

華聯會

Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



November 2013

Newsletter

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

The end of daylight saving time heralds the arrival of our holiday season. As we prepare to celebrate the end of 2013, we are ushering a transition for the delivery of our newsletter. Starting in 2014, the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) newsletter will be sent only in a digital format to all members who have email addresses on record. For those who do not have email addresses, a copy of the newsletter will be sent by regular mail. We anticipate significant cost savings and faster delivery with the change. You will also enjoy colorful photos accompanying each edition of the e-newsletter. If you need to update your email address with our directory, please send a message to alvinlittle@gmail.com.

This November issue will mark the first anniversary of Alvin Little as our newsletter editor. By all accounts, Alvin has done a fantastic job in upholding the high standard set by his predecessor, Lloyd Ho. In addition to updates on news about the VCCAA and its affiliates, we also welcome submission of articles relevant to the interests of our members. A good example is an essay in this publication from Hendon Harris III who a descendent of a long line of missionaries in China (you may learn more about his family by googling 'no foreign bones in China Hendon Harris'). In his write-up, Mr. Harris provides a list of observations which may link Vedic Buddhism to pre-Columbian North America. I hope you will find this article interesting and thought provoking.

No volunteer organization can thrive without an active fundraising campaign. VCCAA is no exception. We are fortunate to have generous sponsors such as the Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant. Chester's is celebrating its 50th anniversary in November. You may purchase gift certificates through the VCCAA redeemable at Chester's. Mr. Keith Kwan, proprietor of Chester's, has graciously agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds from gift certificate purchases to the VCCAA. Please contact Dr. Hillary Ling to order your gift certificates. Your patronage will help support all the programs offered by VCCAA.

We hosted our Mid-Autumn Moon Festival and Halloween Party at the Rancho Rosal school auditorium in September and October respectively. They were rousing successes thanks to our organizers Annie Wang, Phillip Chong and Jenny Fung. Our end of the year event will be the Christmas Party on December 14th at 6 PM at the Rancho Rosal School venue hosted by Brian Nomi. We look forward to a return visit by our skinny Santa.

Our Chinese Language School has started class in early September at the Camarillo Community Center under the leadership of our capable principal, Ms. Irene Sy. Classes are on Friday evenings through early June, 2014. The levels of instruction begin in kindergarten and continue through level 4 (intermediate) as well as an adult conversation and high school credit class in Mandarin Chinese. Some classes are still open for enrollment. We welcome non-Chinese speaking parents to join their children in learning an exciting new language which has global applications. Our Chinese school has been a centerpiece of our organization ever since its formation in the 1970s.

On behalf of the VCCAA board, I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season.

George Yu, MD



Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*



Approximately two hundred people joined our VCCAA family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on September 21, 2013 at Rancho Rosal School. It was a joyous time and everyone had a great time.

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 Dance Troupe performed three dances: the Wooden Shoes Dance, the Fan Dance and the Little Fan Dance. The audience was overwhelmed by their extraordinary moves and their elegant dresses.

The students from Chinese School's Credit Class performed the poem *The Moon Festival Is Here*. It was about the origins of the Moon Festival and explained why we celebrate this merry holiday today. Also, the

students from Chinese School's Level 3 Class showed us a great the poem *Jing Ye Shi*.

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 all of the tables. Volunteers and visitors alike shared the classic red bean paste and egg yolk moon cakes. The event was very successful, all due to all of the volunteers and staff that served. Thanks again to everyone that participated and made this experience the rich flavor it was that night.



Halloween Party *by Phillip Cheng*

The VCCAA Halloween Party on October 26th was much fun for everyone who attended. There was great food, games, and of course, lots of candy! The chili and hotdogs were especially delectable. I hope everyone enjoyed them as much as I did. Overall, it was a great night for everyone young and old. The kids came with some great costumes as well. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event possible.





Chinese Language School Newsletter *By Irene Sy, Principal*

The Chinese Language School started on September 6, 2013. We have a total of six classes this year. This year, we welcome our new teacher, Ms. Xi Guo (郭熹) and our returning teachers: Hui Ching Li (李慧津老师), Ms. Jessie Chen (陈杰老师), Zhang Ping Du (杜张平老师), Xiaoli King (张小丽老师) and Ms Li Luo (罗莉老师). We are still in need of new teachers, so please keep me posted if you have any experienced teachers or anyone who is passionate about teaching the Chinese language and culture and would like to join our teaching team. We are very thankful that Mrs. Jenny Fung agreed to take up the role to be our associate principal again. We will be planning some financial fund raising and recreational activities again this year. Our first fund raiser will be the silent auction in the VCCAA Christmas Party on December 14. We are requesting donations in terms of new items or preferably gift cards to help with our silent auction. 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.



demonstrate what they have learned with the community and exchanged their knowledge with students from both high schools. They had a wonderful time working together.

We Thank you for your continual support ! 谢谢 !
[Pictures from the Camrillo BookFest on November 2, 2013](#)

To date, our students had performed in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and helped in the Camarillo 4th Annual BookFest. Students shared their knowledge in culture and language and read to children attending the BookFest in both Chinese and English on November 2, 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



Upcoming Events!

Christmas Party *By Brian Nomi*

WHAT: VCCAA Christmas Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 14th, 2013, 6:00 pm
WHERE: Rancho Rosal School
 3535 Village at the Park Drive
 Camarillo, CA 93012
CONTACT: Brian Nomi, 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 - in collaboration with the Camarillo Library! *By Irene Sy*



WHAT: Chinese New Year Celebration
WHEN: Saturday, February 8th, 2014, 1-4 pm
WHERE: Camarillo Public Library
 4101 E Las Posas Rd,
 Camarillo, CA 93010
CONTACT: Irene Sy, 805.482.4765



This year we will be co-sponsoring the Chinese New Year celebration with the Camarillo Library. Please bring your families and friends to celebrate with us and participate in a celebration of Chinese art, music, dance, and culture! Please bring outdoor seating for lawn presentation. More details will be available on the VCCAA website as we get closer to the event.



<http://www.vccaa.org>

Chester's Asia Gift Certificates! *By Hillary Ling*

Our generous long-time sponsor, Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant, once again allows VCCA to sell Gift Certificates for our annual fund raising. The \$25-Gift Certificate is as good as cash to give away as gifts to your friends or to use at the restaurant for your own dining.

Chester's Restaurant donates 30% of the sale to VCCAA and over the years they have been Very generous and most supportive of the VCCAA. Please support VCCAA generously, by purchasing the Chester's Gift Certificates. You are welcome to buy one ticket or 10 tickets or more. The tickets will be delivered to you. Please call Hillary Ling, [805-386-4188](tel:805-386-4188) or any Board member.



VCCAA needs and appreciates your support.

Buddhist Symbols, Customs and Monuments in Pre-Columbian North America

by Hendon Harris III, <http://www.chinesediscoveramerica.com/>

Although evidence of ancient Buddhism in the Americas may be "The Easiest Way" to prove Asian contact and cultural influences it by no means serves as the benchmark for the beginning of Asian influences here. Ancient Chinese classical literature has numerous references to a beautiful country called Fu Sang on the opposite side of the Eastern Sea. These references begin in the Sha Hai Jing (Book of the Mountains and Rivers) 2000 BCE and ends with the Liang Shu which details the Buddhist missionary trip of Hwui Shan and four other Buddhist monks from Gandhara (now Pakistan/Afghanistan) to Fu Sang. Recently reported finds of the carved names of at least two Shang Dynasty Emperors have been found in a New Mexico petroglyph park by a group led by Dr. John Ruskamp. His book "Asiatic Echoes" details this find. My sister, Charlotte Harris Rees, has written a book on what many believe was one of the ancient Shan Hai Jing expedition routes in North America. Her book is titled "Did Ancient Chinese Explore America." The reason I have chosen this particular topic of ancient Buddhism to demonstrate early Asian contact and influences here is because of the abundant amount of evidence to support it.

The story of Buddhism in ancient America begins with the Liang Shu accounting of Hwui Shan's report to the Chinese Emperor and courtiers in 503 CE. Although Hwui Shan left on his missionary trip in 458 and returned to China in 499 it took him several years to obtain an audience with the emperor for his report to be entered into the official Chinese record. (It must be noted that "Hwui Shan" was not his given name. His real name is unknown.) Hwui Shan is a name given to him by the Chinese court. Its literal meaning is "Very Intelligent" This is the name by which he will probably be known for all time.

A translation of this Chinese report was introduced to the western world by French historian Joseph de Guignes in 1761 and was widely accepted as detailing a trip from China to the Americas for the next 75 years. After that a group of German sinologists, engaged in a rivalry with their French counterparts, worked diligently to discredit de Guignes' theory.

POWERFUL EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT BUDDHISM HERE ARE THE BUDDHIST CUSTOMS, SYMBOLS AND MONUMENTS THAT EXIST TO THIS DAY.

Customs include: 1) The Seven Step Seven Vow Wedding, 2) Use of Parasols as Symbols of Authority

1) The most common wedding ceremony used by Native Americans throughout the United States is "The Seven Step Seven Vow Wedding" This ceremony has been celebrated here for hundreds of years as their own tradition around "the sacred fire". However, this identical ceremony also celebrated clockwise around the same "sacred fire" is still celebrated in India as the "Saptahpadi". This wedding originated in India thousands of years ago. The only places it is known to be practiced today are India and North America.

2) Native American chiefs use the Parasol (One of the Eight Auspicious Symbols of Buddhism) as a sign of their power and authority just as was used by kings and gurus in ancient India. For evidence of this I refer you to the August 8, 1883 meeting between President Chester Arthur and the Shoshoni and Arapaho tribal chiefs and elders at Fort Washakie, Wyoming. Pictures were taken of the event. The inferior photo can be accessed by googling: "Indian Reception of President Chester A Arthur". This picture from behind enables visitors to see the umbrellas without an explanation. A recent painting of the event can be accessed at "Indians with Umbrellas". The best view is in the book "The Great Chiefs" in the Time-Life Book series "The Old West". On page 144-145 is a picture of approximately 18 mounted Native Americans. Six of the men are holding umbrellas. A portion of the picture caption reads "The chiefs hold umbrellas to distinguish them from the ordinary warriors". The nation where this custom originated is Vedic India where the parasol was also used to demonstrate power and authority.

Symbols include: 1) Ancient Buddha Tree of Life Lotus Flower, 2) Mandalas, 3) Mantras (Medicine Songs and Prayers), 4) Manjis, 5) Buddhapada

1) Google: "Ancient Buddha Tree of Life Lotus Flower"

These two symbols which can only be seen from the sky are the Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhist Vajra on the left and an image of one of Vajrayana Buddhism's Wrathful Deities, Yamantaka, on the right. This geoglyph is near Egnar, Colorado.

2) It is well established and recognized that the Native American Medicine Wheels, Medicine Shields and Sand Paintings are in fact North American versions of the Vedic Mandala. Google: "Meaning of Mandalas/Native American Mandalas"

3) In North America Vedic Mantras are called Medicine Songs as in Medicine Wheel or Medicine Shield. A Mantra is a prayer or a song. Google: "Native American Wedding Vows and American Indian Prayers" Go to: Ancient Sanskrit Poem.

4) The Manji is most commonly known as a swastika. This symbol is a sacred Vedic India symbol used by all religions that originated in ancient India. It is acknowledged to be used by the Navajo and Hopi tribes. In Sanskrit the ancient language of India Manji is interpreted "whirlwind" So although mainstream scholars declare that there is absolutely no connection between these identical forms in India and the Four Corners you have to ask yourself why the Navajo call this shape "whirling logs" and the Hopi refer to it by the same name as it is in Sanskrit-"whirlwind".

5) Buddhapada (Buddha's Footprints)

Some scholars of ancient Buddhism have made "Buddhapada" their major area of study. They have reported that wherever ancient Buddhism was taught images of Buddha's footprints were left behind carved into rocks or statues to commemorate that fact.

Google:"Buddhist Symbols Newspaper Rock"

Vedic/Buddhist Monuments

1) An interesting so called "hoodoo" is found in Walpi Village in the middle of their ceremonial square. Most of the Hopi sacred rituals are conducted around this curiously shaped rock called "Snake Dancer's Rock". A similarly shaped rock is found in Thailand which has been positively linked to an ancient Buddhist culture "Isan Home to Ancient Dvaravati Ruins". For two more beautiful examples of this same symbol Google: "Bent Hoodoo by Ned" and "The Cobra Fisher Towers".

2) A "Persian Manticore" shaped rock formation in North America well known in 5th century India can be seen by Googling: "The King Arches National Park"

3) Phallic Symbols- These are common in Vedic societies. Google "Phallic Symbols North America" and "Buck and Mabel's King Kong Dong"

4) "Mushroom Rocks National Park Kansas"

These oddly shaped "hoodoos" in Kansas look incredibly like mushrooms thus their name. The name of the Chattra (Parasol) in Sanskrit is literally interpreted "mushroom" because that is what the parasol shape looks like.

INCREDIBLE ARCHES, LAND BRIDGES AND ROCK WINDOWS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE FOUR CORNERS

1) "Delicate Arch Utah" -Arches National Park. This stand alone rock formation is on the edge of a cliff. Delicate Arch is commonly thought to be the work of natural erosion. It's the symbol of Utah on the license plates of Utah residents.

2) "Anasazi Arch-Cox Canyon" New Mexico Anasazi Arch is very similar to Delicate Arch. Its also a free standing formation with apparent cuts near the bottom of each arch leg just like Delicate Arch. In Vedic India the arch is often used in Hindu temple architecture as a religious symbol. Google: "Arches on Hindu temples images" and "Pa Kung Temple Roi Et Thailand Images" for examples as well as "Arch in Delhi commemorates India- Mexico friendship" for an example of a currently acknowledged pre Columbian connection between India and Mexico.

3) "Rainbow Bridge, Arizona" on the banks of Lake Powell is a Navajo sacred site. It's so sacred to them that they sued the U.S. government unsuccessfully to prevent tourists from going to the bridge and walking under the arch. Rainbow Bridge is one of the amazing "Tour of the Big 14" natural arches and bridges of the world. A point to be made about this top 14 is that all but #5 which is in the Sahara Desert (Chad) are in either China or the Four Corners Region of North America. The only other exception (#12) was recently located in Afghanistan (Gandhara) which was also a Buddhist culture and the starting point of Buddhist missionary Hwui Shan's trip to Fu Sang in 458 CE.

4) "Window Rock, Arizona" After learning about the veneration of these unusual rock formations by the tribes of the Four Corners does it surprise you that the Navajo tribe with the largest reservation in the United States has located their Capitol and Administrative Center at Window Rock with its inspiring "Hole in the Wall" window? Google: "Window Rock Navajo"

5) Petrified Wood: Buddhists and Native Americans revere petrified wood. Scores of huge petrified wood logs on raised sandstone platforms are found in the New Mexico wilderness, the Bisti Badlands. Google: "Bisti Badlands Petrified Wood Log Images" for pictures of this phenomenon. These raised platform images are much less frequent in the Petrified Forest National Park in northeastern Arizona but are there as well. Google:"Petrified Forest Map Lover" for an image there.

When a casual observer sees just one or two of these Vedic examples listed above it may appear random and unconnected. However, when you learn of these numerous customs, symbols and monuments of Vedic India showing up in the Four Corners area, ancient home of the Anasazi (Puebloan) people and now home to the Navajo and Hopi tribes, one recognizes patterns developing. These patterns taken together make it a statistical improbability that any other conclusion can be reached than that Vedic Asian Buddhists were in fact in ancient Pre-Columbian America and left numerous symbols, customs and monuments that remain here to this day as a cherished part of Native American culture and religion.

Dr. Stephen Lekson's online essay "Diffusions and Histories/The Southwest in the World" explains why the path to scholarly acceptance of any theory based on diffusion (cultural and religious transfers) has moved at a snail's pace if at all.

Let's hope for a brighter tomorrow when scholars can look "outside the box" for their many questions about the history and religious past of the Native Americans of the Four Corners.

Internet Sources: "Were the Anasazi People Buddhists?", "Mandalas, Mantras, Manji's and Monuments", "Dimensions of Dine (Navajo) and Buddhist Traditions", "Hendon's Geoglyphs"



Thank you all who came out and enjoyed the Mid-Autumn Festival and Halloween Party!

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Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

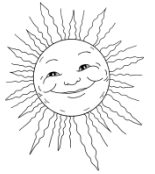
Monday **5:00pm - 7:00pm**
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Classes held at
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Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu at (805) 983-6082 or 990-3866

Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
VCCAA Christmas Party	Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 6:00pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive, Camarillo, CA 93012	Brian Nomi: 805.444.5960
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 8, 2013 at 1:00pm	Camarillo Public Library 4101 E Las Posas Rd, Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy: 805.482.4765



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