



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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www.vccaahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

We are already edging up to 2018 and a couple of months away from the Year of the Dog. VCCAA Board members are already working on the Christmas Party on December 9th, 2017, as well as our traditional Chinese New Year celebration now planned for February 24th, 2018! Please mark your calendars!

Many of us were recently together at the fabulous Mid-Autumn Festival organized by Annie Wang and Shuqin Zhao. I can't remember a better turn-out, perhaps almost three hundred people. The food was amazing. As always, Yuling Lu's young dancers were showstoppers, and Shuqin Zhao's the choral and instrumental performers gave bravura performances. Hillary Ling was eloquent on the subject of Mid-Autumn Festival Legends, and we all enjoyed wonderful moon cakes.

While I am mentioning Hillary, I am reminded that Keith said this year's Chester's dining certificates will be ready next week. This has been a great support from Chester's for VCCAA over the years! I am guessing that Hillary will once again be our contact point for purchasing them.

We will soon be issuing the latest edition of our VCCAA Directory – the 2017-2018 version! Lloyd Ho graciously offered to take on the time-consuming burden of this project. Thanks to his hard work, with an assist from Hillary, we have already sent a first draft to the printer. We all know how nice it is for us to be able to keep in touch with one another in this way, and we look forward to it being ready to distribute soon! Maybe at our Christmas celebration if all goes as planned.

All of us on the Board want to do what we can to support our Chinese school, and see if we can reach out to a broader community of interested students including adult students, and create a broader sense of community around the school. Language study has always been central to our VCCAA mission and is one of the most effective ways we can "build cultural bridges." This year, Yongping and I are planning to host Chinese School, students, teachers, parents, and anyone interested in possibly attending Chinese School course in the future to a Christmas Party at our house on the evening of December 15th. With our own children (mostly) grown up and away from home, we just don't have enough noise and excitement going on so we thought a school gathering would be fun!

I also wanted to mention that our CCA friends are holding a Chinese Cultural Day on Saturday, November 4th, 2017, 11am – 4 pm the front lawn of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. The price is right because admission is free.

I hope we will all be seeing each other soon at the Christmas Party!

Best regards,

Angus

Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*

Approximately two hundred and fifty people joined our VCCAA family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on September 30th, 2017 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 Dance Troupe did a great job again this year and put on a great show. They performed two dances: The Moon Represents My Heart and Taiwan Aboriginal Dance. The audience was overwhelmed by their extraordinary moves and their elegant dresses.

VCCAA long-time board member Dr. Hillary Ling shared with the audience a very interesting story about the Moon festival.



"The Voice of Thousand Oaks" sang and played many fantastic songs. From Duet, Solo and Hulusi Solo, made our Moon Festival show move to much high level.

Finally, Pacific Pearl Music Association brought us some amazing performances, from chorus to orchestra, the audience was highly appreciative and very much enjoyed it.

Again, we thank them for volunteering at our joyous event this year. Moon cake was passed around to 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 the efforts of volunteers and staff that served. Thanks again to everyone that participated and made this experience the rich flavor it was that night!



Scholarships: Attention High School Seniors! *by Louise Dilger, Chair*

VCCAA is offering seven (7) Scholarships for college-bound students.

There are three special scholarships which you have to specify for in your application, otherwise go for the General Academic Scholarships. Descriptions for each are on page 2 of the application.

The application and requirements may be obtained from the official website, www.vccaa.org. A copy will also be sent to the career counselor at your school.

Applications must be received no later than March 31, 2018.

It takes time to send for and receive our SAT, ACT, and AP scores, so don't wait until the last minute!

All directions are on the application. Good luck to all applicants!



Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy, Principal*

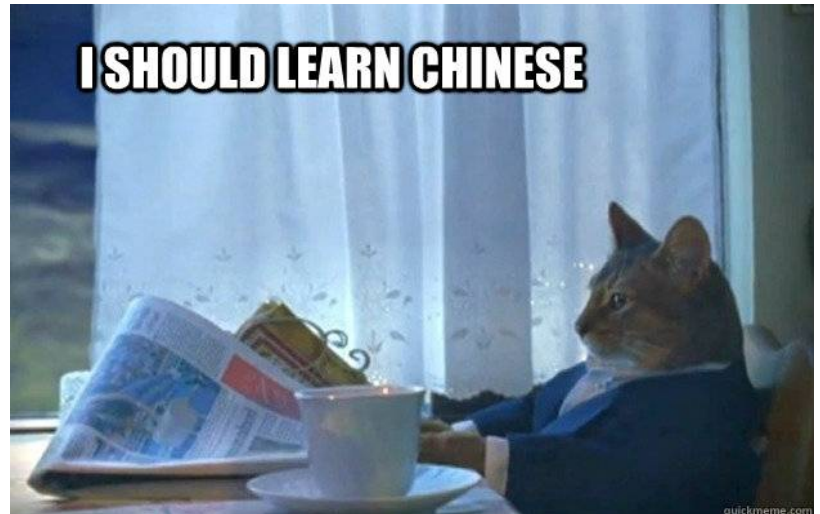
A new academic year was ushered in on September 1st, 2017 for our Chinese Language School. It was exhilarating to see some new faces and our returning students for another exciting year. We are excited to have energetic and enthusiastic youth joining our school. Students were welcomed by our teachers, Ms. Ellie YH Tu (杜蕴慧老师), Ms. Hongyan Zhou (周红艳老师), Mr. Song Zhang(张松志老师), and Ms. Jessie Chen (陈杰老师). I would like to thank Mrs. Jenny Fung, our associate principal for helping with registration and administration.



We welcome our new students from Thousand Oaks, Elie Paek from Ojai, and a few more new students from Camarillo and Ventura. We are planning for a field trip either in December or January to offer students an opportunity to learn from our community, enhance their knowledge, and have a better immersed experience in Chinese culture. Detailed information will be shared with students and parents sometime next month. We also welcome any suggestions and help for all school activities and ideas to better serve our students. We will have our annual Christmas gifts exchange party to celebrate Christmas on December 15th.

Everyone is also invited to our VCCAA Christmas Party on December 9th held at Rancho Rosal School, 3535 Village at the Park Drive, Camarillo.

Thank you again for your continual support and we look forward to another successful and exciting year! 谢谢!



Upcoming Events!

Christmas Party by Lee-May Little, Annie Wang, Shuqin Zhao

WHAT: VCCAA Christmas Party

WHEN: Saturday, December 9th, 2017, 6:00pm

WHERE: Rancho Rosal School

**3535 Village at the Park Drive
Camarillo, CA 93012**

CONTACT: Lee-May Little (805) 484-5222

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 VCCAA family and their friends. Enjoy the warm camaraderie and partake in some good food and drink. Enjoy the evening's program and special visit from SANTA! 謹祝賀大家，聖誕佳節愉快！

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 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.

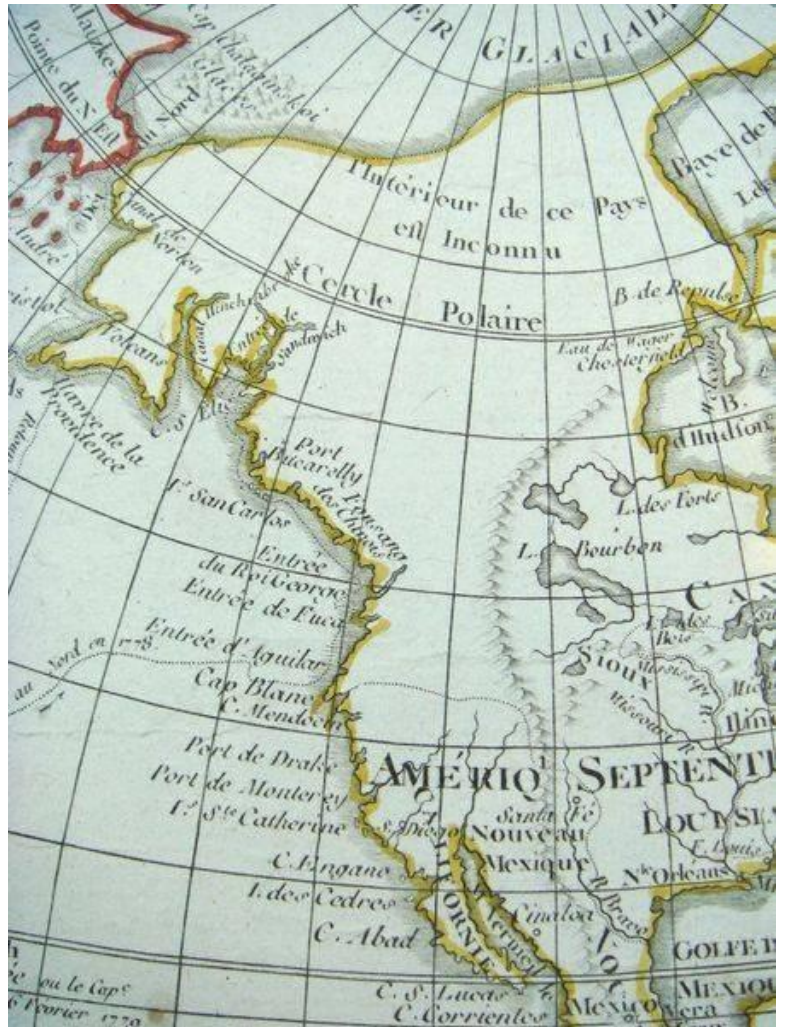


When the Chinese Didn't Discover America – Fusang by Archy Fantasies

When examining the claim of the Chinese in pre-contact America, you quickly realize that all of the evidence to support this claim is interconnected in a way that, if you can prove one piece wrong, it pretty much proves all the evidence wrong. Still, we need someplace to start, and a mythical island somewhere in the ocean is as good a place as any. No, not Atlantis, though it might as well be, but a new land named Fusang.

Fusang has an origin story, as most myths do, and just by looking at this story I see several red flags. Keeping in mind, the legend of Fusang is part of Chinese culture, I cannot express strongly enough that we are not going to debunk Chinese culture here, it's not even close to our intention. However, we are going to critically examine the myth and the modern claims surrounding it, and it's those modern claims that we are going to challenge.

So, the story of Fusang begins with a mystical monk named Hui Shen (Feder 2011:126). No, I cannot find a mention of Hui Shen outside of a book from the 7th century called the Book of Liang by Yao Silian. In this book Yao recounts Hui's explorations around the globe to known and unknown lands, where upon he finally returned to China and told of his discoveries to the royal court (Feder 2011:126).



And this is where the red flags start.

- Red Flag #1: The Book of Liang was compiled in 635 and was mostly made up of Yao's father's accounts (Wiki). So at best this is a third hand account, and worst, who knows. It does sound a bit like the origin story of Atlantis though doesn't it? The only account we have of Atlantis is in two of Plato's stories, and then the story is described as being handed down orally through several people until it's finally written down. Not to mention it was also all part of a thought experiment where the students were asked to make it up...but I digress.
- Red Flag #2: In the book Hui describes encountering a living people who we can classify as being well into the bronze age at the time of the story from the description given of them (Wiki). If Hui had made it to the Americas, as is claimed by some in the Cult Archaeology world, then he wouldn't have encountered people who worked metal with the skill he mentions.
- Red Flag #3: Traditional Chinese maps place the location of Fusang on the Chinese coast, as per Hui's description of the location (Feder 2011:126). It doesn't seem to have migrated off the

coast of China until European mapmakers came along. Once that happened, Fusang began popping up everywhere.

- Red Flag #4: Hui was said to have carried holy relics and texts with him and five other monks accompanied him as well (Wiki). They were kind of like missionaries in this aspect. That being said, why is there no evidence of them ever having set foot and encountering local Native American peoples?
 - Red Flag #5: Hui describes other cultural practices of the people he encountered in Fusang (Wiki), namely the domestication and milking of deer (a tradition known of the Mongolians and their reindeer) and the domestication of horses (which didn't exist in North America until they were reintroduced after European contact, but did flourish in and around China).
-

So, if we take the account of Hui Shen at his word, then there is no real reason to link Fusang with the Americas or any other location not in China, except for possibly, Mongolia. That's never stopped anyone has it?

The story of Fusang doesn't stop there, like wine it gets richer with age, and new and mysterious details pop up every year, regardless if they are part of the original story or not. These new details get forced into new shapes in order to support the idea that the Chinese made it to America first. Once you really look at them, however, they don't hold up well. They do pop-up in a lot of places, being repeated over and over as if repetition alone could make them real. Let's just examine a few. These are things I'm seeing a lot on random websites testifying to the reality of the Chinese discovery of America.

Hypothetically there are ocean currents that move around the continents of Eurasia, and if you were so lucky as to hitch a ride on them you could, hypothetically, drift all the way around the world and back again. Now, I know currents exist, and I know that sea faring peoples were aware of them as far back as sailing was invented. That doesn't mean that this scenario ever actually happened, or is actually possible given the technology of the day. I'm not even sure you could do it today, since most of these currents run deep in the ocean and aren't usually accessible to the ships that float atop. But if you can prove me wrong here with actual evidence, feel free to. Do keep in mind however, just because you can do it, doesn't mean it did happen.

I see lots of vague and uncited accounts of "ancient Chinese artifacts" found all over North America and "known interaction" between the First Peoples and the Chinese. None of these are reputable, and the few I can manage to find are either known fakes or actual artifacts being reinterpreted in a way to try and make them support the narrative. We'll touch on a few of these as we go further in the series, but for now please be aware there are no authentic ancient Chinese artifacts found in America.

I also see several attempts to identify the plant Hui calls Fusang, from which he named the area because of their abundance. There is no reliable way to do this, therefore, anyone telling you that they have identified the plant is wrong. They may have a convincing story or even a convincing set of "like" traits, but this proves nothing, and definitely does not identify any particular location as the location of Fusang. So with that said, let's wrap up a bit.

The original story of Fusang is ancient and is mostly a written account of an oral tradition. This alone should make it suspect. Once we look over the accounts as it's written we see that Hui is describing a living group of, at least, bronze age people who have very similar traits to the Mongolian peoples. I'm not saying they are the same, I'm just saying that these cultural characteristics were not as foreign to Hui as we are lead to believe. The Chinese themselves located Fusang off their own coast and this location didn't change until White Europeans got a hold of the story sometime around the late 1700's early 1800's. Combine all that with a severe lack of evidence of any actual archaeological remains, and Fusang becomes an important Chinese myth, that has nothing to do

with America.

We'll certainly be coming back to Fusang often as we move forward with our investigation of claims that the Chinese discovered America first. It's a reoccurring theme that almost ties everything together.

Chester's Asia Gift Certificates Available *by Andy Little*

The VCCAA is selling Chester's Asia gift certificates again this year as a fundraiser. They are available in \$25 denominations. If you would like to purchase some please contact Dr. Hillary Ling at (805) 386-4188 or by email at hhlingdds@gmail.com.



More Pictures from the Mid-Autumn Festival



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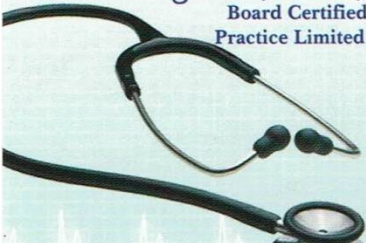
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The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

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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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Christmas Party	Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Lee-May Little: (805) 484-5222



Year of the Rooster
4715