their extraordinary dances and their elegant dresses.



Dr. Hillary Ling put on a great presentation this year about the origins of the Moon Festival. His three stories explained why we celebrate this merry holiday today. Then, the Chinese Language School Credit Class performed an entertaining skit about "Hou Yi She Ri" and the beginnings of the moon legends.

Finally, the Oxnard Buddhist Temple's Togen Daiko Drummers played a fantastic drum performance. Again, we thank them for volunteering at our joyous event this year. Moon cake was passed around the tables. Volunteers and visitors alike shared the classic red bean paste/ egg yolk moon cakes. The event was very successful thanks to all of the volunteers and staff that served. And thanks again to everyone that participated and made this experience the rich flavor it was that night.



Halloween Party

by Jenny Fung



Fun games, great costumes, and sweet candy galore! On Saturday, October 27, the VCCAA held the annual Halloween Party at the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center. There were about 40+ people who attended this event. With music in the background, many kids enjoyed the wide variety of games and prizes. A costume contest was held at the end of the party to choose the cutest and most original costumes of each age group. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to the youth group and adults for making this event so successful. We wish to see everyone back next year!



Chinese Language School

by Irene Sy, Principal

The Chinese Language School started on September 7, 2012. Due to the short notice of our relocation, the number of students enrolled this year has reduced tremendously. We have consolidated our classes to five this year yet we are very positive that enrollment will pick up in the near future. This year, we welcome our new teacher, Ms. Hui Ching Li 李慧津老师, our kindergarten teacher, and our returning teachers: Ms. Jenny Tu, 屠泽老师, Ms. Na Lin 林娜老师, Ms. Jessie Chen 陈杰老师 and Ms Li Luo 罗莉. We are very thankful that Mrs. Jenny Fung, Mrs. Vicky Chow and Mrs. Xiaoli King have agreed to be our associate principals to help design a better curriculum to raise the language proficiencies of our students in their Chinese language and culture learning, plan with financial fund raising and recreational activities to sustain an overall development in their Chinese language learning. Thank you all.



To date, our students have performed in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and helped in the Camarillo 3rd Annual BookFest. Our students shared their knowledge in culture and language and read to children attending the BookFest in both Chinese and English on November 4, at the Camarillo Community Center. Students from the Chinese classes of Rio Mesa and Adolfo Camarillo High School had joined us for this reading activity too. We are grateful to have this opportunity for our students to demonstrate what they have learned with the community and exchange their knowledge with students from both high schools. They had a wonderful time working together.

The Chinese school is planning some fund raising activities to help with our short budget due to low enrollment. The first one will be a dinner fund raising followed by a silent auction in the VCCAA Christmas Party. We will send out email notices once the dinner fund raising program has been finalized. Please support us by coming to dinners at the designated restaurants to help us overcome our budget deficit. We are also requesting donations to help with our silent auction on



December 15 – at the VCCAA Christmas Party. We suggest donations in the form of gift cards or any new or unopened items. Kindly contact me at vcchineseschool@aol.com or Mrs. Jenny Fung at rabbit8@msn.com. We thank you for your generosity and we will provide you with a receipt for your tax deduction where applicable.



Thank you ! 谢谢 !

Upcoming Events!

VCCAA Christmas Party

by Brian Nomi

WHAT: VCCAA Christmas Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 15 2012, 6:00 pm
WHERE: Camarillo, Pleasant Valley Instructional Center
 2222 Ventura Blvd at Elm Dr.
CONTACT: Brian Nomi, [805.444.5960](tel:805.444.5960)



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 peoples 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.

Chinese New Year Celebration

WHAT: Chinese New Year Celebration
WHEN: February 2, 2012 at 1pm
WHERE: Camarillo Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010
CONTACT: Irene Sy, [805.482.4765](tel:805.482.4765)

Please visit our website for more information as it gets closer to the date!
www.vccaa.org



Ventura County Chinese Historical Society

by George Yu, VCCAA President



After over a decade of research, interviews and more than one year of writing and revisions, Linda Bentz, our historian and co-author William Gow have completed a groundbreaking book on the history of Chinese in Ventura County dating back to the late nineteenth century. Their

effort resulted in the publication of "Hidden Lives – a century of Chinese American History in Ventura County" in October of 2012. This handsome tome illustrates the struggles and triumphs of the early Chinese pioneers through oral family histories, national archival immigration records, census manuscripts and newspaper articles that shed lights on individuals and their families. The exquisite photos found in the book came from family collections, government and museum archives. The artist Pang Qi has also adapted several iconic photos of the early Chinese communities for this book. By following the lives of several individuals in the Chinese communities in Ventura County during the past century, the authors were able to illustrate the hardship, racial discrimination, social isolation, ultimate triumph and assimilation of the Chinese in the social fabric of Ventura County. This is a book that shed lights on the anonymous Chinese sojourners who made it possible for all those who came after them to have an easier transition to this host community. For all the members of our historical society, we are grateful and proud of the scholarship and tireless work of Ms. Bentz and Mr. Gow.

"Hidden Lives" is available for a \$20 donation to the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. You can order "Hidden Lives" through our treasurer, Mr. S.K. Leong, at skl@polyfet.com or at the Museum of Ventura County store on 100 E Main Street, Ventura.

Our Historical Society has planned to donate "Hidden Voices" and the DVD documentary "Courage and Contribution – the Chinese in Ventura County" with an accompanying teacher's guide to high schools, colleges and libraries in Ventura County. We ask for your support and donation. For a \$30 donation, we shall offer the aforementioned package to a school, college or library of your choice with an acknowledgement of your generosity. We have enclosed an order form with this newsletter.



Membership

You and your family have been a member in good standing and the association wishes to continue with this positive relationship. With an active status you will continue to receive the quarterly newsletter and be included in the annual directory.

If you are unsure about your current membership status, please feel free to give our membership coordinator Lee-May Little a call at [\(805\)484-5222](tel:(805)484-5222) or email at leemay93012@yahoo.com

If you need to renew your membership, please kindly submit a check payable to the VCCAA in the amount of \$25 to:

VCCAA
Attn: Membership Renewal
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Thank you all for your support over the years.

More Pictures from Mid-Autumn Festival, October 2012 - Thank you all for participating!





More Pictures from Halloween Party, October 2012 - 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

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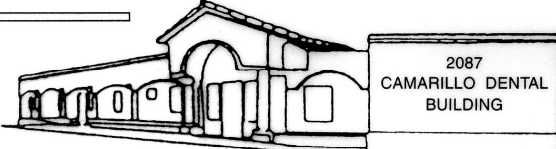
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The Nobel Prize Winner in Literature 2012 - Mo Yan

Mo Yan (a pseudonym for Guan Moye) was born in 1955 and grew up in Gaomi in Shandong province in north-eastern China. His parents were farmers. As a twelve-year-old during the Cultural Revolution he left school to work, first in agriculture, later in a factory. In 1976 he joined the People's Liberation Army and during this time began to study literature and write. His first short story was published in a literary journal in 1981. His breakthrough came a few years later with the novella *Touming de hong luobo* (1986, published in French as *Le radis de cristal* 1993).



In his writing Mo Yan draws on his youthful experiences and on settings in the province of his birth. This is apparent in his novel *Hong gaoliang jiazou* (1987, in English *Red Sorghum* 1993). The book consists of five stories that unfold and interweave in Gaomi in several turbulent decades in the 20th century, with depictions of bandit culture, the Japanese occupation and the harsh conditions endured by poor farm workers. *Red Sorghum* was successfully filmed in 1987, directed by Zhang Yimou. The novel *Tiantang suantai zhi ge* (1988, in English *The Garlic Ballads* 1995) and his satirical *Jiuguo* (1992, in English *The Republic of Wine* 2000) have been judged subversive because of their sharp criticism of contemporary Chinese society.

Fengru feitun (1996, in English *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* 2004) is a broad historical fresco portraying 20th-century China through the microcosm of a single family. The novel *Shengsi pilao* (2006, in English *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out* 2008) uses black humour to describe everyday life and the violent transmogrifications in the young People's Republic, while *Tanxiangxing* (2004, to be published in English as *Sandalwood Death* 2013) is a story of human cruelty in the crumbling Empire. Mo Yan's latest novel *Wa* (2009, in French *Grenouilles* 2011) illuminates the consequences of China's imposition of a single-child policy.

Through a mixture of fantasy and reality, historical and social perspectives, Mo Yan has created a world reminiscent in its complexity of those in the writings of William Faulkner and Gabriel García Márquez, at the same time finding a departure point in old Chinese literature and in oral tradition. In addition to his novels, Mo Yan has published many short stories and essays on various topics, and despite his social criticism is seen in his homeland as one of the foremost contemporary authors.

Nobel Press Release, for more information visit http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2012/

A selection of major works in Chinese: *Touming de hong luobo*, 1986. *Hong gaoliang jiazou*, 1987. *Baozha*, 1988. *Tiantang suantai zhi ge*, 1988. *Huanle shisan zhang*, 1989. *Shisan bu*, 1989. *Jiuguo*, 1992. *Shicao jiazou*, 1993. *Dao shen piao*, 1995. *Fengru feitun*, 1996. *Hong shulin*, 1999. *Shifu yuelai yue youmo*, 2000. *Tanxiangxing*, 2001. *Cangbao tu*, 2003. *Sishiyi pao*, 2003. *Shengsi pilao*, 2006. *Wa*, 2009.

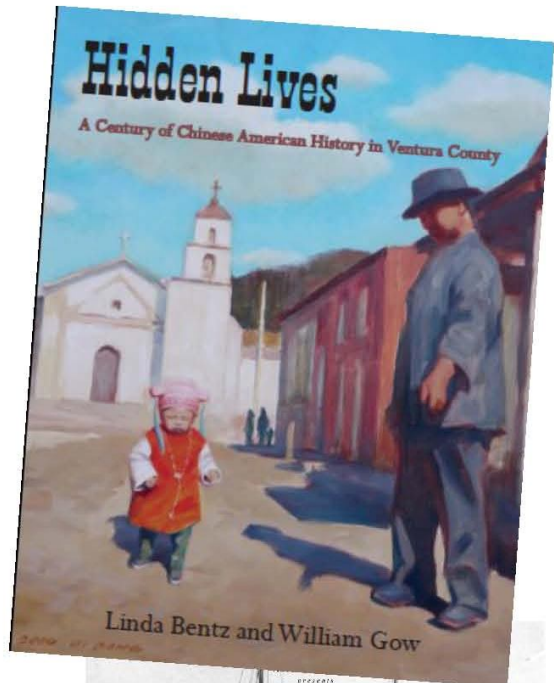
A selection of major works in English: *Explosions and Other Stories* / edited by Janice Wickeri. – Hong Kong : Research Centre for Translations, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1991. *Red Sorghum : a Novel of China* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Viking, 1993. – Translation of *Hong gaoliang jiazou*. *The Garlic Ballads : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Viking, 1995. – Translation of *Tiantang suantai zhi ge*. *The Republic of Wine* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2000. – Translation of *Jiuguo*. *Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2001. – Translation of *Shifu yuelai yue youmo*. *Big Breasts and Wide Hips : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2004. – Translation of *Fengru feitun*. *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2008. – Translation of *Shengsi pilao*. *Change* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – London : Seagull, 2010. – Translation of *Bian*. *Pow* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – London : Seagull, 2013. *Sandalwood Death* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – Norman : Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2013. – Translation of *Tanxiangxing*. *Selected Stories by Mo Yan* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – Hong Kong : The Chinese University Press, 20-?. – (Announced but not yet published).

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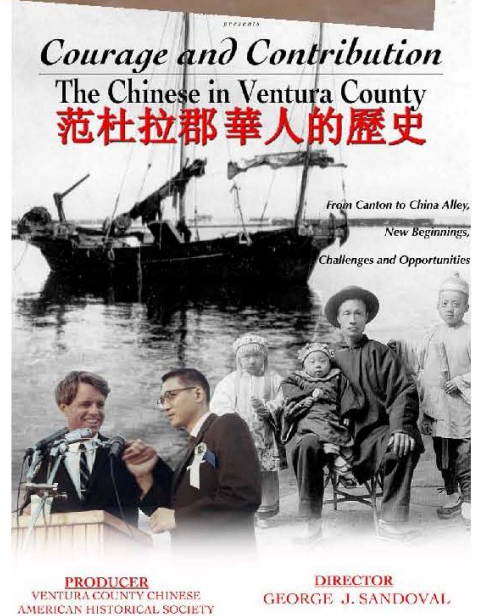
Hidden Lives follows the journey of Ventura County's Chinese American residents from the formation of San Buena-Ventura's China Alley, through the years of immigration exclusion, two World Wars, and the ultimate success of William Soo Hoo, the first Chinese American mayor elected in California.

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The DVD - Courage and Contribution

This film illustrates China Alley in Ventura and Oxnard as well as the successful career of Bill Soo Hoo, California's first Chinese mayor. This document illuminates the plight of an immigration community who persevered in the face of adversity,



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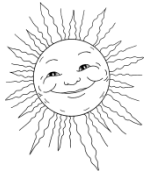
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Christmas Party	Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 6:00 pm	Camarillo, Pleasant Valley Instructional Center. 2222 Ventura Blvd at Elm Dr.	Brian Nomi, 805.444.5960
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 1:00 pm	Camarillo Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy, 805.482.4765



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