



November 2004

Newsletter

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

“The Law of Countability – Teammates Must Be Able to Count on Each Other When It Counts” – Dr. John C. Maxwell

According to Dr. John C. Maxwell, America’s expert on leadership, a picture of a winning team has the following five elements:

1. Have great leaders;
2. Pick good people;
3. Play to win;
4. Make other team members more successful; and
5. Keep improving.



He also identified five things that winning team members need to know:

1. What is expected from each one;
2. That each one will have an opportunity to perform;
3. How each one is getting along;
4. That guidance will be given where each one needs it; and
5. That each one will be rewarded according to his contribution.

As your President, I am responsible for leading our team, the VCCAA. The foundation of the VCCAA is its membership. I need to count on each and every member when its counts. I am extending kudos to several members who had taken charge of our recent events and activities. I can count on them.

Dr. George Yu, with the Historical Society, led a well-organized unveiling ceremony of the San Buenaventura China Alley Memorial Mural on Figueroa Plaza in downtown Ventura on Sat., Aug. 28. This vital landmark acknowledges the legacy of the Chinese pioneers in Ventura County.

Dr. Hillary Ling exceeded our fundraising goal and raised about \$8,000 in promotional advertising. We appreciate the following generous Gold Sponsors: Camarillo Dental Building, Chester’s Asia Chinese Restaurant, DCH Lexus of Oxnard, and Al Lowe Construction, Inc.

Lesley Ling with Dr. Ling’s help developed a wonderful Directory with the Year of the Rooster as its theme on the fast track. She provided a fine layout and layout of advertisements in the Directory.

Wei-Li Young organized a great program for the Mid-Autumn Festival on Sat., Oct. 2. Yu-Ling Lu coordinated dances with the Chinese Classical & Folk Dance Troupe. Lee-May Little coordinated songs and stories for the Chinese Language School.

LaRaine Kang with Edna Tanita (daughter-mother team) successfully coordinated the program for the Halloween Party on Sat., Oct. 30. The children enjoyed the activities. Leslie Jue did his usual stellar job in cooking the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs.

A special kudo goes to Lloyd Ho for his hard work as our newsletter editor. He has always produced a high quality newsletter for the VCCAA that reflects its membership.

Raymond D. Chong, P.E., PTOE
President 2004-2005

Greetings from the President - 會長致辭

“責任生信心, 信心生同心-- 同心生協力, 小我成就大我” -- Dr. John C. Maxwell.

美國一位領導統御理論專家Dr. John C. Maxwell 筆下”常勝軍”的五大特質

1. 果斷英明的領導
2. 唯才是用的共識
3. 愛拼才會贏的精神
4. 功成未必在我的度量
5. 日新月新精進的毅力

他亦言及團隊內的五點必要共識

1. 人人尊重相互的期許
2. 人人有機會各盡其份
3. 人人以”和”與”敬”共勉之
4. 人人了然大我目標 小我準則
5. 人人小贏共創大贏

本人將華聯會付予會長的職責, 結合各個會員的”同心協力”, 來共同完成年度內的各項活動. 會員的”同心協力”正是華聯會成功的基石

會長我 及全體會員感謝以下幾位秉承“任勞任怨”華聯會傳統的團隊精神, 圓滿達成以下任務

美華歷史學會所籌劃的范都拉郡華人先祖奮鬥史記紀念碑 於八月二十六日星期六在范都拉市Figueroa Plaza 正式揭幕, 以資紀念先祖海外艱辛奮鬥的歷程. 本活動由Dr. George Yu 籌劃並圓滿完成

Dr. Hillary Ling 總是以他的智慧, 廣結的善緣, 及全體會員的優質銷費潛力, 再度獲得八千美元的商機贊助, 充實了華聯會的運作基金, 功不可沒

以下是金質獎章的贊助廠商: Camarillo Dental Building, Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant, DCH Lexus of Oxnard, and Al Lowe Construction, Inc.

Lesley Ling with Dr. Ling 共同以”雞年”為素材, 設計精美的廣告畫頁及編輯會員通訊錄

Wei-Li Young 籌劃豐盛溫馨活潑的中秋晚會. 節目有精彩的民族舞蹈表演, 舞者及會員們均感謝Yu-Ling Lu 老師悉心教授及創意的編導. 又有中文學校校長Lee-May Little 及老師們帶領活潑的小朋友表演生動的短劇及溫馨的演唱

十月三十日, 母女檔 LaRaine Kang with Edna Tanita 籌劃的萬聖節晚會給小朋友們帶來”驚”與”喜”的一夜. Leslie Jue 一如往昔, 提供家傳絕學的美味漢堡及熱狗, 深獲嘉評

最後, 至誠感謝華聯會通訊報導的總編輯Lloyd Ho. 他即時詳盡的報導正是全體會員”同心協力”積極參與的真實寫照

Mid-Autumn Festival - 中秋聚會

The VCCAA celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival), the third major festival of the Chinese calendar on Oct. 2nd. This holiday is traditionally celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. This year's Moon Cake Festival fell on Sept. 28. The festival is typically celebrated with colorful lantern processions on the night of the festival. The other specialty of the festival is the moon cake itself. This festival is also a time for family and friends to gather together to celebrate the abundance of autumn. The round shape of a moon cake to Chinese means family reunion.

The turnout for this year's celebration was a success. Over 200 members, families and friends participated in the celebration.

Thanks to strong support by Juliet Sun for doing a wonderful job as MC, Lee-May Little, Lakeview Garden Chinese Restaurant (4703 Lakeview Canyon Rd., Westlake Village, (805) 557-0198), TW Bakery (5833 Temple City Blvd., Temple City, (626) 286-7789), Frances Connor for the beautiful color program for the event, Youth Group and all the people who helped setup tables and chairs, took care of the food tables, and cleanup. This was the first time in a long time we did not run out of food.

As part of the festival we also provided many varieties of moon cakes and had enough for everyone to taste many of the flavors. These cakes were rich, round pastries filled with a mixture of sweet red bean paste, lotus nut paste, or salted egg yolk.

Entertainment for the celebration was very well organized with the theme matched to some of the traditional folklore of the festival. K-2 students from the Chinese Language School

performed a story of the “Jade Rabbit.” K-1 and K-2 students recited an exemplary rabbit poem. Pin Yin II, III and IV performed the song “Jasmine Flower.” The dance troupes under direction of Madam Yu-Ling Lu performed a Handkerchief dance, Ribbon dance and Mountain dance. All the teachers did a fantastic job in putting together these programs in three short weeks.

Wei-Li Young
Chairperson

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華聯會於十月二日舉辦今年的中秋晚會. 皓皓明月正象徵著朋友及家人的團圓. 今年有二百多位會員及親朋好友恭逢勝會. 尤其感謝Mrs. Wei-Li Young 精心籌劃, 中文學校校長Mrs. Lee-May Little 及中文學校老師們鼎力協助. Youth Group 佈置會場, Lakeview Garden Chinese Restaurant (4703 Lakeview Canyon Rd., Westlake Village, (805) 557-0198), 提供精美餐點, TW Bakery (5833 Temple City Blvd., Temple City, (626) 286 7789), 提供蓮蓉, 豆沙, 蛋黃等各式可口月餅. 又有精彩娛樂節目提供會員們欣賞. 中文學校K-2 的小朋友演說”玉兔的故事”, K-1 及K-2 的小朋友”詩詞朗誦”, Pin Yin II, III and IV 小朋友獻唱”茉莉花”. Yu-Ling Lu 老師的民族舞蹈班表演”彩巾舞”, “彩帶舞”及”台灣山地舞”. 老師們悉心指導, 小朋友們奮力演出, 來賓們各個盡興而返, 再度期待明年的中秋晚會.



China Alley Memorial mural dedication, Linda Bentz and Dr. George Yu, Aug. 28.



Chinese Language School students Pin Yin 2, 3 & 4 sing "Mo Li Hua" at the Mid-Autumn Festival.



← Pres. Ray Chong welcomes members at the Mid-Autumn Festival, Oct. 2.

→ Alice Ginn, left, Judy Schechter and Sylvia Shih distribute 2004-2005 Directory.



→ Chinese Language School students K-1 and K-2 perform skit - "Jade Rabbit."



Chinese Classical and Folk Dance Troupe under the direction of Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu.



Halloween Party Sat., Oct. 31
← Costume contest winners age 5 and up, Kiana Jue, left, Brigette Dunne, Erik Jue.

→ Costume contest winners age 4 and under, Bumble Bees Kade & Quinn Heilman, Musketeer Cole Heilman and Spiderman Griffen Winter.



Halloween Party - 萬聖節聚會

What a spooktacular Halloween Party on Sat., Oct. 31, at Los Primeros Structure School. Over 160 children, family and friends enjoyed the evening.

There were many fun games cheerfully staffed by parents and Youth Group members – tattoo parlor, Vampy’s toss, pumpkin float, where’s my wart, ghost ball toss, bottle my brew, spider’s legs, pumpkin patch and witch hat.

Costume contest winners for age 4 and under: Original – Musketeer Cole Heilman; Funniest – Honey Bees Kade and Quinn Heilman; Scariest – Spiderman Griffen Winter.

And costume contest winners for children age 5 and up: Original – Krazy Kat Kianna Jue; Funniest – Gay Guy Erik Jue; Scariest – Dracula Brigitte Dunne.

Many thanks for all the help provided by the Jue Family, Alice Ginn, Youth Group and many others for their support.

LaRain Kang, co-chair

Edna Tanita, co-chair

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華聯會十月三十一日星期六晚於 Los Primeros Structure School. 再度裝扮了一個陰森恐怖的萬聖節晚會. 大約百六十名各路鬼怪及其眷屬到會競“怪”家長及大哥哥及大姊姊們率領其他小朋友們舉行各類遊戲競賽. 其中有 tattoo parlor, Vampy’s toss, pumpkin float, where’s my wart, ghost ball toss, bottle my brew, spider’s legs, pumpkin patch and witch hat. 等最為精采

四歲以下”扮裝”競賽的獲獎名單如下: Original – Musketeer Cole Heilman; Funniest – Honey Bees Kade and Quinn Heilman; Scariest – Spiderman Griffen Winter.

五歲以上”扮裝”競賽的獲獎名單如下: Original – Krazy Kat Kianna Jue; Funniest – Gay Guy Erik Jue; Scariest – Dracula Brigitte Dunne.

再度謝謝 Jue Family, Alice Ginn, Youth Group 鼎力協住圓滿完成.

Christmas Party - 聖誕聚會

When: **Saturday, December 11, 2004**
7:00 PM

Where: **Camarillo Heights Elementary School**
34 Catalina Dr., Camarillo

Contact: **Irene Sy, (805) 482-4765**
Lee-May Little, (805) 484-5222

It’s going to be Christmas time again! A pre-Merry Christmas to you all. We will be having a musical Christmas and shows by our Chinese Language School. Remember to attend the party and celebrate this joyous season with us.

Don’t forget to bring enough food for 10 for the potluck dinner. Beverages will be provided by VCCAA.

We are accepting donations for door prizes. Kindly contact

Irene Sy, Lee-May Little or Barbara Chieu (805) 987-1893 to arrange for drop off or pick up. Thank you very much for your thoughts and sharing. We hope to see you there.

For those individuals that want to volunteer, make suggestions, ask questions, or with concerns, please contact Irene or Lee-May.

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耶誕節即將來臨 預祝各位佳節愉快! 華聯會及中文學校將舉行以”耶誕樂聲”為主題與會員們聯誼慶祝 順便提醒各位請準備自家拿手佳餚 份量以供應十人享用為原則 華聯會將提供飲料 同時歡迎各位贊助“晚會摸彩獎品”, 提供者請與 Irene Sy, Lee-May Little or Barbara Chieu (805) 987-1893 聯繫 他們會進一步安排細節. 我們更歡迎會員們自願工作或任何建議及構想的提供 詳情請洽 Irene Sy, or Lee-May Little.

Classical and Folk Dance Troupe - 林玉玲老師民族舞蹈班

The dance troupe under the direction of Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu has performed at many VCCAA festive occasions for the past 15 years. If you enjoyed the dances performed at the *Mid-Autumn Festival*, why not join them?

Youth troupe dancers have won many awards throughout Southern California. Classes are held on Fridays, 4:00-6:45 PM.

Adult dancers are composed of active, hard-working and dedicated individuals. Classes are held on Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM.

For more information and/or to enroll, please contact Mrs. Lu at (805) 983-6082.

Mrs. Lu is a graduate of the Chinese Cultural University of Taiwan, where she majored in ballet and Chinese folk dance. She was the recipient of many honors and toured the United States extensively with the Chinese Cultural exchange program.

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如果你欣賞(Mrs. Lu) 吳玉玲老師指導的民族舞蹈表演 不妨親身體驗個中滋味. 歡迎加入吳玉玲老師舞蹈班 過去十五年來(Mrs. Lu) 吳玉玲老師舞蹈班成為華聯會活動中的重頭戲 並贏得最高的讚譽 少年舞蹈班在南加州華人舞展中數度贏得首獎. 少年班的練習時間是每週五下午四時至六時四十五分.

其他對舞蹈表演及健身運動有興趣的青年及長青會員們歡迎每週三晚七時至九時加入他們的練習課程 詳情請與(Mrs. Lu) 吳玉玲老師聯絡電話 (805) 983-6082.

(Mrs. Lu) 吳玉玲老師畢業於臺灣的中國文化大學舞蹈系 主修芭蕾舞及中國民族舞蹈 美中文化交流的舞蹈競賽活動中 贏得無數大獎及殊榮



Cultural Night and Chinese New Year Celebration - 文化之夜與中國新年

When: **Saturday, February 5, 2005**
7:00 PM

Where: **Performing Arts Center**
Pacifica High School
600 E. Gonzales Rd., Oxnard

Contact: **Steve Shih, (805) 644-7078**

Tickets: **Adults - \$15, Children 12 and under - \$10**

For tickets or information contact the individuals listed below and other identified select individuals at the annual Christmas Party at Camarillo Heights Elementary School on Saturday, Dec. 11 or afterwards by phone at the numbers listed.

- President: Ray Chong 388-5381
- Treasurer: Judy Schechter 388-9668
- Camarillo: Alice Ginn 482-2393
- Rob Heilman 987-7038
- Oxnard: Dolly Lee 485-6780
- Santa Paula: Leslie Jue 525-9562
- Somis: Hillary Ling 386-4188
- Thousand Oaks: Lloyd Ho 498-5537
- Ventura: Steve Shih 644-7078

- Vice President: Barbara Chieu 987-1893
- Secretary: Andy Little 484-5222
- Vivian Goo 482-6074
- Irene Sy 482-4765
- Ben Wong 382-4087

The cultural program is currently under development by the VCCAA in conjunction with the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society (VCCAHS). We are anticipating another stellar lineup of outstanding performers.

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一年一度的文化之夜及慶祝中國新年晚會訂於公元二千零五年二月五日晚七時正將在
Performing Arts Center
Pacifica High School

600 E. Gonzales Rd., Oxnard

盛大舉行 在長達二小時的節目裡有 中國傳統雜技 舞蹈 舞獅及國樂表演 請注意上文中所提及“門票預購事項”及各市代表的聯絡電話 根據歷年場場爆滿的經驗 請提早訂購以免向隅

Chinese Language School - 中文學校

Our Chinese School classes started September 10. This year we have a total of 66 students registered. We are surprised to see so many new young learners in our Kindergarten 1 and 2 classes. They bring a lot of joy and a fearless spirit to the study of language, and give us great hope for the future of the school.

Experts say that learning language is definitely easier and more successful when the students are younger. Congratulations to the parents on having the foresight to begin their children's language education so early. We are also happy to have so many returning students back.

I was so proud of our students' performance at the Mid-Autumn Festival. In the short period of three weeks we produced two beautiful programs. We want to especially thank our K-1 and K-2 teachers, Ms. Liou and Ms. Fong, the pianist, Marlina Trevor, the coordinator, Irene Sy, and all the parents who volunteered to help.

We also want to congratulate our teacher Dolly Lee on being recognized by the Southern California Council of Chinese

Schools for five years of outstanding and valuable service to Chinese Language education. We are proud of her and know that she will continue her good work.

Lee-May Little
Principal

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Dolly Lee, center, recognized by the Southern Calif. Council of Chinese Schools for outstanding and valuable service to Chinese language education.

中文學校於九月十日正式開學 本學年度66位同學註冊 令人驚喜的是Kindergarten 1 and 2級的“小學生”人數劇增 他們學習中文的欣喜與勇氣肯定了中文教育的前途與遠景 語言專家們一致認為第二語文愈早學 愈輕鬆勝任 恭喜諸位家長同具慧見 ”老同學”們再度返校繼續學業更令人鼓舞

我以本校學生在中秋晚會的精采演出為榮 難能可貴的是在短短三週內籌劃製作如此活潑生動的節目全都歸功於K-1 and K-2的老師Ms. Liou and Ms. Fong the pianist, Marlina Trevor, the coordinator, Irene Sy 的共同指導及諸位熱心家長的協助 Dolly Lee 老師榮獲南加州中文學校聯合會所頒發的“傑出資深教師”獎以表彰五年來她對中文教育的卓越供獻 我們再度恭賀她 並以她為榮 祈許她繼續為中文學校培育英才。

Membership - 會員通訊錄

Happy November! The new 2004-2005 Directories are ready! Thank you to Hillary Ling, and Tom Ma for putting in extra hours to have the directories ready for print in great time. Thank you to Judy Schechter for all her help managing the membership and to Alice Ginn for helping us distribute at the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Members who have not paid dues for this year will not be receiving a new directory. Reminders and renewal forms have been included with this newsletter. Mail in your renewal for a copy of the current Directory! To current members who have not picked up your new directories yet, you will be receiving them in the mail shortly.

Lesley Ling
Membership

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祝各位秋高氣爽 2004-2005 年度的“最新版”會員通訊錄已分送至部份會員手中 感謝Hillary Ling 及Tom Ma 勞心 勞力 及時完成印製 又感謝Judy Schechter 悉心整理會員資訊及 Alice Ginn 在中秋晚會時協助分送通訊錄

通告

尚未繳付2004-2005 年度會費的會員們“請注意隨此活動通訊所附的續訂表格”在“填寫 繳款 完成續訂手續後”您才會收到“最新版”的會員通訊錄

已繳2004-2005 年度會費但尚未領取“最新版”通訊錄的會員們“請注意您的信箱”“最新版通訊錄隨時會出現”

New Members. A special welcome to the new families who have recently joined the VCCAA. Make a pen and pencil entry in your 2004-2005 Directory.

<p>Mr. Darrell Gooden 1307 Ostrich Hill Rd. Oxnard, CA 93036 (H): (805) 797-7332</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Tan-Chih Hsu and Yin-Chen Wei 2010 Calaveras Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010 (H): (805) 987-8593 (F): (805) 484-8398 e-mail: Ywei541003@aol.com</p>	<p>Ms. Kerry Johnson Tianbi Helen LiJing 233 Blackfoot Ln. Ventura, CA 93001 (H): (805) 643-7645 e-mail: pogonology@aol.com</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. W. Lee and Christine Wan 115 Cleveland Ct. Ventura, CA 93003 (H): (805) 659-4207 e-mail: wlwan@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Julie Newman 110 Alto Dr. Oak View, CA (H): (805) 649-2111 (F): (805) 645-1474 e-mail: jpnewman@ucdavis.edu</p>	<p>Mr. & Mrs. Brian and Xiao Meng Nomi 476 Calle Converse Camarillo, CA 93010 (H): (805) 484-9970 (W): (805) 988-8381 (F): (805) 988-7781 e-mail: briannomi@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Mr. & Mrs. Kevin and Heather Parks 215 E. Summer St., #9 Ojai, CA 93023 (H): (805) 646-4650 e-mail: heathnemo@earthlink.net</p>		

Quotes

No one knows what he can do till he tries.
Publilius Syrus, circa 1st century BC

We grow neither better nor worse as we get old, but more like ourselves.
May Lamberton Becker

The greatest achievement is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall.
Vince Lombardi

When in doubt tell the truth. *Mark Twain*

Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him.
Aldous Huxley, "Reader's Digest," March 1956

Be nice to people on your way up because you'll need them on your way down. *Wilson Mizner*

VCCA Historical Society

From the 1870s to the 1920s, an area close to the San Buenaventura Mission along Figueroa Street was known as China Alley. At its peak, China Alley had about 200 ethnic Chinese inhabitants. Among them were merchants, laborers, cooks, servants and laundrymen. The famous Chinese Fire Company put out fires both in China Alley and the City of Ventura. By the early 20th century, the population in China Alley had declined as a result of unfair immigration laws and racial discrimination. The City of Ventura decided to modernize this block and by the 1920s all of the original buildings were removed.

In early 2001, the Ventura City Council approved a proposal from Ms. Donna DePaola, then deputy mayor, for a memorial to recognize China Alley. The task was passed on to the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC), chaired by Ms. Tracy Long. Our Historical Society approached the HPC with an offer to help with the design of the memorial. In June, 2001 our historian, Ms. Linda Bentz and Mr. Richard Senate, the City's historian, conducted a walking tour of the China Alley site for members of the HPC. A site along the Figueroa Street was chosen by the HPC and a mural design was submitted to the City Council for review. In May, 2002 the City Council voted unanimously to approve public funding for a mural to honor China Alley. Our Historical Society was asked to raise funds from the private sector for construction of the memorial as well.

A design competition was organized by the Historical Society and awarded to Mr. Pang Qi and his wife, Ms. Guo Song Yun. Mr. and Mrs. Pang are renowned Chinese artists who immigrated to Southern California in 2001. They worked continuously from mid-July until the end of August to complete this project. Their workdays were generally 10-12 hours with no weekend break. This was truly a labor of love for them.

The unveiling ceremony of the China Alley Memorial on August 28 was a smashing success. Auspicious lion dancers from the Camarillo Lion Dance Troupe and Kung

Fu Club started the festivities with the celebration of the mural. The youthful VCCAA Chinese Classical and Folk Dance Troupe then performed three dances at the venue. Following the unveiling ceremony we had a very successful reception at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art (VCMHA). The attendance was estimated to be over 250 people. The event was attended by Brian Brennan, the mayor of the City of Ventura, city council members Neal Andrews, Kristy Weir, Bill Fulton, Jim Monahan and Donna DePaola, past deputy mayor. Also in attendance were Tim Schiffer, director of the VCMHA and Charles Johnson, its librarian. Mr. Schiffer kindly offered the courtyard in the Museum for our reception. We are thankful to all the volunteers from the VCCAHS, VCCAA as well as the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association. Caroline Tsaw and Irene Sy were the organizers of the unveiling ceremony and reception. S.K. Leong and Dolly Cheng were the masters of ceremonies. Their talents have made this celebration a memorable event.

We are especially pleased that this memorial is a joint effort of the City of Ventura and the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. The artists have done research on the Internet and failed to find a comparable memorial to the early Chinese settlers anywhere in the United States that is a result of joint public and private funding. If it is indeed the case, it will be of significance to the City of Ventura.

Please visit the China Alley Memorial with your family and friends to see this beautiful mural dedicated to the legacy of those early Chinese pioneers who made significant contributions to the budding agricultural industry in this region. Their hard work has paved the way for the thousands who follow in their footsteps.

George Yu, M.D.
Historical Society Chairperson

Youth Group

We had a successful bowling party at Harley's Bowl in Camarillo on Aug. 14, 6 to 8 PM. There were around 15 people who participated in this event. Bowlers ages ranged from 7 to 15. We had lots of fun bowling.

When everyone was finished bowling, we all headed to the arcade to have some more fun. Everyone had a very good time before the school year started and we plan to hold one next year as well.

Thanks to Mrs. Lee-May Little who brought the Subway sandwiches and refreshment for us. We also want to thank Mr. Jeffrey Fegar, who helped make the activity fun and

memorable.

Any youth who would like to join us, please give Richard Hai a call at (805) 389-1075 to put your name on the phone calling list to join us for upcoming youth events.

Kevin Hai
Youth Group President



A Look at Calligraphy

Calligraphy, the noblest of the visual arts, was the most direct expression of that prodigious literacy that marked the elite of China. It was venerated even by the illiterate masses, and its values changed less over 2,000 years than those of any other art. Those who controlled the administration of the Chinese empire, and who therefore wielded the greatest influence over its evolution, cultivated the art of handwriting as an active element in the education of the scholar-gentry class. They ascribed to calligraphy the profoundest spiritual values and distinguished it completely from the technical labor of professional artisans. Yet no art has ever depended more upon technical expertise, acquired through the most arduous and prolonged effort.

Nature of Chinese Writing

To the modern eye the patterns emerging from calligraphic forms seem a remarkable precursor of abstract expressionism. Yet to the Chinese, calligraphy is a most potent flux of concrete imagery. It requires painstaking study of the calligraphy of others through endless copying; at the same time it emphasizes more than any other art the essential uniqueness of the individual's achievement.

The nature of calligraphy depends upon two principal factors, the script and the writing implement. In the Chinese language each word is written as a single, discrete symbol, or character. Characters can be written in several different scripts, which represent different stages in the evolution of the written language that took place over centuries. Instead of being discarded, these scripts were concurrently maintained by later calligraphers. This practice was a manifestation of the intensive study of the past that characterized most aspects of Chinese civilization. It molded both the content and nature of the art of calligraphy, which distilled the essence of an intense humanism. Venerating to a unique degree the written word as the preserver of their collective past, the Chinese thus have venerated handwriting as the most direct communication with the shared values of people in that past.

The materials of calligraphy are considered essential to proper performance. Contemporary sources record the invention of paper in China around AD 105. China's invention and use of paper, preceding its discovery in the West by 11 centuries. Although calligraphy was often written on silk, it's most distinctive qualities emerged out of the reactions between the brush, ink, and paper. The finely pointed brush was usually made from goat or wolf hair. To be perfectly controlled, the brush had to be held essentially upright, so that its tip remained centered over the writing surface. The deep black ink used was mixed when required by rubbing on an ink stone a few drops of water and an ink stick made from pine soot and protein glue. The best paper was made from mulberry bark and imparted a deep glow to the readily

absorbed ink. The Chinese honored each of these items as the product of a highly refined craft, and a precise sense of ritual accompanied their use.

Evolution of Chinese Writing

The earliest Chinese writing that can be read today dates from around the 13th century BC. Still earlier forms are as yet not deciphered. Two distinct forms are known from the earliest decipherable stage. A vividly pictographic script appears on the magnificent bronze vessels of the Shang period (c.1600-1027 BC), having been engraved into the molds as dedicatory inscriptions. More complex texts in a much more abstract script were engraved by Shang diviners on ox scapulae and turtle plastrons, known as oracle bones.

The Qin (Ch'in; 221-206 BC), the first dynasty to unify China under centralized rule, produced a standardized script that came into use throughout the country. Later called small seal script (*xiaojuan*), it had evolved from an increasingly square regularization of the large seal script (*dajuan*) of the Zhou (Chou) dynasty (c.1027-256 BC), in which the Confucian classics were originally written.

Bureaucratic requirements during the Han period (202 BC - AD 220) exerted strong pressure for simplification and standardization. The result was a new category of script called simply clerical script, or *lishu*. The archaic seal script was often retained for formal titles and was also adapted to the small seals that have been used as signatures from the Han to the present. These small red stamps, often present on documents, letters, books, and paintings, may signify either authorship or ownership.

By the 4th century AD, the formal regular script (*kaishu*, which is basically the printed script of today, and various abbreviated cursive scripts had evolved. Wang Xizhi (Wang Hsi-chih), the leading calligrapher of the 4th century, was revered by later generations. The Tang (T'ang) dynasty (618-906) was the classic age of regular script; its formality was ideally suited to the aristocratic splendor of that period. The running script (*xingshu*) had many of its greatest practitioners in the Song (Sung) dynasty (960-1279), when calligraphers and other artists explored new modes of self-expression with great originality. Much of the finest cursive script (*caoshu*) was written in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), when great attention was focused on the formal properties of art. In the later Qing (Ch'ing) dynasty (1644-1911) the ancient seal script was revived by calligraphers such as I Bingshou (I Ping-shou, 1754-1815). In the 20th century, when Shang oracle bones were recovered after 3,000 years of obscurity, their archaic script was also translated into a brush-written form



Xiaojuan script



Kaishu
regular script

Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Christmas Party	December 11, 2004 Saturday, 7:00 PM	Camarillo Heights Elementary School 34 Catalina Dr., Camarillo
Cultural Night and Chinese New Year Celebration	February 5, 2005 Saturday, 7:00 PM	Performing Arts Center Pacifica High School 600 E. Gonzales Rd., Oxnard
Easter Egg Hunt	March 19, 2005 Saturday, 11:00 AM	Ling Ranch 3748 Groves Place, Somis
Memorial Day Picnic	May 30, 2005 Monday, 11:00 AM	Pleasant Valley Park Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd., Camarillo



YEAR OF THE MONKEY
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